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Samia: Sort out problems before elections

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday swore in new members of the just-revamped cabinet ministers, urging them to sort out people's concerns well ahead of next year's local government elections.

She told the ministers, deputy ministers and permanent secretaries at the Tunguu State Lodge in South Unguja Region that the reshuffle was not meant as a punishment but was intended to stimulate efficiency.

Urging the portfolio holders to meet expectations of the public as servants of the people, she said that in serving the people, strengthening relations was vital, and all leaders need to take this into account to bring inclusive changes.

Leaders must stop positioning themselves as big people, ignoring people's problems, she said, insisting that they need to show how strong they are to address challenges facing the society.

Leaders need to be calm and gentle, prioritising thinking before making decisions, she said, pointing at huge tasks ahead of Regional Administration and Local Governments in the President's Office, which needs to work on burning issues, with next year's local government elections in mind.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango urged the newly appointed leaders to enhance productivity by improving cooperation with executives in the various areas.

They need to discharge their duties mindful of the policy of reconciliation, resilience, reforms and rebuilding in addressing various challenges, whether in the Mainland or in Zanzibar.

"Changes in leadership are similar to soccer teams where the coach makes changes to the line-up to increase efficiency and improve outcomes," he said, emphasising the customary habit of listening to people's concerns.

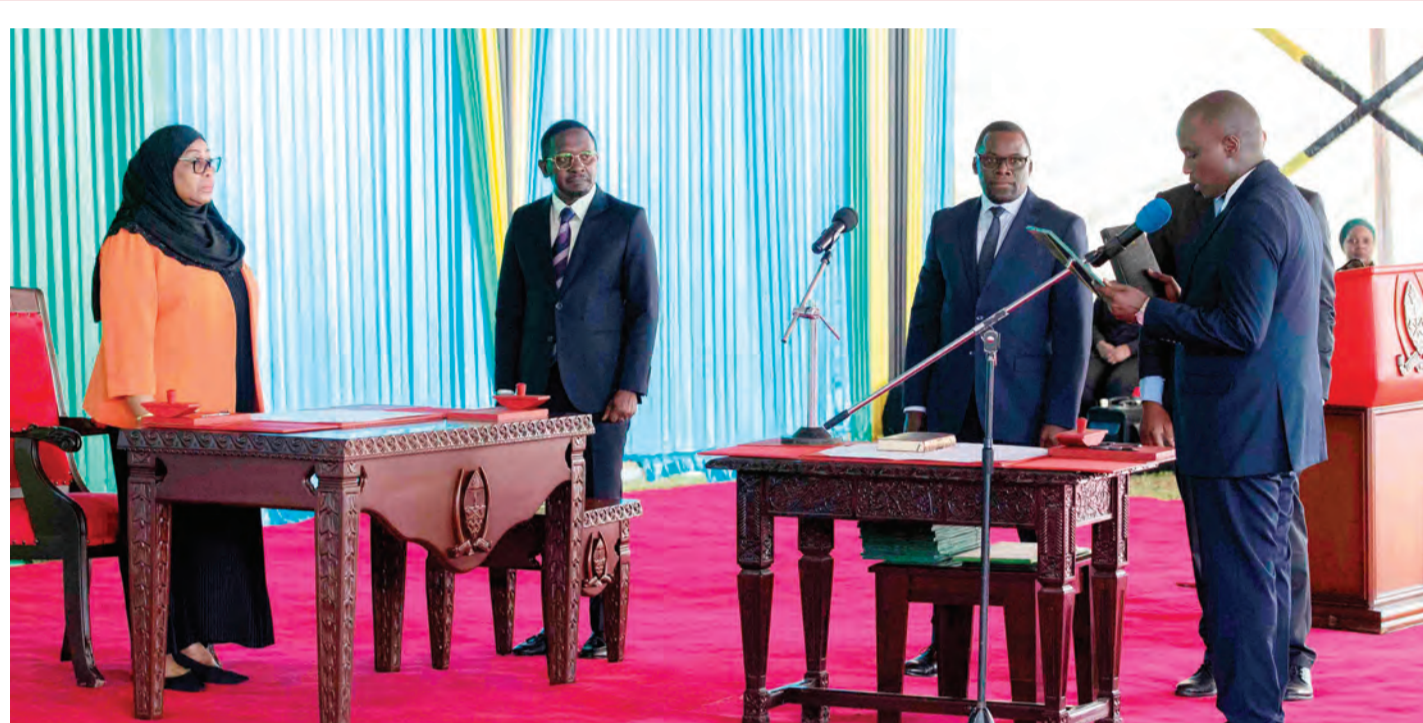
He said this custom has been observed in various instances in both sides of the union, thus the need to reactivate the method and work on the issues raised, "as there are many challenges including land disputes which are yet to be solved."

Disputes between the people and conservation authorities are increasingly serious in various areas, so the leaders should work with the Livestock ministry in solving the challenges, he said.

Lauding the president for designing a good team to plan a selecting a good team that will be able to bring good results, he said those appointed must be mindful that the government is heading towards next year's local government polls and the general election the following year.

Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, assured the sworn-in leaders of full cooperation where they need it, urging them to put in everything they have to the tasks ahead.

"The government of Zanzibar will cooperate with you to strengthen the union," he stated. "Let us maintain the culture of cooperating even in things which are not union matters," he noticeably remarked.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Doto Mashaka Biteko (44) as Deputy Prime Minister (Coordination of Government Activities) doubling as Energy minister at Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

Take precautions, minister urges disaster committees

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DISASTER management committees need to start taking precautions and educate the public on the possible impacts of the likely El Niño weather pattern.

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Coordination, and Parliamentary Affairs state minister in the Prime Minister's Office, said at a press conference here yesterday that the El Niño situation arising from warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, would ignite emergency weather situations.

Taking advance measures to protect people from the likely impact was crucial and thus officials in those departments need to work on the matter, she



The farmers must use the rains to cultivate staples like rice, conduct rain harvesting, while authorities speed up constructing dams and start fish farming

This alert comes in the wake of a forecast by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) that wide areas of the country are likely receive above normal rains during the end of year rainy season, owing to El-Niño conditions.

Given the potentially heavy rains expected, regional and

district authorities must be prepared for waterlogging and flooding causing infrastructure damage, with potential loss of life, she stated.

Crop loss and property damage is also likely, thus the need to enhance clearing drainage systems, alerting communities on precautions to take, while strengthening disaster committees at all levels, she said.

In areas expected to receive above-average rainfall, heavy rains can cause floods or landslides occasioning harm to people and the environment, she said, urging the zonal committees to identify flood prone areas for rearguard action by coming up with plans to confront any disasters that come up.

Such committees can prepare disaster management resources for drainage, restoring roads and water systems

to prevent disease outbreaks, she said, also pointing at potential threat to electricity supply systems, to ensure that they remain steady during intense periods.

The farmers must use the rains to cultivate staples like rice, conduct rain harvesting, while authorities speed up constructing dams and start fish farming, she said.

A week ago the weather agency said that December will experience the most intense rainfall, despite that short rainfall periods are likely to start later this month.

The main thrust of the rainy season commences in October in most areas, with the rains being anticipated earlier in western regions of Lake Victoria and spread to other regions in due course, the statement indicated.

PAPU's new tower set to host Africa digitisation incubator

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Pan-African Postal Union's (PAPU) complex set to be inaugurated here today by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, expected to house an incubation center for transforming the continent's postal services into a modern, border free digitised communication network.

Dr Sifundo Moyo, the PAPU secretary general, told journalists yesterday that postal networks in Africa dispose of extensive infrastructure weaving into remote areas and once modernized, it can be used to bridge the digital divide on the continent.

A digital laboratory intended to ease postal entities' ability to digitise their services and upgrade their operations is a component of the centre, he said.

Mulembwa Munaku, the ministerial director of communication services, said that digital transformation of postal services, incorporating new technology, was the main theme of the 41st PAPU annual meeting.

The tower was built at a cost of 33bn/- to serve as headquarters for the continental posts and communications entity, after the late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere offered to host the head offices of the newly founded union in the final years of his long presidency.

Nape Nnauye, the Information Communications and Information Technology minister, said the postal union head office's inauguration is a Pan-African dream come true, as Tanzania prepares to host next year's edition of the general meeting.

The PAPU complex is a joint venture project between PAPU and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the former footing 60 percent of the bill.

Beijing Engineering and Construction Ltd undertook the works for the project alongside a number of sub-contractors.

Major investment structures currently dotting the Arusha skyline include the Ngorongoro Tourism Centre building, the Mafao House of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) near the Clock-Tower and ex-Naura Springs Hotel, all designed decades ago.

PAPU was created in January 1980 as a specialised agency of the Organization of African Union (OAU), the precursor to the African Union (AU).

Govt: Local production of quality oil seeds necessary

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has embarked on a plan to strengthen research institutes to produce quality seeds for palm oil and sunflower, to enhance production of edible oils locally.

Exaud Kigahe, the Trade and Industries deputy minister, stated this position in parliamentary debate yesterday, responding to a question by Special Seats MP Fatma Toufiq.

The MP demanded the government's strategies to increase production of edible

oil to control importation of the commodity, to which he said the government was collaborating with stakeholders to implement strategies to develop the palm oil and sunflower sub-sector.

These are the main crops to develop production of edible oils in the country, he said, noting that two industries have been established, Qstec and Jeolong while Mount Meru Millers is being expanded.

An increase in research funding to specialised institutions is being pursued, he said, elaborating that the

government has directed agro-sector departments to enhance oil seeds development to feed local industries.

In a supplementary question, the MP queried why the government was not mobilising local investors to produce more edible oils from available crops like sesame, groundnuts and cotton.

In his response, he said the government has put in place a strategy to prioritise local production of edible oils, while also inviting foreign investors, pointing at the use of modern technology

to increase edible oils production. Earlier, the government embarked on a plan to improve the palm oil crop production in Kigoma Region, with expectations that 20m nursery trees were to be planted within four years, saving up to 600bn/- used to import cooking oil annually.

The strategy started during fiscal 2018/19 with various studies conducted to ensure quality seeds for the crop are available, so that five million palm oil trees are planted annually, when farmers easily access quality

seeds. The strategy involved other key players like Tanzania Prisons and the National Service (JKT) through its camps in Kigoma Region, he added.



TAFIRI running programme to raise fishermen's incomes

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government through the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) is implementing a programme using Global Positioning System (GPS) to identify Potential Fishing Zones - (PFZ) to help fishermen increase their capability.

Deputy minister for Industries and Trade Exaud Kigahe made the remarks in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Tumbwe legislator Khamis Mbarouk who asked when the government will empower fishermen to use modern fishing techniques including GPS.

In response the minister said the government through TAFIRI has started implementing the programme in the Indian Ocean to help fishing communities to identify areas with potential fish.

He said the programme uses GPS through mobile phones to identify areas with potential fish at a certain period adding that the pilot fishing exercise was done to fish-

ing communities of Mafia, and Tanga for Tanzania mainland and Unguja and Pemba for Zanzibar.

He said TAFIRI is now creating a special app to help fishermen to know the best time to fish but also understand where the fish is found in large numbers.

He said the programme was 90-percent complete and that the government was hopeful that the programme will be a game changer in the fishing sector.

Tanzania is one of the largest fishing nations in Africa, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation; it is ranked in the top 10 countries in terms of total capture fisheries production.

The annual fish production is about 341,065 tons. In addition, the sector contributed more than 1.4 percent to the GDP and more than 10 percent to the national foreign exchange earnings.

For the years 2005 - 2010, fish and fishery products exports from Tanzania earned the country US\$ 195.2 million per annum.

Mozambique reports death of militant leader

MAPUTO

Mozambican President Filipande Jacinto Nyusi yesterday reported the killing of reputed terrorist leader Bonomade Machude Omar, known as Ibn Omar, in troubled Cabo Delgado province.

Speaking live on state Radio Mozambique from his seaside palace, Nyusi said the terrorist leader was fatally shot Tuesday during a gun battle against Mozambique's defense forces that was supported by the Rwandan military and troops from the Southern African Development Community.

Nyusi made the announcement after a meeting with visiting Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who is on a two-day visit to the country.

There has been no independent confirmation of the deaths. Nyusi emphasized that the fight against terrorists would continue, even when they operate in small groups.

Ibn Omar, considered the leader of the radical Islamic State group in Mozambique, was targeted by the second phase of the "Coup Duro II" operation in Cabo Delgado.

On the ground in Cabo Delgado, the Mozambican defense forces have been fighting terrorism since July 2021, with support from Rwandan troops and the SADC contingent.

The chief of staff of the Mozambican defense forces, General Joaquim Rivas Mangrassa, said the killing of the terrorist leader did not mean the end of the insurgency in Mozambique. He noted that continual combing through forests was needed to flush out the militants.

Rivas Mangrassa said that with Ibn Omar, two more of his direct followers - still unidentified - were also killed.

Little is known about the history and lifestyle of Bonomade Machude Omar, but it is believed that he is one of the few Mozambican terrorists who spent his childhood in Mocimboa da Praia, a district inside Cabo Delgado province with about 65,000 inhabitants.

He has often been described as the brains behind jihadist attacks over the past five years, claimed by a group known as Ahlu Sunnah wa Jama.

AGENCIES



Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella briefs journalists in Arusha yesterday on preparations for the inauguration of the headquarters of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) expected to be held in the city today with President Samia Suluhu Hassan as chief guest. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Merger of 4 security funds has cut running costs by 12 pct, says govt

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government decision to merge four social security funds to Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) has cut down the operational and running cost by 12 percent, the Parliament was told yesterday.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy minister of State in the Prime Minister's office, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability gave the sentiment when responding to a question by Nancy Nyalusi (Special Seats-CCM) who wanted to know measures taken by the government to avert inconveniences to pensioners.

The MP said pensioners have been going through some challenges including delays in remittance of terminal benefits

and monthly pension following the government decision to merge GEPE, LAPP, PPF and PSPF social security funds.

Responding further, Katambi said the government decision to merge the firms was ideal as it has cut the cost as well as enhanced performance.

"The social security funds were too many all eyeing the very same members at high cost, the decision to merge them has increased productivity as well as easy management, monitoring and control" said the deputy minister

Adding "by merging, there are same ratio of terminal benefits and monthly pension compared to the situation was before the decision to join them, there was challenges in the benefits as each as its own calculations, despite the fact that they are all public servants, one would

be paid 40m/- while another pocketing 75m/."

He said the government carried out research before its decision to join the social security schemes and come up with the ratio used in calculations of the terminal benefits and monthly pension.

Katambi further said that the government took the decision to merge the social schemes as poor performance of the schemes as some relied on the government in paying their member's pension.

The decision to have in place PSSSF and NSSF has been a solution to timely payment of the monthly pension to the members as well as terminal benefits to retirees. So far, he said, if the retired members' details and documents are in order and there are no any challenges, then, the retirees get their terminal ben-

efits within the maximum 60-days.

The move, he attributed to government decision to opt for use of information and communication technology in most of the operations and a member does not have to consume time to make follow up of the benefits.

In the main question, Nyalusi wanted to know when the government will increase the monthly pension to retirees taking into account the economic status.

The Deputy Minister said the government has increased the pension whereas the minimum the pensioners pocket monthly is 100,000/- upward.

He added that the social security funds carry evaluation every three years of their sustainability and liquidity before making a decision to increase the members' monthly pensions.



Members of the Datooga ethnic community for years living at Olpiro within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority pictured at the Eyasi Ward office yesterday waiting to register for voluntary relocation from the area as advised by the government. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Chakwera says 800 medium, large-scale farmers have registered in mega farms programme

LILONGWE

President Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera has disclosed that the Mega Farm Support Unit has registered 800 medium and large-scale farmers, with aggregated land holding of 63, 000 hectares across the country.

Chakwera said all of registered farmers have been verified and sensitized to the mechanisms of the programme and that government has already started providing them with necessary support to enable them thrive in their ventures.

The President made the remarks on Thursday when he launched Private Sector Mega Farms Programme and One Stop Support Centre at

Kanengo in Lilongwe.

Chakwera said he was pleased with the new political will and technical leadership the new broom at the Ministry of Agriculture has demonstrated in the implementation of the mega farm programme.

"As you know, last year I expressed great frustration at the lack of progress and action by the Ministry of Agriculture on my directives regarding the development of mega farms to operationalize the agro-industrialization and commercialization pillar of Malawi 2063 and fulfil my administration's commitment to the achievement of food security. The situation was so concerning that I even gave the ministry a deadline by which to see to it that

mega farms were starting to be developed, failing which there would be severe consequences for non-compliance," he said.

But Chakwera disclosed that he is happy with the dedication and zeal of the new management at the Ministry of Agriculture have demonstrated towards the programme.

He stated that it is for this reason that he will be in Nkhata Bay to launch a mega farm next week before launching another one in Chikwawa a month after.

He described mega farms as a game changer as the country seeks to turnaround its economic fortunes.

"It is a game changer for our farmers, whose capacity for production

is on full display in the pavilions that I have seen here this morning. Our farmers have deep and rich knowledge about farming, but many of them do not get as much out of their farms as they can because the focus is on subsistence farming that uses tools from a bygone era.

"We must therefore support them to scale up production through mechanization and modernization of their farming methods, so that they can reap the maximum benefits of farming. And in order for our farmers to make this transition from subsistence farming to commercial farming, government has made a concerted effort to reorganize farmers across the country into cooperatives, but the missing link is

often the partnership of the private sector to fully leverage the potential of our land for mass production of commercial crops," said the President.

President Chakwera expressed hope that mega farms will contribute towards generation of foreign exchange for Malawi.

"This approach is also a game changer for our economy as a whole, because most of our forex revenue comes from farming, but given the forex challenges we have faced in the recent past as a consequence of the enormous debt left behind by past administrations, it is clear that our long term solution has to involve boosting and diversifying agricultural productivity

for exports as outlined in our ATM Strategy.

"This is why I am delighted to provide this One Stop Support Centre for all Mega Farm initiatives by the private sector, because what we need is coordination between policy makers in government, resources and skills in the private sector, and the human and land resources that our farmers command," he said.

"The time for talking about mega farms is past. It is time for action, and this One-Stop Support Centre is our commitment to bringing farmers and private sector investors together to get things done," Chakwera concluded.

AGENCIES



Tanzania's Ambassador to Austria, Naimi Aziz, addresses Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission workers at Kikombo in Dodoma Region yesterday in the company of TAEC director general Prof Lazaro Busagala (C) and radiation control unit director Dr Justine Ngaila. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

\$1.5m to train farmers in modern irrigation techniques in Uganda

KAMPALA

THE Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) is committing \$1.5 million to strengthen their resilience, at the time when Ugandan farmers are experiencing poor harvests due to drought.

The grant is earmarked for training farmers in the use of modern irrigation systems.

The Danish government is supporting climate action in Uganda. Copenhagen recently released \$1.5 million for the project "Strengthening irrigation to improve climate adaptation and support smallholder production systems in Uganda", launched on 29 August 2023 in the Ugandan capital Kampala.

The funding is provided under the Green Trade Partnership Programme of DANIDA.

The East African Grains Council (EAGC), Danish pump supplier Grundfos, Akvo International and Access to Innovation of Denmark will implement the irrigation project, with support from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Scheduled to run for three years,

the project "aims to ensure that farmers adopt quality, climate-smart irrigation technologies, given the current effects of climate change", explains John McNay, East Africa advisor to Access to Innovation, a Danish organisation operating in East Africa.

Modern irrigation systems are not only much more water-efficient, they also consume less energy. What's more, they help to reduce the use of inputs, while ensuring that agricultural production is secure throughout the year. "In addition to cereals, the project will focus on irrigating high-value crops. This strategy aims to ensure greater profitability for farmers, given the availability of a market," explains Gerald Masila, EAGC's Executive Director.

Some 12,000 small and medium-sized farmers will benefit from the irrigation project. They will need to be members of recognised farmers' organisations, which will facilitate the process of applying for access to the technology. Larger farmers will have the opportunity to participate separately, by expressing their interest and applying accordingly.

Kenya waives visit visa for DR Congo nationals

NAIROBI

NATIONALS of the Democratic Republic of Congo will from now visit Kenya without a visa, Nairobi announced yesterday.

The new policy, Kenya says, is part of a continuing legal shift to accommodate the DRC's admission into the East African Community.

A notice issued last week to all diplomatic missions abroad as well as Kenya's regional administrative heads had alerted officials of the imminent change in policy. It said the visa waiver will be effective

from September 1.

"The government of Kenya has removed Democratic Republic of Congo from Category 2 to category 1 of the visa regulations in compliance with the East Africa Community Regulations of free movement of persons within the member states," said the circular dated August 25.

"In this regard, Kenya has waived visa requirements for all nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo effective September 1, 2023."

The DRC became the seventh member of the EAC last year in

May. And though it has yet to ascend to some of the protocols, including that on free movement and the customs union, Kinshasa had generally used bilateral agreements with current member states on visa. Kenyans, under that arrangement, do not need visas to the DRC.

The Congolese authorities have been waiting a long time for this measure. A few months ago, Christophe Lutundula spoke of the importance of facilitating the movement of people and goods in the EAC bloc. The Congolese Foreign

Minister argued that most of the goods coming from the Indian Ocean pass through the port of Mombasa in Kenya. He also added that, in addition to the port of Mombasa, goods also pass through Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. The Congolese authorities nevertheless said that they expected the Congo and its citizens, as members of the East African community, should now benefit from the same customs facilities due to members of the East African community.

According to the minister, who spoke weeks before this decision,

the DRC has every reason to seek regional integration and to succeed in its integration into the East African bloc, since 5 of the 9 neighbouring countries (Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan) are in the East and belong to the East African community. This is why, as soon as he came to power in January 2019, President Félix Tshisekedi focused his diplomatic strategy on his eastern neighbours, "the most integrated bloc in Africa", as the Congolese president used to say.

AGENCIES



The government of Kenya has removed Democratic Republic of Congo from Category 2 to category 1 of the visa

Somali president says military operations against Al-Shabaab will continue until 'final victory'

MOGADISHU

SOMALI President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said military operations against Al-Shabaab will not stop until final victory is achieved.

He was speaking Tuesday, a day after government troops retreated from several towns following a deadly Al-Shabaab attack on soldiers in Cowsweyne village yesterday.

"Whether one battlefield is lost or someone spreads misinformation, the fight is going to continue. It will not stop, we are not turning back from where we are," he said. "We will achieve the final victory that we seek. The importance is achieving a final victory. A final victory is near."

He praised government soldiers who dislodged the militants from vast areas since the offensive was launched last year, and paid tribute to those soldiers and local fighters who participated in the operations.

"Al-Shabaab today is weaker, smaller in number," he said. "We are more experienced, more in number, better equipped, more encouraged, and we have a victory which the enemy lacks. Victory is in our grasp."

Mohamud denied Al-Shabaab's claim that 178 soldiers were killed in the Cowsweyne attack. Instead, he said that Al-Shabaab lost the most and buried their dead in mass graves.

"The correct information about

Cowsweyne has to be this conclusion -- that the number of soldiers Al-Shabaab claimed to have killed is false," he said, explaining that the group lost 190 fighters and buried them in mass graves.

"They have finished off their own wounded, [because] they don't have hospitals, they don't have medication for them," he said. "The army will reach those mass graves and investigate them."

Casualty claims by both sides have not been independently verified. The Al-Shabaab militant group claimed the attack on Cowsweyne was a "historic victory."

As a result of the attack, government forces retreated from four towns that Al-Shabaab claimed to have recaptured on Tuesday.

The former president of Somalia, Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, called for an investigation into how military operations at the Cowsweyne frontline were managed. He urged the parliamentary subcommittee for defense to investigate the attack.

Mohamud in his remarks promised to correct "mistakes" and vowed accountability.

"It's time to reward heroes among the soldiers; and to hold those abusing their responsibilities, committed treason or undermining the army accountable," he said.

He promised that any mistakes made by a soldier, an officer, or anybody else would be corrected.



