



### LIVESTOCK



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President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks with former Zanzibar president Amani Abeid Karume during the 19th graduation ceremony of State University of Zanzibar where she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters in tourism and marketing management at SUZA, Tunguu campus, yesterday. Photo: State House

## Samia receives D. Litt citation at SUZA after tourism uplift

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has been conferred with Honorary Doctorate Degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) honoris causa of State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) for outstanding performance in the tourism sector.

The proper citation is doctor of philosophy in tourism management and marketing, conferred at the 19th graduation ceremony of the institution, where the president expressed gratitude for the honour, especially the SUZA senate council for recognizing efforts directed to the tourism sector.

She said the honour was for all Tanzanians supporting the sixth phase development ini-

tiatives, similarly dedicating it to former Zanzibar president Amani Abeid Karume as a mentor, "who built me to become a good public leader," and thus exceptionally thankful for that reason.

Explaining the breadth of sixth phase initiatives in transforming the tourism sector, President Samia recalls years back when as minister for Trade, Industries and Marketing, the government approved a one-month tour for several officials including herself to go around the world to market Zanzibar's tourist attractions.

The team visited a number of Arab countries and Europe in an effort that brought positive outcomes, a prelude to President Amani Abeid Karume taking her more into the public stage and

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## SPORTS

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President Mwinyi's call to action as Taifa Stars readies for 2023 AFCON

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Man City show title-winning character to find way to beat Everton

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Telecoms company to take Tanzania's soccer fans to AFCON finals

By Guardian Correspondent, Chalinze

THREE people died, and two others suffered serious injuries in a car crash after a saloon car hit a parked lorry at Mbwele area along the Chalinze-Tanga road at dawn yesterday.

Pius Lutumo, the Coast regional police commander, said at a press conference here that the accident occurred at around five in the morning, when a Toyota Alphard T. 395 DWE driven by Mohamed Athuman (40) hit a lorry, T.300. CLE parked on the roadside.

The three people, among them a child, died

## Chalinze road crash: Three die, two hurt

instantly at the crash impact, while two people severely injured, listing the dead as Zakia Mohamed (36), Nadim Nurdin (8 months) and Goleth (23), all residents of Kabuku township in Tanga Region, while the injured are Mohamed

Athumani (40) and Alice Sangule (08).

The accident was caused by the lorry driver wrongly parking on the road side without any warning sign, naming the culprit as Alphonse

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Bishop Liberatus Sangu of the Shinyanga Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church participates in a demonstration with children against acts of violence upon children in Shinyanga municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Z'bar VP1 roots for environment efforts

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman has called for collaborative efforts in the conservation of the environment and restore biodiversity in Zanzibar.

He was flagging off a project for water system strengthening at Masingini in the Urban West 'A' District in Zanzibar as part of celebrations to mark 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution.

Collaborative efforts would help to develop the natural resource to benefit all Zanzibaris, he said, noting that it water comes from the environment so it is the responsibility of the general public and state officials to protect the project, for current and future benefits.

To emphasize the vital importance of environment, the government will launch a large tree planting project in all islands in the archipelago, he said, on the background of the environment portfolio within the FVP's office.

This will require the participation of every citizen and leaders to succeed in restoring Zanzibar's biodiversity, he said, asking water users to ensure that they pay their water bills in order timely, so that water projects are sustainable.

The revolutionary government of

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## Samia receives D. Litt citation at SUZA after tourism uplift

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politics, sensing that the youthful minister had ability to deliver.

The former Zanzibar leader elevated her ability to become a competent leader, bringing change among the youth and in the tourism sector by marketing Zanzibar as a tourism destination.

Focusing on the graduates, the president said that there are a number of challenges facing the society that need the efforts of educated people to utilise their knowledge to address those gaps.

"Graduating and getting certificates is one step, but utilizing the skills is another important step," she stated, affirming that where the graduates are going there are challenges they need to get prepared to face.

Zanzibaris also need to utilise the local branch of the Madras-based Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus at Bweleo area on the outskirts of Zanzibar city, she said, affirming that the government needs to support this college as it is going to support tech start-ups.

"I have been told that out of the 71 students, 51 are foreigners, you can see how students from abroad are seeing the importance of this college," she said, expressing the significance of the presence of the new ICT campus. She emphasised increased research on the blue economy to provide a clear direction towards achieving set goals in the sector.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, who is also the SUZA chancellor,

conferred certificates, diplomas, bachelors and masters degrees for those qualifying for academic year 2022/2023.

In his remarks, Dr Mwinyi commended the college and the education ministry for efforts to improve services, thus attracting more students to join the college. He was glad that the number of graduates was increasing, at nine percent this year from 1,913 graduates for 2021/22, reaching 2,102 graduates in the latest graduation.

The government is well prepared to ensure that all youths meeting the criteria to join higher education access loans and related support, he said, praising SUZA for increasing cooperation with public and private institutions, adding value to the courses provided and other services.

"We witnessed how the college is heightening efforts to ensure that they produce competent graduates capable of using their skills to provide innovative solutions helping to stimulate development," he said, noting that they will be in a position to address various challenges facing the society.

He asked SUZA to use the High Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project by ensuring that there is value of money in everything executed, to achieve intended outcomes of generating transformation in the college.

He praised all the graduates and especially women, who are higher in number than men and are the ones who performed well in exams and overall performance.

## Chalinze road crash: Three die, two hurt

FROM PAGE 1

Bosco (55).

Data from the World Health Organisation (WHO) published in 2020 for road traffic accident deaths in Tanzania indicated that 18,054 cases or 6.12

per cent of total deaths for that year. The age adjusted death rate stood at 49.33 per 100,000 persons in the population, ranking Tanzania at number 10 in the world for fatality rates in road accidents.

## Z'bar VP1 roots for environment efforts

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Zanzibar has accorded the project the importance it deserves by introducing initiatives to ensure effective implementation of various water projects, he said.

Joseph Kilangi, the Water, Energy and Minerals permanent secretary, cautioned that those who will be connected with water meters must ensure that they do not tamper with the meters.

Upwards of 1.5m people will have water supplies adjacent to households, backed by a smart meter system, so the

public has to guard the vital infrastructure, he said.

Dr. Salha Mohammed Kassim, the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) director general, said that the project has cost \$92.18m, with implementation starting in April 2020 in three successive phases.

Water development in the Masingini project included the drilling of eight wells already completed, pumping 6,000 liters per hour for residents of Masingini, Mtuafani, Mwera and Mwembe districts where the work of laying pipes is largely over.

## Group of Kyela natives donate 100 text books to help school students

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

A GROUP of natives from Kyela district who are in diaspora (Kyela Ibasa festival) has donated 100 text books to help students within schools in the district.

Chairman of the group Vanessa Nyesyenge handed over the books yesterday to the councillor for Ikimba Omary Rashid Mwinijuma.

Vanessa said the books which will be given to Njisi secondary school, will help students to have more time to read.

"Among the visions of Ibasa is to help the Kyela community in the field of education, we are celebrating five years since the establishment of Ibasa, we have donated desks and now books that we believe will increase the motivation of students to study hard," said Vanessa.

He added that the 150 books are for mathematics, English, physics, chemistry, Kiswahili, biology, geography and citizenship studies.

Receiving the aid on behalf of the government, Njisi ward councillor, Omary Mwinijuma said the donated books will help increase the success of the students because it facilitate learning.

He called upon the students to use the books to increase their knowledge so that they can do well in their exams.

Speaking on behalf of Kyela Ibasa members, Sady Mwang'onda said the motive of the group was to encourage members to return home to help their community in the field of health, education, respecting culture and visiting tourist attractions.

Sara Mwangasa said the group will continue to provide material and material aid to their community and that they wish to see Kyela district take a step forward.

The vice chairman of the Union, Farida Mwakalyelye said in helping the community in 2024 they have set aside 4.9m/- to support various developmental issues.



Matanji Ward residents in Mbeya District search their national identities at the Ward Executive Officer's office recently. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

A FEW days after the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) started promoting attractions found on the shores of Lake Nyasa in Kyela District, Mbeya Region, the number of local tourists visiting the area has increased. TTB has embarked on implementation of the Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project whereas its officials visited various regions in the southern highlands for purposes of promoting tourist attractions.

One of the attractions they visited was the beaches along Lake Nyasa, especially Matema and other cultural attractions. Some other tourist attractions found in Southern

## TTB embarks on promoting tourist attractions on shores of Lake Nyasa

Highlands include traditional dances, Lake Ngosi and the Kalambo falls in Rukwa Region.

More than 600 local tourists from different parts of Mbeya Region, visited Matema beach in recent days, including the Deputy Minister for Water, Eng Maryprisca Mahundi who is also a Member of Parliament (Special Seats-Mbeya).

Interviewed, Mahundi said that she organized the tour at Matema beach to support efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in promoting tourism through 'The Royal Tour' film.

She was concerned that most tourists, especially those from foreign countries, have been visiting attractions in northern zone regions, hence the need for the government to promote other attractions.

"Matema beach is a beautiful area, I am accompanied by a group of women whom most of them have never visited," she said.

Kyela District Commissioner, Josephine Manase applauded the Deputy Minister saying her decision to visit the area would encourage others to also spend their holidays at Matema

beach.

He said the beach has many tourist attractions, including decorative fish that cannot be found anywhere in the world.

"We welcome potential investors to invest in this area, they can build hotels and fish processing factories," said the DC.

Former Rungwe MP, Amon Sauli who has invested in the area said the number of local tourists has been increasing tremendously, linking the development with TTB efforts in promoting tourist attractions.



Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Prof Elifas Bisanda (R), speaks during he was opening the Higher Education Project Leadership Committee for Economic Reform (HEET) meeting in Bagamoyo District in Coast Region on Wednesday. Looking on is College-Research and Professional Counseling Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Deus Ngaruroro who is the Chief Coordinator of OUT's HEET Project (2nd R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent Miraji Msala

## UN appoints exDutch deputy PM as Gaza humanitarian coordinator

BRUSSELS

SIGRID Kaag, the Netherlands' former deputy prime minister and a Mideast expert, was appointed the UN coordinator for humanitarian aid to war-torn Gaza, the United Nations chief has announced.

The announcement by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres follows the Security Council's adoption of a resolution on Friday requesting him to expeditiously appoint a senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza, where more than 2 million civilians are in desperate need of food, water and medicine.

Guterres said Kaag, who speaks fluent Arabic and five other languages, "brings

a wealth of experience in political, humanitarian and development affairs as well as in diplomacy" to her new post. She is expected to start on Jan. 8.

"She will facilitate, coordinate, monitor, and verify humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza," he said, adding that Kaag will also establish a UN mechanism to accelerate aid deliveries "through states which are not party to the conflict."

Gaza's entire 2.3 million population is in food crisis, with 576,000 people at catastrophic or starvation levels and the risk of famine is "increasing each day," according to a report released by 23 UN and nongovernmental organizations. It blamed the widespread hunger on in-

sufficient aid entering Gaza.

Israel stopped all deliveries of food, water, medicine and fuel into Gaza after the militant Hamas group's Oct. 7 incursion into southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people.

The Israel-Hamas war has so far killed more than 20,900 people in Gaza, two-thirds of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants among the dead.

After U.S. pressure, Israel allowed a trickle of aid in through Egypt, but UN agencies say that for weeks, only 10% of food needs has been entering Gaza. Last week, Israel opened the Kerem Shalom

crossing into Gaza and truck traffic increased but an Israeli strike on Thursday morning on the Palestinian side of the crossing stopped aid pickups, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA, said.

Kaag has for years worked in the Middle East, including in the Palestinian territories. She started working for the United Nations in 1994 in Sudan and has worked for UNRWA and as regional director for the Mideast for the U.N. children's agency UNICEF.

She also served as assistant director of the UN Development Program, headed the UN mission to destroy Syria's chemical weapons, and was UN special envoy for Lebanon until October 2017.



Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries Permanent Secretary Suleiman Aboud Jumbe speaks with The Guardian Ltd team at his office situated at Maisara Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

## Cow fattening farm in Chalinze lauds TADB's financial support

By Guardian Correspondent, Chalinze

CANBE Farming limited, a local-based cow fattening farm has hailed the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) for supporting them with a 1.5bn/- loan which has greatly helped improve infrastructure and operations at the area.

Located in Chalinze, Coast Region, the 1000-acre farm at Mazizi village has been engaging with animals rearing specifically fattening cows to bring value.

Speaking to editors who visited the farm recently, Ephantus Mwangi, the farm's manager said that the bank has been of great support for its development as well as the surrounding Maasai community who have also benefited from the loan.

"We have conducted major improvements of our livestock keeping infrastructure as well as a pasture farm, we have been fattening cows to reach 150kgs thus adding value and income, this is a big step from the previous ones when we were rearing livestock traditionally who are reaching 70kgs," he said.

According to him, they are also slaughtering 10 cows compared to five which they were slaughtering in the previous period which is a great step in reaching more in the market.

"We were not getting any income when we started this project, operations costs were too high which included purchasing pastures for the animals, but now things are going well as we have our own pasture growing farm which are important for fattening the cows," he asserted.

TADB business officer, Kezilahabi Jumanne said in different phases since 2020, the bank has been supporting farmers in the Canbe cattle fattening farm with loans in order to increase quality of the product and incomes.

According to him, initially, the bank issued a 320m/- loan for the improvement of the farm's infrastructure and a 810m/- loan to eight Maasai people for the procurement of cattle to small-scale pastoralists.

"In this farm, Maasai communities have entered into agreement with the farm owner for the fattening of cattle and later for slaughtering before transporting the meat to the market in Dar es Salaam," Jumanne explained.

The officer also said that the bank has provided 650m/- in loan to help reduce operations costs in procurement of pastures.

He said that the bank will continue improving and expanding services to reach farmers in various parts of the country.

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

The government has launched special programme dubbed: 'Homestay programme' that allows the use of houses of local people that have space in various areas of the Kilimanjaro Region to accommodate large number of visitors who are overflowing the region from within Tanzania and abroad.

Natural Resources and Tourism minister, Angellah Kairuki unveiled this yesterday when wrapping up the Kilimanjaro Cultural Festival (KCF). She said that the ministry has started developing a guide for the use of the

# Govt launches 'homestay plan' in Kilimanjaro to house tourists

houses to match the needs of tourists.

The plan, which has been designed by the KCF, shows that the locals will benefit from the 'Home Stay' programme by getting a 60 per cent quota; the housekeeping service providers will get 25 per cent and 15

percent will be for the KCF operations.

"The people of Kilimanjaro let's get ready for the 'Home Stay' programme. It is a broad opportunity to grow our economy. Even we, the Ministry, have started developing this plan which we see as productive in our economy and

tourism sector," said Minister Kairuki.

The minister presented prizes to the groups of winners of traditional dances and children between the ages of 19 and 18, who did well in the competition to talk about the natural attractions in their areas in

the eloquent native languages of their tribes.

KCF chairman, Ansi Mmasi, said that the programme gives an opportunity to the Kilimanjaro residents to register and allow their houses to be used for the accommodation of guests who will

arrive for various tourism activities and visit the attractions.

In the festival that started on December 27 and closed on December 28, various Tanzanians who showed up visited the Chaga curve located in Marangu and Kibosho Kirima, where they visited the natural caves of Nubi.

According to Mmasi, despite the region having many attractions, it is not easy to finish them all in one day, and that this step is part of opening the way for the residents of Kilimanjaro and Tanzanians and visitors to visit various attractions including natural ones that exist in different parts of the Kilimanjaro Region.

The Nature Conservancy

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends. In Tanzania, TNC is working with different stakeholders to achieve community development through sustainable and equal fisheries resources management.

On the Tanzanian shore of Lake Tanganyika, TNC is empowering local communities and leadership to implement community-led conservation initiatives to advance the conservation process of resources of Lake Tanganyika and increase people's livelihoods opportunities. In that regard, to reduce the fishing pressure on Lake Tanganyika, TNC wishes to support local population develop alternative livelihoods options through establishment of Community Conservation Banks (COCOBA).

The COCOBA model aims to support efforts being implemented by various conservation partners by way of reducing pressure on natural resources and providing alternative economic activities. COCOBAs allow members living around natural resources such as forests, marine parks, and other conservation areas to access loans to establish conservation-friendly businesses, such as beekeeping, chicken farming, tree planting, etc.

Technically, the model aims to help people living in these areas access technical and financial services to initiate and operate sustainable family income-generating activities that do not harm the environment.

TNC is seeking a consultant to facilitate establishment and operationalization of Community Conservancy Banks (COCOBA) and training of trainers in eight (8) villages in Nkasi District Council.

The aim of this consultancy is to help alleviate pressure on natural resources and promote alternative but regenerative economic activities for the communities by facilitating access to loans for the establishment of conservation-friendly livelihood activities.

**Interested and technically vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal at e-mail: [procurement.lake@tnc.org](mailto:procurement.lake@tnc.org).**

**The deadline to submit proposals is set on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 10:00 am EAT.**



**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

## TENDER NOTICE

### ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ASSORTED ITEMS

#### 1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites reputable and qualified service providers, suppliers and manufacturers to submit firm offers for the Establishment of multiple Frame Agreements for the supply and delivery of any or all the below-listed Items.

#### 2. Requirement:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	TENDER ITEM DESCRIPTION	DEADLINE SUBMISSION DATE
ITB/2023/SUP/005	Supply of Women's Wrappers	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/006	Supply Plastic Rigid Jerrycans	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/025	Supply of Fleece Blankets	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/026	Supply of Kitchen Sets	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/027	Supply of Synthetic Sleeping Mats	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/028	Supply of Sanitary Napkins (Pads)	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/029	Supply of Mosquito Nets	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/030	Supply of Solar Lamps	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
ITB/2023/SUP/031	Supply of Plastic Buckets	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours
RFP/2023/SUP/032	Provision of Transportation Services	Friday 26th January 2024, 16.00 hours

#### 3. Eligibility:

Manufacturers, authorized resellers, wholesalers, service providers or traders duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele, and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs are invited to participate in the bidding process.

Kindly download the tender documents in the below link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fYISby0nw9CXjN00cc9IXwt\\_ZyleFfXd?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fYISby0nw9CXjN00cc9IXwt_ZyleFfXd?usp=sharing)

If you fail to access the link, please write to [ndassa@unhcr.org](mailto:ndassa@unhcr.org) and copy [ishobeza@unhcr.org](mailto:ishobeza@unhcr.org)

**UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.**

# Worldveg introduces rootstock lines to assist tomato farmers

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

IN EFFORTS to improve performance of the tomato sub-sector, the World Vegetable Centre (Worldveg) has developed and screened eggplant and tomato rootstock lines for resistance reaction for Tanzanian *Ralstonia solanacearum* strains in screen house.

It has been unveiled that, in Tanzania, between 40 to 100 per cent of tomato yield loss is due to bacterial wilt disease, primarily caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum* species complex, and an important disease of solanaceous crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, potatoes, nightshade and watermelon.

The helpful development, among others focuses to empower the tomato growers to overcome negative effects of the sector's prone diseases that have been often thwarting the farmers to yield bumper.

Bacterial wilt is a bacterium that causes wilting and death of solanaceous plants like potato and tomato.

According to Dr Judith Hubert, a plant pathologist at the Arusha-based veggie centre, to start with, the helpful rootstock lines have been introduced in Zanzibar through the Accelerated Innovations Delivery Initiative (AIDI) Zanzibar CIMMYT project.

"The robust project, AIDI which commenced in March 2023 has so far managed to introduce and upscaling grafting technology transfer and distribution of resistant rootstocks to at least 80 farmers in Unguja and Pemba," she explained.

Dr Hubert added that implementing of the crucial project in the archipelago of Zanzibar was part to ensure for an alternative to harmful pesticides, whereby planting resistant rootstocks are effective and environmentally-friendly management strategies.

"Through execution of the initiative, majority of famers in Zanzibar are currently managing to grow tomato successful, as well as many vegetables with better management and improved yields," she said.

Due to the so far attained successes, Dr Hubert unveiled that plans are afoot to extend the project into several regions of Tanzania mainland in order to support the tomato farmers, come next year.

"Through professional collaboration between Worldveg, IFDC, CIMMYT and local partners, implementation of the project has managed to fetch

intended end-results of attaining sustainable solutions and community empowerment, being essential elements in combating malnutrition and enhancing overall wellbeing," she expressed.

Dispensing under the key theme of 'Sowing Seeds, Meeting Seeds' Worldveg which recently celebrated 50 years anniversary of its mission in 1992 in Arusha, Northern Tanzania and today the centre has professional research and development staff working across Africa on important vegetable crops such as tomato, pepper, onion and cabbage, as well as a range of African traditional vegetables, and partners with more than 40 national institutions and many international organizations.

The Centre operates three regional bases in Africa: in Tanzania for Eastern and Southern Africa, in Mali for West and Central Africa - Dry Regions (established 2014), and in Benin for West and Central Africa - coastal and humid regions (2017). There is a liaison office in Cameroon to reach into sub-Saharan Africa with improved vegetable varieties and production technologies.



**Through professional collaboration between Worldveg, IFDC, CIMMYT and local partners, implementation of the project has managed to fetch intended end-results of attaining sustainable solutions and community empowerment, being essential elements in combating malnutrition and enhancing overall wellbeing**

# Energy firm hands over construction materials to Katesh landslide victims

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

PUMA Energy Tanzania Limited has provided construction materials worth over 70m/- to victims of the landslide that occurred in Katesh-Hanang early December this year.

The construction materials included 600 bags of cement, 800 corrugated iron sheets, and 1000 steel rods.

Speaking shortly after receiving the donation, Hanang District Commissioner, Janeth Mayanja expressed gratitude for the assistance from the energy firm saying the government, under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, is committed to rebuilding homes for those affected.

She said that currently they are in the stage of land assessment.

"This timely donation of construction materials from Puma Energy is crucial, considering that the government is now in the process of initiating housing projects for citizens who lost their homes in the floods," she emphasized.

Mayanja urged other stakeholders to emulate Puma Energy's example and support the government's efforts, particularly by providing construction materials, which are currently in high demand.

The company's Corporate Affairs Manager, Godluck Shirima said: "We are deeply saddened by the floods affecting our fellow citizens in Katesh.

We have directed this donation of construction materials to support the government's efforts in providing shelter for the victims who lost their homes in the landslide."