EYESORE: Garbage dumped on the pedestrian path beside a Mbaga Zakhem section of Dar es Salaam's Kilwa Road, as found on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TPDC directs GASCO, TANOIL to put in place robust strategies to operate profitably

By **Grtrude Mbagu**

THE chairman of the Tanzania Petroleum Development Cooperation (TPDC) board of directors, Ambassador Ombeni Sefue has directed the management of the Gas Supply Company Limited (GASCO) and TANOIL Investment Ltd to put in place robust strategies to operate profitably.

He made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when inaugurating new governing boards of the two subsidiary companies of TPDC.

He wanted the managements and under close supervision of the new boards to implement their plans and duties efficiently.

There is no reason for public institutions that operate and earn income to continue depending on the central government to pay salaries and various expenses, we are aimed to ensure that these entities improve systems and operate efficiently to produce more revenues," he explained.

He said that as institutions now given freedom to conduct

reforms in terms of structures, hiring new competent staff to enable them operate efficiently and profitably, TPDC is doing so and this will greatly produce positive outcomes.

"What is needed here is only work, there is nothing more, as the government is now making major reforms of its public entities, we need to pull our socks and make sure that we deliver, the new boards need to supervise well to ensure that robust strategies are implemented for the corporations to operate commercially and gain profits," he said.

He said that the corporations have to translate TPDC's goals issued by the government and work hard to attain them.

Mussa Makame, TPDC managing director said that the boards have a big role of monitoring compliance with the relevant legislation and bylaws, monitoring company performance and evaluating the achievement of the strategic and business plans to achieve intended goals.

"We will supervise and monitor to ensure that the Corporations are implementing strategies that will bring efficient outcomes, we believe in you the board members and I am sure that we are going to witness a big history," he said.


He wanted the boards to go and work hard to ensure

that the Corporations meet the set goals in line with the government's development vision.

GASCO is responsible for operations and maintenance of the National Natural Gas Infrastructure (NNGI) and construction of natural gas distribution infrastructure where TANOIL undertakes oil trading business which include processing and transmission projects that include oil refining and petrochemical projects that aim to add value to petroleum products.

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KATIKA BARAZA LA ARDHI NA NYUMBA WILAYA YA KINONDONI MWANANYAMALA
SHAURI LA MADAI NAMBARA 325 LA 2021
LEONARD S. NDESHAU.....MUOMBAJI/WAOMBAJI DHIDI YA
JOSEPH J. MAKIPONYA.....MDAIWA/WADAIWA
WITO KUITWA SHAURINI
JOSEPH J. MAKIPONYA - POPOTE ULIPO/MLIPO
LEONARD S. NDESHAU amefungua/wamefungua shauri mbele ya Baraza la Ardhi na Nyumba lillilopo Kinondoni (Mwananyamala), Shauri husika limepang- wa kutajwa/kusikilizwa tarehe 5/9/2023 saa TATU asubuhi mbele ya Mh. J.W. SILLAS. Hivyo unaamriwa kuhushiria mbele ya Baraza siku hiyo bila kukosa. Imetolewa na kutiwa Saini na Mhuri wa Baraza hilli leo tarehe 01 Mwezi 09, 2023.
 KATIKA BARAZA LA ARDHI NA NYUMBA



Neema Mpiye, a lecturer with the Dar es Salaam-based Kampala International University in Tanzania, addresses residents of the city's Kipunguni ward on Thursday on the importance of education for children. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TBS told to verify the efficacy, quality of imported pesticides

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

DEPUTY Speaker Mussa Zungu has called on the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to verify the efficiency and quality of imported pesticides, raising concerns that most were dangerous to the country's public health.

According to Zungu, most pesticides imported are substandard, a situation that raises concern given the fact that the government spends a huge chunk of foreign currency in purchasing them.

The deputy speaker asked the government to use the pesticides produced at Tanzania Biotech Product Ltd-Kibaha to save the foreign currency, including getting rid of standard imported pesticides.

The deputy speaker was prompted to call for scrutiny on the imported pesticides, including asking the government to focus on pesticides produced at Kibaha biolarvicides factory after Special Seats MP Rose Tweve demanded the government stand on the possibility of investing funds in the factory at Kibaha to help in the fight

against malaria.

"Tanzania Biotech Products Ltd-Kibaha is our factory. Try to use locally produced products to save foreign currency. This will also help the country to get rid of imported substandard pesticides," Zungu said.

When responding to the question by Tweve, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Godwin Mollel said between 2017 and 2023 the government spent 5.9bn/- in the procurement of pesticides used at district council level.

As part of the government intervention to eradicate Malaria in the country, Dr Mollel said the ministry has asked for 129.1bn/- to be used between 2024-2026 in running the campaign which will involve spraying the pesticides in all mosquito breeding sites.

He said the Ministry of Health collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure the factory in Kibaha gets accreditation from the world health body.

According to the minister, by facilitating the factory to be accredited will expand the scope of avail-

Ukerewe expels environmental officer for allegedly forging exam certificates

By Guardian Correspondent, Ukerewe

UKEREWE district council has expelled environmental officer, Winston Nongwa allegedly for forging Form Four certificates.

The council also issued a stern warning as well as a 15 per cent salary cut to Singo Bakali, a public service officer in the district and the Kamasi village executive officer (VEO) David Magesa.

District chairman, Joshua

Manumbu announced the resolutions after the council reached the decision during the fourth quarter council of 2022 / 2023 meeting.

Manumbu said that the environmental officer has been expelled for intentionally submitting forged Form Four academic credentials while knowing that it is unlawful.

"The public servants, Singo and Magesa will face a salary cut of 15 per cent for three consecutive years

for reckless in implementing employer's directives causing loss of 800,000/- and absenteeism at work place for Magesa" he explained.

The council also issued stern warning for Selema village executive officer, Rwegana Matala for misuse of 1.5m/- which were contributions collected from citizens for the construction of classrooms at Selema primary school where he was also ordered to bring back the fund.

In addition, during the council, several reports were read including the implementation of the Best Learning of Early Education and Primary Tanzania Mainland (BOOST) in Bukanda ward.

Ukerewe district executive director, Emmanuel Shelembi said the government directed a total of 100.6m/- for the construction of four classrooms and three toilet holes and the work has been completed at 100 percent.

Shelembi said, apart from the construction in Bukanda ward, the government issued of 76.6m/- to Busunda dispensary to facilitate construction of a toilet, waste incinerator, water tank tower, expansion of the labour and cloth changing room for women who give birth where they are now in final stages of construction.

Bukanda ward councillor, Wilibert Mbando thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for approving

50.9m/- which was directed to the construction of a water tank tower, expansion of the delivery room, construction of a hand washing area and the construction of a waste incinerator in Muhula dispensary.

"The head of state also approved a total of 45.96m/- for the construction of hand washing equipment, waste incinerator, expansion of the labour ward at Hamuyebe dispensary where the construction is in final stages," he added.

NCAA receives benefits for 166 GEAS employees

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Ngorongoro Conservation Authority (NCAA) has received Group Endowment Assurance Scheme (GEAS) benefits of 166 employees.

The workers had insured the life fund insurance that provides benefits to its workers when they retire or die.

According to information from the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority, the employees took out insurance through an insurance consulting company called Intertrade Express Limited which is an agent of the National Insurance Corporation (NIC).

The statement said that the payment of benefits for the first phase took place in December 2022, the second phase in March 2023, and the third phase in August 2023.

The payment is the result of the implementation of the instructions of the Insurance Commissioner of Tanzania Insurance Management Authority Dr. Baghayo Saqware to pay all beneficiaries of the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority workers insurance scheme.

The statement said the workers have been paid in accordance with the contract and mutual agreement held on June 9, 2022.

It stated that after receiving complaints from the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority, the Insurance Commissioner formed a special committee that included members from TIRA, Ngorongoro, NIC and Intertrade Insurance Consulting Company who are all parties to the matter.

It said that the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority has expressed its sincere thanks to the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) for the cooperation they provided in ensuring that the employees of the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority are paid GEAS benefits. The statement said that TIRA, as the Insurance Industry Regulatory Authority, will continue to ensure that the rights of various insurance beneficiaries are protected and available on time.

The statement called on Tanzanians to continue using insurance services in the country and not to hesitate to submit their complaints to the Insurance Commissioner when they see insurance companies not treating them fairly. It said the Insurance Commissioner has been empowered through the Insurance Act CHAPTER No. 394, to punish any person, company or institution found to be breaking the Insurance Law.



A fishing boat undergoes repair at Chwaka village in Zanzibar's South Unguja Region, as found earlier this week. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Govt has put in place strategies to build houses for police officers in all districts, says minister

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has put in place strategies to build houses for police officers in all districts across the country to ensure all officers reside within camps to enhance security.

Deputy Minister for Industries and Trade Exaud Kigahe made the remarks when

responding to a question by Singida East legislator Miraji Mtaturu during a question and answer session.

The MP questioned the plan by the government to construct houses for police officers including Ikungi district who are forced to rent outside their camps.

The legislator said there is a shortage of houses for

officers in the district in which even the District Commanding Officer is forced to rent outside the police station.

"When will the government construct houses at Mkiwa, Misughaa and Mungghaa ward in the constituency where due to the expansion of economic activities, there is an increase

in security threats," the MP questioned.

In response on behalf of the minister for Home affairs, Kigahe said one of the strategies by the government to address the matter was to enhance security, saying that through budgets construct houses for officers to reside near and within their stations.

He said the government was aware that Mkiwa, Misughaa and Mungghaa wards have set aside plots for construction of houses and police stations.

"The government is waiting for a detailed report from the police to support construction of the house so that they are completed timely," he said.

In another development, special seats PM Maida Hamad Abdallah questioned when the government would pay debts for transporting properties for retired police officers.

Responding to the question the deputy minister Kigahe said the government through the police has conducted a verification process

for all debts belonging to 624 retired officers.

He said the verification shows a total of 806.06m/- to clear the debts for transporting properties belonging to retired police officers adding that the money will be paid after finalising a process to transfer the money from the Ministry of Finance to the Home Affairs ministry.

AU condemns growing trend of unconstitutional change of governments in the African continent

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has strongly condemned the wave of unconstitutional change of governments in Africa that violate the AU's normative instruments.

In a statement issued by the AU's Peace and Security Council, the council "stresses the urgent need for reviewing the efficacy of the traditional AU responses to this scourge."

The council expressed its deep concern by the delays in ensuring expedited restoration of constitutional order in some AU member states. It strongly encouraged them to redouble their efforts in order to ensure that all transitional tasks are implemented with the stipulated timelines.

The statement came a day after AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat

condemned a coup in the central African country of Gabon, the latest of a series of coups in the continent.

Faki condemned the coup as a flagrant violation of the legal and political instruments of the AU

The AU further expressed concern over the persistence, resurgence and emergence of peace and security threats in the continent, both man-made and natural.

Among such threats include terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, unconstitutional changes of government, intra-state conflicts, armed groups, proliferation of foreign fighters including mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters, transnational organized crime, illicit financial flows, and illegal exploration of natural resources, among others.



Dr Daniel Mushi (R), Livestock and Fisheries ministry (Livestock) deputy permanent secretary, has an audience with Longido District's Eliya Food Overseas Ltd meat processing factory workers yesterday. He was accompanied by members of the district's defence and security committee. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Dar school gets ICT gadgets to promote science, technology

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ZANAKI secondary school in Dar es Salaam has received 30 computers and one photocopier machine from two non profit organisations to compliment the government efforts to promote science and technology.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Zanaki secondary school headmistress Delvien Koka said that both 'Trade Best' and 'Tehama kwa wote' are Dar es Salaam based

organisations.

The head mistress said that the donation will help her school to overcome some of the challenges including shortage of computers.

"We teach science subjects but we had no right place and modern computer lab equipment to make our knowledge practical," she said.

"I would like to thank both 'Trade Desk' and 'Tehama kwa Wote' for the support and consider our out of the other four secondary schools in Dar es salaam," she added.

She said without science and

technology, it will not be easy for the country to realise its development goal adding that ICT was the only solution for country development and not otherwise.

Acting regional education officer- secondary education Pilly Ngalambe said that the aim of the donation was to build the capacity of students and teachers to use science and technology.

She said that the decision compliments the government's efforts to realise its goals to realise all students who are now opting to omit.

"Without science and technology, it is not easy to cope with global advancement in technology," she said.

Shakil Dharambi, managing director of Power Computer Telecommunication Ltd 'Trade Best' said that called on other good Samaritans to join their efforts of ensuring the school moved forward in science and technology.

He said Zanaki secondary school becomes the fifth school to receive computers after four secondary schools in Dar es Salaam.

According to him, Zanaki secondary school will be installed with new modern equipment to ensure science and technology prospers.

Aveline Maramsha, from the 'Tehama kwa Wote' said that donation was part of the Corporate Social Responsibility as well as to compliment government efforts of achieving.

He said since 2021, they have trained 200 teachers with different technology skills to teach computers in their schools.

Both Anna Komba and Rehema

Mgawe thanked for the support and promised to work hard to excel in their examinations.

'Tehama Kwa Wote' in Tanzania literally known as ICT for All is a Nonprofit Organization Empowering students, teachers and all individuals who need ICT skills to work digitally.

Adoption of computer technology has brought most services closer to customers worldwide and has made it possible to handle huge amounts of transactions in a very short-time.



Maria Mwigune, chairperson of a CSO serving as a centre for information and knowledge based in Dar es Salaam's Saranga-Kimara ward, comments on the facility's utility. She was addressing a seminar at the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) offices in the city on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

JK calls for joint efforts to address education hiccups

By Getrude Mbago

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete has called for joint efforts from stakeholders to continue supporting the government, address various challenges and facilitate access and provision of quality education in the country.

According to him, the government alone cannot achieve this as due to changes in science and technology as well as global market demand, more well-skilled graduates are needed to serve in various development sectors.

He was speaking during the event to recognise efforts to stakeholders in financing the education sectors as well as a fundraising to enable Tanzania to access \$50 million (122bn/-) issued by the Chair of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

He noted that the GPE funds will support activities aiming at improving pre-primary and primary education's access and quality but in order to get the Multiplier grants of up to \$50 million, a country needs to mobilize investment in education from other partners.

"The funds are there and waiting for us to meet the set criteria, so my call for stakeholders is for them to extend their support and contribute to ensure that the country do not miss the funds which if come, will greatly help make various improvements in the education sectors thus facilitating access to quality education for all," Dr Kikwete said.

Dr Kikwete who doubles as the GPE also expressed concern over the ongoing mass failure in science subjects both in schools and colleges.

To reverse the station, Dr Kikwete said the University of Dar es Salaam is working on the matter to find out the root cause of the major failure in mathematics and science courses and subjects.

"We are planning to bring together tutors, lecturers at UDSM to discuss the major root of the problem and thus come up with robust measures to boost performance," he added.

He said: "If our children are not doing well in science, our education journey will take a long time, at UDSM we are brainstorming on how to invest in strategies to increase performance in science subjects and courses," he said.

He said the government in collaboration with stakeholders need to continue investing efforts to ensure that children have learning equipment including books, desks and other tools.

He expressed happiness to witness how the efforts started many years ago including during his tenure are now paying good fruits which include investing both in primary and secondary education.

"What we did wrong during that time, when I was serving in the public sector and then President, we mobilised parents to construct classrooms without thinking on desks, but I think the ongoing phase is doing well to improve the education sector," he said.

He urged tutors to ensure that they invest in preparing well-skilled teachers to provide quality education from kindergarten level.

Dr Kikwete said that despite strides made to improve the education sector, there is still a good number of children who are not in school due to various reasons with others also still learning in an unpleasant environment.

"Let us put our efforts together to ensure that our children receive quality education with essential skills to enable them participate well in the country's development once they graduate," he added.

During the event pledgers to stakeholders reached more than 465m/- with the Former President calling for the stakeholders to continue extending their support.

Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology said that education development in various parts of the country is now triggered by heavy investment in science and technology.

He said as now the government is implanting strategies to transform the education sector by focusing on innovation and vocational education, stakeholders support is highly needed to make things go well.

More elephants in Southern Africa than previously thought - survey

By Ray Ndlovu

SOUTHERN Africa's elephant population is estimated at 227,900, according to the results of the first-ever aerial survey, which spanned across five nations that together provide a home to more than half of the world's savanna species.

The aerial survey done using seven fixed-wing aircraft covered Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe in an area known as the Kavango-Zambe-

zi Transfrontier Conservation Area, the world's largest conservation area, which covers 520,000 square kilometers and is nearly the size of France.

The survey's findings released Thursday established that live elephant numbers in Kaza, as the zone is known, has grown 5% from the previous estimates, which put it at 216,970, in 2016.

"This is the first time that the elephant population has been assessed in one single effort," said Darren Potgieter, the Kaza

aerial coordinator in an online briefing. "It was done following one standardized method and synchronized to avoid miscounting, under-counting and was coordinated among member states."

The survey covered over 300,000 square kilometers and was conducted during the dry season, between August and October last year, according to Potgieter. "Overall, the elephant population is stable," he said. "In some areas numbers have shown an increase and in others a decrease."

Of the five nations where elephants live, the survey found that Botswana with 131,909 has the largest elephant population, followed by Zimbabwe, which has 65,028. Even before the release of the survey results, the southern African nations were grappling with an increasing number of elephants coming into human areas - raising concerns of conflicts - and creating damage to trees needed by other species.

The survey also found a greater number

of carcasses than previously estimated, which could be attributed to a combination of factors including an aging population, disease, habitat loss, fragmentation and poaching, according to Potgieter. Botswana last year experienced a mystery die-off of the mammals for a third straight year.

"The carcass ratio, which compares live to dead elephants is 10.47% and is indicative of high mortality," he said urging for more investigation and research.



Arusha-based members of Kalakendra, an Indian society for the performing arts, celebrate in the city during the recent anniversary of India's Independence Day. Photo courtesy of Indian High Commission

300 youths trained on making energy from timber left-overs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 300 youth from 36 wards of Mbeya city have been empowered to produce alternative energy by using timber waste for income generation and the city's environment cleanliness.

It is said the energy will be used by various institutions with large numbers of people including schools, colleges, prisons and other military establishments in order to reduce wanton tree cutting for firewood and charcoal.

Leonard Kushoka, Director of 'Kuja na Kushoka Tools' involved in the production of alternative energy said here early this week that the training is sponsored by Tulia trust owned by Mbeya Urban member of parliament and House Speaker.

Kushoka said the youth are being taught to use various waste produced to make the alternative energy, clean odourless charcoal.

"We have reached Mbeya under Speaker Dr Tulia's sponsorship to provide training to the youth and after they are trained we shall install modern machines capable of producing 1,000 to 3,000 kgs of clean odorless charcoal per day," Kusoka said.

He added that the project will be an opportunity to the youth by helping the government attain its goals in prohibiting the use of charcoal that depletes forests from wanton tree cutting. Clement Mwandembwa, UVCCM Chairman for Mbeya City, said the training will make the youth employ themselves hence reducing the employment teaser especially in the City of Mbeya where there are multitudes of unemployed youth.

Mbeya City's Natural Resources and environment Officer, Agape Mwantake said the project will assist in preserving the environment as it will reduce wanton tree cutting in natural forest reserve areas.

Emergency services at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute improve

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

EMERGENCY services have been improved at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI)-Dar Group Hospital due to modern equipment worth 760m/-, invested at the health facility.

Dr Peter Kisenge, JKCI executive director said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when inspecting installation of the health devices at the Dar Group Hospital.

The machines are fixed to check

how the heart works echocardiography (ECHO) and high-level emergency machines have advanced cardiac monitors, defibrillator, emergency trolley and ventilator.

Since the government entrusted JKCI to manage the JKCI Dar Group Hospital, it has continued to strengthen services and add modern equipment in the emergency department.

"We have strengthened the emergency department by investing in specialist doctors who provide

care for critically ill patients and provide training on how to care for emergency patients to other health professionals who work in this hospital", said Dr Kisenge

Dr Kisenge who is also a cardiologist thanked the President Samia Suluhu Hassan for his contribution to the improvement of the Hospital by continuing to invest in modern equipment thus moving services closer to the people.

"In the continuation of moving services close to people, JKCI con-

tinues to deliver services to the regions where so far we have already visited II regions and seen more than 7,000 people, most of whom never received professional heart treatment services," he said.

Dr Angella Muhozya, JKCI surgery director said since the establishment of the emergency unit at the JKCI Dar Group Hospital in December last year, the number of patients has been increasing from three to five patients where now the unit receives nine to 15 patients

who need emergency services per day.

"Due to the increase number of patients, we have seen the need to increase the number of working tools and professionals so that as we develop services, we also have the ability to afford all the needs needed to provide services to emergency patients, that's why the Institute has invested enough", said Dr Angella.

Dr Angella said that emergency services were previously provided

only at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) but after health professionals were trained to provide such service, emergency services are now available in other areas.

"Currently, JKCI having competent professionals to provide services to emergency patients is a big step because these professionals in the whole country are not more than 15, thus making our institution have internationally accepted standards", said Dr Angella

Number of PwDs goes up to 11.2pc, NBS states

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has identified that the number of people with disabilities (PwDs) have increased from 9.3 per cent of 2012 to 11.2 per cent in 2022.

This is according to the results of the 2022 National Population and Housing Census.

This was said in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the training of regional Commissioners (RCs) which aimed to capacitate the leaders on census results for them to be able to utilize the statistics in their development strategies.

According to NBS, the increase of PwDs is equal to 1.9 per cent for the past ten years in Tanzania mainland while in Zanzibar the increase is at 3.9 per cent. "Kilimanjaro Region leads by having the highest number of PwDs at 15.3 per cent, followed by Mtwara with 14.5 per cent while Shinyanga is the region with the least number of people with disabilities which is 8.8 percent," he said.

For Zanzibar, North Pemba Region has the highest rate of people with disabilities of 13.2 per cent followed by South Pemba (21.1 per cent) and the lowest rate is North Unguja which has 10.3 per cent.

The results further showed that the status of PwDs in the country is higher for women at 11.6 per cent compared to men with 10.8 both in the mainland and Zanzibar.

The results also indicated that there is an increase in the number of people aged 15 and above who know how to read and write various lan-

guages such as Kiswahili and English and that the increase is from 78.1 per cent in 2012 to 83 per cent in 2022.

"The rate of increase for mainland Tanzania is from 77.9 percent in 2012 to 82.8 in 2022 and for Zanzibar it has increased from 84.2 in 2012 to 90.6 in 2022," it noted.

The census results also show that Tanzania's life expectancy for Tanzanians is 65.4 years where the mainland is 65.5 years and 64 years for Zanzibar.

However, life expectancy for women is generally higher than at 69 years while for men is 62 years and that life expectancy has increased from 44 years in 1978 to 65.4 in 2022.

The results further show that Manyara region has high life expectancy reaching 73.7 years followed by Njombe (73.3 years) and Arusha (71.6 years) and that Tanga has low life expectancy for Tanzania mainland which is 60.2 years.

"Unguja North in Zanzibar also has high life expectancy reaching 67.5 years followed by Pemba North (67.1 percent) and West Urban which has low life expectancy which is 62.0 years," the results show.

RCs chair, Zainab Teleki commended NBS for organizing the training as it is useful and will help the leaders to be more informed on the census results and thus be able to make good decisions and better plans. Dr Albina Chuwa, Statistician General at NBS commended RCs for their good cooperation which they showed during the census exercise which led the country to get actual statistics.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (Dawasa) technicians clear a clogged sewage system along Ruhinda Street in the city's Upanga-Seaview suburb yesterday. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Dr Bilal calls upon NM-AIST to invest in strategic research

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

FORMER Vice President Dr Mohamed Gharib Bilal has directed the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) to invest in strategic researches, innovations and technology which will help bring solutions and boost economic development.

Dr Bilal made the call in Arusha during the ceremony to inaugurate the new Chan-

cellor of the Institute, Omari Issa and Vice Chancellor Prof. Maulilo Kipangula.

"Since the institute is strong, I wish to see you investing highly in research, innovation and technology, which will benefit Tanzanians and industrialization. I say this is possible to make this institution more prosperous, because you have the power," he said. He said that during his tenure as Chancellor of the Institute, they made a number of efforts to push various goals and it is now well

known inside and outside the country. "I am eager to see this institute take more steps and I know my colleague Omari Issa will put this institution in the highest level," he said. The Institute's Chancellor commended Dr Bilal for his service at NM-AIST saying that his smart leadership has brought great success.

He said that in his leadership, Dr Bilal increased the number of students from 83 to 1,468 currently, with 466 students being women and 1,002 men.

He assured that the new leadership will take all the good things done by Dr Bilal which also include attracting girls to join the Institute by improving learning, teaching and accommodation facilities.

"We are now constructing a dormitory for female students and this will accommodate pregnant and those with children so as to provide them ample space to take care of their babies while concentrating in studies," he said.

Prof Lughano Kusikula, acting chair of the

institute's council commended Dr Bilal for taking the Institute while it was still young and pushing to become a reputable one while producing competent graduates.

Prof James Mdoe, deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology said the ministry has high expectations for the new leadership and was sure that they are going to work hard to stimulate development in science and technology.

French embassy interested in helping local angel investors

By Guardian Reporter

THE French Embassy has expressed interest to support establishment of an angel investors' network to bridge the existing funding gap in local innovative start-ups that stymies the scaling up of many local projects.

Nabil Hajlaoui, French Ambassador to Tanzania said that the embassy will liaise with the French Tanzania Chamber of Commerce (FTCC) and arrange a specific engagement with business angels who have experience in funding start-up projects.

Ambassador Hajlaoui was speaking recently at his residence when he hosted a delegation that had visited France for about a fortnight through the Innoversity Project Mobility Programme.

During the meeting, Sahara Ventures Chief Operations Officer (COO), Musa Kamata, who was also part of the delegation that visited France, hinted that one important takeaway from the trip was meeting with representatives from MELIES Business Angels.

"The association was started two decades ago so they have massive experience and I was impressed on how they run their angel network because we in Tanzania, specifically Sahara Ventures, have been looking for the best approach to start an angel investors network and lucky enough we have a partnership with FTCC who already play the role of mentors," he said.

Kamata said that at the moment they are learning more on how to make the best use of the French angel investors' network's modality and experience so they can establish a similar network in the country to bring more opportunities and funding for local start-ups.

"As we all understand that we do not have concrete venture capital in Tanzania and using their modality could be a great opportunity to establish something similar and go beyond mentoring and starting to provide funding for start-ups," he said.

An angel investor is basically one who provides initial seed money for startup businesses, usually in exchange for ownership equity. MELIES Business Angels is an association based in Montpellier, France, that brings together more than one hundred investors in order to finance and support companies.

Following Kamatas' briefing, Ambassador Hajlaoui



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui (L), makes remarks during talks in Dar es Salaam earlier this week with a 12-strong delegation of Tanzanians recently back from a tour of France made courtesy of the Innoversity Project Mobility Programme. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

said that to help move the idea forward the embassy will organize an event to build up on the positive work being done by the mentors and to bring in money in addition to the mentoring.

"On this specific idea do not hesitate to come back to me, we will try to work with FTCC to have a specific meeting on how to gather business angels or people who are used to funding

these start-up projects because the representative of French international groups based here are not necessarily the ones to be working on this matter," the ambassador said.

Innoversity project is a two-year project funded by the France Embassy in Tanzania in the tune of 1.4bn/- and is implemented by Sahara Ventures. Three universities benefit from the project

which are Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (Arusha) and the University of Iringa.

Sahara Ventures Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jumanne Mtambalike, who was also part of the delegation of 12 people that visited France said that one major gap in the country's ecosystem is lack of angels for early-stage in-

vestment which inhibits further investments from institutions and international organizations.

"There are no local investors showing interest in injecting funds in local start-ups, so instead of having a network of mentors, we have our eyes on establishing a network of mentors and angels so that they would not only be mentoring but also providing seed funds o companies and build

confidence among international and regional investors," he said.

The delegation drew three people from Sahara Ventures, three hub managers from the beneficiary universities and six students, two each, from the same universities all of whom were grateful to the French embassy for being granted the opportunity to be part of the mobility programme.

120 drivers drilled on safer ways to transport chemicals

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A TOTAL of 120 drivers who transport hazardous goods in and outside Tanzania have been empowered with skills on safer ways to transport chemicals.

Dr Fidelize Mafumiko, chief chemist of the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) when wrapping up two-day training to the drivers and involving experts from GCLA, Police and Fire and Rescue Brigade.

Dr Mafumiko said that the training reminds them of the impor-

tance of protecting themselves and other road users against hazardous chemicals.

He said the training also enables them to know the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act, 2003 and how to be safe from chemicals during transportation.

"All transporters of hazardous goods must observe the regulations including all recommended permits needed during transportation from the office of Chief Government Chemist. All these are meant to ensure the hazardous

are transported safely and do not bring harm to the people and environment," he said.

"GCLA provides training to the drivers to build their capacity and protection of their bodies against hazardous chemicals during transportation," he said.

According to him, the transporters must abide by the chemical transporting act and regulations to avoid harmfulness to the people, animals and the environment.

He emphasized drivers to know and identify the types of chemicals transported in order to take

precaution before and during transportation noting dealing with chemicals needs someone to be extra careful.

Eastern Zone Manager Danstan Mkapa insisted drivers to adhere to principles and laws governing transportation to avoid more infections to human beings and the environment.

One of the drivers, Idd Jabir working with Golden Coach, commended the authority on behalf of fellow drivers adding that it will help them to know and be careful when transporting chemicals.

He said the training will build their capacity to know regulations, and laws hence are carefully before and during transportation of chemicals.

"I would like to commend GCLA for the training on how we can transport chemicals safely. It is our hope the training will further help us to transport hazardous goods in a more safe way compared to before," he said.

Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act [No. 3 OF 2003] was established by the Parliament and passed to be

law by the President on April 05, 2003.

It was established to provide for the management and control of the production, importation, transportation, exportation, storage, dealing, and disposal of chemicals and for matters connected therewith.

It is the principal advisory organ of the Government on matters relating to relevant forensic sciences (illicit drugs, DNA, toxicology), laboratory testing on food, medicine, chemical and environmental management.



It's vegetables aplenty but few customers at Mbezi Mwisho open market in Ubungu Municipality, Dar es Salaam, as witnessed yesterday. On average, a bunch went for 300/- wholesale and 500/- retail. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

300 students graduate from Russian varsities

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 300 Tanzanian students have so far graduated from Russia in different programmes since the two countries started cooperating.

Most Tanzania acquired bachelor, masters and Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) degrees in different Russian universities.

Through its scholarship programme for academic year 2024-2025, Russia has opened a two-month window for scholarships for Tanzanian students looking for the best education.

Alexey Bondaruk, Counsellor of the Russian Embassy and Director of the Russian Cultural centre said that yesterday in Dar es Salaam when announcing a two months window scholarship for Tanzania students.

He said the window for scholarship commencement from September 1st to end of November this year and will cover only free tuition alone.

According to him, the scholarship will not cover accommodation, transport and other expenses.

He said the scholarship was part of the country's strategy to strengthen bilateral cooperation and added that it was a great chance for Tanzanian students.

"Russia is coming to Africa. We need people who know Russia. It was in Africa. It is now coming with a new force and investment, he said.

He noted that Russia is looking for the best Tanzania students who will study for undergraduate, master and PhD.

Project Manager Boniface Assenga said that the registration for studies in Russia under the Russian Government scholarship programme for 2024-2025 academic years is now open.

Assenga said that Tanzanian students who are eligible have completed secondary and college and who wish to continue their studies in Russian universities.

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**Taking A New Look
At The News**
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PP methods relevant in combating weeds in lakes

SPECIAL efforts are being mounted by the government to mobilise funds to facilitate a \$6m project to conserve Lake Jipe, a key agro-sector resource in Kilimanjaro Region, being destroyed by rampaging weeds. There is also the nearby Lake Chala, a freshwater crater lake that also shares the border with Kenya in the neighbourhood of Taveta. The Lake Jipe basin on the Tanzania side is a vital farmland for residents in nearby mountain reaches, and a game reserve on the other side, the outer reaches of Tsavo national park with its lions.

An internet chronicler within the local tourism industry describes Lake Chala as a real find for tourists who like panoramic views and quiet recreation. "In the morning, after the transfer to the lake, you will find yourself on the edge of the crater to see the wonderful views of the tropical forest and the lake. On the way to the lake, you are highly likely to see baboons. At the lake you can go canoeing, relishing the beautiful African nature. Your lunch will be served afterwards. On the way back to the hotel you will see Mt Kilimanjaro in all its glory," that is, assuming it will not be covered by clouds at mid-morning, yet.

The Union and Environment minister in the Vice President's Office told the local area MP of the fund mobilisation plan after the MP had demanded a time frame for removing weeds at the borderline lake. The government is definitely aware of the environmental damage caused by weeds taking over the lake, thus the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) evaluated the situation and prepared a project paper to mobilise funds for removing the weeds. That method is

a bit traditional in its approach, out of tune with trends.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan was recently asking regional administrators to be innovative in the conduct of their work, taking note of global trends as well as legal frameworks making this or that initiative consonant with policies and directives. Demanding that the government seeks large amounts of money to sort out environmental difficulties on a borderline lake and another lake that provides a nice spot for tourism is perfectly alright. The trouble is that one may spend one year or more before obtaining the money, worsening the situation.

There is likely to be plenty of loan facilities for private firms working on acknowledged environmentally positive projects, whether it is in alternative energy sources, reforestation or combating weeds. While these projects merit funds of the sort that the government wants, it is safer for the sustainability of those funds to issue revolving credits. If an environmental expertise company is tasked with the restoration of the lake's ecology it can obtain such credit, as it will have land use arrangements with local government that will repay the cash.

Still there are bottlenecks in that direction as many quarters of opinion are wary of contracts involving external litigation, and wish for localised dispute settlement. This will bring about foreclosure, exclusion from inviting companies for any work that entails fund recovery risks. We must polish up our act so that the MP, regional administrators and the ministry don't have to just go about looking for \$6m in donations while there is plenty of credit to go around.

The battle to protect endangered species must continue unabated

THE government's anti poaching measures have registered positive results. The country has recorded an increase in the number of wildlife, especially elephants and black rhinos.

Tabling the 654.6bn/- budget estimates for his docket for the 2023/2024 FY the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism said the number of elephants had increased from 43,330 in 2014 to 60,000 this year, equivalent to 38.5 per cent.

The development has made Tanzania to continue being among the three African countries with the highest elephant population.

We commend the government's efforts to strengthen protection and conservation of natural resources by controlling poaching, illegal wildlife trade and harvesting of forest and beekeeping resources.

This increase of wildlife is an indication that poaching activities in the country have decreased which are the results of good plans and cooperation in conservation.

We need to continue strengthening the wildlife and forest conservation paramilitary force by providing training within and outside the country in various areas, including investigation and case management.

We should be committed to implement the project to combat poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in Tanzania through funding from the Global Environmental Facility - GEF) and United Nations Development Programme - (UNDP).

Wildlife biologists and conservationists consider poaching to have a detrimental effect on biodiversity both within and outside protected areas as wildlife populations decline, species are depleted locally, and the functionality of ecosystems is disturbed.

Rhinos are killed for their horns, which are prized in traditional Asian medicine and command

high prices when poachers hawk them on black markets.

Research indicates that tech innovations have already helped to curb poaching in Africa. Black and white rhinoceros - the continent's two rhino species, classified as endangered and threatened, respectively have increased in population in recent years.

In conservation hotspots across the world, artificial intelligence, drones, and surveillance platforms are among the technologies that have become the latest line of defence against the \$23bn global illegal wildlife trade, which claims the lives of 800 rhinos - along with 15,000 elephants and untold numbers of pangolins, impalas, bush pigs, warthogs and other animals - in Africa every year.

Only 25,000 rhinos, 415 African elephants, and dwindling numbers of other at-risk species survive on the continent in the wild today.

"There is too much to protect, and too few people to protect it, so technology has become essential when addressing the global poaching crisis," says Rohit Singh, head of the Zero Poaching initiative for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

As conservation groups get smarter about technology, so do the poachers they are battling to stop. Environmentalists say the fear of never being more than one step ahead is tangible in their campaign to save animals hunted for their horns, tusks, pelts, scales or skin - or for capture as exotic pets.

"With illegal wildlife trade being run by increasingly organised crime syndicates, poachers already use technology and are often far better equipped than those protecting nature and wildlife," says Singh.

"Smartphone and GPS trackers are used to both locate wildlife and to avoid ranger patrols. But the benefits of technology in protecting our iconic wildlife and forests far outweigh the negatives."

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Government needs to innovate if it hopes to address housing crisis

By Noah Scherbrucker

AS informal settlements continue to proliferate and grow despite government's housing programmes, we suggest several practical things the state could do to alleviate the housing crisis.

The government is clearly unable to meet the country's housing demand, and although it has provided millions of homes since 1994, these have mostly been built in places that have exacerbated rather than addressed the legacy of spatial apartheid.

As a result, land invasions will continue and informal settlements will keep on expanding and densifying, and the state will continue to struggle to provide basic services in these unsuitable, unplanned settlements.

Furthermore, the government's long-touted shift to provide serviced sites instead of houses will do little to alleviate the housing crisis unless finance and building support is provided.

The state will therefore continue to spend billions on the installation, maintenance, and management of infrastructure on the urban periphery, which may provide some services and improvements but will fail to tackle the core issue - building spatially inclusive cities that work for the poorest

citizens.

To change this, the government needs to let go of its entrenched, existing methodology for housing delivery on the urban periphery, in particular the over reliance on external service providers. These contractors have far too much sway over small, "hollowed out" municipalities and they need to be scrutinised by national government.

Community participation in the design and implementation of housing and upgrading projects would add a level of accountability and ownership that would provide a far better chance of success. Non-government organisations (NGOs) can play a critical role as intermediaries - helping establish participation structures, troubleshooting problems, navigating community dynamics, holding officials to account, improving communication, and managing and monitoring services post installation.

NGOs working closely with communities can also play a vital role in "reblocking" an informal settlement, a process that relocates structures to create space for formal roads and services and allows for an in-situ upgrade as opposed to a relocation. The state should provide policy frameworks and funding for this.

A persistent problem has been the

lack of co-ordination between departments. This creates project delays, competing interests, miscommunication and increased costs. A cross-departmental unit within municipalities focused specifically on informal settlement upgrading is long overdue.

Planning needs to include not only economic development and service departments (water, sanitation, roads, electricity etc) but also community representatives, and in smaller municipalities it should be driven by provincial and national government.

Serviced sites must be linked to finance and building support - including accessing materials, plans, finance, advice and contractors. Otherwise, it will merely increase the number of informal structures on the urban periphery.

Many municipalities will resist an approach that disrupts entrenched networks between officials and external service providers. Not only construction of housing and installation of services, but site planning, settlement mapping, waste collection and GIS support are currently all outsourced. This means that external service providers, whose motives are predominantly for profit, drive many of the decisions influencing informal settlement upgrading and management.

The state needs to start programmes that build capacity by insourcing the skills required for informal settlement upgrading, and remove the profit motive from a developmental agenda meant to improve the lives of poor people.

Rethinking the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) would be a perfect starting point. A skills path could be developed for EPWP workers to fulfil crucial roles in informal settlement upgrading, with the best candidates eventually finding employment within the municipality. There are many examples of innovative EPWP workers, trained and supported by NGOs, who have skills invaluable to informal settlement upgrading programmes.

Space must also be created for officials that encourage them to try new ideas, even if some of these fail. National and provincial governments need to support, rather than suppress, innovation. Otherwise, nothing will fundamentally change.

State funding is sufficient to make a far bigger impact if money was spent in smarter and more innovative ways. NGOs can play a critical intermediary role in driving a more sustainable and people-centred approach to upgrading. But political will and a commitment to action are needed.

Vaccine equality is as vital for livestock as for people

By Enrique Hernández Pando

FOR 33-year-old mother-of-seven and poultry farmer Helena Kindole in Chanya village in Tanzania, one of the main barriers to growing her chicken business is a lack of access to health services. But not for herself or her family - for her animals.

With smallholder poultry farming often a lifeline for millions of low-income and rural families - accounting for 80 per cent of poultry production in the region - access to medicines and vaccines is just as important for livestock as it is for people.

And yet, logistical, infrastructural, and supply challenges are hindering access to veterinary services across the African continent and therefore, holding back smallholder productivity.

At the same time, a rapidly industrialising poultry sector in many developed countries, and an increase in grain prices globally, coupled with cheap imports from more developed markets and low access to animal health care is driving inequality between small- and large-scale producers, threatening to squeeze out smallholder poultry farmers.

Thankfully, this is starting to change. Animal health initiatives are helping local hatcheries to vaccinate chicks against common and damaging diseases before selling them to small-scale farmers, who rear the chicks until they are six months old, eventually selling them to neighbours, restaurants, and other businesses nearby.

For women like Helena, who make up nearly half of the global agricultural workforce in developing countries and in sub-Saharan Africa, the poultry sector offers a crucial source of income and healthy animals are essential for decent livelihoods.

Equipping farmers with the right tools can help to set them up for success to compete alongside more industrialised production systems.

Introducing vaccinations at local hatcheries can strengthen small-scale producers' sustainability and commercial clout.

Supporting these hatcheries with the necessary vaccination equipment and expertise means they can provide customers with large numbers of chicks that are vaccinated against common poultry diseases, such as Newcastle disease and Infectious bronchitis, the former of which contributes to 60% of poultry mortalities in many African countries. This reduces the risk of bird loss, contributing to improved income and more successful businesses overall.

But implementing vaccination measures alone is not enough, as a lack of technical support and knowledge on zoonoses and other infectious diseases that affect poultry can also hinder productivity.

Training on animal health practices, market development opportunities, and advice on biosecurity, good management practices, and more are also crucial pieces of the puzzle. Providing this can help to level the playing field between

large scale, industrial hatcheries and small-scale producers.

The PREVENT project (Promoting and Enabling Vaccination Efficiently, Now and Tomorrow) is one example of an initiative working to improve poultry production for Africa's rapidly growing population. In just two years, this four-year initiative has administered 159 million vaccine doses and vaccinated 49 million hatchery chicks. It has also trained 100 field technicians who have conducted 2,600 farm visits and held over 1,400 farmer meetings across four countries in sub-Saharan Africa, to date.

A low-input but high-producing sector, raising chickens offers a reliable pathway out of poverty for many rural households. A small-scale producer can easily sell their chicks or chickens at the market as they are more affordable for the consumer than beef, for example, but also bring a myriad of other benefits. They add value to social structures, are high in protein, and, on top of this, can directly benefit women who in fact make up the majority of smallholder poultry farmers in the developing world.

Against the backdrop of a global cost of living crisis, record-breaking temperatures, and ongoing conflicts, closing the inequality gap for smallholder farmers is critical to build a sustainable future for all. Supporting small-scale producers with training, animal health measures, and much more can help to level the playing field, one small-scale producer at a time, just like Helena.

How visual identification can be established, challenged in court

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at circumstantial evidence, which may be relied on the absence of direct evidence of an eyewitness. We said on a criminal case resting on circumstantial evidence, according to Singh (2007), all the circumstances brought by the prosecution must inevitably and exclusively point to the guilty of the accused and there should be no circumstances which may reasonably be considered consistent with the innocence of the accused.

It is thus upon the prosecution to prove this position beyond reasonable doubt, otherwise as we saw in the case we used although the High Court of Tanzania convicted the appellant of murdering his father and sentenced him to face death by hanging when he appealed to the Court of Appeal he was exonerated from criminal liability as his appeal was allowed, his conviction quashed and the sentence of death by hanging set aside. The Court of Appeal also ordered that he be immediately set free, unless he was otherwise lawfully held.

Today, I invite you to briefly look visual identification in criminal cases. Before we do that, let me take you back to what we once said about Blackstone's ratio that: "It is better that 10 guilty persons escape than that one innocent person suffer." Blackstone's ratio has over the years become a legal maxim.

In courts of justice (not merely "courts of law"), no evidence can stand against an accused person unless the prosecution proves beyond reasonable doubt that it is the accused person and nobody else who committed the offence he or she is charged with and the court is satisfied with it after weighing such evidence.

The reason behind this as John Adams (a devotee of the right to counsel and presumption of innocence) put it "it's of more importance to community, that



innocence should be protected, than it is, that guilt should be punished; for guilt and crimes are so frequent in the world, that all of them cannot be punished; and many times they happen in such a manner, that it is not of much consequence to the public, whether they are punished or not. But when innocence itself, is brought to the bar and condemned, especially to die, the subject will exclaim, it is immaterial to me, whether I believe well or ill; for virtue itself, is no security. And if such a sentiment as this, should take place in the mind of the subject, there would be an end to all security whatsoever."

After Adams' long quotation, let's now look at visual identification and find out how it can be established in a court of justice. The case of Boniface Siwngwa (appellant) v Republic (respondent), a criminal appeal No 421 of 2007 from the decision of the High Court of Tanzania in Mbeya was the second appeal. The appellant and five others were charged in the District Court of Mbozi at Vwawa with armed robbery contrary to sections 285 and 286 of the Penal Code (Chapter 16).

The appellant and his co-accused were convicted as charged and each was sentenced to the statutory minimum of 30 years' imprisonment, but the other three co-accused persons were acquitted.

Aggrieved by the conviction and sentence of the trial District Court, the appellant unsuccessfully appealed to the High Court of Tanzania. He then appealed to the Court of Appeal. One ground he advanced was that the circumstances in which the commission of the offence he was charged with were shaky for proper visual identification. Another ground was that the prosecution did not prove the case to the standard required. These two were among the five grounds he had presented.

The offence he was charged with was alleged to have been committed at about 21:00. The Court of Appeal cited the case of Waziri Amani VR (1980) by which this court said:

"The first point we wish to make is an elementary one and this is that evidence of visual identification, as courts in East Africa and England have warned in a number of cases, is of the weakest

kind and most unreliable. It follows, therefore, that no court should act on evidence of visual identification unless all possibilities of mistaken identity are eliminated and is fully satisfied that the evidence before it is absolutely watertight."

The Court of Appeal looked into details of the cited case especially on some questions which had to be resolved like the time the witness had the accused under observation, the distance at which the accused was observed, the conditions in which such observation occurred, whether it was day or night time, whether there was good or poor lighting at the scene and the witnesses knew or

had seen the accused before or not because these were among the issues the trial judge (or magistrate) should direct his [her] mind before coming to any definite conclusion on the issue of identity.

However, weighing the evidence presented before the Court of Appeal, the Justice of Appeal said although some of the witnesses claimed to be familiar with the accused, familiarity was one of the factors to be taken into consideration in deciding whether or not a witness identified the assailant.

The Justice of Appeal said considering since other conditions for proper identification were not conducive, familiarity with the accused alone was not enough to rely on to incriminate the accused person. "The witness must give detailed explanation as to how he or she identified the assailant at the scene of crime

as the witness might be honest, but mistaken."