Shirima, who represented the company CEO, Fatma Mohamed Abdallah, stated that Puma energy has also been adversely affected by the floods, as their Katesh station suffered severe damage.

"As a resident of Katesh, the company deemed it fitting to contribute to the community in this time of need," he added.

The mudslide disaster occurred on December 3, this year, leaving over 70 people dead and more than 300 households displaced as mudslide swept through Katesh Township in Hanang District in Manyara Region.

The torrential rain is also reported to have caused a slice of Mount Hanang to collapse, with the raging mud covering homes and anything that stood in its way.

Puma is a leading energy and oil company in Tanzania, operating 78 fuel stations nationwide and providing aviation fuel services at 8 airports. The company serves major strategic customers, including mines, government projects and public institutions.

The company is a 50-50 joint venture between the government, represented by the Treasury Registrar, and the Puma Energy Group.



Pineapples petty trader hunts for would be customers in a filthy environment at Bunju B in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# Relief as Dabaro villagers in Chamwino get reliable water

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

RESIDENTS of Dabaro village in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region may soon have a reason to smile after the government launched clean and water supply in the area, thanks to a project being implemented by Plasco Limited, a Tanzania leading thermoplastic pipe manufacturer.

The company is implementing the 907m/- project in collaboration with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA) which upon completion will see about 8,134 area residents having frequent access to clean and safe water.

The launching event was officiated by the Minister for Water Jumaa

Aweso and attended by area residents, the ruling party members, government officials from Chamwino District and Member of Parliament Deogratius Ndejemi.

According to Aweso, Dabalo Water Supply Project is among the different water projects being implemented in Chamwino District by RUWASA regional authorities and that it was being supervised by RUWASA at the district level.

According to the minister, the project was being implemented through financing from the National Water Fund (NWF) and that the contract period was six months. The project implementation kicked off on 2nd February, 2022 and was

expected to be completed on 30th July, 2022.

The major aim of the project according to the minister was to bring water services closer to people in order to help them engage in other development activities instead of spending much of their time in searching for the precious liquid.

RUWASA has been at the forefront of creativity and this is the first ever unique project in Tanzania to use Wehoite Tank technology from the local company---Plasco Limited.

This tank according to the company's acting chief executive officer, Ali Gulamhussein has the capacity to produce 150,000 litres of water and that the process to put up

the Wehoite Tank in Dabalo village took only two weeks.

"We borrowed the technology from Finland in 2018 after learning that it was very successful, and the company decided to bring this unique technology to Tanzania," stated Gulamhussein.

At the event the area Member of Parliament advised residents to protect the water infrastructure and avoid vandalizing them so that they can stay for many years for their benefits.

Ndejemi thanked the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for supplying different social services including water in his constituency.



Hanang District Commissioner in Manyara Region Janeth Mayanja (2nd R) receives part of 600 of cement bags from Puma Energy Tanzania public relations manager Godluck Shirima (3rd L) for Katesh mudslide victims on Wednesday. Others are marketing manager Lilian Kanora (R) and human resources manager Joseph Jaruma (2nd L). Right is Hanang Council supplies officer Methew Giramisi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Sagini lauds LATRA and traffic police for providing safe driving education to drivers

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

HOME Affairs deputy minister Jumanne Sagini has commended the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) and the traffic police division for providing safe driving education to drivers during the festive season.

Sagini made the sentiments when he held talks with the Traffic Division Commander, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SACP), Ramadhan Ng'anzi, where he commended his team for coming up

with the idea.

He said the idea has helped to reduce accidents which has been the norm during the period in the past years saying a huge number of people have lost lives and got injuries which has been a burden to families.

"Certainly, Commander Ng'anzi and your team have done a good job with the responsibility given to you for the enforcement of road safety laws. I am personally satisfied with the way the traffic team and LATRA are collaborating during this period," he

said.

The deputy minister said he has seen how they put emphasis on providing education and taking action to those going against road safety laws" he said.

He added, "I am also happy to see you involving regional road safety committees and other road safety stakeholders in this exercise."

Commander Ng'anzi said the campaign will involve all road users including Bajaj and bodaboda drivers who break road safety laws.

He explained that in addition to

providing education, they have been testing alcohol among drivers before starting the journey, so that they do not cause accidents due to alcohol.

Inspecting bajaj and bodabodas in Morogoro on Tuesday Ng'anzi said that they have seized the transport modes for various offences, including bodaboda overloading.

"I direct the drivers of these vehicles to follow the rules, procedures and regulations of the road, to avoid being arrested," said Ng'anzi.

He also asked the heads of road safety committees in all regions to enforce the law so that bodaboda drivers do not carry more than one passenger and that if seen they should be arrested.

## Embrace modern agronomic practices for more yields, Njombe farmers told

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

FARMERS in Makambako Township in Njombe Region have been urged to embrace modern agriculture practices to maximise their yields.

The call was made by the district agriculture officer for Makambako Beatrice Tarimo when addressing beneficiaries of a programme by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) who were handed avocado nursery seeds at Kitisi ward office.

"The government has introduced subsidies to the agriculture sector, we believe that this will be the game changer in the sector that employs the majority," she said.

She said weather forecasts have shown that there will be more rains this year adding that it was the duty of the experts to inform farmers the kind of seeds to plant which are resistant to effects such as rainfall.

"I ask you to take care of these seedlings especially during this rainy season because if you don't take care of them by applying pesticides, they will be destroyed by insects," said Tarimo.

The Community Development Officer who is also the facilitator of (TASAF) Makambako town Council Hassan Abdallah asked the beneficiaries to make good use of the money they get and take care of the seedlings to increase their income.

"We provide education and remind them of the correct use of these funds and we teach them and direct them to the development projects because the programme may exist today and be suspended the other day, so it is necessary to have something to generate income," said Abdallah.

Some of the beneficiaries of the fund, Kulwa Gadau, Omari Sanga and Jane Njogolo said they will make sure they take care of the seedlings explaining that the challenge for some of them is lack of reliable water as their land is infested with ants.

"We will do our best to take care of the crops, the biggest challenge in avocado farming is insects, but also they can't be mixed with other crops like corn because they have pests that go directly to attack avocados," said Njogolo.



**We provide education and remind them of the correct use of these funds and we teach them and direct them to the development projects because the programme may exist today and be suspended the other day, so it is necessary to have something to generate income**

## Be close to your child, PS tells parents and guardians

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Social Development, Elders, Gender and Children, Abeda Rashid Abdalla has called upon parents to be close to their children to protect them from various forms of abuse.

He made the call on Wednesday at the opening of a capacity building seminar for members of the Banaty group held in Michenzani Unguja.

"Parents and guardians are responsible for protecting their children especially when they are in adolescent stage. It is important for parents to sit with their children and talk to them on issues related to child-upbringing," said Abdalla.

She said reports from the office of the chief statistician of the government-Zanzibar shows that 199 incidents of child abuse were reported in October this year. She said that, of the number, 78.9 percent were children and 16.2 percent women.

The PS insisted that parents should not get tired of talking to their children since it is their responsibility.

She however called upon participants of the seminar to properly use the gained entrepreneurship skills to improve their businesses. She said the government in Zanzibar has been issuing loans to small scale entrepreneurs for purposes of empowering them economically.

"Poverty contributes into presence of child abuse in our society; when families have a good income, they can take care of children," she said.

Health Specialist from Mnazi Mmoja Hospital-Zanzibar, Dr Ummulkulthum Omar said she has been receiving cases where young boys have been sexually abused.

Earlier, the training coordinator, Raya Hamadi Mchele said they organized the seminar to train women entrepreneurship skills and health issues.

Mchele said the Banaty group was established in 2020 for purposes of supporting each other socially and economically. She said members have so far saved 20m/- from their contributions.



**Poverty contributes into presence of child abuse in our society; when families have a good income, they can take care of children**

## VACANCY



### ABOUT GEITA GOLD MINING LTD

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of Northwestern Tanzania, only about 120km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's Southeast of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

<b>Position</b>	: <b>Managing Director</b>
<b>Contract type &amp; Duration</b>	: <b>Fixed Term Contract (Two years renewable)</b>
<b>Reporting to</b>	: <b>Senior Vice President: Africa Business Unit</b>
<b>Number of Positions</b>	: <b>One (1)</b>

### PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

AngloGold Ashanti's vision is to be the leading mining company. We will achieve this vision by creating a sustainable business in line with AGA strategy for our shareholders and business partners without compromising our values.

The Managing director of Geita is accountable to the SVP: Africa Business Unit (ABU) for the delivery of the targeted gold production at the right production cost margin for Geita Mine. This will deliver the shareholder value that is required to grow Geita consistently over the next period. The management of available cash flow and capital for further investment is a key accountability. The incumbent will represent the company in Tanzania, working closely with the VP Sustainability to build government relations. The MD is accountable to prepare the board reports and to represent the company at all board meetings.

As AGA is globally going through active shareholder value analysis, the role is also to work with the ABU Team to build various hypotheses and in conjunction with the Project 500 team, analyse and identify the best opportunities for cost optimisation. A key accountability will be to build the management's team competence and capability to achieve a critical turnaround for Geita, driving costs down and production output up, improves and stabilizes Geita's profitability. This must be achieved by using consistent leadership processes and systems.

The role of Managing Director will be accountable for the analysis of risks and opportunities for improvement of technologies and methodologies for operations, as well as ensure the effective integration between operational activities and drive an annual management cycle, aligned to ABU, to ensure improved planning processes for all core operations departments in Geita.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Relevant Tertiary qualifications in a mining industry/ related discipline or equivalent experience.
- **GGML is an equal opportunity employer: Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.**

### EXPERIENCE:

- At least 3 years at General Manager (SIV) level and at least 10 years successful mining industry performance at senior management level (SIII) in the mining industry
- Experience / exposure in managing a complex external multi-stakeholder engagement (Government - national, regional, Municipal levels, Traditional Leadership at all levels, Regulatory Agencies and Authorities, Civil Society Organizations, media, etc.)
- 3 - 5 years relevant practical experience, or extensive in, and knowledge of, stakeholder engagement practices especially in the mining industry
- Extensive knowledge and experience in using GIS application software and GPS devices
- Proven practical experience ASM Management, resettlement, and compensations.

### MAIN OR KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

#### Safety

- Demonstrate behavior that is consistent with the AGA Safety Vision and Values
- Accountable for the zero incident and accident requirements for Geita mine
- Ensure all functions adhere to and implementation AGA Safety Standards within ABU.
- Ensuring that health and safety guidelines are followed by all functions and that their Safety Programs are set up annually, measured and improved continuously, thus creating a safe environment where employees can work, and their families can live.
- Accountable for the quality of Geita's housekeeping in all areas.

#### Strategic Management of Geita

- Optimize Operational Effectiveness and Production Efficiencies in support of one-to-five-year Production Targets
- Ensure business surveys and measurement metrics are set in place to measure and monitor improving the environment as continuous improvement programs are rolled out over a 5-year period.
- Developing strategies for the Business Unit that will recognise changes in the country (i.e. political, social, legal, and commercial) in order to maintain and sustain a particular part of the operational competitiveness;
- Developing the LOM plan options with the support of cross-functional resources that are made available in assuring a reliable and achievable production plan, thus positioning the mine for stability in current operations and growth potential for the future.
- Integrating the work of all production units and support functions such that targets are achieved in manner that optimizes the assets and consistent with the plan.
- Continuously improving the business, safeguarding the assets, and implementing new approaches that result in best practices among the peer group within the industry.

#### Sustainability, Stakeholder Engagement & Communication:

- Working closely in a collateral relationship with the VP Sustainability, agree on the External Communication and Stakeholders Engagement Models of the company in Tanzania. Sustainability is accountable for the development of these and various other environmental and community programs outside the mining fence.
- Provide support to the VP Sustainability as and when required in support of relevant Environmental and Community Development Programs.
- Engaging internal & external stakeholders on business related matters working within Corporate and Regional stakeholder engagement & communication standards, guidelines, and strategies.
- Taking the necessary actions to comply with and protect the environment consistent with legislation and company values and policies.
- Establishing a sound Health, Environment and Safety track record on the mine and within the community with a pro-active approach to action in line with the greater AGA strategy and direction.

- Ensure all measures are taken to secure and maintain the licences to operate within the timeframes required by legislation in all jurisdictions in which Geita has current and future interests.
- Engaging internal and external stakeholders to ensure all matters pertaining to Operations, working in a cross functional manner with all relevant Unit Managers in Geita, as well as Project 500 and ABU support teams.
- Deal with internal and external stakeholders, contractors and specialists to ensure the latest global and regional benchmarks are taken into consideration, enabling Geita to operate "ahead of the curve" in terms of standards and procedures.

#### Risk Management

- Accountable for the identification and management of operational risks and issues on the plant, as per the global and the local OHSE Legislative frameworks.
- Identifying and prioritizing all operational risks and liabilities and monitor the implementation and effectiveness of risk and liability mitigation action plans.

#### Planning & Budget:

- Ensure the development of an improved department budget planning system or framework, in conjunction with Finance, in order to demonstrate efficiency and effectiveness in achieving business performance objectives.
- Analyse monthly variance reports from all departments, identifying potential areas for improvement, low hanging fruit in optimisation of cost and operations.
- Understand where cost savings will come from and identify opportunities for changes to the way the company plans to achieve its promised objectives.
- Analyse business performance and profitability margin cost drivers and endeavour to always improve the margin, analysing environmental aspects' impact on the ability of the company to produce more at higher margin.

#### Reporting, Monitoring & Evaluation,

- Provide direct output to the SVP in ensuring that all BU monthly and quarterly board reporting is aligned with standards, guidelines, and schedules.
- Monitor and evaluate BU reporting for executive decision-making and internal/external information sharing.
- Monitor and evaluate relevant pieces of work, delivering an analysis thereof to the SVP, as and when required.
- Preparation of ABU reports to the Operations division, pertaining to trends and improvement of capital projects, leadership systems, processes, systems, frameworks, and the implications thereof.
- Preparation of reports to Project 500 pertaining to identified opportunities for optimization.

#### People

- Design and implement a consistent Tanzania People Planning process, designing work aligned to ABU annual calendars (Strategic Options, Budgets, etc.).
- Ensure a competent and capable team of Organizational Effectiveness Specialists Support Line Managers to achieve annual leadership systems and process deadlines and objectives, training new managers and existing managers to new ways of behavior and work management.
- Increase the organizational effectiveness of the Tanzania business, by ensuring all Line Managers are trained in the organizational design model and that it is used in the daily improvement of who should be making what decisions, building their capability to make more effective decisions, taking the right aspects of the environment and other departments into account, executing work at the right level of work, ensuring processes and procedures that allows for follow-through to completion.
- Through the implementation of BPF, teach and enable all line managers to achieve the operational results safely and within time and quality parameters.
- Ensure competent resources at the right level are recruited and people are continuously developed, to provide best practices in achieving production targets at required quality and cost per ounces, over a longer period of time.
- Ensure the right people in the right role to ensure a new and improved future state of operational excellence.
- Ensure a culture of performance excellence and the setting of operational standards are achieved.
- Create and maintain a participative decision-making culture, giving specific attention to Employee Value Propositions, making it an Employer of Choice in Tanzania and across the AGA Corporation.

#### Contractor Management

- Develop Contracting Models to ensure the right parts of the work is outsourced, or that that correct Contractors are considered by Heads of Departments, when they need to make their choices.
- Ensure a culture of Contractor Management exists where Managers do not delegate the control of contractors to their staff and that Contractors must report formally, monthly, against their cost and promised service delivery.

#### MODE OF APPLICATION:

- Please apply through our recruitment portal by following the link below. Please click the link or type the URL address on a website browser to access the application portal.
- On the portal you will be required to upload your detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names, and addresses of three referees. Please do not attach certificates that are not related to the qualifications stated above.
- You will also be required to upload a cover / application letter addressed to "Senior Manager Human Resources", Geita Gold Mining Ltd". Subject should be "Managing Director."

#### Application Link: [www.anglogoldashanti.com/company/careers](http://www.anglogoldashanti.com/company/careers)

- If you struggle to apply via the link provided, please head over to our website <https://www.geitamining.com/en/people/> for a step-by-step guide on how to apply for jobs on our recruitment portal (SuccessFactors).
- You will be required to present original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
- Internal Applicants (those currently employed by AngloGold Ashanti) must have their application letter endorsed by their Head of Department (HOD) or Manager once Removed (MoR).

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

- Applications should reach the above on or before 12th January 2024 at 5:30 PM.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

**Beware of Commen! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing [speakupAGA@ethics-line.com](mailto:speakupAGA@ethics-line.com) or use the internet at [www.tip-offs.com](http://www.tip-offs.com)**

# Feminists to benefit from TGNP training

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THIRTY feminists are set to benefit from the training on the importance of herstory conducted by the Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP).

Herstory - is history that emphasises the role of women, or that is told from a woman's (or from a feminist) point of view.

Edson Nyingi, TGNP consultancy adviser working with said that on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam at the herstory document training that it was part of continuation of the training to build capacity of feminists.

The consultancy adviser said that the training involved political leaders, activists and drivers from Shinyanga, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Mbeya and Dar es Salaam regions.

He said that the aim of the training was to train them on how and the importance of documenting their works that can be used as reference for future generations.

The history has shown that most people contribute a lot to their country's development but their stories are not documented for the future generation.

He said that during the 1970s and 1980s, second-wave feminists saw the study of history as a male-dominated intellectual enterprise and presented "herstory" as a means of compensation.

Nyingi said that in the uplifting and inspiring book, children can learn about 50 intrepid women from around the world and throughout history.

Furthermore, telling the stories of their childhood, the challenges they faced and the changes they made, each gorgeously illustrated spread is a celebration of girl power in its many forms.

"It is now time for our people to start considering shifting from storytelling to story writing for the future generations," he said.

"Without documenting herstory,

it is not easy for the community to know the impact made through their contributions," he insisted.

Haika Manase from Tusonge Community Development Organisation (TCDO) in Kilimanjaro region thanked TGNP for the training noting that it will help to document their herstory.

She said that training will be helpful to them to start documenting their herstory that will be a reference point to the generations.

Kibena Nassoro, Ngerengere ward councillor in Morogoro region said that the training will help her to start documenting herstory.

"I had once dreamt to write my herstory but through this training I'm getting ready to start documenting it to show my impactful contribution to society," she said.

Abdulahman Mfuru, one of the beneficiaries described the training as an eye-opener and he gained skills and knowledge on the importance of history giving importance to their experience and activities.



**I had once dreamt to write my herstory but through this training I'm getting ready to start documenting it to show my impactful contribution to society**



Babati District Commissioner in Manyara Region Lazaro Twange speaks with Sangara villagers at Riroda ward about the need for environmental conservation on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

# 60 people rendered homeless, 12 houses damaged in Tabora

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TWELVE houses have been destroyed and 60 persons rendered homeless following heavy rains at Kombamasai Street, Malolo ward in Tabora Municipality on Wednesday morning.

The heavy rain, which was accompanied by strong winds, pulled down roofs and walls of houses.

Reports have it that more than

150 houses were submerged in the floodwaters giving difficult times for people in the affected area.

Tabora District Commissioner Luis Bura said that 12 houses have been damaged, while 150 were under water.

He said that no death reported in the affected area, urging road experts from Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) or elsewhere to put more efforts to repair the

infrastructure of ditches blocked by dirt following the heavy rains.

He urged residents particularly those living in hilly areas to provide shelter to the victims as they wait for the floodwater subside outside their homes.

Kombomasai Street chairman Doto Rajab said that some of the people's property that had been destroyed included mattresses, food and various domestic items including electrical

appliances.

He said that rains halted economic activities in the municipality, blaming absence of better sewage system as a cause for rainwater to go into people's residences.

The chairman encouraged residents to build water proof ditches to divert rainwater that is always happening in different places but their efforts this time have hit the wall due to the heavy rains.

# Form SACCOS to get out of poverty traps, CCM women wing challenged

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

THE ruling CCM women wing (UWT) in Mbeya Region has been urged to form Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) to liberate themselves from poverty traps.

Patrick Mwalunenge, party's regional chairman gave the advice on Wednesday here when was speaking at an event to congratulate party women for being good entrepreneurs and raising the family's economy. The well attended event was organised by the Special Seats MP who is also the deputy Minister for Water, Maryprisca Mahundi.

Mwalunenge said that women in the region have great contribution to the development of their families and the country at large due to the economic activities they do. "But, in order for the economy of you women to be sustainable, it is important that you form SACCOS that will help you lend to each other and get rid of the loans that have been hurting you."

"I congratulate MP Maryprisca (pictured) for having the idea of uplifting women economically, but in order to move forward, it is better if

you help them to establish SACCOS, which will be a great basis for them to get loans and run their activities," said Mwalunenge.

According to Mwalunenge, he'll support those women by urging other Members of Parliament in the region to follow the example of MP Maryprisca to make sure they uplift their people economically.

One of the beneficiaries, Kissa Fungo, who is engaged in tailoring activities, said that after being empowered with a capital of 50,000/-, he had another business of selling juice where he had so far had a capital of 1.5m/-.

Maryprisca Mahundi said one of the agendas within UWT is to ensure that women have a good economy, urging women to engage in economic activities instead of relying only on their husbands to uplift their families.

Kyela District Commissioner, Josephine Manase invited local and foreign investors to invest in the district in various sectors.

Manase said there are many opportunities for investments including agriculture, fishing and hotels on the shores of Lake Nyasa.



**But, in order for the economy of you women to be sustainable, it is important that you form SACCOS that will help you lend to each other and get rid of the loans that have been hurting you**



A caterpillar removes mud and debris after heavy rainfall in Matombo division, Morogoro Region yesterday. Passengers' vehicles plying Msamvu-Kisaki were stuck in mud for almost an hour. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

# 'Tobacco farmers in Tabora to harvest 43,000 tonnes in this farming season'

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TOBACCO farmers in Tabora Region are expected to produce 43,000 tonnes in the 2023/2024 farming season.

Samweli Jokeya, manager of the western zone tobacco growers Co-operative Union (WETCU 2018 Ltd) unveiled this on Tuesday when speaking at the union meeting here.

Jokeya mentioned that the estimates are based on farmers who come from grassroots associations with 253 members.

He named the parties that will produce estimates for the 2023/2023 farming season, which are from 42 to 54 million kg, as coming from the districts of Tabora, Uyui, Nzega and Sikonge.

Speaking about inputs, Jokeya said

that so far 80 percent of farmers have received fertiliser for tobacco production for the next season.

In addition, he mentioned the increase in rains that continue to fall in abundance as one of the challenges facing agriculture while affecting the issue of applying fertiliser in the field.

"As the main cooperative association in the western region, we have continued to provide education to our

members and insist that farmers focus on the cultivation of food crops in order to meet their needs when they are harvesting tobacco and alternative crops as we have educated them and instructed them" said Jokeya

He also appealed to the farmers to cultivate alternative crops other than tobacco in order to be sure of food as well as business and to stop relying on that crop for all percentages.



Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute workers feed giraffe when they visited the Serval Wildlife zoo situated in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region on Thursday. JKCI experts were at Siha District hospital to conduct cardiac tests and treatment. Photo: JKCI

## Tanzania, Russia coffee, cashew nut stakeholders set to double production

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Russia have agreed to double production of cashew nuts and coffee in order to benefit from the exportation of the two products.

In a statement, Russian Embassy in Tanzania said that the agreement was a result of a joint meeting between the Tanzania cashew nuts and coffee stakeholders and their counterpart from Russia that was held at Russian Cultural Centre in Dar es Salaam.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss how the two parties could cooperate and benefit from the cashew and coffee exportation.

Among the participants in the meeting were from Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Coffee and Cashew Board, Private Sector and Russia was represented by the largest Russian confectionery holding, "United confectioners."

It further said that the visit of the delegation of the "United confectioners" to Tanzania was a follow-up to the round-table virtual meetings between Russian and Tanzanian private entities that was organized as an initiative of the Russian Embassy with assistance of the Tanzanian Coffee Board and

Cashew Board.

As Tanzania lacks cashew processing facilities and 95 percent of domestically produced cashew nuts are exported as raw materials, the destinations for its cashew nuts exports are mainly India and Vietnam with their developed cashew processing industry.

"Nonetheless, in 2022 Tanzania started exporting domestically processed cashew nuts to the United States, Russia Federation in this regard is seen as yet another prosperous destination for cashew export," the statement reads in part.

"The Russian business delegation acknowledged the effort made by both governments and business personnel to discuss coffee and cashew trade activities cross-cutting the two countries," it added.

Russian Ambassador to Tanzania, Andrey Avetisyan said the on-going building trade ties between the two countries is a direct continuation of the Second Russia-Africa Summit held late July in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The two-day Summit was attended by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and a large group of Tanzanian businessmen.

He said among the areas the government identified key potential areas that investors could invest

in, which included the sector of agriculture, especially fertiliser.

"To build on success in this direction the Russian Embassy together with the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority is organizing a round-table virtual meeting between the Tanzanian and Russian fertilizer trade companies," he said.

According to the envoy, the virtual meeting is scheduled to take place on February 15, next year.

Tanzania has about total coffee area of 220,000 hectares for both Arabica and Robusta with an average production of about 66,000 metric tonnes. Coffee contributes about 24 percent to agricultural gross domestic product (GDP).

For 2022/23 season coffee earned about \$ 242.27 million (equivalent to 606,671,698,780/-).

Currently, the average productivity for Arabica stands at 0.25 Kgs/tree and 0.35 Kgs/tree for Robusta.

As for the cashew nuts, it is the most exported cash crop in Tanzania. The Government aims to triple cashew nuts production over the next four to five years.

In the agricultural year 2022/23, Tanzania exported 225 thousand metric tons of cashew nuts valued at over \$200 million.

## Minister calls on uplifting blue economy

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTER for Blue Economy Suleiman Masoud Makame has urged women in the Isles to grab opportunities in the blue economy including seaweed cultivation to transform their lives.

He made the call yesterday during a press conference on the successes that the ministry achieved during the

three years of Dr Hussein Mwinyi's presidency and the anniversary to mark 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution.

He said the ministry has set aside 36bn/- to enable and allow people to enter into sea farming including construction of 100 ponds for block fish farming.

The minister said that in three years a total of 100 dams have been

built for the breeding of marine products including sea cucumbers as well as fish and crabs.

Makame said a total of 1.7bn/- has been used for the construction of the dams as part of the strategy to empower citizens including entrepreneurs in the farming of marine products able to generate 1,800 direct jobs.



## To Our Esteemed Customers - Dar es Salaam office closure

**Effective December 31, 2023, Tanga Cement PLC offices in Dar Es Salaam, Coco Plaza will be closed. Operations at the Headquarters, Pongwe factory remain unchanged. For your convenience, please direct all inquiries and communication to;**

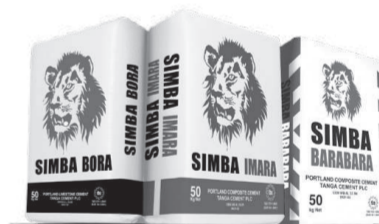
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## Ivory Coast will deliver 50 million liters of fuel monthly to Guinea

ABIDJAN

IVORY Coast will deliver 50 million liters of fuel per month to Guinea, following the explosion and fire at the country's main fuel depot, Ivorian national television announced Wednesday evening.

"Côte d'Ivoire is committed to delivering 50 million liters of gasoline per month to Guinea," said a journalist from Radiotélévision Ivoirienne (RTI), without specifying the duration of this aid.

"The practical terms of the contract and the security of the convoys will be signed this Thursday," said another journalist from the channel, specifying that Guinea had a monthly need of 70 million liters of gasoline.

The Guinean Minister of the Economy, Moussa Cissé, met on Wednesday in Abidjan with the Ivorian Minister of Mines, Oil and Energy, Mamadou Sangafou Coulibaly.

Saturday, five days after the explosion and fire in Conakry of the country's main fuel depot which left 24 dead and 454 injured, according to a new report, the Guinean government announced the resumption of gasoline distribution, in rationing it.

Twenty-five liters per vehicle and five liters per motorcycle and tricycle were authorized, with the use of cans prohibited.

The population was deprived of gasoline throughout the territory since the explosion and fire, leading to the paralysis of a large part of the economy.

Demonstrations in several localities last week sometimes turned into clashes between groups of young people demanding the return of gasoline to service stations and the security forces.

Furthermore, the Guinean government announced Wednesday that the fire at the fuel depot was "completely extinguished", in a press release sent to AFP.

In total, more than 11,000 people were directly affected by the fire.

FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER 2023

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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## Training women on climate resilience can reduce unpredictable food supply

UKEREW E - BASED organisation is training over 2000 women, including young girls on what to do in the face of climate change, so that homes can be more resilient in working on the land along with immediate surroundings. While this kind of initiative may not be the formula that was missing in the latest global conference on the issue, it is in line with proposals discussed on what can be done to alleviate the situation, for instance in relation to issues of shifting to clean cooking energy. Yet the idea of spanning out methods or agro-sector techniques usable for the majority of women and likely to uplift their ability to face the climate change crisis is a relief.

Reports from the area talk of an effort to provide training to 250 women and girls in three wards, assisted by Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT) to eventually reach 2000 women and girls. Officials said that WFTT provided 20m/- for the project, starting July 2023 to August 2024, where women and girls also plant trees in different areas in the island. Advocacy is being conducted with councilors and the district authorities, with a range of bylaws that need to be altered to uplift efforts to stem effects of climate change. The women will be put to training on effects of cutting down trees for charcoal and firewood, avoiding farming near water sources.

While it is helpful that women are set to participate in different workshops, share experiences with other participants and learn about climate and its impacts, one wishes to see an actual change element. Women will be avoiding to plant crops on the edge of water sources, but they need to have elementary pumps to harvest water, for instance locating plastic tanks in neighbourhoods, obtaining pumps to fill tanks, then have wheelbarrows to water plants, especially rapidly

maturing vegetables. Asking people not to farm near water sources is not good enough as the message has been there for decades; if they can draw the water they won't have to do that as they will have the moisture they are seeking, if they have the right tools at the moment.

One can see that the big talk during the gender festival where large numbers of women joined hands with activists to deliberate on collective actions doesn't have to focus on formulating new policies or legal frameworks. Anything that is beneficial to the population simply needs friendly advice and the means to do things differently, and from the glimpses one gets from the Ukerewe project, there seems to be more of education on good environmental practices than resilience - which means farming under all climatic conditions. Project designers need to work on such gaps so that there is an actual resonance with project purposes, to actually share knowledge about proper use of water by protecting trees and avoiding river banks. Placing a buzzing pump and later fit solar panels and a well enclosed pump would change a lot of things, ushering resilience.

Perhaps one aspect of the problem is that the project has been designed by activists rather than agro-sector extension personnel working with activists on the issue. The latter have a role to enable women to enable women to do things differently, not just understand the need to protect water sources and then they have no water, and if they break the rules activists start another education campaign. It will not work, but if the right tools are there, changing habits will not be a big problem, as often the issue isn't exposure to water source defending but poverty. In addition, the clearer a proposal will be on what to change on the farm, the easier it is financed especially by international stakeholders. It is hence time to alter the seminars culture for results.

## Low quality products flood the market, sidestepping regulators

AN alert has been raised by the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) that an increasing number of dealers are distributing low-quality seeds, vowing to take such traders to court. Periodic inspections at dealers' and agents' stores are conducted to make sure farmers get quality certified seeds but as experience shows, functioning markets need to be part of that equation as regulators can also trade on loopholes for fast cash. Experience with distribution of subsidized fertiliser showed how coy products are placed in store as fertiliser is smuggled out.

For the regulator to call upon seed dealers and agents to adhere to the set regulations and seed standards is one thing, and the capacity of buyers to differentiate between them is another aspect. One problem is protectionism where a local seed producer or a few of them, are given the monopoly of the local market, so foreign seeds will be taxed and thus come in as contraband or as ordinary produce like beans or maize, etc. They can be repackaged and sold as seeds, and it all depends on who is the producer, as certification can be imitated as with a spirits factory in Namanga that had all the revenue stamps and standards appendages, all of it cleverly crafted.

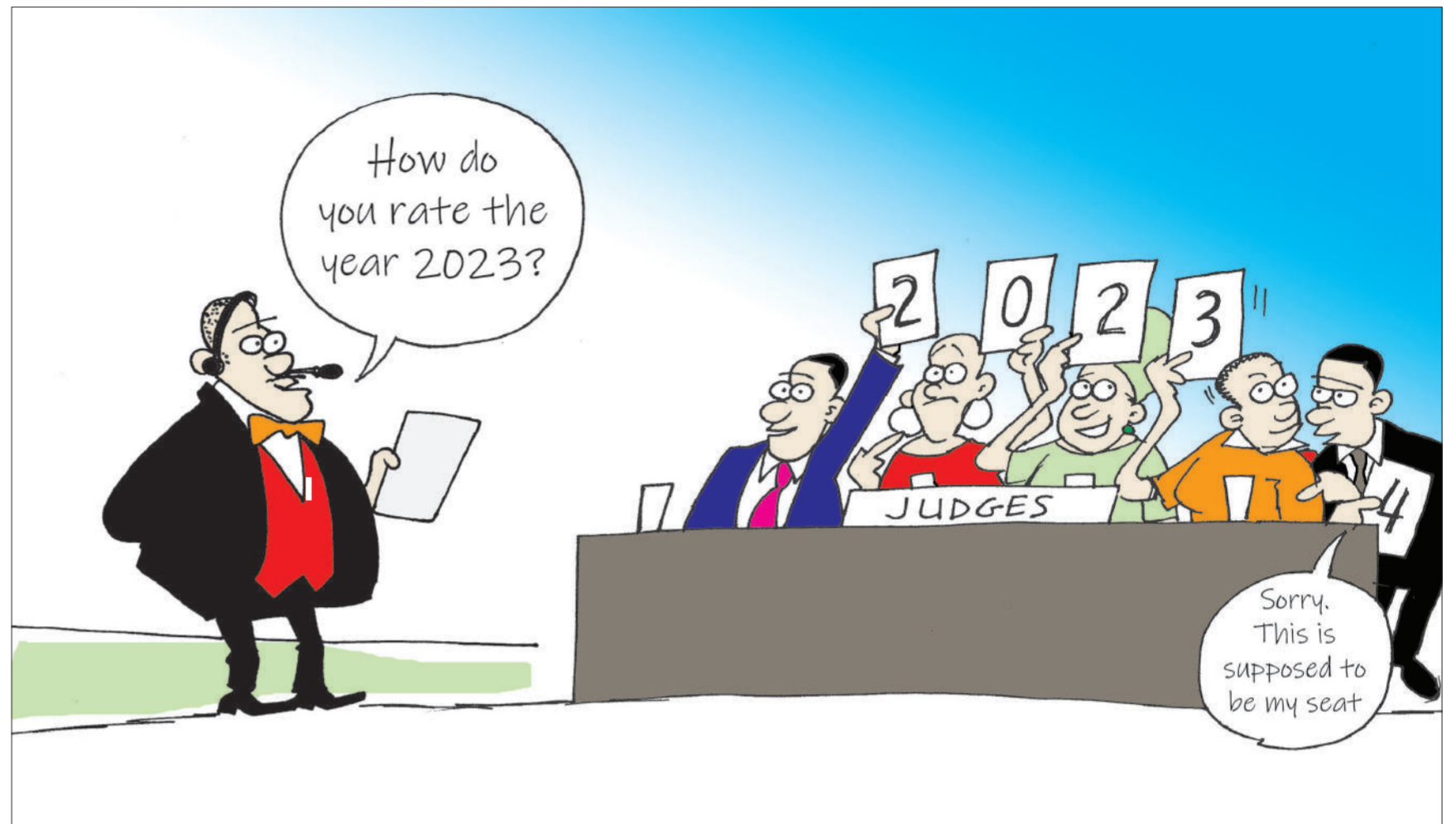
It is possible that ardent inspectors can find out about all these fake seeds and throw them out, but only if there are no efforts to protect local seeds which aren't different from the smuggled ones. In addition any deliberate protection is a situation where one decides to privilege a specific producer as a matter of policy; that same person can be induced by pecuniary considerations to create competition for the one who was favoured in a bureaucratic act. What the bureaucrat can't do is to decide which seeds will be purchased if the competition is free and farmers

see or tell one another which seeds are the best. There is a huge lobby against multinationals seeking to dominate local markets, putting indigenous seeds on the road to extinction, and thus be kept out.

One may for instance raise the question as to the difference between indigenous seeds and fake seeds, for the simple reason that fake seeds are likely to be indigenous seeds repackaged as certified seeds. And since there is no well-known brand, or two, that dominate the market, selling certified seeds becomes an uncertain business, and at times a free market of fake seeds, as most protected seeds aren't good enough if they need protection to survive. In other words the very existence of a certification body instead of a patent office is a problem as what it certifies is at best acceptable and not the best, easily because best brands have a tag, need no re-certification.

Asking seed agents and dealers to respect the set regulations by distributing quality seeds for increased productivity in the agriculture sector is one thing, and for farmers to actually find out which seeds they buy in open-markets are the best takes time. The clincher in the matter is thus whether they can tell which is which or just go for the pricing, a problem that arises from the lack of dominant brands, since local seeds, being altered each passing day, and smuggled seeds, all of them having no distinctive marks or recognised quality, mingle freely in the market.

Certification is valid for inspection but the farmer only notices the difference after using a type of seed, and if it was a situation where major brands are available, he would ditch imitators. In that case regulation and reliance on certification is an aspect of market inefficiency and it thus can't be its own cure. Farmers - and regulators - will simply have to live with the reality.



## WFP helps families in Somalia as floods hit food and drive hunger

By Petroc Wilton

AS climate change takes a heavy toll in the country, WFP and government authorities work to anticipate and mitigate the effects of weather extremes

"I was forced to move by the flash floods. In the middle of the night, water started to pour through the village," says Bashir Abdi. It's been one week since he, his wife and nine children fled to the Ifiti camp for displaced people, outside the town of Beletweyne in central Somalia.

"[But] the warning messages were good," he adds of assistance he received from the World Food Programme (WFP). "We were told everything: what to do, where to go, and to collect important household items. And the cash vouchers helped."

Abdi is one of 700,000 people driven from their homes by deadly floods sweeping southern and central Somalia, made worse by El Niño weather patterns. He and his family evacuated to the higher ground of Ifiti from nearby Wadi Shabelle, now a ghost town of empty tents mired in stagnant water and stinking mud.

The floods feel like a cruel joke, coming just months after the longest drought in Somalia's recorded history. The drought pushed the country to the brink of famine, barely averted through a massive humanitarian scale-up. Now torrential rains and rising waters, which have lashed much of East Africa, have robbed vulnerable communities of any chance to recover.

By Special Correspondent

THE rule of law is not and cannot be treated as a symbolic tissue and must be respected by all without exception. And on cardinal aspect of the law that is being treated disrespectfully is the Code of Conduct by many high placed government officials.

To be very frank and realistic, people found in the highest echelon in authority are reflective of being very entrenched in disobeying and violating the rule of law including their cronies with absolute impunity, which is very troubling; and despite all efforts to make Liberia a country of law, the more the planted at the helm of authority enforced it to be a country of men. Who others must admire them or living far above the rule of law with impunity, which is not fair for a democratic nation like ours

It is an open secret that fish indeed starts to rot from the head, and in the case where impunity-prone higher-ups do no care to respect the rule of law and are very quick to shift blame on other individuals in previous administrations for gross violation of the rule of law, then it is not only unfortunate, but then what relevance do they occupy in the governance system, when they expect only the common citizens to be the custodians of the rule of law, and must be punished if they act conversely, but they, the privileged few and the elite



Young boys walk through a flooded residential area in Belet Weyne, Somalia in 2018.

have lashed much of East Africa, have robbed vulnerable communities of any chance to recover.

But WFP and government authorities equipped Abdi and his family, along with many others, with the funds and knowledge to prepare for the floods before they hit. The family counts among tens of thousands of Somalis reached with our first anticipatory action programme against floods in Africa. The programme, to anticipate and mitigate the fallout of weather extremes, was recently launched in coordination with the Somali Disaster Management Agency.

"The most vulnerable people in Somalia have been hit once again by climate change," says Laura Turner, WFP Somalia Deputy Country Director. "We need to provide communities with the tools and knowledge to weather these extremes to break the crisis-driven cycle of hunger that has afflicted Somalia for

## Rule of law in Liberia not a 'symbolic tissue'

must always remain untouchable when they break the rule of law which also send a very bad and mixed-signals to the outside world and suppressed potential investors and their investments from coming to do business in a country where the rule of law is only set aside for the untouchable which they can trample underfoot at will with impunity.

The nation's record had vividly shown how the rule of law has been disregarded exclusively to suit the comfort and will of the elite and the untouchables. Example when the President George M. Weah in gross breach of the rule of law, unilaterally appointed, confirmed and commissioned and Liberia's current Ambassador accredited to the United States, although only the Senate, sanctioned by the Constitution to perform such task through its Committee on Foreign Affairs; despite being on their break, did not wait and went ahead and overstepped his authority; and amidst public outcry, the Ambassador who has already begun his official functions, having presented his credentials to US President Donald J. Trump, was recalled, and the entire process was corrected and redone.

Again, the tinted and unorthodox form and manner in which the US\$25 million mandated by the Chief Executive to be taken from the national coffers to be infused into the ailing

too long." As soon as rainfall forecasts passed key thresholds, WFP sent pre-emptive cash transfers to over 200,000 people in anticipated flood zones along the Juba and Shabelle rivers. The money enabled them to pay for their evacuation or buy vital supplies once they had moved.

WFP also used local radio, loudspeakers and cell phone voice messages to warn hundreds of thousands more people about the coming deluge and to guide them in their planning.

These initiatives can mean fewer people needing urgent humanitarian assistance when disaster does strike. For many of those in Ifiti, it has come just in time.

"I heard the radio messages, and I received US\$70...I bought rice, spaghetti and oil," says 80-year-old Madina Odawye, who moved to the camp with her three grandchildren just a few days

before Abdi. "It helped us. It came at the right time."

Today, Ifiti bustles with activity. Other flood evacuees are taking advantage of a brief lull in the rains to build temporary shelters from whatever they can find: tree branches, old fabric, corrugated iron. But, overhead, the sky is already darkening again. The rains are coming back and the waters are rising day by day.

A few days from now, much of Beletweyne town itself will be flooded. The roads are already full of families fleeing in trucks and donkey carts, piled high with furniture and often with children perched on top. The people in Ifiti can only hope their new homes will stay safely above water.

This devastating cycle of drought and flood is tragically recurrent in Somalia. Climate change is making things even worse - the seasonal droughts and floods are growing more extreme, driving some of the worst hunger levels in over a decade. Over 4 million people, a quarter of the population, face acute hunger by the end of 2023.

"This is the fourth time we suffered from floods, and the fourth time we came here," says Abdi. "But we were not expecting these kinds of flash floods...we were not aware that our valley would flood so quickly [this time]."

"The price of food is increasing, and there is less available," he adds. "And with these floods, everybody is frustrated. There are fewer opportunities to work."

Ironically, with the endorsement by President George M. Weah in collaboration with member states of ECOWAS regarding the membership suspension of Guinea from the latter (ECOWAS) following the Military Coup, many political observers viewed Weah's acceptance of that august body's authority as questionable and half-backed.

Also, the political observers who see Weah's endorsement of the ECOWAS inspired membership suspension, as double-standard on ECOWAS' authority also noted that in fact, it is the very leadership that disregarded the judgment of ECOWAS in the tinted impeachment fiasco of Associate Supreme Court Associate Justice, Cllr. Kabineh M. Ja'neh, portraying his move as a man who tells the villagers that he does not eat snake, but they should save the snake's eggs for him to eat.

Now, the rule of law is a solid bridge relied on and used by all and foreign nationals in our country and must be respected and that all must abide by it without cowering or caving it into scorn and public ridicule, because it is the sustainability of the rule of law by us, that defines the status of our credibility both at home and abroad. We must uphold it collectively with pride and total respect without second thought.