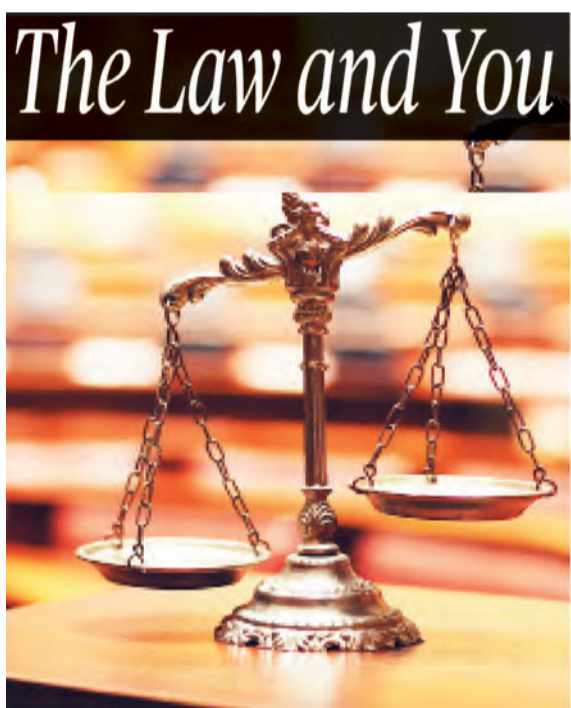
Furthermore, the Justice of Appeal citing another case of Philipo Ruikaiza @Kitwechembogo V Republic (criminal appeal No 215 of 1994) (unreported) said said:

"The evidence in every case where visual identification is what is relied on must be subjected to careful scrutiny, due regard being paid to all the circumstances, there was really sure opportunity and convincing ability to identify the person correctly and that every reasonable possibility of error has been dispelled. There could be a mistake in the identification notwithstanding the honest belief of an otherwise truthful identifying witness."

The Justice of Appeal went further saying that it was their considered view that had the lower courts considered all the relevant facts discussed above, they would have found that the evidence of six witnesses in support of the prosecution was not absolutely watertight. In light of this, the Justice of Appeal allowed the appeal, quashed the conviction of the appellant and set aside the 30-year imprisonment imposed on him. He then ordered the appellant to be released from custody forthwith unless otherwise lawfully incarcerated.

Today's proverb: "A rolling stone gathers no moss."

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Unlocking the power of youth in tackling climate change

By Elizabeth Wathuti

IN an increasingly volatile world, the grip of extreme weather events tightens, unleashing droughts, floods, and heat waves that wreak havoc on vulnerable communities. The repercussions are dire—lost livelihoods, food scarcity, and parched water sources. Alarming as it is, the impact of these events hits hardest on youth and children, amplifying inequalities and deepening divides. Yet, amidst this unfolding crisis, a glimmer of hope emerges from an unexpected source—youth stepping up to champion climate action.

Across the globe, the landscape is changing, and it's not just the weather. The effects of extreme weather events disproportionately affect the young, propelling them into a new era of the need for urgent climate action. Recent years have witnessed a surge in youth activism surrounding environmental issues, an awakening that is set to intensify as the urgency for rapid response grows.

As a young environmentalist and the visionary behind the Green Generation initiative, I've come to understand that integrating youth into established climate frameworks is pivotal to nurturing their involvement in shaping a sustainable future for Africa. Empowered by firsthand experiences, young individuals drive climate action forward, fuelled by a deep desire.

Youth engagement in climate change is more than a symbolic gesture—it's a movement gaining formidable momentum. A recent UNDP People's Climate Vote showed that nearly 70 percent of those under 18, view climate change as a global emergency. The echoes of young voices also resounded in the COP26 meeting, where a Global Youth Position statement representing over 40,000 youth leaders called for integrating youth rights in climate change combat deals.

This movement is set to expand, and the global community must harness the vitality and energy of young people in tackling climate change. The youth have surged to the forefront of the climate action movement, epitomizing passion, commitment, and innovative thinking.

With fresh perspectives and innovative solutions, youth offer a dynamic approach to shaping a sustainable world. Not only are they the torchbearers of a greener future, but they are also the generation that will inherit the consequences of climate change. Recognizing youth's invaluable contributions, an opportunity lies ahead at the upcoming Africa Climate Summit 2023 to solidify their place as key stakeholders in climate action dialogues.

The Africa Climate Summit happening in Nairobi, Kenya, from the 4th to 6th of this month is an opportunity



to showcase Africa's resources and solutions to the climate crisis to attract capital investments. As a precursor of this Summit, young people have not been left behind and have been self-organizing and self-mobilizing to host a pre-summit dubbed the African Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA) from 1st to 3rd September to showcase African solutions to global challenges.

With a focus on encouraging collaboration

and engagement, the conference intends to unite and amplify the voices of African youth, share ideas, and demonstrate youth solutions in the global battle against climate change. Some suggestions are related to environmental sustainability, such as recycling waste materials and plastic bottles to protect the environment, among many other innovative initiatives. AYCA will bring together young change-makers from more than 60 Af-

rican countries and beyond, exhibiting their work and establishing connections between them and all heads of state, decision-makers, well-respected individuals, business leaders, and non-state actors.

Historically, youth have been left on the sidelines in decision-making processes, which should never have been the case. The youth's potential impact knows no age limit, as multiple studies show that education is

pivotal in driving public opinion on climate change.

This revelation emphasizes the importance of incorporating climate education into curricula worldwide. Educational institutions can unlock a powerful force for change by imparting a comprehensive understanding of climate change issues.

While youth rise to the occasion, their voices often remain unheard. Media and advocacy platforms must embrace the call for inclusivity, offering a platform for these emerging leaders. By doing so, society can tap into a wellspring of creative and game-changing ideas to help us tackle global environmental challenges such as the climate crisis.

The call for climate action is universal, transcending borders and generations. Youth, driven by creativity, innovation, and boundless energy, stand poised to be the catalysts of change. Their ideas, innovations, and the youth's solutions must be meaningfully embraced and supported with resources, including funding and skills, to help them advance to the next level. In a world where the stakes have never been higher, it is imperative that we open doors, amplify voices, and welcome the youth into the global conversation. As we navigate the complexities of climate change, their involvement is not just an option—it's an essential pathway toward a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Elizabeth Wathuti is Lead Coordinator - African Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA) and Africa Climate Summit (ACS) Youth Engagement.

United States mushroom workers now want a union

By Peter Costantini

THE Yakima River runs southeast from the Cascade Mountains through central Washington state to merge with the Columbia a little north of Oregon. From the small city of Yakima on down, its course broadens from a winding canyon into a wide valley bounded by austere low ridges of gray-green sagebrush and tawny grasses. In mid-April, the new leaves of the willows and cottonwoods light up the riverbanks with luminous chartreuse.

The valley beyond the river bottom was once mostly semi-arid rangeland punctuated by basalt cliffs. But as irrigation systems spread across it in the early 20th Century, it morphed into rich farmlands. Expanses of vineyards stretch across the valley and climb the hills. One part of the Yakima Valley Highway has been renamed "Wine Country Road", and at intersections, signs point to wineries and tasting rooms.

Tall frameworks of wood and wire stand waiting for hop vines to grow up them. The Yakima Valley produces more than three-quarters of the hops grown in the United States. Apple and pear orchards are beginning to bloom. In fields of corn and beans, the first green shoots are just poking up.

The town of Sunnyside drapes over a hill about 30 miles southeast of Yakima city. The town's 16 thousand residents are 86 percent Hispanic, and Yakima County is over 52 percent, in a country where the Hispanic population is approaching one-fifth of the total and growing.

Yearly per capita income in Sunnyside is \$15,570 and the poverty rate is 18.6 percent, compared with \$43,817 and 9.9 percent for the state of Washington. That means that average yearly income here is a bit more than one-third that of the state, and poverty is almost twice as high. [U.S. Census Bureau. "QuickFacts"]

At the south end of town, across Interstate 82, Midvale Road is lined with industrial processing and service facilities: warehouses, pipelines, silos, and tanks for dairy, candy, feed, fertilizer and equipment. At the end of this agribusiness stronghold, rows of long white structures looking like opaque greenhouses are identified by a sign: "Windmill Farms". Inside, on multi-level bins in windowless, climate-controlled rooms, mushrooms are growing. The delivery trucks parked outside the farm still have "Ostrom Farms", the name of the previous owners, painted on their sides.

Along the road outside the mushroom farm one April afternoon, workers, their families, and their supporters walk a picket line. Crimson flags bearing a black Aztec eagle on a white circle flutter in a stiff wind. Red, white, blue and green undulate as well: a young boy hoists an American flag as an older man waves the Mexican tricolor. Homemade signs say "We Feed You" and "La Union Es La Fuerza" ("The union is strength"), and "Queremos unión - Protesta" ("We want a union - Protest").

From a portable sound system, the Mexican ranchera (country) music of Joan Sebastian and Los Tigres del Norte lends an upbeat accordion and guitar cadence to the proceedings.

These mushroom workers are picketing Windmill Farms to demand that it right some flagrant wrongs that Ostrom Farms, the former owner, inflicted on them before selling the farm. The new owners, they say, have not remedied the problems.

Over a year ago, Ostrom workers began to raise complaints about working conditions, wages, and management, working with organizers from the United Farm Workers union. Getting no response, they voted overwhelmingly to form a union to bargain with the company. Ostrom responded by laying off all its workers and selling the farm to Windmill Farms, which is controlled by an investment firm. Windmill told the former workers that they could reapply to work there, but would have to accept restrictions on their workplace rights.

Before the sale, Ostrom had replaced most of its workers, who were predominantly Hispanic women living in the area, with male "guest workers" brought in from Mexico on H-2A temporary agricultural visas. They have limited labor rights and can easily be fired and deported. A few of the original workers were hired back, but some not at their old jobs.

The demonstrators are demanding that Windmill rehire workers who were fired, address their grievances, recognize their union and bargain a contract with it. Members of other unions have come from around the state to show solidarity.

The president of the United Farm Workers, Teresa Romero, has come up from California. She addresses the crowd in Spanish:

"We're here today fighting for all of you. But we can't do this without the leadership, that you've demonstrated. It's not easy. Many of you have been fired for demanding your rights. But we're going to keep fighting for the workers who are still inside and who are afraid. And the fear they feel



Sign at mushroom workers rally, Sunnyside, Washington, April 18, 2023. Credit: Peter Costantini

is very justified because many of you were fired. ... Here we are and we're not leaving! Thanks to all who are supporting us from outside of the farm workers movement, but who realize how hard it is for workers in the fields to organize."

She ends her speech with "¡Sí, se puede!" ("Yes we can!"), the traditional farm workers motto. And the crowd continues cheering. "¡Sí, se puede!"

Next, an animated man with a goatee and sunglasses smiles at the assembly. José Martínez is one of the leaders in forming the union. He was fired by Ostrom, but then rehired by Windmill. His Spanish is hoarse and passionate:

"I want to send a very clear message to the company: we don't want to destroy you. The only thing we want is that you treat us with dignity, equality and respect as human beings. And to have a union, that's what we're fighting for. Thanks to all of you who have come from different places to support our cause. We won't leave until we reach this goal. ¡Viva la causa! ¡Viva César Chávez! ¡Viva la unión! ¡Siempre pa'adelante!" ("Long live the cause! Long live Cesar Chavez! Long live the Union! Always forward!")

Daniela Barajas was fired by Ostrom but found a job with a different company. She tells the crowd in Spanish:

"We've just begun to fight. Although I haven't worked in the mushroom farm more than a year - I was one of those who was fired - I continue supporting the people who are there [and] those who don't have jobs to feed their families. They have a right to better treatment at work. And we're not going away until they recognize a union there."

Her speech is echoed by chants of: "¿Que queremos? ¡Unión!" ("What do we want? Union!")

The union's Secretary of Civic Action, Juanito Marcial, drove over with some other workers from the Seattle area to offer solidarity to the mushroom workers. The Chateau Sainte Michelle winery there, where he works, is the site of the United Farm Workers' first contract in the state. Workers won it in 1995 after an eight-year struggle, and it remains in force. Most of the UFW's membership, however, is in California where the union began.

Marcial recalls that history in Spanish: "We're here, the comrades who work at Sainte Michelle under a union contract. And I want to tell you that we now have an average of 27 years, the only agricultural site that has a [UFW] contract [in Washington], and that we're enjoying various benefits for workers. We're saying to you, comrades, that this is just the first step, we can't weaken. Hasta la victoria siempre! (Until victory always!)"

The UFW regional director, Victoria Ruddy, closes the rally by thanking the workers for a year of struggle. "As don José says, '¡No vamos

a parar hasta ganar unión!' ("We won't stop until we win a union!)" And the crowd ambles over to a nearby park for a picnic.

New bosses, but still no union

"Yes, we can! The union is strength!" UFW rally, Sunnyside, Washington, April 18, 2023. Photo: Peter Costantini

Sign at mushroom workers rally, Sunnyside, Washington, April 18, 2023. Photo: Peter Costantini

The road that led the mushroom workers to their April 18 rally outside of Windmill Farms was riddled with corporate switchbacks and legal potholes.

In 2019, Ostrom Mushrooms closed a mushroom farm in western Washington state, laid off more than 200 workers, and moved its operations to Sunnyside. The firm received generous public subsidies from different levels of government for construction of a new \$60 million plant.

In Sunnyside, Ostrom hired a new workforce varying between 200 and 300 workers. Most were local Hispanic women. At that time, CEO Travis Wood complained of a shortage of labor despite the advantages of year-round work and controlled-climate conditions inside the facility.

"In mid-2021," The Washington State Attorney General found, "Ostrom hired new management to improve its production. [It] believed Ostrom needed to replace its largely female workforce because [women] had childcare obligations and could not work late hours or weekends. ... [M]anagement decided to replace its domestic workforce with workers from the H-2A guest worker program."

Consequently, Ostrom employees elected a leadership committee to raise issues about wages and working conditions with management. They began to consult with United Farm Workers organizers and the non-profit Columbia Legal Services.

In June 2022, the workers submitted a petition to Ostrom calling for "fair pay, safe working conditions, and respect". It alleged that managers had threatened and bullied workers, instituted mandatory overtime shifts and raised production quotas to excessive levels. Workers were overworked and undervalued, said Ostrom worker Joceline Castillo. But Ostrom stonewalled the petition.

Meanwhile, in August 2022, Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson filed a civil complaint against Ostrom under state laws. Ferguson accused Ostrom of discrimination and unfair employment practices based on employees' sex, citizenship, or immigration status, and of retaliating against employees who opposed these violations. Ostrom had gone ahead and replaced most of its local female workers with male "guest

workers brought in from Mexico, whose H-2A temporary visas give them fewer labor protections. However, the H-2A program requires that the employer first demonstrate that it cannot hire enough workers from the local workforce, which was evidently not the case.

The complaint also charged Ostrom with "engaging in unfair and deceptive practices ... by misleading actual and prospective domestic pickers with regard to job eligibility requirements, wages, and availability of employment."

However, Ferguson was unable to directly address retaliation against union organizing or the use of H-2A workers to replace resident workers. These issues fall under federal law, while the state attorney general can enforce only state laws.

The National Labor Relations Act, the 1935 federal statute that regulates union organizing and collective bargaining, excludes farm workers and domestic workers from its coverage. So the Ostrom workers were not able to go through formal legal procedures for union recognition or to invoke the law's protection against retaliation for union organizing.

Nevertheless, in September 2022 the workers announced their vote, held under UFW auspices: 70 percent chose to form a union. They asked management to sit down and bargain on wages and working conditions. Ostrom refused.

The Ostrom workers and UFW organizers upped the ante in their campaign by marshalling community support. They organized periodic informational pickets at the Ostrom farm in Sunnyside. And in a reprise of the farm worker boycotts of the 1960s and 1970s, they began in November to picket outside of a supermarket in Seattle. They asked consumers not to buy Ostrom mushrooms, but instead to seek out mushrooms from two unionized farms in California.

In November, the State Department of Labor & Industries responded to a complaint and found working conditions at Ostrom that could cause injuries to workers. The agency fined the grower only \$4,000, but also investigated another complaint.

Then on February 14, the campaign hit a roadblock. According to the UFW, Ostrom Mushroom Farms management held a company-wide meeting to tell all its workers that they were fired immediately. As of that midnight, Ostrom's facility would be sold to Greenwood Mushroom Sunnyside IA, LLC, a new entity owned by Windmill Farms. Based in Ashburn, Ontario, Canada, Windmill also uses the Greenwood Mushrooms label at farms in Ontario and Pennsylvania. In turn, Windmill is owned by Instar Asset Management, a Toronto-based private equity firm.

The fired Ostrom workers were told they

could reapply for jobs under the new management. But they would have to fill out new applications, possibly accept different jobs, and sign arbitration agreements that forbade suing the employer or unionizing.

The Windmill and former Ostrom workers, including those now unemployed, pushed ahead with their campaign. Some of the original workers who were rehired complained that they ended up in worse jobs with lower pay.

Under Windmill Farms management, working conditions were still "pretty bad", according to workers committee leader José Martínez, who had worked at Ostrom for three years. "They want you to go fast" to meet an hourly quota of picking 50 pounds of mushrooms, he told me. "They put you on probation for 90 days. If you don't make [the quota] they're gonna let you go." The biggest problem, though, is that "there's no communication with them. Sometimes one supervisor comes and tells you one thing, and then another one comes after and changes the whole thing." If the company recognizes the union, he said, "everything is gonna be fine."

Shortly after the rally, though, Martínez was fired by Windmill, which claimed he wasn't meeting production demands. But he suspected he may have been fired because of his pro-union activism.

Finally on May 16, the Washington State Attorney General's Office announced that Ostrom and Greenwood had signed a consent decree. Ostrom agreed to pay \$34 million into a fund to compensate workers who suffered discrimination or retaliation for reporting it - over 170 may be eligible. In the agreement, Greenwood agreed to discontinue the "unfair and discriminatory employment practices" identified under Ostrom, and established a framework for compliance training and monitoring to prevent future violations.

"Ostrom's systematic discrimination was calculated to force out female and Washington-based employees," Ferguson said in a statement. "I want to thank the workers who spoke out against this discrimination in the face of so much danger and stood up for their rights. My team fought for them and today we secured an important victory."

Beyond substantial compensation for the workers, the settlement avoided a drawn-out court battle. But because it was based on state law, it could not compel recognition of the union or rehiring by Windmill of the fired workers, nor could it address the prohibited use of H-2A temporary workers to replace resident workers.

A worker still employed by Windmill, Isela Cabrera, commented: "I am very happy for my coworkers who experienced humiliations and retaliations by Ostrom management." She said that she hoped the consent decree would help begin to improve conditions, "as this new management continues to commit favoritism and retaliation. We want our fired friends to get their jobs back and for Windmill Farms to recognize our union."

UFW President Romero explained to me that one focus of the union campaign will be on persuading Instar's investors, some of which may be union pension funds, to pressure Windmill Farms to recognize the union.

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 MALUMBANO YA HOJA 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 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIIDI YA UMUJAVYO 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 YA MBELE 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

Lisa's Story: A mother's quest to reunite with her daughter

By Fathya Chambo

IN 1997 on the streets of Ilala, in Dar es Salaam Region, a teenage girl wandered with her friends in clubs and bars. Her mother had just passed away, and a few years later her father too, and she was now an orphan.

Forced to live with her aunt who had five children of her own, she felt neglected and sought solace from the world outside home.

Lisa Maganga was 16 years old when she met a 61 year old foreign man who promised to marry her and take her to the United States, but her family refused. Lisa was desperate to escape poverty and decided to marry him anyway.

In no time, they flew back to Philadelphia, and she began a new life. A child bride in a foreign land, with her passport and green card hidden away by her old husband who wouldn't let her speak to anyone outside; she felt isolated.

In the spirit of youthfulness and longing for human interactions outside her husband, she began to sneak out and ended up making friends with people with risky behaviours. Many of her friends worked in strip clubs and took her with them while her husband was at work. This is where she sniffed cocaine for the first time. She then tried heroin, and it was downhill from there.

One day Lisa met a man in the club, he was a few years older than her. She narrated her ordeal to the man and that was the new beginning of hope. The man alerted the police about her situation and her marriage was annulled by the court.

When she turned 18, he married her. He was in college and during holidays they went back together in Tanzania to formally introduce him to her family. The man loved the country and made sure he got a job in Tanzania; they officially moved back and rented a house

in Mikocheni. Lisa was still using illicit drugs without her husband's knowledge.

After months, Lisa got pregnant; but that did not stop her from using drugs. She used all the allowance given by her husband to buy drugs. When that was not enough, she sold her pieces of jewellery and home appliances to feed the habit.

Months passed and she was about to give birth, her doctor who knew about her drug use advised her to give birth at Nairobi Hospital for better newborn care. Her aunt took her to the hospital and Lisa carried a stash of drugs with her.

After a safe delivery, her daughter had to be admitted for a few weeks because of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, a condition caused by exposure to drugs in the womb before birth; with a child presenting with tremors, irritability, vomiting, diarrhoea, and fever.

When the child recovered and they were ready to go back home, the doctor advised her to not breastfeed to prevent the baby from more exposure to drugs. Eventually, her husband found out and took her to a therapist, but that did not help her.

One fateful day, the husband came back home to find her laying on the floor with their 9-month-old daughter crying beside her. That was the last straw. He called the police, and she was charged with child endangerment. She was jailed for 21 days and by the time she was out, the husband was gone. He left for the United States with their daughter, and she was back in Ilala at her aunt's house.

Filled with guilt and regret, Lisa's life went downhill from there. "I was in so much pain, I buried myself further in drugs. I went to clubs and had sex with strangers to get money for drugs, I would get 1,000/- to 2,000/- per man because of how I looked, no man would pay more than that", she narrated.

She added: "I was malnourished,



Lisa Maganga

so bad that it reached a point where when I walked on the street no man would call me. I looked old, lost so much weight that I became like a skeleton. I was homeless because I kept on stealing from my aunt to buy drugs."

"At times, I found myself sleeping outside on boxes, I was living like a mad woman. I stole from men, jumped from moving motorcycles to avoid paying fare because I needed that money for drugs since the men I slept with did not pay me enough. I was hopeless and helpless,

I did not care if I would live or die," narrated Lisa.

From time to time, at the place where she would do drugs with her friends; an organization named Methadone Family Against Drug Abuse (MEFADA) visited them to educate them about Methadone. One of the peer educators knew her, he had been an addict and knew her life story.

"He told me that if I take Methadone, I will be able to find and speak to my daughter", she said, that was a turning moment for her,

there was nothing she wanted more than reuniting with her daughter.

MEFADA is a civil society organization launched in 2015 that works to educate youths and families about drug abuse. It also links people who abuse drugs to health facilities for therapy and treatment while also providing family therapy with their families.

Lisa took the advice and began attending the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinic at Mwananyamala Regional Referral

Hospital, but not for long before she relapsed. Her friend whom she went with the first time did not give up on her. She kept on bugging Lisa to restart treatment again and eventually, she was successful. After a few months, Lisa restarted treatment again and has never missed a day since then.

From the guilt of losing her daughter, it was the hope of reuniting with her that kept her adhering to treatment. That was her only goal, to get clean so that she can reunite with her long-lost daughter.

Today, Lisa who is in her early 40s has been sober for over 7 years; a married mother of two and a peer educator who helps other addicts in their journey towards recovery. She works with Life and Hope organization which works with the community and the Management and Development for Health (MDH) to educate and link people with drug addiction to treatment facilities.

"In a month, I can reach out to at least 40 people with drug addiction and may be 7 or 8 of them will accept treatment and I will link them to MAT clinic", she said.

She is in touch with her now 16 year old daughter who lives in the US, they talk and chat all the time. She is yet to physically meet her, but she hopes soon she will meet her. Lisa and her husband have built their house at Vipawa, Bagamoyo and plan to move in soon.

Lisa is one of peers that are supported by the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S CDC) through MDH) as part of their initiatives in MAT. She still attends MAT clinic at Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital.

MDH supports 7 clinics in Dar es Salaam 3 of them are 'mother clinics' that enrol clients from the community with the help of civil social organizations (CSOs). MDH has supported MAT services since 2015.

MDH with funding from PEPFAR through the U.S CDC, supports MAT clinics in various ways including technical assistance to MAT clinic and CSO on programme implementation, capacity building on documentation and M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation), supporting facility-led outreach activities, resolving supply chain issues and provide training to Health Care Providers (HCPs).

By the end of March 2023, a cumulative of 10,137 clients have been enrolled to MAT clinics, and 4,172 are actively receiving care.