# An obituary of Professor Teddy Maliyamkono

**“Death, The undiscover’d country, from whose bourn No traveler returns,” William Shakespeare, Hamlet**

By Dr Azaveli Lwaitama

In the immediate aftermath of celebrations we have all had of Christmas and other religious rites during this end of the year holiday season of 2023, and especially if you happen to hail or related to person who hails from Kagera Region in north-western Tanzania, please spare a moment to read this obituary of Professor Teddy Maliyamkono. As a human being, he had his faults but he certainly left an indelible mark on the educational history of Tanzania in general and that of the Kagera Region in particular. He left us on Sunday the 15th of November, 2023, traveling to what William Shakespeare called “the undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveler returns.”

Please join me in mourning a great academic icon and in saying farewell to a sharp witted University of Dar es Salaam don who hailed from Bugabo ward in Bukoba Rural District in Kagera Region. The author of this obituary hails from a village, Bumai, near the village, Katare, which shaped the preschool worldview of this Professor who was, at least in Bugabo ward, a legend in his own lifetime. One aspect of scholarly life that distinguished him from many others of his kind was his unwillingness to shy away from thought-provoking controversy. Yes, he could be described as an establishment academic but one who was nevertheless a trailblazer. Professor Teddy Maliyamkono was a pioneer academic entrepreneur who knew how to raise funds as an accomplished bourgeois economist would; but he was also an academic who was good at independently crafting research projects that had an educational value to his country and continent. He certainly was no stooge of the establishment that he served so well!

He was truly a world class educational economist; albeit of a bourgeois kind who consciously kept at arm's length what some may characterize as left-leaning committed scholarship that was associated with the University of Dar es Salaam in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. All the same, Professor Teddy Maliyamkono contributed immensely in the production and distribution of knowledge that had a distinct and unique home-grown Tanzanian flavor.

The most significant research project he participated fully in crafting and that will for a long time symbolize his life and work on earth is the Eastern and Southern Africa Universities Research Project (ESAURP). He was its undisputed founding Managing Director. From the ESAURP office building that continues to dominate the Mlalakuwa neighborhood, close to Mlimami City, the Ardh University and the Nyerere Campus of the University of Dar es Salaam, Professor Teddy Maliyamkono led research endeavors that saw ESAURP take the lead in securing funding and implementing numerous research projects on several disciplinary subjects with an economics of education bent, though not exclusively. The early research and publications efforts of Professor Teddy Maliyamkono did indeed concentrate on topics of an economics of education orientation. One of the major publications that resulted from this pioneering research work on the economics of education, with specific reference to the impact of overseas training in Tanzania and the Eastern and Southern Africa region, in the earlier years of these countries' independence in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, was the book titled Higher Education and Development in Eastern Africa that Professor Teddy Maliyamkono co-authored with Professor Abel Ishumi, and Dr. S.J. Wells (London: Heinemann, 1982). The other major publication in this subject field was titled Training and Productivity in Eastern Africa (London: Heinemann, 1982) that Professor Teddy Maliyamkono co-authored with Dr. S.J. Wells, Dr. S.E. Migot-Adholla and Professor A. G.M. Ishumi.

Later on, Professor Teddy Maliyamkono's intellectual curiosity branched



The late Professor Teddy Maliyamkono

out to topics relating to the political economy of Tanzania after Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere's politically earthquake-making retirement from the Presidency in 1985 (see T.L. Maliyamkono, C.G. Kahama and S.J. Wells (Editors) The Challenge for Tanzania's Economy. London: James Currey, 1986). Furthermore, Professor Teddy Maliyamkono went further and guided critical inquiry, together with a number of academics from the University of Dar es Salaam and beyond, into the issue of the interface between taxation and economic development in Tanzania that resulted in the publication titled Why Pay Tax (Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishing Company, 2009) that Professor Teddy Maliyamkono co-edited with H. Mason, A. Ndunguru, N. E. Osoro and A. Ryder. Relatedly, Professor Teddy Maliyamkono then went on to engage in the long term study of what came to be known as the informal economy in Tanzania (see T. L. Maliyamkono Transforming the Informal Sector: How to overcome the Challenges. Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishing Company, 2012).

This intellectual curiosity in the political economy of the informal sector in Tanzania resulted in yet another one of Professor Teddy Maliyamkono's earliest research projects, also undertaken under the auspices of ESAURP, whose publication, The Second Economy in Tanzania (Nairobi: Heinemann Kenya & London: James Currey), co-authored with the late Professor Mboya S. D. Bagachwa, was his magnum opus.

Further down the line, Professor Teddy Maliyamkono was to nudge ESAURP into research that branched out further into political economy subjects such as multiparty democratic politics (see Who votes in Tanzania and Why? by T. L. Maliyamkono, Dar es Salaam: Tanzania Publishing House, 1995; and When Political Parties Clash by T. L. Maliyamkono, Fidelis Edge Kanyongolo Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishing Company, 2003); the political Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar (see The Political Plight of Zanzibar, edited by T. L. Maliyamkono, Dar es Salaam: Tema Publishers Company, 2000; and Muafaka : the Roots of Peace in Zanzibar. Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishers, 2004.), and what would constitute the best political Union structure for Tanzania.

On the Union issue, Professor Teddy

Maliyamkono argued, controversially, though in line with perhaps the original wishes of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, that a One Government Union structure will be ideal against the recommendation of the Presidential Commission on Constitutional Reform, otherwise known as the Judge Warioba Presidential Commission, that argued for a Three Government Union Structure. This position is presented in a book Professor Teddy Maliyamkono co-edited with Dr. H. Mason and Professor B. Rutinwa and published as A 100 Academics Search for Katiba Bora Tanzania (Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishers Company, 2014).

Professor Teddy Maliyamkono also did some interesting work in collaboration with other scholars from the University of Dar es Salaam and some overseas ones, on Tanzania's return to multiparty democracy and the various styles of presidential leadership that accompanied that return. Discussion on the Third Phase Presidency of William Benjamin Mkapa (1995-2005) and the guarded optimism that informed the beginning of this Third Phase Presidency is summarized in 2 of his books: The Race for the Presidency: The First Multiparty Democracy in Tanzania (Dar es Salaam: Tema Publishers Company, 1995) and Tanzania on the Move (Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishers Company, 1997).

Professor Teddy Maliyamkono did also research and publish works on the styles of leadership of subsequent Presidential Phases after that of William Benjamin Mkapa. Firstly, it was that of the Fourth Phase Presidency of Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (2005-2015) that was critically assessed in the book titled The Promise (Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishing Company, 2006) that Professor Teddy Maliyamkono co-edited with H. Mason. Secondly, it was the assessment of the Fifth Phase Presidency of John Pombe Magufuli (2015-2021) that is discussed in the book titled Viwanda : Moving Tanzania Forward that Professor Maliyamkono co-edited with Dr. H.L. Mason (Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishing Company, 2019). Thirdly and finally, just before his sad demise, it was an optimistic review of the Sixth Phase Presidency of Samia Suluhu Hassan (2021-todate) that is discussed in the book titled The Continuity with Vision: The Roadmap to Success for President Samia Suluhu

Hassan (Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishing Company, 2022) that Professor Teddy Maliyamkono co-edited with Dr. H.L. Mason and Dr. P. Dimoso.

Going back to the Fifth Phase Presidency of John Magufuli, Professor Teddy Maliyamkono did, earlier on in 2020, publish a book, co-edited with Dr. H.L. Mason that argued, controversially in my humble view, that the Government of President John Magufuli was a game changer. The book itself is titled The Game Changer: President Magufuli's First Term in Office (Dar es Salaam: TEMA Publishing Company, 2020).

By now you may be asking yourself who was this Professor Teddy Maliyamkono. Well, the good Professor was born as Thadeo Lutatina Maliyamkono, the son of two relatively small scale peasant farmers, Ta Maliyamkono, his father, and, Ma Elizabeth Tibahindurwa, the wife of Ta Maliyamkono. This was during the Second World War in March 1939, which was 17 years after the birth of the Founding Father of the Tanzania Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. Unlike Julius Nyerere, he was not a son of a so-called African native Chief who would have benefited from privileges accorded to children of such Chiefs who happened to be compliant to the British colonial order. Admittedly, he was one of those of whom it can correctly be stated that success in acquiring formal Western education was not in a linear progression of classroom based school events and whose outcome was uncertain, though when success was attained it literary lifted one from rags to riches.

The village where Professor Teddy Maliyamkono was born and raised was a farmers' village, the majority of whose residents are neither poor nor rich. The majority are subsistence farmers who grow bananas, cassava, potatoes and beans as well as perennially keep coffee trees as a cash crop that they sell raw to the district-based cooperative society to earn extra income with which to send their children to school. To send your child to school was seen as an investment in the future of the household and the child. In this regard, Professor Teddy Maliyamkono did not disappoint his parents.

He did very well at school, enrolling and completing lower primary education at Katare Primary School that was a walking distance from home in that very

village of his birth. He thereafter enrolled and completed, as a private candidate, upper primary and secondary education at various relevant schools in Bukoba Rural District before enrolling and successfully earning, at first, a Certificate in Education at Butimba, teaching for a short period at Kigarama Primary School in Kiziba (what is now called Misenyi District), and later on, earning a Diploma in Education at Changombe, in Dar es Salaam. Thereafter, he did some teaching at secondary school level at Bwiru in Mwanza and Malangali in Iringa and back to Bwiru in Mwanza.

Subsequently, having showed erudition at all educational establishments, he secured a Canadian Development Agency scholarship to go to Canada in 1968 where he enrolled and completed his Bachelors, Masters and PhD education in quick succession at University of Alberta. After his studies in Canada, and a brief postdoctoral attachment at Stanford University in the United States of America (USA) Professor he returned to Tanzania in 1975 where he worked at the University of Dar es Salaam, with fellow educationists such as Professor Abel Ishumi and Professor Geoffrey Mmari.

As observed earlier on, it was while he was teaching and doing research at the University of Dar es Salaam that he secured overseas funding for the launch of the Eastern and Southern Africa Universities Research Project that was to host most of his research endeavors. These are the research projects that resulted in the major publications discussed earlier on that established the academic legacy of Professor Teddy Maliyamkono.

Professor Teddy Maliyamkono is survived by seven children who, too, will keep his legacy alive in their own ways since they all seem to have imbibed the entrepreneurial spirit from their Professorial father. For as the American novelist and educator Claude Campbell has suggested in his famous poem:

**“To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die”.**

Professor Teddy Maliyamkono's oldest offspring is called Mutasingwa who is 60 years of age and an entrepreneur based in Zanzibar who holds an O-Level secondary school certificate. The next oldest is Mugisha who is 58 years old and has an Advanced Diploma in Computer Science and is an entrepreneur based in Kahama, in Shinyanga Region. The next oldest is Mujuni, who is 53 years of age and has a Doctorate degree in Occupational Epidemiology as well as being a registered Pharmacist in Tanzania, currently resides in Houston, Texas in the USA. Then next, there is Linda who is 47 years old and has Associate Degrees in Childhood Education and Graphic Arts. She currently resides in California, USA, working in the real estate business.

Next, there is Kimuli who is 41 years old and has high school education who resides in the Bahari Beach area in Dar es Salaam. He is engaged in entrepreneurship. Then there is John who is 37 years of age and has an Advance Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism who resides in the Mlalakuwa area in Dar es Salaam, not far from the ESAURP building and is engaged in entrepreneurship. Lastly, there is Kerage who is a 27 year old film maker, story teller and photographer. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Motion Picture Medium.

As I say farewell to my elder brother, one of those few highly educated people from the place of my birth in Bukoba Rural District, that is to say Bugabo Division, and more specifically Kishanje Ward, I recall Bishop Dr. Benson Bagonza, of the Karagwe Diocese of the Christian Lutheran Church of Tanzania stating that the passing on of Professor. Teddy Maliyamkono, who worked hard to establish a University in Bukoba that started well but did not receive adequate support to continue to exist, reminds us that we who hail from Kagera Region owe it to ourselves to remember him by revisiting and reviving Professor Teddy Maliyamkono's dream.

I am consoled by the fact that the University of Dar es Salaam is at an advanced stage of establishing a constituent college of the University of Dar es Salaam in Bukoba. When this plan is fully implemented, perhaps one way of honoring this great Professor from Bugabo is by calling the Bukoba Campus of the University of Dar es Salaam the Professor Maliyamkono Campus.

With a rich legacy like this; of research, publication, and outreach outputs that will continue to be discussed and academic-cum-political positions that will continue to raise controversy for years to come, and with seven children each one of whom is unique but equally enterprising, we all have to agree with the American novelist and educator Claude Campbell who wrote the poem that opines that:

**“To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die”.**

# African, Asian parliamentarians debate how people-centered policies aid development of women, youth

KIGALI

Asian and African parliamentarians have committed to accelerate the implementation of a people-centered development agenda as the African continent continues to face rapid demographic change with several challenges, such as youth unemployment and gender inequities.

During the African and Asian Parliamentarians' Dialogue towards ICPD30 and AADPDIO, which took place in October 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda, lawmakers shared measures their countries have undertaken by adopting new legislation seeking to provide opportunities for the youth while empowering women as a critical step for reaping the demographic dividend in Africa.

Official estimates show that young people between 18 years and 35 years of age make up more than 70 percent of the population in Africa, where women account for more than 50 percent of the continent's combined population.

According to Professor Kiyoko Ikegami, the Executive Director of the Japan-based Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), a basic condition for building global partnerships is to use legislation to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance for the people.

Whereas Africa is expected to account for more than 90 percent of the future increase in world population, Ikegami stresses the need to boldly implement those changes as well as respond to newly emerging needs in the population structure.

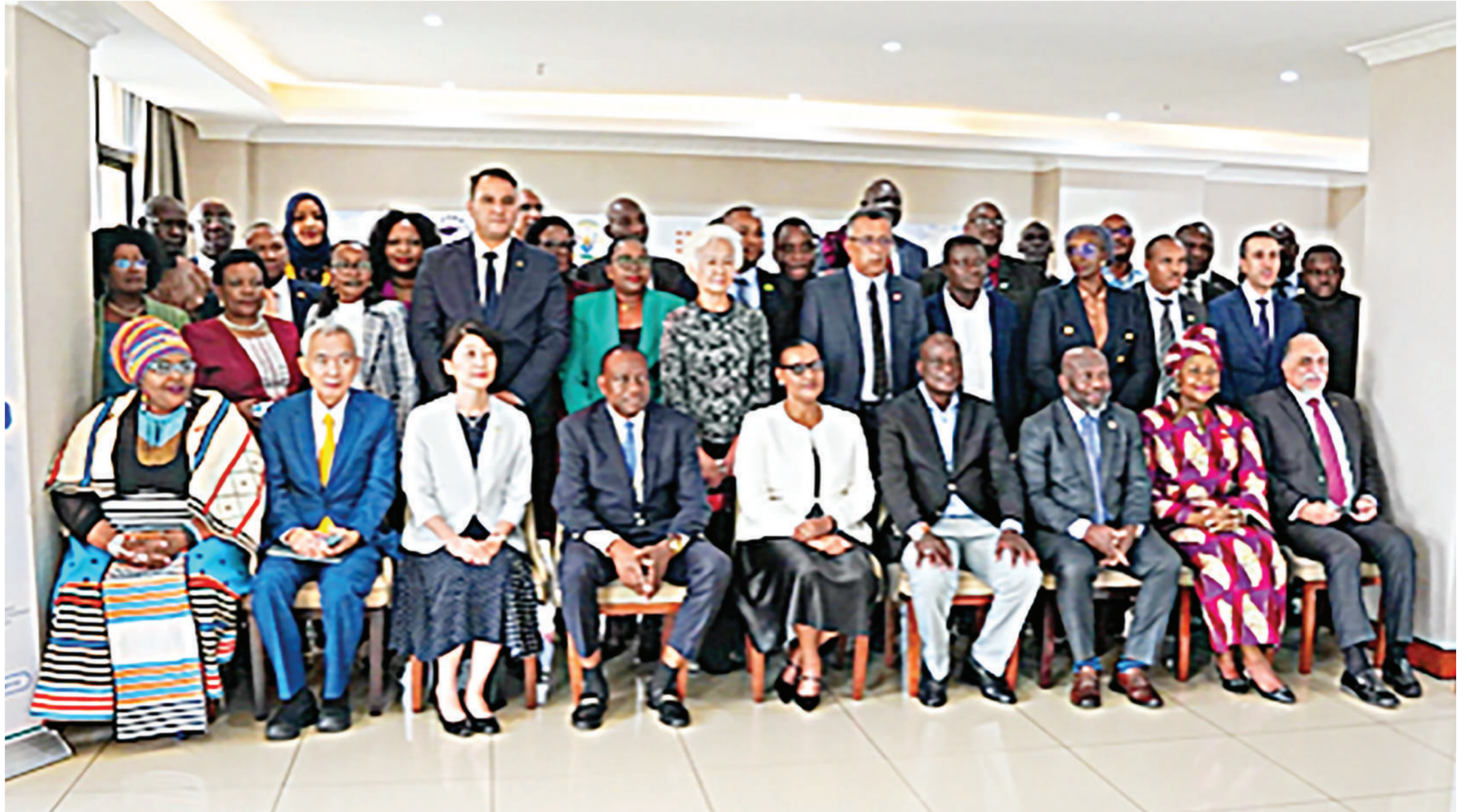
In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt, set a bold new vision of the relationships between population, development, and individual rights and well-being.

Its framework for action, endorsed then by 179 governments at the global level, affirmed that inclusive, sustainable development is not possible without prioritizing human rights, including reproductive rights; empowering women and girls; and addressing inequalities as well as the needs, aspirations, and rights of individuals.

As stakeholders are now set to celebrate the 30th anniversary of implementing ICPD resolutions, Ikegami emphasizes the need for African and Asian nations to consolidate views on how countries should specifically carry out parliamentary activities for the global review process.

"As the representative body of the people, lawmakers play a critical role in enacting policies that advance sustainable outcomes guiding to people-centered development progress," Ikegami told IPS.

Although nearly 30 years since the landmark conference in Cairo, people-centered development has enabled numerous gains in different parts of Africa; experts still believe that the long-term solution to the pending population issues still requires elected representatives to be actively engaged in formulating and implementing appropriate



**African Lawmakers seek to learn from best practices on how to hold their respective Governments accountable in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development and the International Conference on Population and Development commitments. Credit: APDA**

policies and programmes.

"Lagging regions in Africa have employed various policies and instruments to put in place the comprehensive needs of people and communities, but there are several reasons why some countries can still do better," she said.

Some participants at the African and Asian Parliamentarians' Dialogue in Kigali emphasized the need to take lessons from experience towards implementing ICPD's commitments stressing the lack of effective monitoring strategies.

Kwabena Asante-Ntiemoah, country representative in Rwanda for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) pointed out that demographic change is one of the key challenges in Africa, where there is unprecedented growth of the youth population.

"This current demographic structure with a large youthful population, he observed, can be leveraged for socio-economic transformation, with the right investments," he said.

Jeanne Henriette Mukabikino, chair of the Rwandan Parliamentarians' Network on Population and Development (RPRPD), told IPS that considering the current population growth, Africa should utilize its youthful population potential for its socio-economic progress.

Both Asante-Ntiemoah and Mukabikino are convinced that Africa's young population brings many opportunities for economic growth despite deepening inequality within and across the continent.

Apart from conflicts and climate change, such as cyclones and droughts, which continue to contribute to food insecurity in Africa, some lawmakers see hope in positive trends at a time when Africa and Asia are working together to tackle global issues of population and development.

However, some lawmakers believe that despite progress made by several African countries in addressing population and development issues, these efforts are still threatened by multifaceted challenges, backsliding on the rights and choices of women and girls, and the polarization of the sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda.

The 2022 UNFPA's State of World Population 2022 report indicates that nearly half of all pregnancies, totaling 121 million each year throughout the world, are unintended.

The report urges policymakers, community leaders, and all individuals to empower women and girls to make affirmative decisions about sex, contraception, and motherhood and to foster societies that recognize the full worth of women and girls.

Dr Celestin Fiarovana Lovanirina, member of the National Assembly of Madagascar, told IPS that with such a large population of young people, supportive policies and programs on inclusive youth development are critical more than ever.

"As legislators, we have a responsibility to make laws in a move to address such

kind of issue that is presently affecting our population," he said.

During the three-day parliamentary dialogue, which featured multiple sessions covering topics such as the ICPD30 review process and Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPDIO), some participants shared experiences of their countries where for example, adopting a new law on minimum legal age of marriage for girls has been critical to harnessing the demographic dividend.

Latest estimates by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) show that in many parts of Africa, women and girls are still vulnerable to a disproportionate range of risks, particularly to their sexual and reproductive health.

The UN agency's report shows that in most cases, girls are subject to child marriage, female genital mutilation, and limited education and are denied equal opportunities.

Experts point out that with more people in the labor force and fewer children to support, a country has a window of opportunity for rapid economic growth if the right social and economic investments and policies are made in health, education, governance, and the economy.

Madina Ndagiza, a member of the Rwandan parliament, shared her experience in adopting new laws to ensure that girls and boys enjoy the dignity and human rights to expand their capabilities.

"We believe that education is a corner-

stone to protecting girls from child marriage ... at 21 young girls are supposed to have graduated from university and are healthier to make their choice and participate more in the formal labor," Ndagiza told delegates.

On the sidelines of the parliamentary dialogue, some lawmakers agreed that the lack of an implementation plan of policy has been a hindrance to many countries needed to capture demographic dividends.

However, Ikegami pointed out that beyond the current situation, most African and Asian countries are also experiencing a demographic transition which they should use to their advantage.

"This dialogue serves as a platform of exchanges between African and Asian lawmakers to assess how their framework legislation should create an enabling environment for decision-making, to harness the growing population to accelerate the achievement of development aspirations," she said.

While the aging population is the most emerging issue in Asia, Ikegami points out that youth unemployment is an issue that might be a concern for Africa.

"Context and realities are different at each continent and country's levels, but we are trying to create opportunities for lawmakers to learn from each other," she said.

IPS UN Bureau Report

**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 ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA 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

# Education the key to realise shared Sino-African goals

By Wang Yan

**A**FRICA is a land of immense beauty and promise, and China is a rising nation with huge potential in different fields. But despite being different in many ways, culturally, politically and socially, the two sides share the same aspirations for development and the well-being and prosperity of their people.

Education, the linchpin of sustainable development, plays a key role in Sino-African cooperation. Education facilitates exchanges of ideas, spreads knowledge and fosters skills. It serves as a driver for equitable, quality and inclusive education, and a catalyst for achieving sustainable development goals. And deeper cooperation between Africa and China in education will help advance economic growth, enhance social cohesion and strengthen nation-building.