Those who have successfully recovered from drug use like Lisa, have been crucial in strengthening prevention through community outreach and telling their stories to the world and their peers, especially those at risk and vulnerable to drug use. MDH supports the efforts of the government through the Ministry of Health by strengthening MAT services in the country.

The theme for this year's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking- 'People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention' is a reminder that drug addiction is a complex issue and behind the user is a person looking for an escape. Preventing stigma and discrimination towards people who use drugs (PWUDs) is key to helping them to recover.

New app launched to transform rice seed demand and supply in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

PATRICK Ngwediagi, Director General of the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI), has launched SeedCast, a revolutionary mobile app set to transform Tanzania's rice seed market.

The new app was launched at the Rice Breeding Innovations Partners' Annual Meeting in Dar es Salaam, an event that brought in representatives from 11 countries and over 100 rice experts, marking a pivotal moment for agricultural innovation on an international scale.

Ngwediagi stressed TOSCI's unwavering commitment to propelling agricultural innovation, particularly in the area of seed quality and availability.

The revolutionary mobile application, SeedCast, is set to transform the way rice seed supply and demand information is shared. It has been developed by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for use by rice stakeholders, working in collaboration with both the public and private sectors in Tanzania.

SeedCast has the potential to reshape rice production dynamics. It aims to boost productivity in Tanzania—a major player in rice production within the East and Southern Africa (ESA) region—by narrowing the gap between supply and demand information.

Ngwediagi officially introduced the app, expressing gratitude to participants for joining hands in this transformative journey.

"As TOSCI, we are committed to driving agricultural innovation. SeedCast acts as a hub connecting farmers, seed suppliers, and policymakers, fostering collaboration," Ngwediagi emphasized.

He said the app will align with existing laws and terminologies, underscoring that SeedCast will be thoroughly reviewed to ensure



it meets local and international standards.

Dr Dennis Tippe, the Director of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute's Uyolet Agricultural Research Institute in Mbeya, noted: "As someone who has seen firsthand the struggles our farmers go through in identifying quality seeds for better yield, SeedCast is revolutionary."

He believes that the platform will significantly ease the often cumbersome process of determining the right type, quantity, and location of quality seeds.

Dr Tippe emphasized that SeedCast's strength lies in its localized application. "From the grassroots level, even village agricultural officers can make use of this system to provide timely information about available seeds in local stores or agro-dealers."

According to Dr Tippe, one of the significant benefits of SeedCast is data-driven decision-

making. "District councils will now have access to data that can inform them about the volume of seeds available, allowing for better planning and deployment. The app's analytics will also serve the national need to match seed production with demand."

Dr Tippe pointed out that the lack of accurate, timely information has long been a bottleneck for Tanzanian farmers. "SeedCast addresses this gap by providing farmers with verified data about where they can find quality seeds, how much they cost, and how far they need to travel to get them."

He highlighted that the app's initial version is for smartphones but revealed that the next phase would make the data available via standard SMS. "We are starting smart but thinking inclusively. Soon, farmers will receive this crucial information through regular text messages."

"Africa spends a lot of money importing food, yet we have fertile land for production. The challenge is quality seed availability, where education comes into play. We must educate our farmers to produce better and more efficient crops," noted Dr. Ajay Panchbhaj, Regional Breeding Lead (ESA), and Seed Systems and Product Management Lead - Africa at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Martin Ndomondo, Seed Systems Specialist, IRRI - ESA at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), expressed optimism about the new digital system they are implementing. "The advent of this digital system will be a game-changer. It enables farmers to directly and easily identify nearby seed distributors through a simple smartphone application. Sellers can input the amount of seed stock they have, thus making it easier for farmers to reach them

and place orders," he said.

Ndomondo said: "Our supply officers are collecting needs from farmers and registering this data from the village level up to the district level. The system ensures that this vital information percolates through different administrative levels, ultimately reaching the national stage for comprehensive needs assessment."

On technological adaptation, he noted, "The world is going digital, and so are we. The system will be accessible both via smartphone apps and websites. While current-

ly available on smartphones, our goal is to make it compatible with all types of mobile devices soon."

The three-day Rice Breeding Innovations Partners' Annual Meeting held in Dar es Salaam serves as a critical junction for global collaboration in the field of rice agriculture. Tanzania's significance in the rice industry amplifies the importance of this event.

As a major player in rice production, Tanzania holds a pivotal role not only within its own borders but also across the East and Southern Africa (ESA) region.



Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) director general Patrick Ngwediagi

What coup in Niger says about US security assistance in the Sahel

By Elias Yousif

IN what has become an all too familiar phenomenon, U.S.-trained security personnel have been implicated in the July 26th coup that deposed Niger's democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum.

It is the fifth such putsch in the Sahel since 2020, and just the latest to, once again, upend Washington's expansive counterterrorism operations in the region that seems to depend on questionable military partners.

As the Biden administration wrestles with how to respond, it should consider how this latest military takeover reflects on years of U.S. security cooperation in the Sahel and the efficacy of the approach that has defined U.S. engagement with the region.

Overview of U.S. assistance to Niger and the Sahel

Over the last decade, U.S. security cooperation in the Sahel, and the western Sahel in particular, has grown substantially, reflecting widespread concern about the surge in Islamist militancy in the region.

A mix of armed groups, including those with affiliations with Al Qaeda and the Islamic State, have proliferated in the region over the years, carrying out opportunistic attacks, engaging in illicit economic activity, and posing acute challenges to state authority.

The United States has responded to perceived threats in the region by investing heavily in its own counterterrorism operations and security assistance programs, amounting to more than \$3.3 billion in military aid to the Sahel over the last two decades.

Programs like the Trans-Sahara Partnership Initiative, Department of Defense building partner capacity programs, and numerous foreign military training operations have been central pillars of the U.S. approach to the region.

Despite being paired with significant amounts of economic and humanitarian assistance, they have anchored bilateral relations between Washington and its Sahelian partners.

Between FY2001 and FY2021, the United States provided the countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal at least \$995 million in direct security assistance, a figure which likely excludes much of the aid provided through large but opaque Department of Defense capacity building programs.

And between FY2001 and FY2020, the United States provided training to at least 86 thousand trainees in these countries, including 17,643 from Niger.

Substantial aid but little progress

Unfortunately, this assistance has not resulted in commensurate improvements in the security landscape or acted as an effective bulwark against civil-military strife. Whatever tactical advances U.S. assistance has contributed to, on the part of Sahelian security forces, the presence, activity, and power of sub-state armed groups has continued to grow.

Terrorism-related activity in the region has increased by more than 2,000 percent over the past decade and a half, while militant organizations have pursued increasingly bold operations and pseudo-state activities.

At the same time, U.S. security assistance activities have provided material support to military officers who have both engaged in grave human rights abuses or who have gone on to support the overthrow of civilian governments.

In just the last three years, the Sahel has seen five coups, two each in Mali and Burkina Faso and now one in Niger, each of which has involved or implicated officers that received U.S. military training.

Unsurprisingly, these military coups have reflected poorly on U.S. security assistance efforts and exposed



severe shortcomings in Washington's approach to the region.

Although it would be difficult to identify a causal relationship between U.S. training and coup propensity on the part of recipients, repeated putsches by U.S.-backed forces show a lack of discretion in how the United States selects its security partners.

Indeed, the behavior of many of these U.S.-trained forces is far from unpredictable, especially in places where military figures have long played outsized political roles.

More robust, in-depth, and multidisciplinary pre-assessments should better inform the selection of U.S. security assistance beneficiaries and partners, and policymakers should have the courage to use that information to decline invitations to engage in security cooperation when the risk is too high.

More broadly, the highly securitized

nature of U.S. engagement with the region places significant emphasis on addressing the symptoms of insecurity and distracts from other lines of effort aimed at issues of governance, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution.

Moreover, the rhetorical and political emphasis Washington has placed on counterterrorism, in addition to overshadowing significant humanitarian and development investments, can also risk securitizing local politics and elevating the political saliency of military leaders over their civilian counterparts.

Indeed, in nearly all of the most recent coups, their military leaders have cited militancy and counterterrorism imperatives as justification for removing civilian leaders. Without a greater emphasis on governance, civil-military reforms, and defense institution building as a prerequisite to combat-oriented assistance, the United States risks perpetuating conflict

and political instability.

Finally, when U.S.-backed security forces engage in coups or grave human rights violations, the United States should be unequivocal in its response. Too frequently, the United States has been willing to voice rhetorical condemnation while discreetly sustaining security cooperation activities.

Invoking the need to address terrorism or the infiltration of other competing powers in the region, the familiar turning of the United States' blind eye in the Sahel has both undermined any meaningful commitment to conditionality in U.S. assistance and sent a troubling signal about the consequences of predatory behavior on the part of U.S. security partners.

The United States should re-orient its strategic calculus and right size how it weighs the risks of shedding abusive security partners against the risks of con-

tinuing to partner with forces undermining good governance and human rights.

Elias Yousif is a Research Analyst with the Stimson Center's Conventional Defense Program. His research focuses on the global arms trade and arms control, issues related to remote warfare and use of force, and international security cooperation and child-soldiers prevention.

Prior to joining the Stimson Center, Elias was the Deputy Director of the Security Assistance Monitor at the Center for International Policy where he analyzed the impact of U.S. arms transfer and security assistance programs on international security, U.S. foreign policy, and global human rights practices.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

DSE share indices end August on high note

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices closed the month of August in green, following the appreciations of share prices among local and cross listed companies.

The DSE market report shows All share Index (DSEI) closed at 1,775.35 points on month's close, an increase of 14.43 points while the Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measures the performance of locally listed companies ended the month with 0.54 points gain, after closing at 4,162.29 points.

The sectoral share index which increased during the last session of the month was Bank, Finance & Investment, which closed at 4,134.27 points, after gaining by 1.79 points.

The gaining of DSEI resulted from appreciation of both cross listed and local companies include DSE, East Africa Breweries Limited (EABL), Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL) and Nation Media Group (NMG).

The report shows that DSE share price closed at 1,820/- per share, after appreciating by 3.41 percent during the last session of last month, while the EABL share price closed at 2,360/-



, after increasing by 6.31 percent.

The report shows JHL share price increased by 3.45 percent after closing at 3,000/- while NMG share price appreciated by 1.49 percent, after closing at 340/- per share on month's close.

According to the report, a total turnover of 33.16mn/- recorded during the end of the month, following the transaction of

42,826 shares traded in 80 deals.

In normal board, CRDB Bank counter has 32,813 shares traded at weighted average price of 455/- per share in 56 deals, followed by DCB Bank, which transacted 270 shares traded at a weighted average price of 140/- per share in three deals.

DSE counter had 900 shares traded at weighted average price of 1,820/- per

share in one deal, while NICO counter had 5,383 shares traded at weighted average price of 485/- per share in seven deals.

The daily market report shows NMB Bank counter had 2,700 shares traded at weighted average price of 4,000/- per share in four deal while Precision Air counter has 20 shares traded at weighted average price of 360 per share in one deal.

Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC) counter had 10 shares traded at weighted average price of 16,200/- per share in one deal, Tanga Cement Company Limited had 10 shares traded at weighted average price of 1,860/- per share while Tanzania Portland Cement Company Limited (TPCC) counter traded 700 shares at a price of 4,120/- per share in four deals.

According to the market report, foreign investors injected 2.87mn/- through buying shares, which was 8.66 percent of the total value of shares bought. All shares traded during the day were sold by local investors.

The market report shows, during the first two months of the current quarter, a total turnover of 9.9bn/- has so far been recorded of which 780mn/- injected by foreign investors through buying shares and 3.2bn/- through selling shares, which translated into net outflow of 2.5bn/-.

Local investors dominated the market in both selling and buying activities with 67.63 percent of total value of shares sold and 92.15 percent of total value of shares bought.

Kenya banks' lending to parent companies abroad up 61 percent

NAIROBI

Kenyan multinational banks increased their lending to affiliate companies abroad by 61 percent in the six months to June compared to the corresponding period last year, raising concerns about Kenya forex deposits funding external assets.

Filings by banks show that the lenders with external parents had lent affiliates in foreign markets a total of Sh177.7 billion by the end of June, up from Sh110.5 billion a year earlier.

Banks with common majority shareholders often collaborate and may lend to and borrow from one another.

The terms of the transactions the lenders have with their affiliate firms are normally not disclosed, but they are expected to treat the sister companies the same way they deal with other customers.

Central Bank of Kenya guidelines stipulate loans to connected parties should be on market terms and should not be more favourable with regard to amount, maturity, rate and collateral than those provided to other customers.

"Banks transfer monies within the group to help balance assets and liabilities because a local market cannot smooth out an imbalance. This is perfectly acceptable as long as the group overall is managing risks well," said Deepak Dave, founder of Riverside Capital.

"Less acceptable are two other motivations for intragroup lending—evading taxes or currency controls by deliberately raising monies in one country and assisting another subsidiary pad its books as appropriate, and evading regulatory caps or limits on large lending. But a bank can clear up any concerns with a frank disclosure."

He added that jurisdictions with formal caps, informal practice or tradition and prudent risk management call for a 10 percent to 15 percent intragroup

loans-to-deposit ratio.

Overall, the higher intragroup lending has come in a period of rising dollar deposits in the country, as well as a strengthening of the US currency globally due to interest rate hikes in the world's largest economy.

By the end of June, Kenyan lenders held hard currency deposits worth Sh1.18 trillion, a record high, having gone up from Sh891.5 billion in June 2022.

Standard Chartered Bank Kenya had the largest volume of loans to affiliates at Sh109.4 billion at the end of June, representing a 49.2 percent jump from Sh72.3 billion a year earlier.

The lender, majority-owned by London-based Standard Chartered Plc, has scores of affiliates operating in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the US.

The sharp rise has now seen affiliate lending surpass the bank's holdings of government bonds, whose volume shrank by nearly a third to Sh70.7 billion as at June, from Sh103.6 billion in June 2022.

They have also closed the gap to StanChart's loans to ordinary customers, which stood at Sh145.44 billion in June compared to Sh128.52 billion a year earlier.

Banks with significant lending to sister institutions within their groups include Citibank Kenya, Stanbic and Absa Bank Kenya.

Citi's lending grew threefold to Sh26.08 billion in June, from Sh8.44 billion in June 2022, while that of Stanbic rose from Sh6.8 billion to Sh23.75 billion.

Absa bucked the trend with a decline in its affiliate lending, which fell to Sh13.96 billion from Sh18 billion in June 2022.

The bank's chief executive told the Business Daily that the intergroup lending is largely on short-term facilities, with the bulk of its book going to customers and the local market.



Stagflation dangers stalk Europe as markets eyeing the end to hikes

LONDON

The recurring nightmare for European policymakers that their economies will become crippled by inflation-impaired lethargy just won't go away.

Mounting evidence across the region of growth running aground and consumer prices remaining untamed is confronting officials in Frankfurt and London as they return from summer breaks to reassess whether interest-rate settings are where they should be.

The news flow has been dismal enough for investors to resume focus on worries that haunted finance chiefs in 2022, asking if the threat of stagflation is once again stalking the continent.

As central bankers know only too well, even when they shirk from saying it out loud, that label for the headache of lackluster expansion and unrelenting inflation that plagued the 1970s represents

a host of troubles – even in its mildest form.

"The euro area is stuck in stagflation, and we're not going to come out of it any time soon," said Karsten Junius, chief economist at Bank J Safran Sarasin in Zurich. "In the UK, everything is going wrong."

The market response so far suggests lingering concerns that central banks are losing appetite to keep raising borrowing costs come what may. Data on Thursday pointing to price growth cemented above 5% in the euro region was greeted by pared-back bets for a rate hike in two weeks' time.

Articulating the quandary were comments by European Central Bank official Isabel Schnabel – the policymaker there in charge of markets – who admitted the economic outlook is souring while insisting that inflation is "stubbornly high."

Bank of England Chief Econo-

mist Huw Pill used the same words to describe the level of core consumer price growth in the UK, while also warning his colleagues not to inflict "unnecessary damage" on the economy.

Both of them spoke days after the US Federal Reserve's meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where the US central bank chief, Jerome Powell, and ECB President Christine Lagarde, each acknowledged that after more than a year of monetary tightening, inflation is still too elevated.

Euro zone policymakers will be first to cast a judgment on the where the threats lie, with a decision on Sept. 14 described by Finnish official Tuomas Valimäki as "totally open" on whether another rate hike is needed. The BOE will meet a week later, a day after the Fed.

The current juncture revisits concerns that troubled the region when it first confronted the spect-

er of surging gas prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

When Group of Seven finance chiefs met in May 2022, they discussed what to do to "avoid stagflation scenarios," in the words of the gathering's host, German Finance Minister Christian Lindner.

That alarm re-emerged at the July decision of the ECB, according to minutes of that meeting released on Thursday. "The concern was also raised that the economy might be entering a phase of stagflation, in contrast to a more benign scenario," according to the account.

Such worries are overshadowing financial markets, after a slew of reports indicating weakening growth in the UK and the euro zone – such as declining purchasing manager indexes – and faster-than-expected inflation in continental Europe's two biggest economies, Germany and France.

Real estate sector recovering from pandemic-BoT report

By Guardian Reporter

The real estate sector continued to recover from the pandemic-induced challenges, the financial stability report 2022 published this week by Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has shown.

According to the report, commercial property occupancy rate increased, reflecting the recovery of businesses from the pandemic.

Most of the selected commercial properties had an occupancy rate of more than 50 percent, indicating stability in the real estate market.

Some commercial property occupancy remained below 50 percent as the sector is yet to recover fully from the pandemic, but also due to relocation of Government offices to Dodoma.

The residential rental and sale prices picked up in prime and subprime locations.

The annual rental prices for prime and sub-prime locations in Dar es Salaam contin-

ued to recover, reflecting the recovery of businesses, a pick-up in investment, as well as an increase in tenants' incomes.

Similarly, the sale prices of residential properties slightly increased in 2022, following the improvement in business conditions, investment, employment and household income.

"The projected rebound in economic activities is expected to continue to boost the recovery of the property market," it says.

The report further says the stability in the real estate market is likely to minimize risks to financial stability given the significant links between property and credit markets.

Generally, the report shows the financial sector performance remained robust, as attested by the growth of assets.

The financial sector assets grew by 17.2 percent in 2022 compared to 13.7 percent in 2021, dominated by banks with 70.4 percent and pension funds with 25.6 percent.



The financial sector's total assets as a percentage of GDP increased to 40.7 percent in 2022 from 34.7 percent in 2021.

The growth was partly attributed to increased lending to private sector, improve-

ment in business conditions, and pick up of domestic growth trajectory.

The financial sector remained resilient to shocks amid challenges experienced from the war in Ukraine and global inflationary pressures.

In 2022, the resilience of the sector was reinforced by measures undertaken by the Government and the BoT to limit the effects of the war in Ukraine and global inflationary pressures, such as accommodative monetary policy,

fiscal measures as well as supervisory and regulatory interventions to ensure sustainability and the stability of the sector.

The resilience was also observed in non-bank financial institutions, which comprises

social security, insurance and capital market, while financial system infrastructure continues to maintain efficiency through smooth operations for ensuring safety and reliability in payments hence enhancing financial stability and growth in the country.

The assessment indicates that the Tanzanian financial system remained strong, well placed to support the economy, and the outlook remains positive.

It is worth noting that Tanzania is not immune from the deteriorating global and regional economic and financial stability following the war in Ukraine, tight global financial conditions, climate-related constraints, and resurgence of COVID-19.

The resilience of the domestic financial system was supported by strong capital and liquidity positions of banks and non-banks financial institutions, recovery of economic activities from the pandemic, improvement in business conditions following policy, supervisory and regulatory measures taken by governments and financial regulators.

Universalising energy access through solar

KIGALI

Access to reliable and affordable energy, especially in developing regions, is a formidable challenge that is exacerbated by the need for environmentally friendly solutions.

As of 2021 estimates, approximately 675 million people, constituting 9 per cent of the global population, lacked access to electricity.

If the current trajectory continues, an alarming projection suggests that about 660 million people could remain without electricity by 2030. Additionally, access to clean cooking facilities remains limited, with only 71 per cent of the global population having this essential service in 2021. Given current trends, over 1.9 billion people might lack clean cooking access by 2030. The energy access challenge is especially acute in Sub-Saharan Africa and rural areas of developing countries, necessitating heightened efforts to achieve universal energy access.

To overcome these challenges, a shift in electrification strategies is required. While conventional approaches have focused on central power grid extensions, these can be slow and costly. Solar energy, combined with battery storage, emerges as a practical and cost-effective alternative. This approach can be tailored to diverse contexts, addressing

energy access challenges effectively.

A variety of strategies can be employed to tackle energy access gaps. Grid extensions prove effective for densely populated areas within proximity of existing power grids. For more remote settlements, mini-grids powered by solar energy offer a viable solution, requiring a mix of grants, government support, and private investments. Stand-alone renewable energy solutions suit sparsely populated, remote regions where traditional grid extensions are impractical.

However, while the technology exists, challenges remain. Solar-based mini-grids hold substantial potential for energy access in rural areas, but their sustainable deployment requires viable business models supported by private-sector financing. Policy and regulations play a pivotal role, and intergovernmental organizations can aid in creating an enabling environment. Investments are essential, with the ISA projecting a need for around \$192 billion to achieve universal energy access, where solar-based mini-grids account for a significant portion.

The private sector has emerged as a driving force in addressing energy poverty, with private mini-grids proliferating across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Small Island Developing States. Lessons from government-supported mini-grids underscore adaptability to local needs and



the importance of supporting local businesses. The International Solar Alliance and The World Bank emphasize the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of privately-owned solar mini-grids in bringing electricity to previously underserved populations. These mini-grids not only provide clean and reliable power but also enable services like mobile telephony, agro-processing, and e-mobility, acting as rural development catalysts.

Solar mini-grids are also proving to be resilient solutions in the face of climate shocks, crucial for climate-vulnerable regions like rural Africa and Asia. They complement centralized grid infrastructure in cases where it reaches communities. For instance, Cambodia's experience demonstrates how isolated mini-

grids were eventually integrated into the national grid, benefiting over a million consumers.

Solar energy's cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits make it a crucial component of a diverse energy mix. Well-run solar mini-grids, paired with battery storage, offer reliable grid-level electricity, surpassing other electrification methods in reliability and cost-effectiveness. The success of India's clean energy initiative showcases the potential of collaboration between public and private sectors to drive innovation and emissions reduction. Private mini-grids represent a mature, deployable solution that needs increased support to address energy access and climate action needs urgently.

ISA's analysis indicates that around 59 per cent (396 million people) of

the unelectrified population would be best suited for electrification through solar-based mini-grids. Approximately 30 per cent (203 million people) could be connected through grid extensions, while the remaining 11 per cent (77 million people) would benefit from DRE solutions. Achieving this level of electrification will require a total investment of around \$192 billion, spread across solar-based mini-grids: \$97 billion for approximately 25,738 MW capacity; solar-based DRE solutions: \$18 billion for about 1,224 MW of capacity; and grid extensions: \$78 billion for the necessary infrastructure.

Consequently, access to affordable finance is necessary. Most energy access-deficit populations reside in underdeveloped regions, where affordability remains a significant barrier. High financial risks in these areas increase project costs for developers, further widening the gap between consumer affordability and supplier viability. Risk mitigation measures including concessional financing and payment guarantees can attract private sector investments to energy access projects, enhancing scalability and sustainability.

Financial support of around \$48.5 billion, which accounts for 50 per cent of project costs as viability gap funding, will be necessary to achieve the required deployment of mini-grids. Increased investments, ecosystem development initiatives, focused

interventions, optimal resource utilization, and solar PV-based cooking solutions integration with electrification initiatives can accelerate global development and pave the way for universal energy access by 2030.

Training and capacity building are the other cornerstones. Key stakeholders in energy access-deficit countries often need more technical and financial expertise to drive electrification initiatives. Efforts such as skill development activities, access to global best practices, and programmes supporting sectoral entrepreneurs are essential to address this gap. Training and capacity building, entrepreneurial support, and awareness creation can drive long-term progress in energy access deficit countries.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has responded to this global issue by devising a comprehensive roadmap centred around solar energy. This initiative, aimed at realizing Sustainable Development Goal 7 of universal energy access by 2030, seeks to leverage the multifaceted benefits of solar power, including technical viability, financial feasibility, climate benefits, and social impact, along with battery storage capabilities. With concerted efforts and strategic partnerships, we can unlock the potential of solar energy and achieve the ambitious goal of universal energy access by 2030.

StanChart sets Sh145,000 capital limit for the offshore investments

NAIROBI

Standard Chartered Bank Kenya has started offering its offshore unit trust fund investments to its Kenyan customers, opening a window for retail investors to access US, European and Asian equities, and bonds markets.

The funds, known as the Signature CIO Funds, are offered in partnership with French asset manager Amundi Asset Management and will require a minimum investment of \$1,000 (Sh145,400).

The CIO fund relies on the investment strategies and advisories developed by the StanChart chief investment officer based in Singapore, while Amundi takes the role of managing the funds.

StanChart Kenya and East Africa head of affluent banking and wealth management Paul Njoki said the funds are targeting investors who are eyeing diversification into offshore markets, but lack the knowledge that affluent and sophisticated investors possess on these markets.

"The fund is available to all clients via the mobile app, with a minimum ticket of \$1,000, but you can also do a monthly plan of \$100 that allows you to get into the fund," he said.

"The asset allocation is quite



StanChart Kenya and East Africa head of affluent banking and wealth management, Paul Njoki

broad. We invest mainly in the government bonds and S&P500 in the US market, in European stocks, and in Asia, we are in China, India and have also recently bought in Japan. This is the work Amundi does for us."

Similar to local unit trusts, the CIO Funds have four different units based on targeting different profiles of investors based

on risk appetite and reason for investing.

The income fund, StanChart said, targets those seeking a regular income from their investment, from a diversified portfolio that has about 50 per cent of assets in fixed income, and the remainder spread between equities, exchange-traded funds, cash and Reits.

StanChart also runs a growth fund, which chases aggressive capital growth by going heavy on equities, and also eyes commodities and alternative asset classes.

The conservative fund on the other hand is highly exposed to fixed-income assets, while the balanced fund carries fairly similar allocation into equities and fixed income, with a slight tilt to equities.

Amundi has assets under management of \$2 trillion, making it the 10th largest asset manager globally. The firm was formed out of an amalgamation of the asset management units of French lenders Crédit Agricole and Société Générale in 2010.

Standard Chartered Bank Kenya's net profit for the year ended December 2022 grew by 38 per cent to Sh12.44 billion, driven by higher interest income and revenue from foreign exchange trading.

The tier one lender said in March that it will be paying its shareholders a final dividend of Sh16 per share following the improved financial performance—taking its total dividend payout for the year to Sh22 per share (2021: Sh19) when the Sh6 per unit interim dividend paid out in December is factored in.

StanChart's top line revenue rose by 16 per cent to Sh34 billion, while operating expenses rose by a smaller margin

of eight per cent, to Sh15.6 billion.

Consumer, private and business banking was the biggest contributor to the lender's revenue at Sh15.6 billion, helped by higher transaction volumes and growth in wealth management business.

The corporate, commercial and institutional banking unit contributed Sh13.6 billion to top line revenue, helped in part by reduced loan impairment costs.

"Our wealth management, transaction banking and financial markets products performed strongly... our costs were up by eight per cent in comparison to the double-digit growth in income of 16 per cent, enabling us to deliver a strong income-to-cost jaws of eight per cent," said Standard Chartered Kenya chief executive Kariuki Ngari.

The lender's net interest and non-funded income grew at similar margins.

Net interest income was up 18.3 per cent to Sh22.2 billion, with earnings from lending to government going up by 12.6 per cent to Sh10.3 billion, while interest earned from customer loans rising by eight per cent to Sh12.7 billion.

Its loan book stood at Sh139.4 billion at the end of the year, up from Sh126 billion in 2021, while its stock of government securities rose by Sh10.1 billion to Sh105.7 billion in the period.

Fees and commissions from forex trading were the main drivers of the 19.6 per cent growth in non-funded income to Sh11.3 billion.

Smart food cart programme expands to twelve South African townships

CAPE TOWN

The smart food cart programme, which promotes entrepreneurship, has been expanded to 12 more South African townships.

The Empire Partner Foundation (EPF), Township Distribution Model (TDM), and the Chemical Industries Education & Training Authority (CHIETA) are supporting the initiative, which aims to empower township small businesses through technology-driven initiatives.

The project provides 7-inch tablets, a food cart with a GPS monitoring and reporting device, and an e-commerce app with three connected platforms (consumer ordering app, merchant app, and drivers' app) to aid in seamless last-mile delivery.

The food cart has digital payment devices that enable it to collect credit card payments and sell value-added services.

Furthermore, the plan will provide beneficiaries with start-up materials and working capital.

The parties agreed this week to expand the project to Brits, Soshanguve, Centurion, Midrand, Cosmo City, Tembisa, Boksburg, Brakpan, Soweto, Katlehong, and the Vaal.

50 South Africans, 30 female and 12 males from these townships were onboarded for the programme.

"This effort exemplifies the transformative potential that may be realised when organisations work together to achieve a common goal of community upliftment, the trio said in a statement.

It added: "This collaboration not only accelerates individuals' economic goals, but also gives an effective reaction to the hopelessness that is frequently felt within township communities.

"This effort rekindles optimism and fosters the quest of economic independence by providing young entrepreneurs with vital resources, mentorship, and skills.

"In the face of misfortune, EPF, TDM, and CHIETA are united in sustaining livelihoods, replacing despair with the promise of a brighter future."

Extortion: Truckers pay N40m daily at Lagos ports corridor

LAGOS

Operators of trucks logistics within the Lagos seaports have indicated that they spend about N40 million everyday on bribery and illegal taxes within the corridor.

Disclosing this to Vanguard, an official of the Council for Maritime Transport Unions and Associations (COMTUA) who declined to be named said the syndicates collecting the monies represent both state and non-state actors.

He said the total average spending per truck per day amounts to about N38,500 while their members move over 1000 trucks through the ports every day.

Giving a breakdown of the monies extorted from them he said that a fee of N3,000 is paid at the Tin-Can First Gate roundabout while N2,000 known as waybill fee is collected by people alleged to be working for the Apapa Local Government Area, a claim the Council has denied.

He also said that another N5,000 is collected by some operatives of the Nigeria Customs Service inside the port while another N1,000 is given to other set of Customs personnel at the Customs exit gate.



He also alleged that the Police at the Port have two collection points where the sum of N2,000 and N1,000 are paid by drivers.

Other payments, according to him, includes N500 known as warehouse fee, and a N2,000 fee collected as Cutting of Seal fee, while another N4,000 is allegedly paid to some operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA.

Other payments allegedly made by truck drivers are N4,000 collected by another set of unnamed local council, while N1,000 is

paid for 'small paper' collected by agents of unnamed Lagos political bigwig.

There is also a confirmation and gate pass of N3,000 and N2,000 respectively, and a security fee of N1,000 that are paid in the port.

Drivers are also made to part with another N2,000 as scaling fee, N1,000 as security fee and N4,000 as dropping of container fee,

Some of the truck owners who spoke to Vanguard said they have done everything possible to bring this anomaly to the attention of government and nothing has been

done to stop it.

Speaking on the development, Mr. Richard Odoka, a truck owner, said that trucks carrying export cargoes are the most affected in the extortion spree.

According to Odoka, about 1,000 trucks of various categories enter the Tin-Can Island Port, the Port and Cargo Terminal 'C', Joseph Dam Terminal and Five Logistics Terminal.

Similarly, Mr. Yinka Aroyewun, President of the COMTUA said that the level of extortion is alarming and condemnable.

According to him, "There are 20 extortion points between Tin-Can first gate and the point at which you off-load your empty containers or drop your export cargoes. From N1,000 to N2,000 to N3,000 to N5,000 are collected by agencies of government."

However, reacting to the allegation, Chief of Staff to the Executive Chairman of Apapa Local Government Area, Mr. Dele Afose, said the Council did not send anybody to collect money on its behalf.

Afose said: "I am not aware of this development. In fact, I am shocked that people are collecting money on behalf of the Local Government. The Local Government did not post anybody anywhere".

Corporates increasingly go for affordable transportation solution

By Guardian Correspondent

The days for maintaining a costly fleet of vehicles for transporting employees of various organizations during their day-to-day assignments could soon end as corporate entities are now outsourcing such services with a view to reducing travel expenses and improving efficiency.

It should be noted that high prices of fuel as well as high maintenance costs of vehicles by individual entities have prompted many organizations to seek affordable means of transport for their employees and partners.

And, given the advancement of technology which has made transportation much easier, many institutions are now opting for ride hailing services which are tailor-made to meet their demands.

Jubilee Insurance's Customer Support Executive, Ms Scholastica Shamir, said her company has achieved a notable reduction in transportation expenses by utilizing ride hailing, in contrast to the higher operational costs

associated with using company-owned vehicles

Ride hailing is a solution-based service that allows management of travel-related processes and logistics for an organization. It comes to support businesses by providing a platform that offers fast, convenient and affordable transport solutions.

"Through the service, we use bodaboda (motorcycles), rickshaws and taxis, and we have successfully implemented the platform and monitoring of employee travel expenses. As per our company policy, employees are restricted from utilizing the service on weekends and public holidays," Ms Shamir stated.

Adding, "Before using Bolt Business service every department at Jubilee Insurance had its own vehicles but upon evaluation, it became evident that opting for the Bolt Business service was more cost-effective than continuing to use our own vehicles."

The executive is equally impressed that Bolt Business is available everywhere and as such significantly enhances employee mobility.



The service was launched to provide a simple and centralized portal for companies of any size to manage and pay for corporate travel.

Since its launch, the platform has facilitated hundreds of thousands of trips for corporate offices, as well as small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) across Tanzania.

Bolt Business offers the ability to control, manage and pay for all business-related work trips, all from a single account.

From SMEs to multinational organizations, Bolt Business's innovative and distinct services improve mobility for businesses and customers alike with a bonus of reduction in travel costs.

Employees who have access to Bolt Business can easily request rides through the App and eventually eliminate the stress and hassles associated with work-related travel.

This allows them to remain focused on their work and even work when on the go. For those running late, they can request a motorbike to escape traf-

fic congestion and arrive at their destination on time.

What is more, the service provides hassle-free travel arrangements for clients, guests, partners and vendors.

With the Ride Booker, companies can easily make travel arrangements for their clients, guests and vendors. They can choose the vehicle type that fits their budget and the passenger will receive a short message service (SMS) with journey details.

The ride hailing has helped companies to reduce travel costs by up to 25 per cent, even for larger teams of passengers. Additionally, by providing employees with safe, reliable, and efficient travel, it has proven to boost retention of employees.

On the other hand, employees can easily track trips of their employees and manage payments through the Bolt Business dashboard. This eliminates the hassle of filling out travel expense reports and allows companies to manage all business travel in one convenient portal.

Commenting on their experience with Bolt Business, Hyatt Regency (The Kilimanjaro) Hotel's Transport Manager, Mr Said

Mbaga, said the platform has enabled the hotel to improve its operations.

Hyatt Regency (The Kilimanjaro) Hotel is among the top five-star hotels located in the central business district which hosts high-end customers from all over the world including foreign leaders and their delegations.

"Our business slowed down during the Covid-19 pandemic but Bolt Business was always available to provide transport for some of our employees and guests," Mr Mbaga told this publication during an exclusive interview.

Adding, "The costs of traveling using Bolt Business service have reduced drastically compared to when we were using our own vehicles or other hired means of transport for our employees."

According to Mbaga, the service also enables management of the hotel to track and monitor movements of their employees.

"We have created a WhatsApp group in which our staff can make requests for travel and as such we can easily track and monitor their movements with a view of reducing transportation costs," he observed.

For his part, Strategies Insurance's Administration Executive, Mr Kelvin Gabone, commended Bolt Business for making it easier for employees to be flexible in carrying out their activities.

"As a company we are no longer buying vehicles to transport our own employees from one point to another since we can rely on Bolt Business service for our travel needs," he observed.

Adding, "For the past three years, Strategies Insurance has been utilizing the Bolt Business service with impressive results. As you're aware, both fuel prices and the expenses related to maintaining our own vehicles have risen during this period."

The executive expressed satisfaction that since his company started using Bolt Business Service it has recorded remarkable achievements in its operations.

Gabone recommends fellow businesses to optimize the benefits of the Bolt Business service, effectively lowering transportation expenses while embracing a secure, dependable, and convenient mode of travel.

Lithium players race to bridging electric car call

NEW YORK

On the outskirts of El Dorado – heart of Arkansas' 1920s oil boom – a company backed by Koch Industries is looking to dramatically speed up extraction of a battery metal essential to weaning the world off fossil fuels, while proving naysayers wrong in the process.

Standard Lithium is working on the breakthrough inside a white warehouse near a massive chemical factory run by Germany's Lanxess that feeds brackish wastewater into the facility. A cluster of pipes and tanks in the demonstration plant turn brine into a lithium compound within days instead of the year or more that traditional recovery methods take.

The firm is among dozens of companies racing to commercialize technology to extract lithium directly from brine, ushering in a new source to supplement the hard rock mines and huge evaporation ponds that currently supply the battery metal to the world. The outcome of such efforts is set to shape the industry's future, bringing either the promise of abundant supply or setbacks that sour investors for years.

The advances are collectively known as direct lithium extraction, or DLE. They promise to be cheaper, faster and greener than traditional lithium production in South America, which holds about half of the world's reserves of the silvery white metal. DLE would also unlock new supplies in North America, including recovering the metal out of the salty water produced by oil

drilling. "It's an evolutionary step in the lithium industry," Standard Lithium CEO Robert Mintak said in an interview. "If we're going to have a supply chain that can meet the demands of the lithium industry, DLE will be one of the tools."

All along the world's EV supply chain, this new way of mining lithium is being touted as the solution for boosting output while protecting the environment. Billions of dollars are pouring in to what Goldman Sachs Group calls "potential game-changing technology," much like shale's disruptive impact on the oil industry.

Still, some producers and industry experts are sounding caution. Despite a boom in testing and development, these techniques are relatively unproven at scale and perfecting them may take years. After all, Texan entrepreneur George Mitchell experimented with hydraulic fracturing for decades before finding the right method to economically extract shale gas.

Lithium prices surged to record highs last year as growth in demand from the EV boom saw markets tighten. Prices have since fallen amid a steady stream of new output from Australia, though remain elevated thanks to an upbeat outlook for EV growth. An expected shortfall from 2025 is driving startups, miners and even Big Oil to chase new ways to expand supply.

After years of intense testing and development work, the world is about to find out whether DLE works on a commercial scale.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
SATURDAY 8 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumelecha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
13:00 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	13:40 Art and Lifestyle
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
17:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
SUNDAY 9 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumelecha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
13:00 Jungu Kuu	12:30 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	13:40 Art and Lifestyle
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
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21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
MONDAY 10 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:50 Bongo Movie rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:00 Mwingaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20 Al Jazeera			
TUESDAY 11 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:50 Bongo Movie rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:00 Mwingaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
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21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20 Al Jazeera			
WEDNESDAY 12 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:50 Bongo Movie rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:00 Mwingaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi
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19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20 Al Jazeera			
THURSDAY 13 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:50 Bongo Movie rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:00 Mwingaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20 Al Jazeera			
FRIDAY 14 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:50 Bongo Movie rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:00 Mwingaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20 Al Jazeera			
SATURDAY 15 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:50 Bongo Movie rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:00 Mwingaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20 Al Jazeera			
SUNDAY 16 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumelecha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:50 Bongo Movie rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:00 Mwingaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlika 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:20 Bongo movie	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:20 Al Jazeera			

CAPITAL

Mon 10 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Capchat	12:30 Decor	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 DW News Africa rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Rev	19:00 Out & About Rpt	20:00 Abu Yako	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt	00:00 Al Jazeera
Tues 11 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Capchat	12:30 Decor	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 DW News Africa rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Rev	19:00 Out & About Rpt	20:00 Abu Yako	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt	00:00 Al Jazeera
Wed 12 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Capchat	12:30 Decor	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 DW News Africa rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Rev	19:00 Out & About Rpt	20:00 Abu Yako	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt	00:00 Al Jazeera
Thu 13 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Capchat	12:30 Decor	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 DW News Africa rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Rev	19:00 Out & About Rpt	20:00 Abu Yako	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt	00:00 Al Jazeera
Fri 14 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Capchat	12:30 Decor	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 DW News Africa rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Rev	19:00 Out & About Rpt	20:00 Abu Yako	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt	00:00 Al Jazeera
Sat 15 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Capchat	12:30 Decor	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 DW News Africa rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Rev	19:00 Out & About Rpt	20:00 Abu Yako	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt	00:00 Al Jazeera
Sun 16 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 DW	11:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Capchat	12:30 Decor	13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 DW News Africa rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Rev	19:00 Out & About Rpt	20:00 Abu Yako	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt	00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Crumbling concrete: UK schools ordered to shut

LONDON

MORE than 150 British schools have been told to close some buildings after they were deemed unsafe, drawing anger from parents and teachers on the eve of a new term and posing a fresh headache for the government.

Britain's Department for Education said 156 schools had been affected by the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in their buildings which authorities have now decided is at risk of collapse.

Britain's education system, still recovering from the home-learning impact of the pandemic, has been hit by six months of teachers strikes in 2023, on top of the challenge posed by what

schools say is a lack of funding in an inflationary environment.

The impression that vital national infrastructure is crumbling adds to the challenge faced by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as he heads for a national election expected next year, following industrial action across education, healthcare and transport.

Education minister Gillian Keegan said the majority of schools affected would remain open for face-to-face learning for all pupils because the problematic concrete was only found in a small part of the school buildings.

But some schools will face complete or temporary closure.

"In some cases, it will be the whole school," schools minister Nick Gibb



Pupils from Hill House School in London, play on the grass in front of the new Saatchi Gallery, where Britain's King Charles III played sport as a pupil, April 20, 2023. File photo

told Sky News yesterday.

Gibb also said that it could be safe for pupils to work in a classroom with the ceiling propped up by steel girders.

The news that schools will be affected comes just days before most children are due to return to education for the new year after a six-week sum-

mer holiday, raising questions over why the government had announced the move at the last minute.

"The DfE and government have squandered valuable months hiding this crisis when they should have been fixing dangerous school buildings," said Mike Short, head of

education at trade union UNISON.

Keegan said safety was the government's top priority.

"This decision has been made with an abundance of caution," she said in a statement.

Agencies

Kenya's defence delegation visits Goa Shipyard

PANAJI

A high-level Kenyan delegation led by their Cabinet Secretary for Defence Aden Bare Duale, who is in India for three days, visited the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on Thursday.

Chief Managing Director, GSL, Brajesh Upadhyay apprised Duale of the ship design, shipbuilding and ship repair capabilities of GSL.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Defence (CSD) took a keen interest in the modernised infrastructure capability of the shipyard as well as the diversified product range of GSL, which will find application in the maritime sector of Kenya.

Kenya's CSD also expressed his desire for closer collaboration between Goa Shipyard Limited and Kenya Shipyards Limited, both Government-owned Shipyards in their respective coun-

tries, in the Indian Ocean Region.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary Duale arrived in New Delhi on August 28 on a three-day visit to India.

He held talks with his Indian counterpart, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, at a bilateral meeting on August 29.

Defence Minister Singh said collaboration between India and Kenya in sectors like trade, economy, education, health and people-to-people contact has grown from strength to strength.

"Our collaborations in trade, economy, education, health and people-to-people contacts have grown from strength to strength. I am happy to note that both our countries worked closely in the UN Security Council in 2021-22 as non-permanent members. We thank Kenya for their support to the Indian candidature for their 2028-29 term also," Singh said.

He said India has prioritized



engagement with African nations. "Our Prime Minister has written to all G20 member countries to include the African Union in G20 membership in the upcoming Leaders' Summit under India's presidency..."

Singh said India has also extended its support for Kenya's

secretary-generalship of IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in July 2023.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary also congratulated India for the soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the lunar south pole. "I am happy that India has become the fourth country globally to join

the nations that have achieved that milestone. Congratulations!" Duale said.

This is the maiden visit of Cabinet Secretary Duale to India and the highest-level stand-alone political visit from Kenya since the new government assumed office in September 2022.

"The visit is indicative of the importance India attaches to its relations with African nations and the growing cooperation between India and Kenya, in particular. It is expected to open new avenues for further strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries," a statement released by the Ministry of Defence read.

India and Kenya are maritime neighbours with robust and multi-faceted partnerships, marked by regular high-level visits, increasing trade and investment and extensive people-to-people contacts. ANI

Donald Trump's election fraud trial in Georgia will be livestreamed

NEW YORK

DONALD Trump's trial in Georgia over charges of election fraud will be livestreamed and televised, a judge has ruled.

All the hearings will be available live on Fulton County Court's YouTube channel, said Judge Scott McAfiee.

A date for the trial has not yet been set, but it could be next year when Trump is running for re-election.

Trump (pictured) and 18 people are charged with a conspiracy to overturn the state's 2020 presidential election results.

The former Republican president, who faces three other criminal trials, has pleaded not guilty to the 13 charges he faces in Georgia.

All proceedings in Fulton County's courts are usually livestreamed.

However, it will be the only one of Trump's four trials that will be broadcast, and could be one of the most watched trials in recent years.

Trump briefly travelled to Atlanta last week to turn himself in at Fulton County Jail and have his mugshot taken. He has waived the



right to appear in court next Wednesday at his arraignment, a short hearing at which the plea is officially entered in court.

Prosecutors allege that he pressured Georgia officials to reverse the results of the elec-

tion in the state, which he lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Central to the prosecution's case is a phone call he made to the state's secretary of state to "recalculate" the vote tally.

"I just want to find 11,780 votes," he is heard saying on a recording of the call.

Trump has said the call was "perfect" and his lawyers listening on the call did not raise any concerns.

The former New York real estate tycoon is the current frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination and his mounting legal problems have done nothing to dent his popularity among his supporters.

He has said the case in Georgia and the other three criminal cases he faces are politically driven.

Several of his co-defendants in Georgia, including his former lawyer Rudy Giuliani, have said they will waive their right to appear in court next week.

Clark Cunningham, a law professor at Georgia State University, said that decision is "usually non-controversial".

"Trump fully knows the charges against him," he said. "That's the main purpose of the arraignment, to read the charges to the accused, and [to enter] the person's plea. So he doesn't need to be there, he knows what they are." Agencies

Former Thai PM's prison sentence reduced to a year

BEIJING

THAILAND'S King has reduced the eight-year prison sentence of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to a year.

Thaksin (pictured), who returned home last month after 15 years of self-imposed exile, was immediately sent to jail.



He was then moved to the luxury wing of a state hospital after complaining of heart problems.

Thaksin had previously said the outstanding sentences, over charges of corruption and abuse of power, were politically motivated.

Deposed by a military coup in 2006, Thaksin, one of Thailand's most influential and polarising personalities, left the country two years later to avoid a prison sentence.

His return on 22 August was assumed to be part of a wider political deal. And it was one that was meant to bring his popular Pheu Thai party together with its one-time adversaries in a compromise government.

And it did that. Hours after he arrived, a new coalition government, led by Pheu Thai, voted its candidate Srettha Thavisin as the new PM. The coalition includes Thaksin's former military rivals who deposed his party in 2014 in a coup.

Thaksin clearly hoped for leniency as a part of that deal, and King Vajiralongkorn has responded quickly to his request for a pardon, reducing his eight-year sentence to just one. Thaksin is likely to stay in hospital.