There have been a variety of education exchanges and cooperation activities between Africa and China since the 1950s. Many students from Africa have come to China for higher studies thanks to the scholarships offered by the Chinese government and higher education institutions, and more have learned (and are learning) the Chinese language and history at Confucius Institutes, in order to brighten their career prospects in China.

On the other hand, the Luban Workshop, since its establishment as the first of its kind platform in Djibouti in 2019, has been offering a range of skill development programs, combining academic education and vocational training, to promote youth employment and improve the quality of life of the African people.

Recent years have seen increasing Sino-African institutionalized cooperation arrangements, including inter-university networks. For instance, the China-Africa Universities



People learn Chinese calligraphy at a Chinese cultural event in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

20+20 Cooperation Plan in 2010, which links 20 African universities with 20 Chinese universities, has been scaled up to "China-Africa 100 Universities Cooperation Program".

Moreover, ways to deepen Africa-China education cooperation is being discussed even at high-level

meetings such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation's ministerial conference and multilateral platforms such as BRICS and the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

In August 2023, the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development was launched at the

BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. Asserting that talent is the primary resource underpinning economic and social development, the plan aims to train 500 principals and high-calibre teachers of vocational colleges every year, and 10,000 technical personnel with both Chinese language

and vocational skills for Africa, as well as invite 20,000 government officials and technicians from African countries to participate in workshops and seminars.

As a result, a Sino-African education cooperation architecture has taken shape. Yet it will take time to have an impact on people in such

a large and diverse continent as Africa and country as China. To be sure, the challenges Africa and China face in developing education are different. While it is more about quality education in China, it is about universalizing education at the primary and secondary level in Africa, partly due to a shortage of teachers.

Nonetheless, there is more common ground between the two sides: both aim to provide inclusive, equitable and quality education, and shift from the examination-oriented education to competency-based education. And both recognize technology as a catalyst for educational development for digital empowerment.

What binds Africa and China together are developmental needs and their shared future. China's education policy and approach to education development over the past decades could inspire African countries to reform their policies, and synergize their measures with China and other relevant stakeholders to produce better and more deliverables.

The potential for boosting Sino-African cooperation is huge. But for that, it is necessary to scale up exchanges of students and academicians through not only government scholarships but also other types of scholarships including those offered by local administrations, higher education institutions, and industries and businesses.

There is also a need for the two sides to use digital technologies to expand virtual mobility as well as exchange and cooperation in science and technology in universities and beyond, scale up exchanges and deepen cooperation in skill development, particularly through government-industry-academia cooperation to boost the employability of youths and fuel economic development.

This will not only enhance South-South learning and capacity building, but also bring about positive changes by creating more and better education and employment opportunities for youths in both China and Africa.



Nigerians struggling to buy kerosene at fuel station in Abuja

## Central Africa blames fuel shortage on supply disruptions, smuggling

By Moki Kindzeka, Yaounde

**C**ENTRAL Africa has, for months, been plagued with acute fuel shortages that have stifled regional economic growth, disrupted local businesses, and contributed to rising food prices and social unrest. The shortages are partly blamed on increased demand coupled with disruptions in supply, and on illegal trade in conflict zones.

Officials in several central African states say vehicle owners, truck drivers and motorcyclists in major cities wait for several hours, sometimes days, to fill their tanks as pumps have been regularly running dry since fuel shortages started several months ago.

Cameronian officials partly blame ongoing disruptions to stormy weather off the Atlantic coast, stranding cargo ships at the regional hub port of Lome, Togo.

The landlocked Central African Republic, which receives fuel sup-

plies through Cameroon's Douala seaport, also reports disruptions. Aid agencies in the country, which has been hit by sectarian violence, say if nothing is done to stop the fuel crisis, delivery of needed humanitarian aid will be affected.

A severe fuel crisis is also stirring social unrest in Chad. Officials there report protests in the capital, N'djamena, and in towns including Bongor, Moundou, Faya-Largeau and Abeche, where the military this week said it dispersed protesters with tear gas.

Chad's military government said this week that its troops seized hundreds of containers of fuel illegally transported to the border with Sudan. Chad says contraband fuel trade increased on its border with Sudan since ferocious fighting broke out in Sudan's civil war in April.

Amina Ehemir Torna, director General of Chad's Downstream Sector Regularization Authority, which is responsible for the regulation, control and monitoring of standards

of petroleum operations there, said merchants should immediately stop illegal exports to neighboring countries that are also facing severe fuel shortages. Torna said gasoline and diesel fuel are highly combustible and should not be stored in jerry cans and buckets at home with the hope of selling to illegal vendors at exorbitant rates should the ongoing fuel shortage persist.

Sudan's fighting shut down businesses and forced civilians and fuel merchants to flee the north eastern African state. Chadian officials say Sudanese civilians who brave the fighting, as well as troops of Sudan's national army and a rival national paramilitary force, rush to Chad's porous 1,400-kilometer border for fuel regularly.

Salisu Yunissa, president of Chad's Consumers Union in Adré, a town in Ouaddai province that is home to about 210,000 Sudanese refugees, said the shortage has plunged host communities and refugees into deeper poverty and is causing un-

precedented increases in the prices of rice, onions, corn, millet and sorghum. He said a 30-kilogram bag of onions that sold at \$40 had tripled in price to about \$120 within the past two months.

Yunissa said the price hikes, environmental disasters, and armed conflicts make living very difficult for a majority of civilians who are not sure of a meal each day.

There is some hope the situation will change soon in the region. Chad, Cameroon and the CAR this month regulated fuel sales to 20 liters per motorist with the aim of stabilizing supply and demand. Chad says its shortage will improve when a refinery in N'djamena that closed in April for maintenance reopens, although it did not say when that would happen.

Cameroon says besides the liberalization of petroleum products imports, it is importing what it calls enough quantities to meet the country's increasing demand for fuel.

## 'Mentorship key to building Africa's research capacity'

NAIROBI

**M**ENTORING the next generation of scientists helps improve the depth of knowledge, but is difficult and requires patience, says Stephen Syampungani, a chair of an African research initiative dedicated to anti-apartheid icon Oliver Tambo.

The O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs Initiative (ORTARCHI) works to support research for socio-economic development across the continent.

It aims to revolutionize education, promote science, and bolster knowledge. The initiative, implemented by South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF), pays homage to Oliver Tambo's legacy and his belief in the transformative power of education and research for Africa's development.

There are ten chairs who lead multidisciplinary research teams, contribute to knowledge production aligned with Africa's development goals and train the next generation of researchers.

"Mentoring young researchers call for a lot of patience for several reasons. For instance, differences in expectations among the young mind... make it difficult for them to appreciate the mentorship program," said Stephen Syampungani, ORTARCHI chair and environment and development researcher from Zambia.

Syampungani, an environment and development researcher from Zambia, underscored the difficulties in mentoring young researchers, emphasizing differences in expectations and capacity variations among mentees.

He said balancing project performance indicators with the aspirations of young minds adds an additional layer of complexity for mentors.

"Mentoring young re-



Teenage student conducting research in chemical laboratory

searchers' calls for a lot of patience for several reasons. For instance, differences in expectations among the young mind... make it difficult for them to appreciate the mentorship program," Syampungani said, offering a glimpse into the complexities of the mentoring dynamic.

Syampungani said that mentorship, through student supervision, teaching, and the coordination of other researchers' work, helps improve the depth of knowledge and quality of life of the next generation of highly skilled people.

He also encouraged aspiring researchers to be patient, emphasizing that research requires a willingness to learn and perseverance.

He adds that the ORTARCHI initiative is strategic and has enhanced research collaborations and innovation capacities among universities both within and outside the continent.

Syampungani emphasized the strategic importance of the ORTARCHI initiative, collaborating with organizations such as the Science Granting Councils

Initiative (SGCI), African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEEA) initiative, and the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA).

These collaborations, Syampungani says, contribute to ORTARCHI's mission, focusing on institutional capacity strengthening, high-end skill development, recruitment and retention of excellent researchers, and incentivizing research for socio-economic and transformative development.

Each chair of ORTARCHI focuses on a critical development challenge identified by the host institution. The chairs are expected to produce high-quality research, train postgraduate students, and build partnerships with African and international institutions.



# HIGH COST OF CONSTRUCTION PUTS AFFORDABLE HOMES OUT OF REACH

NAIROBI

The average cost of home loans under the State-backed affordable housing programme has this year jumped by a third, or nearly Sh1 million, on the back of climbing cost of construction.

Analysis of data shows the average size of mortgage increased 32.65 percent in 12 months through September to Sh3.96 million compared to Sh2.98 million in a similar period in the prior year and Sh2.36 million in 2021.

The Sh0.97 million increment in one year, according to data from the Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC), came in a period of elevated inflation amid a depreciating shilling pressured the cost of building materials.

Key construction materials such as steel, paint and cement have been hit by price growth at a time the shilling has been losing value against major international currencies, sliding about 25.7 percent against the US dollar between January and December 22.

The Architectural Association of Kenya wrote in the latest report that the cost of building per square metre ranged from Sh41,600 to Sh100,800 towards the end of the year from between

Sh34,650 and to Sh77,500 at the start of the year.

This points to a growth of between 20 and 30 percent, going by the numbers in the lobby's State of the Built Environment report.

"The construction industry in Kenya has witnessed a notable surge in material costs over the past year, significantly impacting project budgets and timelines. Various economic factors, including currency devaluation and increased import costs, have contributed to this escalation," AAK wrote in the report.

Cost of construction has been a major impediment to building affordable housing units, and was largely blamed for hurting the State's flopped plan to erect 500,000 units in five years through 2022 under the previous regime of retired President Uhuru Kenyatta.

His successor William Ruto, has set an ambitious target of up to 250,000 units every year. "As government, we shall do all that is necessary including providing infrastructure, providing land to private developers so that we are able to meet the planned units at an affordable price," Housing and Urban Development Principal Secretary Charles Hinga said on December 5.



President William Ruto inspects the affordable housing project in Homa Bay Town.

Kenya has a thin retail mortgage market, estimated at 27,786 home loans worth Sh261.8 billion in December 2022, according to latest data from the Central Bank of Kenya.

The average loan size for commercial banks increased to Sh9.4 million in 2022 from Sh9.2 million the year before, locking out low- to mid-income workers.

The mortgage refinance was formed largely to cater for workers who have been locked out of the homeownership due to high cost loans which come with a short repayment period of about 10 years.

KMRC offers funds to participating banks and saccos at a fixed annual interest of five percent for onward lending to homebuyers – meaning the repayments are not impacted by inflation and resultant increase in interest rates.

President Ruto has made construction of affordable houses a priority in his first term in office, largely funded by a 1.5 percent housing levy which the courts in November ruled unconstitutional.

The levy is gross-on-gross taxation on workers income where the KRA uses the same gross to also calculate

the Pay As You Earn, thus a form of double taxation.

The lowest priced unit (a single-room on a 20 square metre space) will cost Sh840,000 which will require prospective homebuyers to deposit Sh84,000 and clear the remainder through monthly payments of Sh3,200 over 30 years.

A two-roomed house of 30sqm will cost Sh1.26 million with prospective owners required to deposit Sh126,000 and thereafter pay Sh4,800 monthly for 30 years, while the price for a 40sqm three-roomed unit is Sh1.68 million paid through Sh168,000 deposit and

Sh6,400 monthly payments.

A bedsitter, or studio, on 20 square metres space will cost Sh960,000 with occupiers charged Sh5,200 monthly payments for 30 years on top of Sh96,000 deposit.

The cost of building went up by 2.71 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2023 driven by a rise in the cost of cement, steel, fuel and other key inputs.

Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows the Construction Cost Index rose to 116.45 in the three months to September, up from 113.38 in the same period last year. It

is the fastest annual growth since the fourth quarter of 2022 when the index rose by 7.1 percent, the third fastest rate on record.

During the period, almost all construction material indices increased except for paints, sanitary fittings, water fittings, water waste appliances, and electrical fittings which dropped by 0.7 percent, one percent, 0.2 percent, 2 percent, and 0.8 percent.

The index of cement steel and reinforcement bars went up by 0.5 per cent and 1.6 percent, respectively, from the second quarter to the third quarter of 2023. The index of hardcore, dense bitumen macadam, metal doors, and windows all went up by 1.6 percent.

Meanwhile, the transport and fuels index, increased by three percent in the same period under review.

"The construction labour wages index increased slightly by one percent from 108.44 to 109.55 in Q3 2023. The equipment index also increased from 106.26 in Q2 to 107.08 in Q3 2023," said the KNBS.

The rapid depreciation of the Kenya shilling against the US dollar has played a pivotal role in the cost of construction inputs during the period. Kenya imports most of its construction ma-

terials such as steel, cement clinker, fuel, machinery, and equipment, with the weakening shilling making the cost of these imports shoot up.

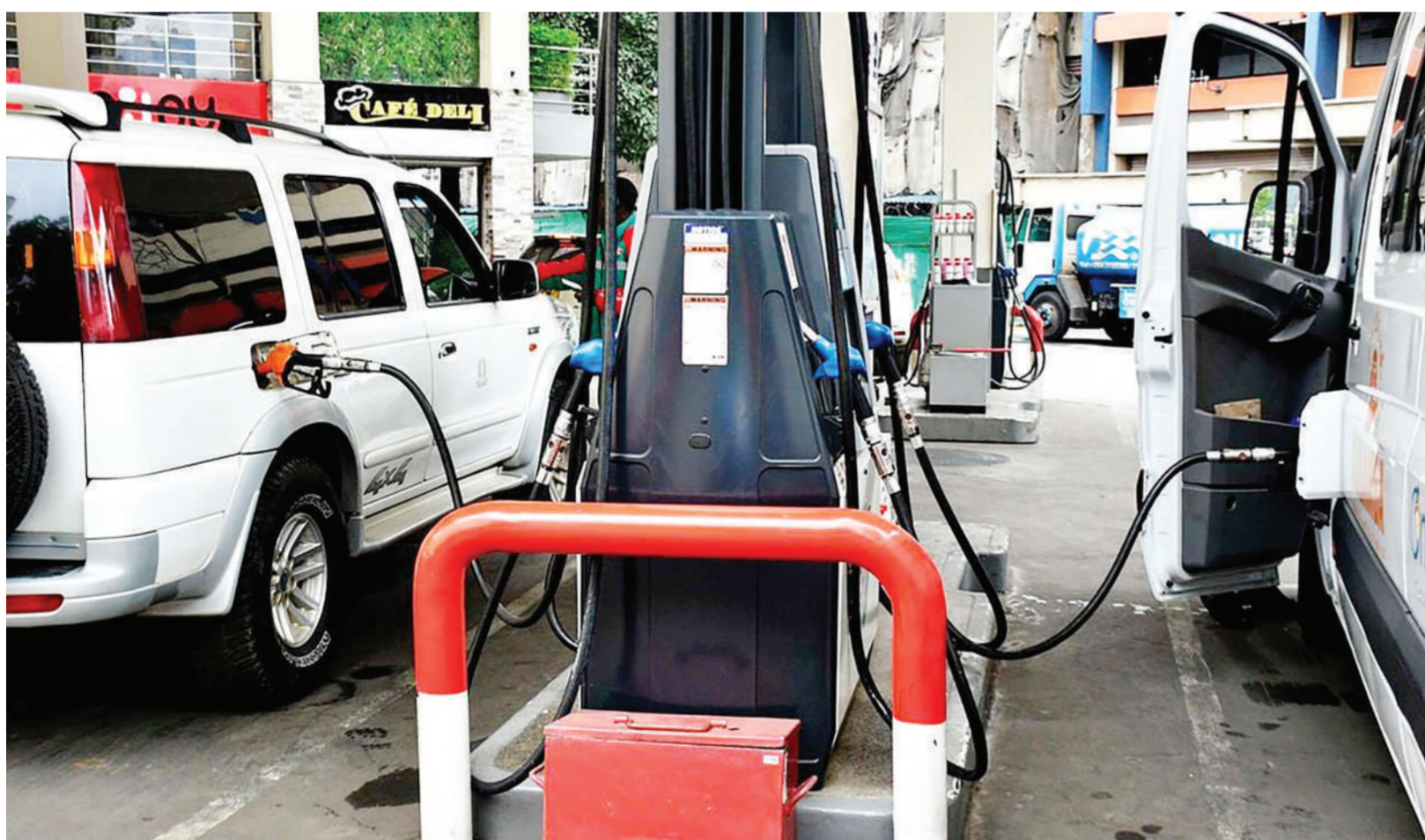
This has slowed down the construction sector, which recorded a subdued growth of 2.6 percent in the second quarter of 2023 compared to 4.5 percent growth in the second quarter of 2022.

The rising construction costs are a blow to President William Ruto's plan to spur the construction sector – mostly by the private sector – of 250,000 affordable housing units per year.

Dr Ruto introduced the housing levy charged at 1.5 percent of workers' gross pay, which is then matched by their employers, to fund the affordable housing programme.

The National Housing Corporation is the lead implementer of the government's housing programme under the State Department for Housing and Urban Development and is among the developers of the low-cost units.

A State Department report shows that the low-cost homes will cost between Sh840,000 and Sh5.76 million and will comprise studio apartments, one, two, and three-room units.



## Nigeria's oil price leaps to \$81.11

LAGOS

Barely a few days to the commencement of the 2024 fiscal year, hope appears rekindled in the revenue horizon as the price of Nigeria's Bonny Light, rose to \$81.11 per barrel, from \$78 per barrel it closed last week, indicating an excess of \$3.15 per barrel against the 2024 budget reference price of \$77.96 per barrel.

The nation's N26 trillion 2024 budget, benchmarked on \$77.96 per barrel and 1.78 million barrels per day, bpd was threatened in the

past two weeks when the oil price became unstable trending down to the budget benchmark price.

Price of Bonny Light rose to \$81.11 per barrel on the Red Sea attacks that culminated in shipping disruptions, thus fuelling the speculation in favour of high prices.

However, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, NUPRC, indicated that oil output fell by 7.4 percent to 1.25 million barrels per day in the month of November 2023, compared to 1.35bpd in September

2023. This means the pressure point has shifted to output level as this may undermine the realization of the targeted revenue if it persists into 2024.

But the newly appointed board and management team for the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd (NNPCL) has pledged to produce two million barrels of crude oil daily from 2024.

The Chairman of NNPCL, Pius Akinyelure, stated: "We have just concluded our inauguration ceremony by Mr President and we have assured him of our collective

efforts to turn around the fortune of the Oil and Gas.

"And to make it a company that we will all be proud of and a company that will help sustain the economy and make sure we create some element of prosperity for Nigerians. He (President) has assured us of his support and on our own part too, we have given him our one 100 per cent assurance.

"We will do the best we can to make sure that the key performance in the oil and gas industry in Nigeria probably will become number one in Africa and

probably compete with the leading oil and gas industry around the world.

"It is not an easy task but we know we had the challenge of oil stealing, vandalism of our pipelines. Our commitment is to produce at the rate of two million barrels per day anytime from next year".

On his part, the Minister of State Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, said that oil production in the country would surpass the 2024 budget target of 1.7 million barrels per day.

## Company unveils festive season home safe drive

By Guardian Reporter

AS Tanzanians dive into the festive season, families and solo travelers are embarking on joyous reunions and memorable road trips. Ensuring the safety and reliability of your vehicle is now in the spotlight, with experts from CFAO Motors Tanzania unveiling crucial tips for stress-free and secure holiday travel.

To ensure safety and uninterrupted celebrations, CFAO Motors Tanzania emerges as a key player in promoting road safety with a special offer for its customers. The renowned automotive service provider offers free vehicle health checks, covering essential components such as the engine, body, brakes, and tires.

Before embarking on long journeys, experts and technicians from CFAO Motors Tanzania emphasize the importance of comprehensive car health checkups. Munir Ladak, the Director of After-Sales at CFAO Motors Tanzania, highlighted the significance of prioritizing safety during the festive season.

"At CFAO Motors, we understand that safety is paramount for our customers. Our array of services, including meticulous technical inspections and genuine replacement parts, ensures your vehicle is primed for the festive journeys ahead," said Ladak.

Key recommendations



Munir Ladak, director of After-Sales at CFAO Motors Tanzania

driving comfort and safety.

CFAO Motors Tanzania offers free health checks for customers who purchased vehicles from them in the past five years to encourage proactive vehicle maintenance. The offer includes comprehensive inspections using top-range machines and covers crucial areas such as the engine, body, brakes, and tires.

John Pima, training coordinator and technical supervisor at CFAO Motors Tanzania emphasized the necessity of seeking professional advice and services.

"Car owners should have their vehicles inspected regularly, especially before embarking on lengthy trips. Our team at CFAO Motors is committed to providing expert guidance and top-notch service to keep our customers safe on the roads," he said.

As road accidents continue to pose a significant threat, the initiative by CFAO Motors Tanzania underscores the importance of proactive measures to ensure the technical safety of vehicles, particularly during the holiday season. Data from authorities indicates that between January 1 to December 12, 2023, there have been 1,550 deaths resulting from 1,641 road accidents in Tanzania. Car defect is cited as one of the causes of road accidents in the country.

# INDUSTRIAL FIRMS' RECORDS PROFIT GROWTH FOR 4TH STRAIGHT MONTH

JIANGSU

Aided by a policy boost, China's economy is showing more signs of improvement, as official data on Wednesday revealed that profits at China's industrial firms grew for the fourth consecutive month in November.

Analysts said a run of recent data points to a stabilizing in the world's second-largest economy, which is set to expand by above 5 percent this year and is well positioned to achieve its 2023 annual growth target.

Looking to the future, despite the likelihood of the property slump continuing to be a drag on the economy, analysts said that China's economy is likely to perform better in 2024 with a gradual recovery in domestic demand and consumption and an improvement in external financial conditions.

On Wednesday, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed that industrial enterprises with annual revenue of at least 20 million yuan (\$2.8 million) saw their total profits increase 29.5 percent year-on-year in November after a 2.7 percent rise in October.

For the January-November period, industrial firms' profits fell 4.4 percent year-on-year to 6.98 trillion yuan, narrowing from the 7.8 percent drop in the first 10 months, the bureau said.