In response to his request for a royal pardon, the royal gazette yesterday noted his age and "illness". It added that Thaksin "has done good for the country and people and is loyal to the monarchy".

However, Thaksin must have hoped his sentence would be overturned, and not just reduced.

His continued incarceration will limit his ability to influence his party, as it struggles to manage an unwieldy coalition in which it holds only around half the parliamentary seats. It also faces energetic opposition from the youthful Move Forward party, which eclipsed Pheu Thai to come first in the last general election.

But Move Forward was unable to form the government, even after agreeing to a coalition with Pheu Thai. Together, the two parties were unable to gain the assent of the 250-member unelected senate, which is allowed to join the 500 elected MPs in voting for the Thai PM.

By coming back and accepting his sentence Thaksin has now settled the bitter rivalry with conservative royalists that has hung over Thailand for the last 20 years. But at the cost of being a much-diminished political figure.

Niger's junta instructs police to expel French ambassador

NIAMEY

NIGER'S police has been instructed to proceed the expulsion of French Ambassador to Niger Sylvain Itte, after the expiration of the 48-hour ultimatum granted to him, said an official statement broadcast on national radio on Thursday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Niger's junta has informed the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the decision, according to the statement.

"The diplomatic cards and visas of the former ambassador of his country to Niger and his family are invalidated," the statement said.

As a result, at the end of the 48-hour given to the French diplomat to leave Niger, which expired on Aug 28th, the individual no longer enjoys the privileges and immunities attached to his status as a member of the diplomatic personnel of the embassy, the statement said.

Last Friday, Niger's junta ordered the French ambassador to leave the country within 48 hours, following several actions contrary to Niger's national interests, according to a statement issued by Niger's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs said later that they would not accept the request of Niger's junta, saying that "the military government does not have the authority to order France to withdraw its envoys."

UN agencies, NGOs banned

UN agencies and non-governmental organizations have been barred from working in military "operation zones," Niger's Interior Ministry said on Thursday. This is "due to the current security situation and the ongoing operational engagement of the Nigerien Armed Forces," the ministry said in a statement. Niger has been, in some of its border areas, suffering atrocities of terrorist organizations including armed groups and criminals who have controlled the southern region of Libya since the overthrow of the Muammar Gaddafi regime in 2011. Xinhua

Beijing sees new achievements in building international sci-tech innovation hub

BENCHMARKING leading global sci-tech innovation hubs like New York, Paris, London, Tokyo and Singapore, Beijing stands out in the number of highly cited papers, Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) patents, top 200 research institutes, and major scientific facilities, with many indexes reaching world-leading levels.

Today, Beijing ranks first nationwide in more than 10 indicators, including the number of invention patents per 10,000 people, PCT annual growth, the share of basic research funding in R&D and the share in national tech contract turnover.

A recent report noted that Beijing has made remarkable progress in building

an international sci-tech innovation center, and its global influence has initially taken shape.

A 50 MeV proton cyclotron in Beijing's Huairou Science City has completed trial runs and been officially put into service. It is a key component of a space science R&D, testing and support platform for satellite series and payload, one of the first interdisciplinary research platforms in the Huairou Science City.

Beijing is accelerating the building of its Huairou district into a national comprehensive science center. So far, 29 major scientific facilities, critical sci-tech infrastructures, and interdisciplinary research platforms have entered the

construction and operation stages.

The Chinese capital has established eight world-class new-type R&D institutes in quantum, blockchain, AI and other fields. Leveraging universities and research institutes in Beijing, the city has also built seven national technology innovation centers, three national manufacturing innovation centers, and 78 national engineering research centers.

Zhang Jihong, head of the Beijing Municipal Science & Technology Commission and Administrative Commission of Zhongguancun Science Park, told People's Daily that the three national labs, located in China's "Silicon Valley" Zhongguancun, Changping district and Huairou district, have achieved high-

quality and normalized operation.

The number of national key labs in Beijing has achieved 80, the highest nationwide, Zhang added.

"Investment in basic research will lay a better foundation for future scientific innovation," said Wu Hequan, academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

"Beijing has become a major force in the global innovation network, providing strong support for China to become an innovative nation," he added.

Statistics show that Beijing's R&D spending exceeded 6.5 percent of the city's GDP in 2022, which is 2.7 times the national average. Basic research accounted for around 16 percent of the

spending.

Besides, with 218 invention patents per 10,000 people in 2022, Beijing led all Chinese cities in patent intensity.

In recent years, Beijing has made tremendous efforts to build a three-tier international sci-tech innovation system led by national laboratories to enhance the capability for original innovation and source supply.

New R&D institutes have pioneered a management mechanism with five new measures to spur sci-tech innovation. Reforms of high-end talent cultivation, recruitment, and evaluation systems have continuously improved the incentive mechanism and the ensured orderly flow of talent.

New growth engines continue to emerge in Beijing, and the city's sci-tech innovation capabilities are steadily rising.

At present, Beijing boasts nearly 100 universities and over 1,000 research institutes. It holds the third place globally in the number of unicorn companies, and has topped the Nature Index for scientific research for six consecutive times.

This fertile ground of sci-tech innovation has cultivated world-class original breakthroughs in areas such as the quantum anomalous Hall effect, Majorana anyon, and tumor immunotherapies.

People's Daily

China, Africa to advance great endeavours of win-win cooperation, harmonious coexistence, shared prosperity of civilisations

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and his South African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa recently co-chaired the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue in Johannesburg. Together with other African leaders, they drew a new blueprint for China-Africa solidarity and cooperation.

The meeting adopted and issued the Joint Statement of the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue, which reflected the extensive consensus between China and Africa on strengthening and reforming global governance, promoting Africa's socioeconomic development, safeguarding peace and security, and advancing the institution building of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

The document charted the course for the future development of China-Africa relations in the new era, injecting new impetus into the China-Africa friendship.

China and Africa, through their creative explorations for modernization, are giving answers to the questions of the times, and making joint efforts to advance the great endeavors of win-win cooperation, harmonious coexistence and shared prosperity of civilisations, said Xi in a keynote speech at the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue.

He stressed that the two sides must work together to promote a just and equitable international order, safeguard a peaceful and secure global environment, build an open and inclusive world economy, and create a sound environment for realizing their respective development visions.

Xi profoundly expounded on the significance of China and Africa joining hands to advance modernization and proposed concrete measures to strengthen pragmatic cooperation in the next phase, to support African integration, and to facilitate Africa modernization. This will inject new impetus into elevating China-Africa relations to new heights and the building of a China-Africa community with a shared future.

There are various paths leading to modernization. The African people have the most say on which path suits Africa best. Advancing modernization through integration is the independent choice made by African countries and people. On this path to modernization, China has all along been a firm supporter, and walking side by side with Africa.

Over the years, China has helped Africa build a large number of connectivity infrastructure projects and carried out extensive cooperation with the African Union and sub-regional organizations. Batches of cooperative projects have taken root in Africa, renewing China-Africa friendship across the vast lands of China and Africa.

Ramaphosa remarked at the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue that South Africa has benefited immensely from Africa-China cooperation, and this relationship is one of mutual accomplishment and win-win cooperation.

At the Dialogue, Xi announced that China will launch the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development.

China plans to train 500 principals and high-caliber teachers of vocational colleges every year, and 10,000 technical personnel with both Chinese language and vocational skills for Africa. China will invite 20,000 government officials and technicians of African countries to participate in workshops and seminars.

Focusing on industrialization, agricultural modernization, and personnel training urgently needed for Africa's modernization, the three initiatives and plans vividly reflect China's concrete actions to support African development.

African leaders said that Chinese investment in and cooperation with African countries has played an important role in boosting Africa's development, and China is Africa's indispensable cooperation partner in its quest for modernization.

In face of the profound changes unseen in a century, a strong China-Africa relationship and productive China-Africa cooperation will provide more fresh impetus to global development and ensure greater stability of the world. This is an international responsibility and historical mission entrusted to the 2.8 billion Chinese and African peoples.

Bearing in mind the internal potential and external challenges of China-Africa cooperation, Xi emphasized that through Belt and Road cooperation and the FOCAC, and in light of the Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU), China will work with Africa to enhance the synergy of their development strategies.

He reiterated China's support for African Union in joining the G20, which fully mirrored China's backing for Africa to elevate its international standing and voice and China's concrete action of putting the spirit of China-Africa friendship into practice.

African leaders appreciated China's proposals to promote Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative in support of multilateralism, and believe China and Africa's development will bring more opportunities for world peace and development.

Deeper African integration coupled with the steady modernization progress of both China and Africa will provide new impetus for global economic growth, contribute positive energy to international fairness and justice, and set new benchmarks for equal, open and cooperative partnerships worldwide.

China will work with African countries to further carry forward the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, deepen solidarity and collaboration across the board, and build a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future, so as to make new contributions to advancing human modernization and prosperity.

People's Daily



China will work with African countries to further carry forward the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, deepen solidarity and collaboration across the board

HISTORIC INDIA'S CHANDRAYAAN-3 SUCCESSFUL MISSION TO THE MOON: Hightime for India-African science and technology partnership

By Avit A. Chami

ON Wednesday, 23rd August, 2023, India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has made history by landing safely in the moon. The Indian success becomes historic one since it is the only space agency in the world which has managed to land near the south pole of the Moon.

India's Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft is the first to ever land near the lunar south-pole, a completely unexplored part of the Moon. In the control room at India's space agency ISRO went wild, with scientists cheering and punching the air as the craft touched down while Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared "India is now on the Moon!" and "the sky is not the limit" as the Indian PM followed the launch by video link from South Africa where he was recently attending the BRICS summit.

This Indian success follows the 2009 attempt when India sent a robotic orbiter called Chandrayaan-1 to the moon, which helped discover that water ice can exist on the lunar surface, followed by another attempt in 2014, where by India successfully put a satellite into orbit around Mars, becoming the fourth nation to do so. In the 2017 attempt.

India created history by successfully launching 104 satellites on a single mission, overtaking the previous record of 37 satellites launched by Russia in 2014. The India space journey has been hardly easy - and yet the Chandrayaan-3 is here taking India to the new heights of science and technology. With this, India joins a select group of countries namely the US, Soviet Union and China that have successfully landed a spacecraft on the moon, hence India becomes the 4th country to land in the moon.

Over a couple of years ago India's space programme began, with underlying dynamics and divisible goals the interplanetary or deep space missions were not part of the goals, but the development of its capabilities has established it as a global space power. The recent landing to the moon validates India's attempt is not duplicating what others have done, but complementing it. India has sent message to the world on their need to expand

humanity's understanding of the lunar surface. India's Chandrayaan-3 becomes the first space mission to land near the south pole of the Moon. Being a unique label for the Indian science and technology space currently, this attempt stands as the India's third lunar mission which comes in days after Russia's unmanned Luna-25 spacecraft span out of control and crashed into the moon recently.

In the spirit of fostering South to South relations, India-Africa relations have been in the good move and highly promising. Following the ground breaking innovation which makes India joins an elite club of countries to achieve a soft landing on the moon, after the US, the former Soviet Union and China, the Indian success in world of science and technology take India to become one of the top 5 space-faring countries in the world, with numerous technology space opportunities.

The 26kg rover called Pragyaan (the Sanskrit word for wisdom) was carried by the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft to the Moon. With the in the Vikram lander's belly, as the dust raised by last evening's landing in moon, the after the spacecraft had settled, panels on one side of Vikram opened to deploy a ramp to enable Pragyaan to slide down to the lunar surface. "The rover is expected to roam around the rocks and craters to gather crucial data and images to be sent back to Earth for analysis"

ISRO reported. Pragyaan is carrying two scientific instruments which will try to find out what minerals are present on the lunar surface and study the chemical composition of the soil.

Pragyaan will communicate only with the lander which will send the information to the orbiter from Chandrayaan-2 which is still circling the Moon - to pass it on to the Earth for analysis. This will make India understand the Moon more and getting the room for advancing her technologies not only in the space but also to make them useful for advancing livelihood of the humankind.

Over the ages now, India has become renowned for producing affordable satellites and launch vehicles. The estimated value of the worldwide space economy is US\$ 440 billion.

Despite having the most advanced space program in the world, the space sector in India makes up only 2.1% of the global space economy. The Government of India has started space sector reforms to encourage, support, regulate, and provide start-ups and private companies, an opportunity to engage in space operations to grow their market share globally.

As of May 2021, India had a total of 368 space tech businesses, placing it fifth in the global arena, making it higher than that in 2023. The significance of the space industry in the Indian economy started by enabling services and applications across several industries, such as media and entertainment, weather forecasting, disaster management, agriculture, geological and oceanographic studies, navigation, broadband services, and remote sensing, demonstrates the importance of the sector.

A period of expansion, innovation and faster investment in the industry has started with the opening of the space economy to private participation across all phases of the value chain.

This opportunity for private businesses is to move up in the value chain and propel India on the innovation front in the space sector and resulting to the recent achievements-taking



India to the moon.

India successful mission of Chandrayaan-3 which landed near the moon's south-pole, which is the first country to do so, the mission showcases India's rising standing as a technology and space powerhouse. This groundbreaking innovation of our lifetime gives more room for India-Africa for strategic science and technology partnership. In line with the recent success Indian story in technology space, India need to align herself afresh to deliberately partner with their fellow counterparts from the global south in growing their level of science and technology. Enhancing India ties in the realm of science and technology can further be able to leverage the continent's potential and contributing to its own global stature. Extending Indian influence in the Africa continent include engaging science and technology to expand cooperation in counterterrorism, cyber security, and emerging technologies.

The African continent with 54 independent nations that constitute more than a quarter of the membership of the UN, Africa collectively will have more political clout and gradually emerge as an important voice on important global issues. India's historical ties with Africa are old but the future realities demand a re-orientation of India's policy towards the continent. Africa is strategically and geopolitically important for India. East African seaboard, from the Horn of Africa to South Africa, falls within India's maritime strategic neighbourhood. It is under these strengths that the rising technology and space powerhouse frontier from South pole of the world need to strike ties with the continent hosting a quarter of the United Nations member states.

Africa being a home to over half a dozen of the fastest growing countries of this decade such as Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, etc stands as the one of the growth poles of the world. For India to strategically jump in the science and technology sectors, it is envisaged imperative in developing African economies which could undoubtedly become important markets for India's capital and consumer goods.

The recent intentions of Indian government to open 18 embassy in the continent, should go in line with strategic investment in science and technology sectors across the continent. The investment in ICT can connect the Indian economy to the African continent with a population of over one billion with a combined GDP of 2.5 trillion dollars making it a huge potential market. The enhanced level of science and technology to Africa will yield prosperity of the resource rich nations dominated by commodities like crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold and other metals, all of which India lacks in sufficient quantities. The expected enhanced connectivity between the India-African states can be a useful dimension to India-Africa relationship as well as for the presence of a large Indian diaspora in Africa to facilitate technology transfer to the continent.

The existing interventions in the science, technology and digital cooperation including satellite connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education to countries of Africa makes it important to revisit the India's

foreign policy priorities towards Africa, taking India as the world technology and space powerhouse currently. The UNCTAD Technology and Innovation Report 2023 highlights the opportunities that revolutions in science, technology and green innovation offer developing countries to spur economic growth and enhance technological capacities. UNCTAD calls on their governments and business communities to invest in more complex and greener sectors, boost technical skills and scale up investments in the technology infrastructure needed to grow green industries in Africa. The recent study by Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (2023), posits three major actions for the African science and technology industry these include government and international community to raise investment in the areas of Internet access. This is meant to raise levels of connectivity since internet penetration in sub-Saharan Africa averages 39.6 per cent compared to the global average of 62.7 per cent.

Secondly is putting thrust on the legislative and regulatory frameworks since the African region lacks strong underpinning regulation to shape the operating context for digital government and thus build public confidence with adequately well-resourced authorities enforcing existing legislation. Thirdly the need for addressing the digital-skills gap among the technology users in the continent is of paramount usefulness.

This among things gives room India-Africa cooperation following the recent innovations in the space sector and resulting to the recent achievements including taking India to the moon. Following historic India's Chandrayaan-3 successful mission to the moon, it hereto sought to make this become the high time for India-African science and technology partnership. In the course of fostering India-Africa meaningful relationship and partnership in technology transfer to the continent the following five (5) success mantra's sought to be useful:

Firstly; Increase investment in hard infrastructure across African technology industry: The needed investment of \$100 billion to achieve universal broadband access in Africa, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change Report (2023) posits the imperative to support continental initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area, which largely depends on the ability to leverage technology to create a single digital market in a connected 54 countries together.

Secondly; Connect digital-services teams within government in all 54 state government administrations. This shall streamline their provision of digital services and information, governments should develop data-sharing platforms across public-sector agencies as well as protocols on how digital tools collect, manage and use data to inform decision-making.

Thirdly; Develop regulatory frameworks for data protection in the continent. This is envisaged to accelerate digital-government transformation, governments need to develop and refine data-protection laws that specify how data can be collected, processed and used both within and outside government.

Fourthly; Improve digital capability in all 54 African states. This included enhancing digital skills are a prerequisite for transformation both within government and throughout the wider economy. Investment to equip the continent's young people with digital skills and literacy would allow sub-Saharan Africa to develop a critical mass of expertise in associated fields.

Fifthly; Build inclusive digital-identification for Development systems (digital-ID systems). The fact that majority of the "invisible billion" people globally without basic ID credentials live in sub-Saharan Africa. This limits their access to public services, social welfare and private-sector systems including financial platforms as well as other opportunities in the digital economy. Collaboration with Governments in the continent should be enhanced towards investing in building digital-ID systems designed with inclusivity, interoperability and privacy safeguards as prerequisites of digital-government transformation across the entire rising continent.

Basing on Indian and other southeast east emerging economic experience, the task of turning Africa the next science and technology powerhouse needs to get a number strategies in tandem. There should be strong partnership spirit between government in and the private sector actor in entire across the continent. This mix of strategic actors should deliberately engage themselves in the technology industry as well as enabling services and applications across several strategic industries in the country's economy including agriculture, SMEs engagements, media and entertainment, weather forecasting, disaster management, broadband services. This further include putting some strategic milestones for the initiatives to work for expansion, innovation and faster investment in the technology industry since it is pivotal for growing the economic openings of the country. In line with opening and running ICT incubation centres around the country's rural and urban areas which may result to the growth of massive start-ups fostering the growth of useful technologies for various economic sectors in the economy. India-Africa can work well in the shared science and technology interest for the south pole of the earth.

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UN chief cautions military coups only worsen crises, urges democratic governance

UNITED NATION

ADDRESSING the recent series of military coups predominantly in Africa, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday underscored the importance of establishing lasting democratic governance backed by the rule of law.

Wednesday's military takeover in Gabon came on the heels of Niger last month, Burkina Faso in 2022, and Chad, Guinea, Sudan and Mali in the years prior to that.

The Gabonese military takeover was announced not long after the electoral authorities declared that President Ali Bongo had secured another term, even though there

were allegations of electoral irregularities. During a media briefing at the UN headquarters in New York, Guterres said, "Many countries face deep-seated governance challenges.

But military governments are not the solution." "They aggravate problems. They cannot resolve a crisis; they can only make it worse," he added.

The UN chief appealed to nations to act promptly in setting up trustworthy democratic systems and maintaining the rule of law.

Guterres pointed to the necessity of empowering international organizations like the African Union to play a pivotal role in the



promotion of peace, democratic stability, and governance in Africa. Moreover, he stressed that creating an environment that enables African populations to tackle the underlying reasons for political unrest is critical, with underdevelopment being a primary contributor.

"Development is a central objective if we want to create conditions

for peace and stability in Africa," Guterres responded, when asked by a reporter.

Guterres also spoke of a series of high-profile upcoming trips, where he aims to drum up support for diplomacy and multilateralism, leading to the high-level opening of the UN General Assembly, in late September.

This weekend he will be going to the Africa Climate Summit in Kenya, and then travel to Indonesia to attend the 13th ASEAN-UN Summit.

Next, he will head for India for the G20 Summit, and then go to Cuba for a Summit of the G-77 and China. "I look forward to engaging

with global leaders at these four very different summits before the world comes together for the opening of the General Assembly," he stated.

On the agenda for these summits are topics such as climate action in Africa, reformation of global financial systems, and re-focusing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Diplomacy is more important than ever to navigate the tensions of our emerging multipolar world," Guterres noted. "Dialogue remains the only way to find joint approaches and common solutions to the global threats and challenges that we face."

The Guardian

SPORT



Newly signed Singida Fountain Gate FC attacker, Elvis Rupia.

Singida Fountain Gate FC signs Kenya Premier League ace

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER struggling to score goals in the past four competitive games this season, Singida Fountain Gate FC has signed the previous season's FKF Premier League top goal scorer, Elvis Rupia, from Kenya Police FC.

Singida Fountain Gate FC failed to score in two 2023/24 NBC Premier League ties against Tanzania Prisons and Tabora United that ended goal-less.

The Singida club also suffered a loss to Simba SC via penalties in the 2023/24 Community Shield mini-tournament semi-final played in Tanga and, thereafter, lost 2-0 to Azam FC in the third-place playoff of the showdown.

Rupia was in great form last season as he netted 27 goals in the FKF Premier League for the law enforcers.

The striker thereafter picked up from where he left off during the pre-season friendly matches, netting in back-to-back duels against Singida Fountain Gate FC and Namungo FC.

Sources close to the player indicate that Singida Fountain Gate FC tabled an irresistible offer and went on to break the bank to secure his release from Kenya Police FC.

With the striker being included in the provisional squad for Kenya's senior national team, Harambee Stars, for the forthcoming friendly matches against Qatar and South Sudan, he is expected to cross the border to Tanzania after the FIFA international week.

Kenya will take on Qatar on September 7, 2023, and thereafter come up against South Sudan at home on September 12, 2023.

Sources close to the attacker have

told The Guardian that Singida Fountain Gate FC approached him with a good offer and has also bought out his contract as he had 18 months left.

He is practically the Singida club's layer now and will move to Tanzania after the international break.

Kenya Police FC appeared to have been preparing for the exit of their forward, also a former Nzoia Sugar player, as the club recently signed South Sudan striker Tito Okello.

Okello joined Police FC as a free agent after parting ways with Iranian top-flight side, Paykan FC, at the end of last season.

The latest development means that Singida Fountain Gate FC will have three Kenyan footballers, as the club had earlier signed midfielder Duke Abuya and central defender Joash Onyango.

Abuya joined the outfit on loan from Kenya Police FC, as is the case with Onyango which was acquired on similar terms from former Premier League champions Simba SC.

Singida Fountain Gate FC sailed through to the Second Preliminary Round of the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup after edging Zanzibar's JKU SC 4-3 on aggregate in the First Preliminary Round.

The club beat JKU SC 4-1 in the first leg which took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In the rematch played at the same venue last weekend, JKU SC reorganized and garnered a 2-0 win over Singida Fountain Gate FC, which though could not guarantee the former qualification for the following round.

Rupia joined Kenya Police FC in February last year from the Saudi Arabian side- Bisha FC.

we promise to do well in Ghana," he said. Wheelchair tennis team's head coach, Suleiman, said despite the uncertainty of the trip to the Games, all players are ready for the challenge.

"There were a lot of challenges, to be honest...we were not sure if we would battle it out in Ghana but I told my players to keep on training hard, and today (yesterday) we have been told that the trip to Ghana is on, I'm sure my team will do well," the coach noted.

The Games have been scheduled for September 3-12 and, initially, Tanzania was to be represented by athletes from Paralympic athletics, Para powerlifting, wheelchair basketball, amputee football, wheelchair tennis, and sitting volleyball.

However, according to the TPC Acting Secretary-General, the government has only managed to raise money for the wheelchair tennis team while athletes for Para Powerlifting and Paralympic athletics are not traveling to Ghana because the two sports disciplines have been struck off the list of the Games' sports given venues for the sports have yet to be completed.