"The latest figures reflect a continued recovery in domestic



A worker assembles a liquid loading arm at an equipment manufacturing plant in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province.

industrial sector operations and market demand," said Zhou Maohua, a macro researcher at China Everbright Bank.

Among the 41 major industrial sectors surveyed, 33 witnessed improvements such as accelerated growth, narrowed profit declines and year-on-year growth in profits during the first 11 months, NBS data showed.

Zheng Houcheng, chief macroeconomist at Yingda Securities, said the improvement comes amid a surge in industrial output, improved profitability and a lower comparison base in the previous

year, but the negative growth in producer prices drags on profit growth. China's value-added industrial output grew 6.6 percent year-on-year in November after a 4.6 percent rise in October, while China's producer price index dropped 3 percent from a year ago in November versus a 2.6 percent fall in October, NBS data showed.

Zheng said the industrial profits will likely improve further in December, but there is little chance of seeing industrial profits returning to growth for the whole of 2023.

Despite the improvement in

the overall industrial sector, Zhou from China Everbright Bank said the recovery was uneven among different sectors.

High-tech and equipment manufacturing sectors recorded rapid growth while textiles, ferrous metals mining and property-related industries reported shrinking profits, he said.

Zhou called for expansionary macro policies to consolidate the recovery trend, estimating that the economy may expand by around 5 percent next year given the gradual recovery in domestic demand and easier external financial con-

ditions.

A new report released by the Bank of China Research Institute said that China's economy will likely expand by around 5.6 percent in the fourth quarter with an anticipated annual growth rate of 5.3 percent in 2023, higher than the preset annual growth target of around 5 percent.

Considering the continued recovery in domestic demand and improvement in the external environment, the institute expected to see further recovery in consumption, accelerated growth in infrastructure, manufacturing investment and a narrowing decline in property investment. And China's economy is set to reach around 5 percent in 2024.

Zhang Aoping, the dean of the Incremental Research Institute, said China should consider a proactive annual growth target of around 5 percent next year, adding that fiscal expansion will be crucial to achieve the target in 2024.

He said China could raise its 2024 budget deficit ratio to around 3.5 percent to spur growth, expecting the government to set its 2024 quota of 3.8 trillion yuan to 4 trillion yuan in local government special bonds.

He noted that more efforts should also be made to support manufacturing development, such as offering more subsidies for enterprises' digital technology upgrades and low-carbon and green technology upgrades.

When it comes to next year's monetary policy, he said the country will likely offer structural support for areas such as technological innovation, green transition, small and micro businesses, and the digital economy.

## Lonestar Cell MTN reflects on 2023's achievements

MONROVIA

As it says farewell to 2023, Liberia's Lonestar Cell MTN, reminisced on a year marked by successes, technological developments, and transformative community projects.

Lonestar Cell MTN says it has made an indelible mark on Liberia's telecommunications market this year, from the launch of MoMo's foreign exchange services to the development of the youth through the Smartphone University Digital Skills Programme.

Lisa R. White, corporate communications manager for Lonestar Cell MTN, pledged the company's commitment to offering its subscribers with a modern and integrated experience.

"We have worked tirelessly to ensure that our subscribers are at the cutting edge of modernity and connectivity. As a Liberian company, our deep investment in Liberia is unwavering, and our commitment to contributing significantly remains unwavering," she stated.

Lonestar Cell MTN has welcomed a new era by updating over a hundred sites in Liberia's capital, Monrovia, with 4G capacity.

In 2024, the business plans to expand its modernization programme throughout the counties, ensuring a seamless and increased connectivity experience for its users.

Lonestar Cell MTN has provided subscribers with full mobile financial services by leveraging its extensive GSM network.

Manju Kanneh, manager in Mobile Financial Services, emphasised the importance of digital banking, mobile money payments, and inbound remittance services in strengthening global community ties.

"These services not only promote financial inclusion but also strengthen the global community's bonds. To enhance our capabilities, we have also launched digital financing possibilities for both subscribers and mobile money agents," he said.

Lonestar Cell MTN also launched e-Sim services in Liberia for the first time. The company says this technical advancement provides subscribers with greater freedom and simplicity in controlling their mobile services both nationally and internationally, as it eliminates the requirement for a physical SIM card.

Through the Heroes of Change Programme, Lonestar Cell MTN recognised the unsung heroes in Liberian communities. This initiative recognised individuals who make a positive difference by representing the spirit of change and community development.

Lonestar Cell MTN created the Smartphone University Digital Skills Programme for At-Risk Youth.

The programme teaches young people how to use the potential of smartphones to generate income, inspiring them to see mobile money as a viable and beneficial source of income.

CEO Rahul De noted that these achievements not only reflect technology advancement but also demonstrate dedication to supporting meaningful social change in Liberia.

"We express our gratitude to our subscribers for their unwavering support and eagerly anticipate accomplishing more with increased momentum in 2024," he went on to say.

# Internet centres to aid digital literacy targets

KIGALI

Rwanda aims to provide digital literacy to five million adult citizens, and experts in the ICT sector are advocating for the expansion of internet access centres.

These centres are available to community members and schools, to enhance basic digital literacy in using information and communication technologies.

Alex Ntare, Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda ICT Chamber, told a local outlet that internet access centres equipped with computers are needed to ensure 60 per cent of citizens are digitally literate by 2024.

"The ratio of devices to citizens is still low and leveraging existing facilities would increase inclusion and ensure equitable digital growth," he noted.

Currently, 35.1 per cent of citizens aged 15 and above are reported to have attained basic digital literacy skills, according to the Ministry of ICT and Innovation.

The ratio is expected to be updated in the upcoming Six Integrated Household Living Condi-



tions Survey (EICV6), which has not yet been published due to the Covid-19 restrictions that prevented the conducting of EICV6.

The target to reach five million citizens is part of the National Digital Talent Policy unveiled in 2017.

The training in digital literacy has an emphasis on primary education and general citizens. Particular focus is on youth, women and people with special needs. The policy also looks at workforce upskilling to enhance digital adoption, starting with education systems at secondary and tertiary levels, as well as the national workforce.

This plan aims to increase digital skills and literacy across all levels of Rwandan society and increase the demand for electronic services and content.

"With the new initiative of ConnectRwanda 2.0 increasing device penetration will also accelerate the process," Ntare added.

The overarching goal of the ConnectRwanda 2.0 campaign is to narrow the digital divide by providing affordable 4G smartphones to over a million Rwandans across the country.

Emmanuel Mfitumukiza, Chairperson of Internet Society Rwanda Chapter, said internet access cen-

tres are a solution to ensure both citizens in urban and rural areas gain digital literacy.

"The ultimate purpose of the centres is to bridge the divide that encompasses digital literacy. They are established with programmes to empower community members with digital skills to use the Internet productively.

"They are established to foster digital transformation in rural communities through access to internet infrastructure, localised education content, increased access to information, internet services and discover innovative ways to use the Internet in improving their standard of living," he noted.

The centres such as Kibungo Internet Access Centre in Bugesera, he said, are hosted and operated by people from local communities who are well equipped through the Train the Trainer (TOT) programme to facilitate digital literacy training in the hosting community.

"Local trainers are dedicated champions who can train ordinary citizens on digital literacy so that they get the necessary skills to access online services such as e-

learning, e-government, e-health, e-commerce, and financial inclusion services."

Mfitumukiza said by offering free access to digital devices, internet services, and ongoing digital literacy training to all, internet access centres can significantly contribute to increasing the number of citizens who can make use of technology in their daily lives.

This will empower community members to make full use of the Internet by accessing information, developing their digital literacy and finding innovative ways to use the Internet responsibly, aligning with the national vision for technology integration in education.

"This collaborative effort to provide training to teachers and the local community can bridge the digital divide and empower individuals with essential digital skills," he said.

After Mahama refugee camp received high-quality 4G internet connections and more than 100 refugees acquired first-hand literacy skills on the digital world, they are excited about realizing their economic potential.

# Enterprise WLAN market shrank in third quarter 2023

NEWYORK

According to the International Data Corporation (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly WLAN Tracker, the enterprise segment of the global wireless local area network (WLAN) market decreased 5.2 percent year on year to \$2.5 billion in the third quarter of 2023 (Q3).

In the most recent quarter, IDC says organisations throughout the world have been taking their time to deploy the large volume of product that has been supplied in prior quarters, resulting in decreased growth rates, which is projected to continue in the future quarter.

At the same time, adoption of Wi-Fi 6E, the newest WLAN standard that increases Wi-Fi's use to include the 6 GHz band of spectrum, increased in 3Q 2023.

WiFi 6E revenue increased 13 percent between the second and third quarters, accounting for 20.4 percent of dependent access point (AP) revenue and 9.6 percent of unit shipments. WiFi 6 accounted for the majority of the remaining dependent AP revenues (74.8 percent) and unit shipments (76.6 percent), with the legacy WiFi 5 standard accounting for the remainder.

In 3Q23, the consumer segment of the WLAN market fell 13.7 percent year on year. WiFi 6 accounted for 57.9 percent of market revenue, whereas WiFi 5 accounted for 32.4 percent. WiFi 6E penetration remains fledgling in the consumer category, accounting for only 6.2 percent of revenues.

"The third quarter of 2023 marked a shift in the multi-year dynamics of the WLAN industry related to supply



chain disruptions, product backlogs, and now, with product availability increasing, a period where organisations across the globe are deploying WLAN products before placing new orders," says Brandon Butler, research manager, Enterprise Net-

works, at IDC. "Nonetheless, WLAN remains an important technology for organisations and enhancements like the continued adoption of WiFi 6E continue to drive the WLAN market forward."

Across the globe, the enterprise WLAN industry produced mixed outcomes.

In 3Q23, the market in the United States climbed by 1.2 percent year on year, while the market in Canada decreased by 3.9 percent. In Latin America, the market increased by 235 percent. The market fell 11.2 percent in Western Europe and 6.7 percent in Central and Eastern Europe.

Market revenue increased by 7.5 percent in the Middle East and Africa area. The market declined 0.6 percent in the Asia/Pacific area, excluding Japan and China. The market plunged 24.1 percent in the People's Republic of China and 12.8 percent in Japan.

Cisco's enterprise WLAN revenue climbed 3.5 percent year on year in 3Q23 to \$1.08 billion. At the end of the quarter, the company's

market share was 43.4 percent. HPE Aruba Networking revenues fell 25.7 percent year on year in 3Q23, giving the business a 12 percent market share in the quarter. Huawei enterprise WLAN revenues increased by 12.4 percent year on year in 3Q23, giving the company a market share of 7.2 percent. Ubiquiti enterprise WLAN revenue fell 15.6 percent, giving the business a 6.4 percent market share. CommScope enterprise WLAN revenues climbed 19.1 percent year on year in the third quarter, giving the business a market share of 5.1 percent. Juniper Networks' enterprise WLAN revenues climbed 18.7 percent year on year, giving the business a 4.5 percent market share.

## CONSTRUCTION

# NO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR RESIDENTIAL PLOTS UNDER 300 SQUARE METERS – OFFICIAL

KIGALI

No construction permit can be issued for a residential house if it sits on a plot of land less than 300 square metres in size, an official from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning told a local outlet recently, while shedding light on new standard rates of fees levied on building permits under a new presidential order.

As noted, the only acceptable standard size of a residential plot of land for which a construction permit can be given is 300 square metres, and above.

Emmanuel Kubwimana, the Fiscal Decentralisation Division Manager in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, said: "The fees for building permits are levied on the size of the residential house to be constructed but not on the standard size of a plot in which the house is located."

"A landowner should have a plot with at least 300 square metres but the residential house to be constructed in this plot of land can sit on a floor area with less than 100 square metres. Construction permit fees are levied on the size of the house [100 square metres] to be constructed but not the size of the whole plot of land [300 square metres]."

Kubwimana's explanation comes after misinterpretation by some in the public who assumed that a landowner with plot on a 100 square metre piece of land can get a construction permit for a residential house. The confusion started after the publication of a new presidential order - on December 4 - determining fees levied on services and certificates delivered by decentralised



A construction site.

entities.

The latter shows that the standard rates of fees levied on building permits include Rwf20,000 for a floor area not exceeding 100 square metres, Rwf100,000 for a floor area ranging from above 100 square metres to 200 square metres, Rwf150,000 for a floor area ranging from above 200 square metres to 500 square metres and Rwf200,000 for a floor area of more than 500 square metres.

These standard rates also apply to renewal of a building permit or for authorisation to change reasons based on the request for the building permit, according to

the presidential order.

The new standards rates show an increase of fees on floor areas above 100 square metres.

In the 2012 presidential order, Rwf20,000 used to be charged for the floor area ranging from zero square metres to 100 square metres, Rwf40,000 for the floor area ranging from 100 to 500 square metres, and Rwf60,000 for the floor area above 500 square metres.

Districts have been warned against increasing fees for construction permits, which Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA) says is contrary to the law. Janvier Muhire, the building

regulations specialist at RHA told the local outlet in an interview that the warning was issued after thorough investigation in Bugesera district as a sample before inspecting other districts.

He said that according to the 2012 presidential order and 2019 infrastructure minister order, landowners or investors should pay Rwf20,000 fee for a construction permit on a plot/Unique Parcel Identifier (UPI) whose size ranges from one to 100 square metres.

A fee of Rwf40,000 should be paid for a construction permit on a UPI whose size is between 100 and 500 square metres while

Rwf60,000 has to be paid on a UPI that exceeds 500 square metres.

All construction permits across the country are issued through the system called Building Permit Information System Management (BPMIS) which the housing authority supervises.

However, he noted, a recent probe discovered violations of the recommended fees.

"By investigating through the system and on the field, we realized that districts misinterpreted or misused the law which triggered complaints from people," he said.

He said that the districts were charging a construction permit fee per each house in a plot/UPI yet the fee should be charged on the plot irrespective of the number of structures on that land.

"This means, for instance, that even if a plot (UPI) of over 500 square metres can accommodate 20 houses, the developer will only have to pay Rwf60,000 instead of paying for every house," he noted.

According to the investigation, he said, people were being asked to pay Rwf1.2 million per 20 houses in the plot.

"In just Bugesera district, the probe found that over 180 construction permits were overcharged fees contrary to the law. Some were charged Rwf80,000, Rwf120,000 or Rwf200,000, while others paid up to Rwf920,000. This is not acceptable unless the law is revised," he said.

## 'Nigeria's electricity subsidy not sustainable'

LAGOS

THE convener and Executive Director of PowerUp Nigeria, a Power Consumer Advocacy Group, Adetayo Adegbele, has said that Nigeria's electricity subsidy is unsustainable as it constitutes a huge financial burden on the federal government.

In an industry overview obtained by Vanguard, he stated: "Historically, Nigerian Government has been paying electricity subsidy to the Nigeria Electricity Supply Industry (NESI). This means that there is the Cost Reflective Tariff of supplying 1kWh (kilowatt hour), and the Allowed Tariff that consumers are "allowed" to pay.

"This variance, otherwise called "subsidy" has now turned into an elephant in the chinaware shop. The subsidy is as a result of Government policy consideration on welfareism, targeted at supporting social welfare of consumers who might not be able to pay the high true cost of the service.

"Economic stability, aimed at ensuring a stable and affordable energy supply is essential for economic development, and political that further aimed at mitigating possible social unrest and create political instability.

"The Federal Government of Nigeria, in 2020, with the introduction of Service Based Tariff (SBT) decided to phase out subsidy on electricity tariff, because of the strain it is putting on Government finances, and inefficiencies it promotes in the energy sector.

"The Minister of Finance, Budgets and National Planning under President Muhammadu Buhari, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed had said that the Federal Government had quietly removed all subsidies in the power sector with a plan to gradually end subsidies on petrol.

"This was necessitated by the fact that payment of Subsidy, both on petrol and electricity, has become an albatross on Government finances. Between 2015 and 2020, the shortfall in allowed tariff reportedly stood at about N2.4 trillion, averaging N200 billion yearly, and in 2022 alone, over N600bn has been paid in subsidies, and it has been estimated to skyrocket to at least N1trillion in 2024."

According to him, "In 2022, NERC, the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC rolled out the Multi Year Tariff Order that gradually phases out subsidy so that Nigerians can start paying Cost Reflective Tariff. For instance, in the MYTO 2022, the Cost Reflective Tariff, on the average, should be N68.42 per kilowatt hour (kWh), while the Allowed Tariff the DisCos were to charge was N59.89/kWh.

"With this, the Federal Government provided N8.53/kWh as subsidy. Between January and March 2023 alone (Q1, 2023), the total subsidy of N52.7bn was paid to the 11 Discos".

# Rail service to boost services exchanges of Vietnam, China

HANOI

A new railway line connecting Dongxing city at the China-Vietnam border to China's railway network opened to traffic on Wednesday, and is expected to boost trade and tourism in the border area and strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

The Fangchenggang-Dongxing Railway, linking Dongxing to Fangchenggang in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, stretches 47 kilometers and has a designed speed of 200 km per hour. It reduces the travel time between the cities from 90 to 20 minutes.

According to China State Railway Group, it is a dual-purpose line that handles both passenger and freight transportation.

As Dongxing's first railway, the line is expected to boost tourism, trade, personnel and economic



A high-speed train crosses a bridge of the Fangchenggang-Dongxing Railway in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

exchanges between China and Southeast Asia. Zhao Quan, director of the customer service center of China Railway Nanning Group, outlined plans for the initial phase of op-

erations, with six daily passenger trains scheduled.

Travel times from Dongxing to Guangxi's Beihai and the capital city of Nanning are now as fast as 19 and 73 minutes, respectively,

with future adjustments to be tailored to passenger numbers, Zhao said.

Passenger Liu Yuyi told China Daily: "We've been looking forward to this for a long time. The railway makes it more convenient for tourists to visit Vietnam."

"It would be even better if the railway extended to Vietnam. I look forward to that too."

The border port processes an average of 20,000 entries and exits every day, including border residents and tourists engaged in cross-border activities, according to Chu Qiaoyang, deputy manager of Dongxing Railway Station.

With the line's operation, Dongxing will embrace an increase in tourists, Chu said.

Luo Zhen, vice-mayor of Fangchenggang, highlighted the significance of the railway situated at the border in promoting cooperation between China and

Vietnam and driving regional economic development.

"It plays an important role in strengthening China's political, economic and trade ties with ASEAN countries, as well as in better integration with the Belt and Road Initiative, supporting Fangchenggang's pivotal role as the gateway to ASEAN," Luo added.

The railway's operation comes as China and Vietnam have agreed to further cooperation on a number of rail projects along the border.

Earlier this month, the leaders of the two countries met in Hanoi and vowed to strengthen bilateral ties and build a community with a shared future that carries strategic significance.

China has remained Vietnam's biggest trading partner for years, while Vietnam is China's biggest trading partner in the Association of South-east Asian Nations.

# Urban renewal brings new lease of life to city's inefficient land

QINGDAO

Reconstruction of inefficient areas in Qingdao, Shandong province, is a key focus of the city's three-year urban renewal campaign launched at the beginning of 2022, local officials said.

Inefficient areas refer to places with an unreasonable layout of urban facilities, weak industries and insufficient growth momentum.

This year, the city has implemented 391 related projects, with total investment exceeding 120 billion yuan (\$16.8 billion).

In addition to redeveloping 10 key inefficient areas, Qingdao has managed to improve overall land use planning, optimize designs and build more supporting facilities in another 10 inefficient areas via strengthened coordination among government agencies at different levels.



A manufacturing base run by BOE Technology Group in Qingdao West Coast New Area.

These include several industrial parks, one of which is Jiulong Industrial Park in Jiaozhou, a county-level city administered by Qingdao.

Before the campaign, the park was home to 128 small and medium-sized companies, and had an annual output value of just 1.8 billion yuan.

To realize the intensive and efficient use of resources in these areas, Qingdao has established a group of new industrial zones centering on

its 24 key industry chains.

Currently, the zones specializing in virtual reality, new-generation semiconductor displays, artificial intelligence, and green and low-carbon new materials have finished construction and attracted more than 150 companies.

Also, a batch of key projects including an AI innovation center and an intelligent manufacturing base of Haier refrigerators are under or have just finished construction in newly built industrial zones.

The Haier manufacturing base, for example, recently completed its first construction phase. It is expected to produce more than 26 million smart refrigerators annually, with an output value of 40 billion yuan, and provide jobs to 18,000 people.

Another key project of the three-year campaign is a twin-tower complex built by China Railway Construction Engineering Group in

Qingdao West Coast New Area. The project, which was inaugurated in 2021, covers a total construction area of more than 240,000 square meters.

Earlier in December, construction on the main structure of one of the twin towers with a height of 172.4 meters was finished. When completed, the complex will become the highest building and a landmark of the new area. It will serve such business forms as intelligent manufacturing, financial services and industrial exchanges.

Other efforts Qingdao has made this year to promote the campaign is the renovation of 473 old residential communities citywide. The initiative has not only provided a better life for residents, but effectively increased their sense of gain and happiness, local officials said.

## WORLD

# Palestinian death toll in Gaza tops 21,000, says Health Ministry

GAZA/CAIRO/PARIS

THE number of Palestinian casualties due to Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip has now risen to 21,110 deaths and 55,243 injuries, the Gaza-based Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

Within the past 24 hours, 195 people were killed while 325 were injured and transported to hospitals due to Israeli attacks.

The ministry later added that an Israeli bombardment near a hospital in southern Gaza killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens more on Wednesday.

Ashraf al-Qidra, the spokesperson of the ministry, said in a statement that the death toll could rise as rescuers searched for survivors under the rubble of a residential building near Al Amal Hospital in Khan Younis, a densely-populated city in southern Gaza.

Local sources told Xinhua that there were many displaced Palestinians inside the building when the attack happened, while rescuers at the site said most of the victims were retrieved in "dismembered parts."

Al-Qidra warned against the deliberate targeting by the Israeli army of the vicinity surrounding the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, urging international institutions to take effective and immediate steps to ensure the protection of the complex, its staff, the wounded, and the thousands of displaced people within it.

Meanwhile, Israel has returned the bodies of 80 Palestinians killed in Gaza, according to Reuters reports citing the Palestinian health ministry.

Israel said it was returning the bodies after confirming that they were not Israeli hostages taken by Hamas on Oct 7.

The ministry said the bodies were buried and the authorities recorded details to help with later identification. Gaza authorities were trying to figure out when and where the men were killed and who they were.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh announced on Wednesday the cancellation of all New Year celebrations due to Israel's continuous military operation on the Gaza Strip.

Shtayyeh said the Palestinian government in Ramallah decided during a weekly



A handout photo released by the Jordanian Royal Palace shows Jordan's King Abdullah II (L) and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi during a meeting in Cairo on Wednesday. AFP

meeting "to cancel all New Year's Eve celebrations, and there will be marches of anger against the occupation's crimes."

## Egypt, Jordan call for ceasefire

In Cairo, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi held talks with visiting King Abdullah II of Jordan on Wednesday on the Gaza conflict, during which they reiterated the call for an immediate ceasefire in the war-ravaged Palestinian enclave.

During the meeting, the two state leaders agreed that the international community needs to push for an immediate ceasefire and facilitate the entry of more aid in a speedier manner to "make a real difference" in Gaza, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

The two leaders affirmed their complete rejection of "all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian issue, displace the Palestinians from their lands or force their internal displacement," according to the statement.

They also warned against the risks of an expanding conflict that could destabilize regional security and stability.

Egypt and Jordan have sent humanitar-

ian aid to the besieged enclave through border crossings, most of which was delivered via Egypt's Rafah crossing, a lifeline to Gaza since Oct 21.

Also on Wednesday, French President Emmanuel Macron held a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Macron expressed his deep concern over the heavy civilian casualties and the intensifying humanitarian emergency in Gaza.

The French President reiterated Israel's obligation to protect civilians, the urgent need to deliver aid to the people of Gaza and the importance of working towards a lasting ceasefire by all regional and international partners, according to a statement issued by the presidential Elysee Palace.

To this end, France will be working with Jordan in the coming days to carry out humanitarian operations in Gaza, Macron said, urging Israel to take all necessary steps to stop violence committed by certain settlers against Palestinian civilians, and suspend any settlement project in the West Bank that threatens the two-state solution.

Agencies

# PM Modi 'willing to do his utmost' to resolve Russia-Ukraine issue by 'peaceful means' - Putin

MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "willing to do his utmost" to address the Russia-Ukraine issue through "peaceful means".

Putin's remarks came during a meeting with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar at the Kremlin on Wednesday.

The EAM is on a Russia visit from December 25 to 29 as a part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between the two sides.

Putin emphasised the positive stance of Prime Minister Modi on complex global developments, including the situation in Ukraine.

"We know the stance of Prime Minister Modi and we mentioned that repeatedly on many occasions. Well, his attitude towards some complex developments, including the flashpoints like...in Ukraine," he noted.

The Russian President mentioned that he has advised Modi on the developments in Ukraine multiple times and indicated that further discussions on the matter would take place.

"Many times, I advised him of how things have been going there and I know that he (PM Modi) is willing to do his utmost so that the issue is resolved by peaceful means. So, we probably will delve into that deeper now, and we will give additional information to you on that time," Putin added.

The Russian President also expressed gratitude for the pro-

gressing relationship between Russia and India amid global turmoil. "We are gratified to note that despite all the turmoil happening worldwide, the relationship with our true friend in Asia, India has been progressing incrementally," Putin said.

"We have outpaced the growth rates over the past year. We have surpassed all the growth that we had last year over 9 months only," Putin said, attributing the growth to trade in oil, refined products, coal, and high-tech spheres.

He highlighted the multifaceted nature of the Russia-India partnership, extending beyond energy cooperation to encompass technology and other sectors.

"So, definitely, this is due to the trade in oil and refined products in coal. Not only energy, we also operate in high-tech spheres," he noted.

Putin expressed eagerness for Prime Minister Modi to visit Russia, indicating that discussions on relevant and current issues, as well as the prospects of Russian-Indian relations, would take place during the visit.

"Definitely, we will be glad to see our dear friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paying a visit to Russia, we will be able to discuss all the relevant, current issues and talk to the prospects of the Russian and Indian relationship," he also said.

He conveyed warm wishes to Modi and acknowledged the busy political schedule in India, with general elections scheduled for



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin, in Moscow yesterday. Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Denis Manturov is also seen. ANI

the next year.

"We have a lot of an open field of work ahead of us. So, please convey my best, very best wishes to his excellency. And please, tell him that we want to see him, Russia expect him to come although, I know that India next year will have a busy political schedule. The general elections in parliament are scheduled for next year. We wish our friends every success in that and we hope that anyway, no matter what the alignment of political forces would be the traditional conventional friendly ties will persist between our nations," the Russian President also said.

India has often articulated and clarified its stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, maintaining

that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. Russia's invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths on both sides.

Amid the raging military conflict, PM Modi has spoken to Putin as well as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

PM Modi also met Ukraine President Zelenskyy in Japan during the G7 summit in May 2023.

In the meeting, PM Modi assured that he would do whatever is possible to help resolve the conflict.

"India and I will do whatever we can to resolve the conflict," PM Modi had said.

New Delhi has sought a diplomatic solution to the conflict,

with PM Modi telling Russian President Vladimir Putin in September that "now is not an era of war". The remark drew praise from world leaders as well as the global media.

Prime Minister Modi advised President Putin to ensure a "cessation of violence", stressing the need for both sides to return to the talks table.

During a telephonic conversation with Putin, PM Modi underlined that Delhi for now will stick to a path of strategic ambivalence on the Ukraine crisis. This is a pragmatic choice, one that reflects the complexities of a realist world and Delhi's own positions on territorial integrity and sovereignty.

ANI

# 2023 witnesses more economic, political, social chaos in the US

NEW YORK

IF asked to describe U.S. politics for the year 2023 in just one word, it would be "chaos."

Washington has witnessed an intensification of fierce confrontations between the Democratic and Republican parties, exposing a perceived dysfunction and disorder of the American democratic system. Former President Donald Trump faces criminal charges for mishandling classified documents, making him the first ex-president under criminal prosecution in U.S. history.

Current President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, is dealing with accusations related to taxes and firearms, the first criminal charges against a sitting president's child. Earlier in December, House Republicans voted to formalize an impeachment inquiry into Biden, highlighting the stark partisan lines that dominate the country's political life. Rewind to January, House Republicans spent four days and 15 tries just to pick their speaker, Rep. Kevin McCarthy. He got the boot nine months later, leaving the whole place leaderless and paralyzed for three weeks while they duked it out over who should fill the spot.

"The U.S. now is confronting a very unique political situation. Not only is there a huge divide between Republicans and Democrats, but there's also a huge divide within each of the political parties between, for example, moderate Republicans and conservative Republicans," Denis Simon, a distinguished fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"So the tension is within parties, and the tension is between parties, shaping the American political situation in very negative ways. And it is having a major impact on the way people view the political system, particularly in terms of the role of government," said Simon, also former executive vice chancellor of Duke Kunshan University.

Renowned American economist Jeffrey Sachs told Xinhua that the dysfunction of U.S. political institutions has worsened due to corruption in campaign funds from the wealthy, major corporations and specific interest groups. This has made policies by Congress and the White House deviate from public interests, eroding public confidence in the government to historic lows.

A whopping 63 percent of Americans have little or no confidence in the future of the U.S. political system, according to a latest Pew Research Center poll. Congress, the Supreme Court, and the political parties aren't exactly winning any popularity contests either.

## UNCERTAIN SOFT LANDING

The U.S. economy seems to have temporarily avoided the recession risks predicted by many economists, but whether a "soft landing" can be achieved remains uncertain. In 2023, the Federal Reserve, through a series of interest rate hikes and balance sheet reduction measures, has kept pushing inflation levels lower, but the index remains high above its long-term target of 2 percent.

The aggressive interest rate hikes, however, briefly caused financial turmoil in the United States, greatly affecting the world and leading to the closure of several banks in the United States and Europe. "The U.S. economy has held up rather well this year with inflation coming down, the economic recovery continuing and unemployment remaining at close to record low levels," Desmond Lachman, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the International Monetary Fund, told Xinhua.

"However, knowing that monetary policy operates with long and variable lags and that the commercial real estate bubble has burst, the jury is still out as to whether the Fed will have succeeded in securing a soft economic landing," said Lachman.

"The continued political dysfunction in Washington that has put the public finances on an unsustainable path as underlined by an 8 percent of GDP budget deficit at a time of full employment and by a public debt that is well on its way to exceed the level recorded during the Second World War," he said.

"The regional banking crisis centered on Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic Bank early this year could be the forerunner of more financial system problems next year as a delayed response to the Fed's hawkish monetary policy stance," said Lachman.

Despite the year-on-year decline in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from over 6 percent at the beginning of the year to around 3 percent, with prices remaining high, middle- and low-income Americans continue to bear a heavy economic burden. Recent polls show most Americans feel the U.S. economy is in tough shape and getting worse. "The domestic economy is filled with great anxiety. First of all, we have the continued problem of the income inequality gap. The rich are getting richer, and the poor therefore seem to be getting poorer," said Simon.

Regardless of income, households said they are feeling the pressure at about the same amount, according to a recent survey by Bankrate. Sixty percent of respondents in the lowest-income households, making under 50,000 U.S. dollars a year, said the economy feels like it is in a recession.

Xinhua

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Dec. 20 held a phone conversation with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. The two heads of state announced the establishment of strategic partnership between China and Nicaragua.

The two sides believe this move is in the common interests of the two countries and the two peoples, and is conducive to the common development and prosperity of the two countries.

China and Nicaragua will take it as a new starting point to make new progress of China-Nicaragua ties and set an example of solidarity, cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win results.

Since the resumption of relations two years ago, the two sides, with a sense of urgency, have promoted a leap-forward development of China-Nicaragua relations. Facts have fully proved that the decision made by the Nicaraguan gov-

# China, Nicaragua stick to right direction of development of bilateral relations

ernment to resume diplomatic relations with China, based on its national interests and the will of its people, is indeed correct.

The establishment of the strategic partnership on the occasion of the second anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries will surely become an important milestone in the history of China-Nicaragua relations.

The two heads of state agreed that the two sides will further give play to the guiding role of head-of-state diplomacy, maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges and dialogue, continuously strengthen strategic cooperation, deepen political mutual trust and stick to the right direction of China-Nicaragua rela-

tions.

Over the past two years, China and Nicaragua have achieved positive progress in political mutual trust, practical cooperation and multilateral coordination. The two sides have firmly supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns.

China is ready to be a reliable friend of Nicaragua, and will continue to firmly support Nicaragua in safeguarding its national independence and national dignity, and also backs Nicaragua in rejecting external interference.

China stands ready to strengthen solidarity and coordination with Nicaragua in international affairs, and work with Nicaragua to oppose hegemonism and power politics, promote the develop-

ment of a more just and rational international order, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries. The Nicaraguan side said it highly values its friendly relations with its great brother China, firmly abides by the one-China principle, supports China's grand cause of reunification and supports global cooperation initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by Xi.

Nicaragua is ready to work with China to continuously deepen bilateral friendly relations, strengthen multilateral coordination, oppose external interference and power politics, and jointly promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Pragmatic cooperation between

China and Nicaragua has been rapidly advancing in various fields, bringing benefits to the people of both countries.

In 2022, the bilateral trade volume reached \$760 million. China is Nicaragua's second-largest trading partner and second-largest source of imports. Nicaragua is China's important economic and trade partner in Central America and an important participant in the Belt and Road Initiative.

China and Nicaragua signed a free trade agreement in August this year, which will come into effect on Jan. 1 next year. It is a landmark achievement of cooperation between the two countries.

By implementing the free trade agreement, both countries will achieve a high level of mutual openness in areas such

as goods trade, service trade, and investment market access. Practical cooperation between them will also continue to expand and deepen.

According to Nicaraguan Minister of Development, Industry and Trade Jesus Bermudez, the Nicaragua-China free trade agreement will bring tangible benefits and set an example for cooperation between Central American and even Latin American countries with China.

As developing countries, China and Nicaragua share a common commitment to people-centered development and should work together to promote their respective modernization.

China is willing to share the opportunities brought about by Chinese modernization with countries including Nicaragua, and work with them to create a brighter future for global modernization.

People's Daily



## Erdogan last person to preach morality to us - Netanyahu

TEL AVIV

HITTING out at Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan over his "Hitler" remarks against him, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Erdogan is the "last person" to preach morality to Israel.

He also accused Erdogan of "committing genocide" against Kurds and imprisoning journalists opposing his regime.

Netanyahu further said that Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is the "most moral army" in the world and is fighting to eliminate " Hamas-ISIS" whose 'crimes against humanity' were "praised" by Erdogan.

"Erdogan, who is committing genocide against the Kurds and who holds the world record for imprisoning journalists who oppose his regime, is the last person who can preach morality to us. The IDF, which is the most moral army in the world, is fighting to eliminate the most abhorrent and brutal terrorist organization in the world, Hamas-ISIS, which has committed crimes against humanity, and which Erdogan has praised and whose leaders he hosts," Netanyahu posted on X (formerly Twitter).

<https://x.com/netanyahu/status/1740039502423265747?s=20>

This comes after Turkish President Erdogan compared Netanyahu with German dictator Adolf Hitler and said that Netanyahu's actions over Gaza are "no different" from those of Hitler, Anadolu Agency reported.

Earlier in November, Erdogan had labelled Israel as a "terrorist state", CNN reported.

"Israel is implementing a strategy of total annihilation of a city and its people. I say very clearly and frankly that Israel is a terrorist state," he said.

The Turkish President also vowed to take steps to ensure that Israel's political and military leaders face trial in international courts for their actions in Gaza.

After this, Netanyahu too hit back accusing Erdogan of supporting the "terror state of Hamas."

In another big statement, Erdogan had said that Hamas is "not" a terror organisation and termed it as 'mujahideen' defending their land, Times of Israel reported.

"Hamas is not a terrorist organization, it is a group of mujahideen defending their lands," he said.

Erdogan had also cancelled a planned visit to Israel amid the Israeli operations in Gaza, asserting that Turkey has "no problem with the Israeli state; however, Ankara would never approve of Tel Aviv committing atrocities," according to CNN.

ANI

## India's assistance holds the boat for Sri Lanka as it battles waves of economic crisis

NEW DELHI

AS Sri Lanka's battle against economic crisis remains persistent, India's assistance to the island nation gives the country an anchorage to hold its boat under its 'neighbourhood first' policy.

The External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar visited India twice this year. His first visit took place at the start of this year (January 2023) and his second one in October.

During his January visit, Jaishankar not only assured Sri Lanka of India's unwavering support to the island nation in its economic recovery but also invited the country's President Ranil Wickremesinghe to visit India.

Following this, the Sri Lankan President arrived here in New Delhi in July this year at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During his visit, President Wickremesinghe met his Indian counterpart Droupadi Murmu and discussed various issues of mutual interest with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Indian dignitaries as well.

According to an MEA release, Wickremesinghe's visit was to reinforce the longstanding friendship between the two countries and explore avenues for enhanced connectivity and mutually beneficial cooperation across sectors.

Celebrating the 75 years of diplomatic relationship with each other, India and Sri Lanka also unveiled a logo earlier in October.

Posting the logo on his social media platform, X, Jaishankar then wrote, "India and Sri Lanka launched a logo celebrating the 75 Years of our diplomatic relationship today." "Captures our deep historical, cultural and people-to-people bonds," he had said, at the time when the logo was launched.

Time and again, the frequent visits from the leaders of both countries have proven the diplomatic ties between the two countries have always remained cordial and friendly.

India and Sri Lanka, apart from engaging on various fora, also are a good maritime neighbour to each other.

The highly advanced Indian Naval Ship 'Nireekshak' arrived at the port of Trincomalee in September this year to facilitate Mixed Gas Diving training for the Sri Lanka Navy, according to the press release from the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

Previously, in September 2019 and March 2022, the ship made two trips to Trincomalee as part of an SLN diver training mission.

The ongoing interaction between Indian Naval vessels and the Sri Lanka Navy aligns with the Government of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, which aims to enhance capabilities.

The foreign minister of Sri Lanka, Ali Sabry, in an interview to ANI, had stated earlier in September that his country is attempting to establish better ties with India in the areas of port shipping connectivity, tourism, electricity, and renewable energy.

ANI

## UK's Hunt to deliver budget on March 6 as election looms

LONDON

BRITISH finance minister Jeremy Hunt will present the spring budget on March 6, in what is likely to be the government's last major chance to prepare the ground for an election that must be held by January 2025.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives are heavily trailing the main opposition Labour Party in the polls, but the country's weak economy and budget deficit mean Sunak and Hunt have little room for pre-election giveaways.

Many Conservative lawmakers have called for fresh tax cuts in the run-up to the election to help win back voters, many of whom are indicating they want change after 13 years of Conservative government.

According to the latest opinion poll by Ipsos in December, support for the Conservatives stood at 24 percent, far behind the opposition Labour Party's 41 percent.

Hunt's budget statement on



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt walks to his car holding the Autumn Statement booklet outside No 11 Downing Street, in London Nov 22, 2023. AP

March 6 will include tax and spending plans as well as new growth and borrowing forecasts and government debt issuance for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Treasury Department announced the date on X on Wednesday, saying that Hunt had asked the country's Office for Budget Responsibility to prepare its forecasts for then.

Media reports in recent months have speculated the spring budget would contain new tax cuts, following on from breaks given to workers and businesses by Hunt in the autumn budget in November.

The Telegraph on Tuesday that Sunak was considering axing inheritance tax.

While official data released in December showed that the budget picture has

deteriorated, public sector net borrowing was 24.4 billion pounds higher than in the April-November period a year earlier, a smaller debt interest bill thanks to slowing inflation that could restore some room for pre-election tax cuts.

Agencies

## Xinjiang fosters new advantages of ice-snow industry

LEVERAGING its abundant ice-and-snow resources, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region in northwest China has developed new business forms and products, and fostered new advantages of its ice-snow industry in recent years. More and more people are attracted to experience the charm of the ice and snow leisure tourism.

At the Jiangjun Mountain ski resort in Altay, Xinjiang, Huang Jianzhong and his family from Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, put on skiing equipment and got ready to go on the slopes with their coach.

"In previous winters, we came here for only sightseeing. This year we specifically hired a coach to teach my children how to ski," Huang told People's Daily. Nowadays, more and more tourists, like Huang and his family, would visit Xinjiang to experience the joy of winter sports.

Lyu Yaoping, a coach from a skiing training center at the Jiangjun Mountain ski resort, told People's Daily that the training center had only about 50 coaches when she joined it four years ago, and the number today has exceeded 180.

Besides, the number of relevant venues has also increased year by year. Today, Xinjiang is home to 101 ski resorts, 27 indoor ice rinks and 60 ice-snow amusement parks.

In addition to winter sports, Xinjiang fully utilizes its resources such as scenic spots, parks, ice and snow venues, and themed towns to host events such as ice and snow photography exhibitions, ice sculpture exhibitions, and snow sculpture exhibitions. The public's enthusiasm for ice and snow continues to rise.

Chi Shaoquan, deputy governor of Fuhai county in Altay, noted that the county was preparing to host a winter fishing festival that would take place soon. So far, Fuhai county has held 16 sessions of the festival, benefiting both the aquaculture and tourism industries.

In a workshop in Altay, Kuanishbek Slanbek, a master craftsman of ancient fur skins production, was busy making his products. Altay is the birthplace of skiing, and fur skins were an important tool for winter production and daily life in ancient times. Today, the craft of fur ski-making has regained vitality thanks to winter sports.

According to Kuanishbek Slanbek, those who purchase the fur skins are mainly skiing enthusiasts. They use the skins to experience local-style skiing, and some buy the products as souvenirs.

It takes about 15 days to make a pair of fur skins, which are priced at around 1,000 yuan (\$140). Since the beginning of this winter, Kuanishbek Slanbek has already made 60 pairs and still has pending orders.

"I have trained a group of young people to make fur skins. This has not only increased our income, but also ensured the inheritance of this craft," Kuanishbek Slanbek said.

Dozens of workers from a bedding company in Hababe



The 21st Silk Road Ice and Snow Festival in Urumqi kicks off in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Dec. 23, 2023. Photo shows a skiing performance staged during the opening ceremony of the event. (People's Daily Online/Xia Fangfang)

county, which is over 100 kilometers away from Kuanishbek Slanbek's workshop, were also rushing to fulfill orders. The company just finished producing 5,000 pieces of ski suits lately, and now they have received a new order for 12,000 pieces more.

A ski equipment company in Urumqi was also ramping up production. The company had to deliver three "magic carpets" to Kyrgyzstan in January next year.

"We mainly produce ski lifts, 'magic carpets,' snowmaking equipment, and snowboards. Our products not only meet the needs of local ski resorts but also sell to other regions," said Liao Yuan, the company's manager. According to him, the sales volume of the company has been increasing at an average of 30 percent per year.

Xinjiang enterprises have made inroads into ice and snow equipment manufacturing, covering personal equipment such as skiing suits, gloves, and snowboards, as well as specialized equipment for ski resorts like tow ropes, magic carpets, and ski lifts. This development has become an important part of the ice and snow industry in Xinjiang.

Helatibek Musai, a villager from Fuyun county, Altay, has been working at the international ski resort in Koktokay for five years. Every winter, he and his wife head to work early at the resort.

"There's no more leisure time now, as we are all busy making money! I'm the snowmaking supervisor and my wife is the guest room supervisor. Together, we earn over 10,000 yuan per month,"

the man told People's Daily.

In 2018, the construction of the international ski resort commenced, and the facility officially opened for business in 2020. Since then, it has received over 1 million visits.

Currently, the ski resort provides stable employment for more than 210 local farmers and herdsmen, with an average annual income of 32,000 yuan per person. Additionally, it has also created flexible job opportunities for over 7,000 people in the surrounding area.

With the increasing number of tourists, more and more local specialty products in Xinjiang have found a market. For instance, a cultural and creative park in Shuixigou township, Urumqi county, has built "bubble houses" that come with heating facilities, so that tourists can get a view of the beautiful sceneries outside these transparent "bubbles" in winter. The park also provides free stalls for local villagers to sell agricultural and sideline products, as well as handicrafts.

"These camel ornaments, felt purses, and felt jewelry boxes were all handmade by female members of our cooperative. Through selling these handicrafts, each of us earns around 4,500 yuan per month," said Hatima Ened, president of a cooperative in Urumqi county.