Hersi's presence and 5G speed at Yanga start in Premier League, CAF CL

By Correspondent John Kimbute

EXPLAINING the battering ram attitude now visible for 2023/24 NBC Premier League defending champions, Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, in their outings since the new season kicked off is becoming something of a problem for analysts.

There is a faint streak among several followers of the archrivals, that Yanga is up and running alleged habits of buying off players and even officials of opposite sides.

They say the cash helps the clubs make ends meet, which is different from traditional referee and assistants' purchase usage.

Those who make that argument exude a disarming attitude about it, making the issue so obvious that it scarcely merits more discussion, and there are faint signals that this view is taken seriously at some level of Premier League officialdom.

There was a remark that the anti-corruption bureau was called in after the Jangwani Street side posted its first 5-0 win, but the matter was not followed up in later talk shows. Owing to club loyalties, such witch-hunting might not yield much benefit.

Again, there is something 'in the order of piquancy' that of all Premier League sides, only the Jangwani Street outfit would develop such match-winning tactics, and on each playing day, it would have that extra cash ready.

It is a palpably insulting argument to the other sides that they are always so anxious for a million shillings or a bit more to share out among players that they will be ready to play the game.

But to an extent it makes sense, to play all games to win except against the champions.

The other problem assailing this explanation is that if it is a systematic way of doing things, it would either percolate or ooze into the player mentality, as the technical bench would know it, and at that level, it would be hard to keep it away from players.

Were any such environment existing, it wouldn't translate



Yanga's Ivorian right-back, Kouassi Attohoulou Yao (L), attempts to outfox JKT Tanzania's midfielder, Najim Magulu, when the outfits took on each other in a 2023 NBC Premier League clash that took place in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Yanga walloped JKT Tanzania 5-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

into 5G playing speed and scoring as it has for a couple of weeks or so been the case, as purchasing games eats into the playing morale rather than up-lifting it, as is the case now.

The sort of game being exhibited by the players is indisputably a desire to win.

Going back to Premier League tradition, there is a semblance of selling matches towards the end for several middle-placed sides that do not face a threat of playoffs to avoid relegation.

Before that situation arises in the final weeks of the season, coaches and club leaders expect players to battle it out to remain in the Premier League, or even receive honours. Selling games at an early stage is strange.

There is another hunch as to explaining the 5G performance, hanging by two threads of equal importance.

The more captivating thesis is that club president Hersi Said is always with the team everywhere, in each match, on safari, and presumably at a training camp or regular sessions.

There is a way in which that can change the play atmosphere, where each player wishes to show the boss the level of play he is putting up, which is different from how he fits into

the systems of the coach, etc.

And if players have any problems with that system, the club's president should watch their efforts and just make head and tail in what is wrong.

Tied that reflection is a more technical affirmation which all the same needs to be explained somewhat.

Why is there perfect harmony between the systems created by former head coach Nasreddine Nabi and his replacement, Miguel Gamondi?

This way, the new players picking up several positions for instance on account of at least four key departures, namely Juma Shabani, Yannick Bangala, Feisal Salum, and Fiston Mayele not just fit in perfectly but in various ways are playing better.

Soccer tends to be more zig-zag than what is being noticed at Yanga, which to an extent astonishes some pundits that the players seem to be enjoying their game rather than merely doing a day's work, with signs of either laziness or fatigue.

Some pundits have checked on training schedules and it appears the current level of play is consonant with the emphasis on match fitness, where all players are expected to run up and down the pitch more or less

continuously. They may be relishing this feat.

If there is indeed a technical input by the new head coach and his technical bench staff that convincingly explains the changed attitude to the game - training benchmarks are always vital to evaluating how prepared a club can approach any match.

In many regards, it seems to be the most important aspect, as it explains the 5G speed rather than goals, and makes it easier to live with the goals.

The other sides are beaten either to the ball or in tactics, not just make blunders and Yanga scores.

Strictly speaking, the way the new head coach's methods have either been understood or are being used by players requires a different reason for adherence than is usually the case.

That is where the widely assured presence of the club president at each event can easily make a difference, as a player making silly errors will have no room to hide now that Hersi himself saw it.

Surprisingly, club wisdom kept insisting in the past Annual General Meeting that the delegates' supervision is useless, isn't it?

Wheelchair tennis squad set for 2023 African Paralympic Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's envoys in the 2023 African Paralympic Games, wheelchair tennis side, departed for Accra, Ghana early yesterday to battle it out in the showdown.

The team, which jetted off at 4 a.m., is made up of four players, one coach, and a leader of delegation.

Leader of the delegation, Vincent Kaduma, also serving as Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) Acting Secretary-General, said the team is in good spirits ahead of the Games.

He mentioned players making the trip as Voster Lengoneli, John Churi, Rehema Selemani, and Lucky Shirima accompanied by head coach Riziki Suleiman.

Kaduma thanked the government for its support for the team and promised that they would perform well in the Games.

The TPC official noted: "The team is leaving tomorrow (Friday) at 4 am and we will arrive in Ghana the same day in the evening, we thank the government for its support to the team."

"There were a lot of challenges but the government has stood with us,



Winners Academy's player, May Abbas (2nd L), challenges Bulls girls' soccer side's Analise Hewitt (R) as the clubs locked horns in a friendly tie that took place at Mikocheni venue in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA



Mikel Arteta

Erik ten Hag

Arsenal face Man Utd test as Nunez targets Liverpool start

LONDON

MANCHESTER United will seek a cure for their travel sickness when they travel to face Arsenal in an early-season blockbuster tomorrow as Liverpool take on free-scoring Aston Villa.

Newly promoted Luton play their first home match of the season against high-flying West Ham while rock-bottom Everton chase their first goal.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the weekend action.

United seek end to away-day blues

Last season's 3-2 win for Arsenal against Manchester United at a raucous Emirates was one of the most absorbing matches of the campaign.

It strengthened the Gunners' belief that they could mount a title challenge but also underlined United's struggles away from home.

Erik ten Hag's side lost all six matches away to other members of the top seven last season, conceding 3.66 goals per away match on average. The highest-placed side they beat away was 10th-placed Fulham.

A shaky opening win against Wolves at home this season was followed by a laboured, toothless performance in a 2-0 defeat away at Tottenham.

Ten Hag's task against the 2022/23 runners-up has been made more difficult by an injury crisis, with Luke Shaw, Raphael Varane and Mason Mount all unavailable.

New striker Rasmus Hojlund, who arrived at Old Trafford with an injury, could make his debut for a side once again struggling to find goals consistently.

Hot-shot Nunez stakes claim to Liverpool starting spot

Darwin Nunez had a tough first season for Liverpool after joining the club last year in a deal worth up to 100 million euros (\$109 million), finding the net just nine times in the Premier League.

But the Uruguayan came off the bench last week to score two superb late goals in Liverpool's thrilling 2-1 win against Newcastle in a performance that could mark a turning point in his Anfield career.

Manager Jurgen Klopp admitted the former Benfica striker was "obviously fired up" after being named as a substitute once again.

Now the German has a choice to make against Unai Emery's Villa after favouring Luis Diaz, Mohamed Salah, Diogo Jota and Cody Gakpo in the first three matches of the season.

"It's clear he's not happy," said Klopp. "It's early in the season, we need to find stability and results. "He will play, there's no doubt about that. We need everyone. We need to find a way of playing. This is a new team with new key players. It needs time."

Luton seek home comforts

Luton have had a tough start on their return to the English top flight after three decades away, shipping four goals against Brighton and three against Chelsea.

The club's opening Premier League home game against Burnley was postponed due to work taking place to upgrade their quirky Kenilworth Road ground.

But on Friday they will host the Hammers after climbing all the way up from the fifth-tier National League over the past decade.

Work on the ground -- where the entrance to the away end is built into a row of traditional red-brick terraced houses -- will lift numbers just above Bournemouth's 11,307-capacity Vitality Stadium, meaning Luton will not have the smallest ground in the division.

The Hatters are one of four teams still stuck on zero points and will be desperate to get off the mark.

But they have a tough task against David Moyes' West Ham, who are second in the table after wins against Chelsea and Brighton.

Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

Today

Sheffield United v Everton (1130), Brentford v Bournemouth, Burnley v Tottenham, Chelsea v Nottingham Forest, Manchester City v Fulham, Brighton v Newcastle (1630)

Tomorrow

Crystal Palace v Wolves (1300), Liverpool v Aston Villa (1300), Arsenal v Manchester United (1530)

Drivers and Motorcycle Owners Association launches soccer tourney

By Guardian Correspondent

TO ensure that the transportation sector, especially the 'Boda Boda' drivers sub-sector, is well recognized by the community, the Drivers and Motorcycle Owners Association for Dar es Salaam (CMPD) has, for the first time, collaborated with Tanzania's leading digital lifestyle company, Tigo, to launch a special football tournament known as '2023 Tigo Pesa Mbungi ya Boda Boda'.

A sports betting company, Betika, a Dar es Salaam radio station EFM Radio, and ForePlan International have also partnered with CMPD and Tigo in organizing the showdown.

The '2023 Tigo Pesa Mbungi ya Boda Boda' specifically aims to bring together all motorcycle 'Boda Boda' drivers in Dar es Salaam and educate them about existing economic opportunities in the 'Boda Boda' sub-sector ecosystem including digital payment, security, and road safety targeting to alleviate poverty among its members.

Speaking at the launch of the '2023 Tigo Pesa Mbungi ya Boda Boda', Juma Shaa-ban Kinshashu, the representative of the official guest-

Minister of State in the President's Office, Planning and Investment Kitila Mkumbo- said 'Boda Boda' drivers should change and exploit opportunities.

The guest disclosed:



Leaders of the Drivers and Motorcycle Owners Association for Dar es Salaam (CMPD) are pictured with the Tanzania Road Safety Force Commander, Assistant Police Commissioner, Pili Misungwa, Tigo Pesa Chief Officer, Angelica Pesa, and other partners at the launch of a soccer tournament, termed '2023 Tigo Pesa Mbungi Boda Boda' in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

"Sports are healthy, they are jobs, I congratulate the CMPD, the government supports any sports efforts, I congratulate you for seeing to it that, through Tigo, this initiative is going to improve your economy."

"Now you should value your work, know where you are going, you have to show that you are changing and become modern, rebuild yourselves," Kinshashu pointed out.

Speaking during the tournament's launch, the Chairman of the Drivers and Motorcycle Owners Association in Dar es Salaam, Michael Massawe, said: "The 'Boda Boda' sub-sector has many economic opportuni-

ties, so it is important to connect them and show them how to approach and benefit from these opportunities."

"The 'Boda Boda' sub-sector plays an integral role in Tanzania, most of the 'Boda Boda' drivers are hardworking individuals who are focused on changing their fortunes, our sub-sector moreover has vast economic opportunities, a 'Boda Boda' driver should not lack resources to improve his livelihood," Massawe added.

Chief Officer for Tigo Pesa, Angelica Pesa, said that through this competition, motorcycle drivers will have the opportunity to learn a new way

of payment to increase their income.

"Tigo has thought it is good to use this opportunity to bring boda boda drivers together to give them economic opportunities where Tigo will have the opportunity to help motorcycle drivers identify a new way of making payments through Tigo Pesa 'Lipa kwa Simu' whereby customers paying via their mobile phones for boda boda they can earn money through digital means," Angelica noted.

Tigo Pesa's Merchant Payments Manager, Edgar Mapande, present at the launch said: "This collaboration with CMPD has enormous economic

potential to help the boda boda riders achieve some of their goals, including reaping the digital economy benefits by using Tigo Pesa's 'Lipa kwa Simu' as a payment collection solution.

"We can collectively drive transformational change for bodaboda riders, their families, and the country at large."

"This partnership is a great opportunity to support the youth while working towards advancing the digital economy ecosystem through micro-payments."

The 2023 Tigo Pesa Boda-boda Cup competition will involve a total of 64 teams from the five districts of the Dar es Salaam region and various seminars will be held where these competitions will take place. Additionally,

The Boda Boda riders will moreover get to learn about the benefits of using 'Lipa kwa Simu' as a mode of receiving payments.

A total of four football grounds will be used for the football competition including Machava in Kigamboni, Uhuru in Temeke, Ukombozi in Ubungu, and Airwing in Ilala.

CMPD is an association that oversees drivers and motorcycle owners in the Dar es Salaam region and was established in 2016 and helps Boda Boda drivers access loans for motorcycles, plots, phones, driver's licenses as well as health insurance through financial institutions in the country.

Lions B cricketers to face GP in 2023 DC 30 Overs Cup tourney final

By Guardian Reporter

THE battle for prominence in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division B 30 Overs Cup reaches a climax on Sunday as Lions B cricketers confront the GP outfit in the showdown's final at Anadil Burhani ground.

The two clubs booked a place in the final after coming out victorious in the last-four stage of the showdown, as Lions B commanded a 22-run victory over highly-fancied Aces B whereas GP knuckled down to a one-wicket defeat of Patel Brotherhood A.

Atif Salim, Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Media officer, pointed out: "GP has been a surprise package and they have reached the finals the hard way. At the start of the season, they were unsure if they would continue to run the club after bad results in 2022 and were on the verge of shutdown."

Salim noted: "They gathered steam and they, under the leadership of Muzamil Hussain, have done wonders by defeating favourites like Union SC and Patel Brotherhood along the way."

"As for Lions B, they decided to go with a mixture of youths and senior cricketers in their quest for the trophy," he said.

"The team has looked very solid with the set combination with regular promotions of youths in the system, they ought to give a good challenge to GP in the final," Salim noted.

According to the of-



Players making Lions B's cricket squad pose for a photo shortly after defeating Aces B in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division B 30 Overs League last-four clash which took place recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

ficial, this would be the first clash between the two teams as, in the past, Lions A was the team that regularly clashed with GP before the former got promoted to Division A this year.

He revealed the clashes between Lions B and GP have often been nail-biting affairs and, with a trophy at stake, it will be a roller coaster watch for the Fans.

The semi-finals happened to be pulsating duels, the first of which ended with GP cricketers playing their hearts out to record the hard-fought one-wicket victory over Patel Brotherhood A.

Patel Brotherhood A's cricketers had the chance to bat first in the 30-over match and ended with 187/8 in the 30 overs.

Kashif Anwar, Dhaval-kumar Patel, Rijali Fentu, Riteshkumar Tailor, and Keyur Patel were the cricketers whose prowess was instrumental in the batting squad's triple-digit score.

Anwar had the most

impressive innings, as the cricketer went on to grab 52 runs, nailing five fours and three sixes in the process.

Dhaval-kumar was four runs short of a half-century, seeking to improve his team's score, whilst Fentu, Tailor, and Keyur as well made their way back with two-digit scores having posted 24 runs, 16 runs not out, and 15 runs respectively.

The GP captain Muzamil Hussain orchestrated effort efforts by his club

to limit a score posted by Patel Brotherhood A's batting unit to a manageable figure, in which the veteran cricketer ended with three wickets.

Hussain was ably assisted by Dharminder Singh (2-29 in three overs) and Wahid Hussain (2-24 in six overs) in keeping Patel Brotherhood A's batting unit in check.

Needing 188 runs to come out victorious, GP cricketers gave their all and ultimately emerged

victoriously after recording 189/9 in 29.2 overs.

Sajjad Ali led the GP batting onslaught as the performer grabbed 70 runs that included four boundaries and four sixes.

Talha Sayed-who posted 25 runs-, Shehryar Ali with 10 runs not out, Hussain that ended with 11 runs, and Humayun Taj with 25 runs also returned with two-digit figures for the triumphant GP.

The other last-four

tie had Lions B cricketers defying the odds to down Aces B. Lions B cricketers, led by veteran Abdulsamad Ahmed, went in to bat first, ending with 159/4 in the allotted 30 overs.

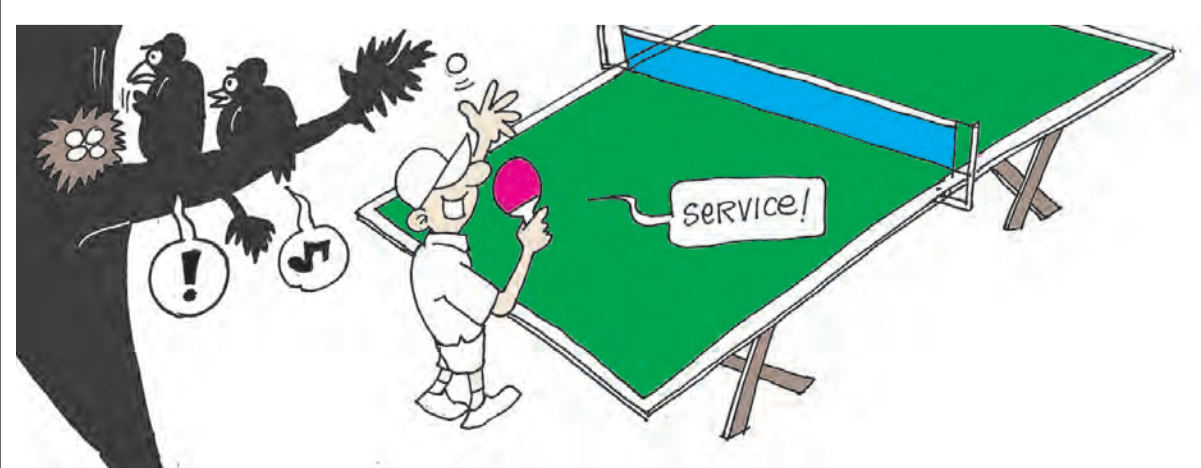
Ahmed ended as the cricketer with the best innings after notching 50 runs, promising all-rounder Karim Kisetu came back with 41 runs, and captain Mubin Hassan added 19 runs.

Reaching 160 runs to notch victory turned out to be a tall order for Aces B cricketers, as the cricketers were skittled for 137 runs in 27.3 overs to crash out of the stage.

Top-order cricketer Hamza Ally attempted to orchestrate a turnaround for Aces B with his 51 runs, and fellow cricketers Jaffary Kanyita and Ally Hassan made their way back with 24 runs and 14 runs respectively.

Much as the trio played its heart out, reaching the target happened to be a futile attempt for Aces B.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Drivers and Motorcycle Owners Association launches soccer tourney

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA I
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA I (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Failure to qualify for 2023/24 CAF CL Group Stage humiliation for Simba SC- official



Simba SC Information and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has set a semi-final target in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, with the Dar es Salaam-based side kicking off a continental campaign against Zambia Super League champions Power Dynamos in two weeks.

Ahmed Ally, Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, said it would be a humiliation if the club fails to qualify for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group Stage.

The official noted: "Whether it is good or bad, we played with Power Dynamos just the other day during the Simba Day festival. We beat them 2-0 but we must be honest and not expect the Power Dynamos we saw on that day to be the same at their Levy Mwanawasa home."

"Let's not expect the Power Dynamos who played in a relaxed way at the Simba Day

festival to play the same way in a crucial match to qualify for the Group Stage of the Champions League in Africa," Ally stated.

He stressed: "First of all, they don't have a good history in the Group Stage. They want to write their history, they want to make

an entrance on the international stage. They envy the success we have enjoyed in the international scene."

"So they will come to fight in all ways to make sure they do well to rewrite their history in the CAF Champions League," the official added. "However they must re-

member that we are Simba SC, CAF Champions League Group Stage is our playground. We are at a level where even if we sleep we wake up into the Group Stage," Ally revealed.

"It will be a great humiliation for Simba SC to fail to qualify for the Champions

League Group Stage."

Ally added: "Thus, they will come battling in all circumstances to make sure they do well to rewrite their history in the CAF Champions League. But they must remember that we are Simba SC, the Group Stage is our playground."

"It is a place where we can sleep and wake up having qualified for the Group Stage. It will be a great humiliation for Simba SC to fail to qualify for the CAF Champions League Group Stage."

Ally emphasized the club's goal is to better their record at their last outing where they fell to finalists Wydad Athletic Club of Morocco at the quarterfinal stage.

"We must go into this game knowing that we have a huge responsibility to qualify for the Group stage. It is not that we aim to qualify for the Group Stage. Group Stage is a pathway to our targets."

Simba SC has made it to the Group Stage of either the CAF Champions League or the CAF Confederation Cup four times in the last five years.

Last season, the Tanzanian representative lost 4-3 to defending champions Wydad Athletic Club on post-match penalties to bow out of the CAF Champions League at the quarterfinal stage for the third consecutive campaign.

Simba SC ponders facing Gor Mahia to shape up for 2023/24 CAF CL

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC has set sight on facing Kenya football powerhouse, Gor Mahia, in a friendly clash in Nairobi to shape up for 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round matches against Zambia's Power Dynamos.

The Second Preliminary Round's first-leg tie has been scheduled to take place at the revered Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on September 16.

According to sources within Simba SC's camp, the team is poised to travel to Nairobi in the coming week and establish a dedicated five-day training camp.

This preparatory phase is meticulously designed to fine-tune Simba SC's strategies and coalesce as a formidable unit before locking horns with the Zambian opponents.

One of the anticipated highlights of Simba SC's Nairobi stay is a friendly match against the record Football Kenya Federation Premier League champions Gor Mahia.

Although more details are still awaiting confirmation, the prospect of these two football juggernauts clashing in a friendly encounter has already set the football community abuzz with excitement.

Simba SC Information and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally has shed light on the team's approach to this preparatory phase of the clash.

"We have ample time until the match against Power Dynamos, and as a result, the management is meticulously planning the squad's training camp," the official stated.

"We're exploring the possibility of setting up camp in a neighboring country to optimize our preparation," he said.

"Our overarching goal as Simba SC is to engage in challenging matches - ones that push us to our limits and invigorate our competitive spirit," Ally reiterated.

A particularly intriguing facet of this decision is the striking similarity between the climates of Nairobi and Ndola.

With weather conditions in both cities closely aligned, Simba SC's choice to train in Nairobi is poised to furnish the outfit with an acclimatization advantage when the side eventually journeys to Zambia for the highly anticipated showdown.

Simba SC to discover African Football League opponents

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC is set to learn the squad's opponents in the inaugural African Football League (AFL) when the draw takes place in the evening.

The draw for the inaugural AFL takes place at 7 pm EAT in Cairo, Egypt, and will be beamed live on the AFL website and televised by CAF's broadcast partners.

The inaugural edition of the AFL will feature eight of Africa's most famous and successful teams from the African Regional Blocks- namely the North Region, Central-West Region, and the South-East Region.

Egyptian giants, Al Ahly SC, Tunisia's Espérance Sportive de Tunis, and Wydad Athletic Club from Morocco are the football clubs from the North Region.

The clubs from the Central-West Region are Nigeria's Enyimba Football Club and the DRC's Tout Puisse Mazembe.

Mamelodi Sundowns Football Club from South Africa, Angola's Atlético Petróleos de Luanda, and Simba SC are the football clubs from the South-East Region.

In addition, Simba SC is the only team from the Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations zone in the competition.

With Simba SC placed in Pot 2, what is guaranteed is that they will face a seeded team from Pot 1, which means games against either Al Ahly,



Simba SC's forward, Jean Baleke, shoots past Mtbwa Sugar players as the sides took on each other in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League clash played in Morogoro on August 17. Simba SC cruised to a 4-2 victory over Mtbwa Sugar. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Wydad AC, Esperance, or Mamelodi Sundowns at the quarterfinal stage.

It means Simba SC cannot face fellow Pot 2 teams TP Mazembe, Enyimba FC and until the semi-final stages.

This historic inaugural edition of the AFL will take place over four weeks,

kicking off with the Opening Ceremony and the first match on October 20 2023 in Dar es Salam.

The semi-finals will take place between October 29 and November 1. The final matches which will determine the winner of the inaugural AFL competition

will take place on 5 and 11 November 2023.

The inaugural AFL is a precursor to the fully-fledged AFL competition which will feature the 24 highest-ranked football clubs on the African continent and will commence during the 2024/25 football

season.

The winner of the competition will receive 11.5 million dollars, while each participating club will initially receive 2.5 million dollars.

This significant financial investment aims to support the development of football in Africa.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