Hatima Ened, also an inheritor of the intangible cultural heritage item of Kazakh embroidery, told People's Daily that the booming tourism at the cultural and creative park has enabled many local families to increase their income. *People's Daily*

## US gives Ukraine year's final weapons package as Biden administration exhausts funding

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. State Department on Wednesday announced this year's final package of weapons and equipment to aid Ukraine, exhausting existing funding still at the Biden administration's disposal.

The arms and equipment in the package are worth up to 250 million U.S. dollars and are being provided "under previously directed drawdowns for Ukraine," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

"Capabilities provided in today's package include air defense munitions, other air defense system components, additional ammunition for high mobility artillery rocket systems, 155mm and 105mm artillery ammunition, anti-armor munitions, and over

15 million rounds of ammunition," Blinken said.

Assistance packages such as this just-announced one fall under the Presidential Drawdown Authority, which allows weapons to be pulled directly from the stocks of the Department of Defense so that they can be delivered to Ukraine in a swift manner.

The United States has already used up funds from another form of assistance for Ukraine, the congressionally-appropriated Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which enables the Department of Defense to purchase weapons for Kiev by signing contracts with arms manufacturers.

In his statement, Blinken reiterated the urgent need for Congress to get their work done. "It is imperative that

Congress act swiftly, as soon as possible, to advance our national security interests by helping Ukraine defend itself and secure its future," he said.

Warning that the funding Congress previously approved for providing assistance to Ukraine would soon dry up, the Biden administration said last week that lacking lawmakers' renewed commitment to further appropriation meeting the White House's over 60-billion-dollar supplemental budget request for Ukraine, the administration would be able to announce but one additional package for Kiev before year's end.

"We are still planning one more aid package to Ukraine later this month," John Kirby, the National Security Council's Coordinator for Strategic Communications, told reporters on

Dec. 18.

"However, when that one's done ... we will have no more replenishment authority available to us, and we're going to need Congress to act without delay, as we have been saying," Kirby said.

On Capitol Hill, Republicans are withholding their votes for new money for Ukraine, conditioning their approval on Democrats making compromises to satisfy the GOP's demand for tighter control measures on the border to keep incoming migrants at bay.

Since the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out in February 2022, the United States has committed more than 44.2 billion dollars in military aid to Ukraine, the Pentagon said in a fact sheet published on Wednesday.

Xinhua



Tigo Tanzania's Additional Service Manager Adam Francis (R) handed over a football yesterday to the company's Additional Services specialist, Noreen Kira, to signal the launch of the African football campaign aimed at taking the company's customers to Ivory Coast to watch the 2023 the AFCON finals. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Telecoms company to take Tanzania's soccer fans to AFCON finals

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tigo Tanzania company has launched a special campaign, known as 'Soka la Afrika Limeitika', to allow its customers to witness the 2023 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals that will be held in Ivory Coast in January next year.

The premier continental showdown's finals are scheduled to start on January 13 and end on February 11 with Tanzania participating for the third time in the finals.

Tigo Tanzania's Additional Service Manager, Adam Francis, said that the company's customers can win various prizes including a trip to Ivory Coast to witness the finals.

Francis disclosed: "We are delighted to launch the 'Soka la Afrika Limeitika' promotion, which offers our valued customers a unique opportunity to be a part of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations."

"This promotion is not only in line with our mission to provide an unparalleled experience but also celebrates Tanzania's participation in these big finals in Africa," the official pointed out.

The official further said the company encourages soccer fans in the country to join the promotion to get a chance to witness the senior national team 'Taifa Stars' in the finals.

"Each Tigo customer has a chance to win various prizes through this promotion, but more importantly, people will have the chance to witness our senior national team in these AFCON finals, this is an opportunity for our customers," Francis noted.

He said the company will continue to care for its customers by giving them what they deserve, thanks to their willingness to be customers of the company.

## Karia can hardly avoid criticism from Tanzania's soccer stakeholders

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ACCORDING to the nature of Tanzania's soccer, before getting used to it, an individual needs a lot of time to understand that the country's football has a unique way of governing it and it has some politics.

It is very difficult for an individual to find a football fan in the country who is neither Simba SC nor Yanga supporter.

There may be few soccer followers rooting for renowned Tanga teams- African Sports and Coastal Union- but research shows they are lately very few.

Most of the two clubs' fans, and those who were rooting for Cosmopolitan FC, have jumped onto Simba SC and Yanga bandwagon.

I said the fans have jumped into the two popular outfits' bandwagon because their teams have not played top-flight football for a long time.

The rest are Simba SC and Yanga fans, and this is the culture of the soccer fanbase in Tanzania.

Two years ago, Tanzania Football Federation president Wallace Karia was allegedly accused by a section of fans rooting for Young Africans, alias Yanga, that he is a Simba SC fan.

He was accused of favouring Simba SC during that period, which saw the club clinch the Premier League top honour four times in a row.

Karia and the rest of the Tanzania Football Federation leadership were accused of suppressing Yanga, which was registering average players because the outfit was struggling financially.

Yanga had players who could not take the team to the promised land, days passed, the sunset and the Simba SC domination in the league ended.

The Jangwani Street-based Yanga, which was then under the new leadership led by president Hersi Said, registered



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia.

three players from DR Congo- Djuma Shabani, Fiston Mayeye, and Yannick Bangala.

They joined their compatriot Tuisila Kisinda- by then playing his second season at the club.

Finally, Yanga won the Premier League trophy for two consecutive seasons and noises that alleged Karia and Tanzania Football Federation are favouring Simba SC disappeared.

After Simba SC had won the Premier League four times in a row sold its midfielders Clatous Chama and Luis Miquissoine, there was a drop in form among several players including midfielder Rally Bwalya.

Simba SC did not win a major trophy since the departure of the mentioned players, with some having returned to the club a few seasons later. Ugandan midfielder Taddeo Lwanga, Zambian attacker Chris Mugalu, Rwandan striker Meddie Kagere, and Ivorian central defender Pascal Wawa, later on, left Simba SC, and the outfit lost steam.

Rumours thereafter circulated, claiming Karia was favouring Yanga. That is how local football operates.

Simba SC's leadership stated it was ready to relocate the club to the Zambian Super League due to the injustice the outfit was allegedly experiencing in Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

The Msimbazi Street outfit's officials at some point were complaining

that the local football governing body was unfair to it and, at the same time, gratifying Yanga.

A soccer fanatic needs critical analysis to understand Tanzania's soccer from the sport's fans, club leaders, and how they operate.

Every team that lifts the NBC Premier League is endorsed by TFF and a couple of outfits that have lost out on the top flight's silverware blame the federation.

No club is ready to lose because of mistakes it committed throughout the season, team leaders are not ready to tell their clubs' fans the truth about their failure.

Every team seems to be bullied by TFF and points accusing fingers at the federation. When Simba SC is successful, Karia is reported to be the team's member and, when Yanga is on top, Karia is believed to be a Yanga fan.

That is Mainland Tanzania soccer and its fandom, it is how the game operates- a culture that every individual has to understand.

Since Yanga understood how to invest in good players the club's officials and supporters no longer blame Karia.

Nowadays they have the audacity of going to the stadium donning the outfit's jerseys and happily tucking the wears in.

Since Simba SC lost the Premier League twice in a row, the squad has not settled yet to realize the outfit's strength and make the most of it.

This season Simba SC has gone on a tremendous signing spree, and if it happens the outfit fails to win the Premier League title, noises that Karia is a Yanga fan cannot be avoided by the former's supporters.

If Simba SC does not win a prestigious title this season Karia and TFF will be held accountable, that is how Simba SC and Yanga culture is, they never accept defeat due to failure to tackle their weaknesses.

After retaining Chama and Miquissoine, and signing Willy Onana and Che Malone Fondoh, Simba SC made its desire to win the league's top honour known.

The Msimbazi Street club resorted to making major improvements, seeking to reach the latter stages of

the newly-formed African Football League and this season's CAF Champions League.

When an individual looks at Yanga, he/she will notice the club still has a good squad which can propel it to clinching the Premier League trophy.

Such a team can see Yanga write a new history in this season's premier continental club showdown albeit it is tough for both Simba SC and Yanga to reach their goals this season as they strive to undermine each other.

For that matter, a soccer follower should expect Karia and the Tanzania Football Federation to be on the receiving end of criticism at the end of the season because neither of the two clubs can admit their failure when either of the two loses out on any of the domestic tournaments' title- they always seem to look for a scapegoat.

The Premier League is on the rise, many teams are signing good players and paying them a good sum of money.

The top flight possesses a lot of money which has come about thanks to lucrative sponsorship, and when healthy competition rises most teams become fit to challenge Simba SC and Yanga in various fixtures.

After both Simba SC and Yanga managed to sign several good players this season, allegations that Karia and the federation are favouring one team will soon arise.

Yanga previously wanted to line up and protest to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's office after feeling Tanzania Football Federation and Karia were favouring Simba SC.

This country is never short of banter. At the end of the season, either Simba SC or Yanga will start accusing Karia of being a fan of the team that will win the league's trophy.

If one of the two outfits ends up winning the league's top honour, Karia will just be inches away from being accused of being a supporter of the side which will lift the title.

Local football has its culture, if a person is familiar with it, it would hardly surprise him/her at all, but if he/she is not familiar with it, this article will help him/her come to terms with it.



Deputy Prime Minister Dotto Biteko, also serving as Minister for Energy (3rd L), presents a certificate to the Mwanga Hakika Bank's Head of Corporate Banking, Project Massawe, in recognition of the bank's sponsorship and participation in the Rombo Marathon and Ndafu Festival held in Rombo-Rongai, Kilimanjaro on December 23. The event had a theme of encouraging environmental conversation and tourism. Standing on the left is the marathon's founder, Minister for Education, Science, and Technology Professor Adolf Mkenda. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## All set for 2024 Mapinduzi Cup as bank offers financial boost

By Guardian Correspondent

THE NMB Bank Plc yesterday affirmed plans to sponsor the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup tournament slated to kick off at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar later in the day.

The sponsorship, totaling 200m/-, includes a cash prize of 100m/- that will be handed to the tournament's champion and tracksuits as part of the institution's commitment to support sports development.

The 2024 Mapinduzi Cup tournament is expected to be inaugurated by Zanzibar President and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Hussein Mwinyi.

Naima Said Shaame, NMB Zanzibar Branch

Manager, said the bank's sponsorship aligns with the government's efforts to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Revolution of Zanzibar.

She stated during a press conference, announcing the bank's sponsorship held at the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports offices in Zanzibar yesterday.

The NMB Bank Plc official said: "As one of the biggest development stakeholders in Zanzibar, we felt duty bound to be part of these celebrations."

"We have been supporting the Mapinduzi Cup since its inception and we believe our support will help to make this year's tournament bigger and better," she revealed.

Naima said that apart from handing over a grand prize of 100m/-, the bank has donated tracksuits for various leaders and the diplomatic community who will take part in a training run/walk which will signalize the opening of the tournament.

"This is not the end of our sponsorship. We will announce other sponsorship initiatives soon after reaching an agreement with the responsible ministry," Naima noted.

"As a bank, we will continue partnering with the government to enhance sports development across the country."

"NMB Bank believes sports not only contributes to our well-being but also brings us together as a nation," Naima said.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports Fatma Hamad Rajab commended the bank for its timely support for the 2024 Mapinduzi tournament, given the ministry has been to attract sponsors for the tournament.

"The bank's sponsorship now gives us faith that next year's Mapinduzi Cup will be successful. We have already received the cash for the winner of the tournament and other prizes including the top goal scorer, Best Disciplined Team, and Best Goalkeeper and these will be handed over in the presence of the Zanzibar President," Fatma said.

Fatma reiterated the ministry's commitment to continue partnering with various

stakeholders in Zanzibar to enhance sports development.

"Partnership with various sports development stakeholders will ensure the growth of sports in the long run. I take this opportunity to encourage other companies to come on board and support the government's sports development, initiative," she added.

This year Mapinduzi Cup competition will bring together 12 teams with four teams coming from Mainland Tanzania including Young Africans, Simba SC, Azam FC, and Singida Big Stars FC.

Zanzibar has entered KVZ, KMKM, Malindi, Mlandege FC, Jamhuri, and Chipukizi while Burundi has fielded Vital'O.

## Son leads South Korea squad 'ready' to win Asian Cup

SEOUL

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's Son Heung-min was named in South Korea's Asian Cup squad yesterday and coach Jurgen Klinsmann said it was "about time" they ended their 64-year continental title drought.

Wolves forward Hwang Hee-chan, who scored his 10th Premier League goal of the season against Brentford on Wednesday, was also among Klinsmann's 26-man selection for the tournament, which kicks off in Qatar on January 12.

Son will captain a squad that includes Bayern Munich defender Kim Min-jae and 22-year-old Paris Saint-Germain attacking midfielder Lee Kang-in.

South Korea have not won the Asian Cup since 1960 and Klinsmann said: "It's all about timing now and I think we are ready for this big, big competition."

"It's 64 years -- 64 years is a long time for Korea. It's about time that we get this done."

South Korea have been drawn in Group E and will face Malaysia, Jordan and Bahrain in the first round.

They lost 1-0 to eventual champions Qatar in the quarter-finals of the 2019 Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates.

Klinsmann, a World Cup winner with Germany in 1990, will have one of the strongest squads in the tournament in Qatar and he said he could "see it in their eyes that they are hungry for it".

"I have a good feeling because they're doing well at their clubs," he said. "They're healthy, they're fit, they're ambitious and they're very hungry. This is the foundation for playing a good tournament."

Son will be appearing at his fourth Asian Cup and was part of the South Korea team that lost to hosts Australia in the 2015 final.

Hwang scored twice in Wolves' 4-1 win over Brentford to move one goal behind Son, who has 11, in the Premier League scoring charts.

Lee is also making a splash after moving to Paris from Mallorca in the summer, and Klinsmann described him as "a flower that starts to bloom".

"We have a lot of different pieces in that roster and that makes us one of the favourites for the Asian Cup," said Klinsmann. "We have to fine tune these elements over the next couple of weeks and then go into the tournament with confidence."

Klinsmann was unable to select Hwang Ui-jo, who has been suspended by South Korea because of a police investigation into allegations he illegally filmed an ex-girlfriend.

The Norwich City forward is accused of filming a sexual encounter with the former partner on his phone without consent. He denies the allegation.

"It's very difficult for us coaches to deal with that because it's not in our power," said Klinsmann.

South Korea squad:

Goalkeepers: Kim Seung-gyu (Al Shabab/KSA), Jo Hyun-woo (Ulsan), Song Bum-keun (Shonan Bellmare/JPN)

AFP

## Japan's Mitoma is a doubt for Asian Cup after suffering ankle injury

TOKYO

JAPAN's Kaoru Mitoma is a doubt for next month's Asian Cup after being ruled out of action for up to six weeks with an ankle injury.

The winger, 26, suffered the knock in Brighton's 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace last week. There are also questions over Ivory Coast winger Simon Adingra's involvement in the Africa Cup of Nations after he hurt his hamstring in the same match.

The Asian Cup, in Qatar, begins on January 12, while the AFCON starts in Ivory Coast the following day.

The pair are among up to 10 Brighton players set to miss Thursday's Premier League match at home to Tottenham.

"Tomorrow we have more or less 10 injured players, maybe eight but (the other) two players can't start the game," Brighton boss Roberto De Zerbi said on Wednesday.

"Mitoma is one of them. We lost Kaoru for around six weeks -- four, five, six weeks. Adingra, I think he needs four, five weeks (recovery). Tomorrow, no Mitoma, no Adingra."

De Zerbi believes Brighton's involvement in the Europa League may be a factor in their long list of injuries but accepts other Premier League managers, including Spurs boss Ange Postecoglou, have faced similar issues.

"This season, a lot of injuries were unlucky because (Solly) March, Pervis Estupinan, (Julio) Enciso and Mitoma, they are not muscular injuries," said De Zerbi. "We are paying maybe for playing every week three times."

"I would like to play with the complete squad but Tottenham played a lot of games without seven, eight players and I never heard Postecoglou cry," added the Italian. "It's football and we have to accept it."

"I think we can compete in the same way. Maybe on the bench we have not the same quality with a complete squad but we have maybe more energy with the young players."

AFP

# Manchester City show title-winning character to find way to beat Everton

By Chris Bascombe

PHIL Foden took it upon himself to be the match-maker who reunited Manchester City with their swagger.

City were contemplating what seemed to be their 1,000th sideway pass of the evening, traits such as pace, imagination and aggression did not appear to be high on their list of aspirations, and their historic 2023 seemed destined for an unfulfilling domestic finale.

Then Foden receiving possession on the edge of Everton's penalty area, let rip from 20 yards to leave his England teammate Jordan Pickford floundering, and 37 minutes later the champions left Goodison Park vaguely resembling their old selves.

Should they go on to win a fourth consecutive evening, Pep Guardiola will surely reflect on Foden's equaliser as a critical moment, his injury hit side overcoming adversity to secure one of those grinding wins that defines title triumphs.

Not that Guardiola was overly gushing about his young midfielder.

As his tendency, the manager's praise for Foden was caveated, referencing how he 'learned' from a less positive contribution in the draw against Crystal Palace a fortnight ago.

"There are still things he can improve to be a top class player for many years," said Guardiola.

"We forget how young Phil is. The talent is there. With the absence of Haaland we need a player with a scent of goal. We are really pleased with how he



Manchester City had to dig deep to get the three points at Everton - Reuters

played."

It was hardly an eulogy, Guardiola still sounding like the father figure contemplating an infant's previous mistakes. There will come a point when Foden is elevated from his status of emerging force to complete footballer.

The 23-year-old has been at the highest level longer than some veterans - one of those home-grown stars who occasionally lacks the surrounding fanfare of those signed for multi-million pound fees. One wonders if familiarity can sometimes breed a culture of being taken for granted; Foden is the boy who you know actually means it when kissing the badge.

When academy graduates deliver, it is to be expected from those who have seen the prodigy

emerging through the ranks. When not, the criticism sounds harsher and less forgiving, the observation about being 'one of our own' sometimes a curse as much as blessing.

That chant was exclusively in appreciation from the visiting fans at full-time, recognising Foden as the player with his foot on the accelerator to ensure City will soon be in Liverpool and Arsenal's rear view mirror.

Before then, City were punchless. The game began as expected with City retaining possession, but in a methodical, impressive and dare one say tedious way, as if the essence of their game plan was to ensure that only one team had the capacity to play anything resembling football.

Without pace and imagination, that approach lacked penetration. Erling Haaland's absence did not help. There was no excitement, although there were mitigating circumstances for their slow start, namely injury absences and the fact City never needed to get out of first gear to beat the Brazilian 40-some-things at the Club World Cup.

Too often you could be forgiven for thinking Jack Grealish and Foden arrived at Goodison fearful of dribbling because of the grave risk of losing possession. The early dominance still almost yielded goals for Matheus Nunez and Julian Alvarez, Pickford rescuing Everton before his errors proved costly later.

True, City still needed the good fortune of ref-

eree John Brooks to decide Amadou Onana was guilty of handball to complete their second half transformation.

"Incredible," Everton manager Sean Dyche suggested about the decision. It was more harsh than inexplicable. In the current climate, there seems to be a fine line between officials interpreting handball rules and making them up as they go along.

Nevertheless, Alvarez dispatching the spot kick to give City a momentum they never surrendered.

Dyche's method is as distinctive as Guardiola's, albeit from a different coaching manual.

Despite perceptions, Everton have played with more style than Dyche is credited for - James Garner and Jack Harri-

son have been particularly prominent influences in an impressive run. Everton's most ineffective performances under Dyche have been when they have gone more defensive and direct to concede possession against perceived 'superior' teams.

That was their problem in the second half as they became more passive, only dangerous when they tried to expose City's vulnerability at centre-back.

Everton were one-up when Rodri slipped in his penalty area to enable Dwight McNeil to cross for Harrison's tap in. Everton had feasted on their scrap.

When they started attacking City in pursuit of an equaliser, substitute Dominic Calvert-Lewin missed from six yards after Harrison's perfect cross; too little, too late.

Pickford's gifting Bernardo Silva the chance to gloriously chip in a third from 25 yards sealed the points summing up City's increasing poise and a poor second half by the home side.

This is not yet the silky City of the last three years. They still have much to do to remain kings of the Premier League, but they are still up there without their best player Kevin de Bruyne and with the most feared striker in Europe in treatment.

The evening had begun with Evertonian Tommy Fleetwood - a friend of Guardiola - showing off the Ryder Cup. They may not be at their best, but it would be wise to presume this is not the last trophy parade City will see this season.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Madueke delights Pochettino by channelling frustration to deliver winner

By Matt Law

MAURICIO Pochettino was delighted that substitute Noni Madueke channelled his anger at him by saving Chelsea from more frustration by winning and scoring the decisive penalty against Crystal Palace.

Without suspended duo Raheem Sterling and Cole Palmer, Chelsea head coach Pochettino preferred full-back Ian Maatsen as a makeshift winger to Madueke in his starting line-up on Wednesday night.

Madueke has spent the majority of Pochettino's reign on the substitutes' bench when he has been fit this season, but stepped off it to clinch a crucial victory for Chelsea in their final home game of what has been a dismal 2023.

Pochettino admitted that Madueke had been out to prove a point to him and chatted to the winger at the final whistle after watching him net his 89th-minute spot-kick.

"I want all the players who are not involved to go to me," said Pochettino. "I like it because we won the game. He got the penalty and scored it. We are not a charity. We are a football club and we need to perform."

"We are here to try to help the players to perform. Sometimes we need to be tough and show the

reality and put in front of them the mirror to show, 'Come on, that is not the player that is going to perform'.

"We have an amazing group of players, very nice people. But to compete in Chelsea is not the same as another club. It's about winning, to lift trophies, to respect the history of the club. How do you respect? Go in there and fight. The first thing is to have the right mentality and show respect to the history of the club."

Madueke had received criticism for being pictured in a nightclub in September and Pochettino has been clear about what he expects from his players.

"He showed he was upset with me and was disappointed with me because he didn't play too much, also because he was injured," said Pochettino. "I think he said 'now I'm going to show the coach he can trust in me'. They [the players] need to show me I can trust."

"The mentality is really important. You cannot only play with your quality. If you don't have the right mentality and the right approach every single day, in training and in games, it's difficult to perform. You have to be ready to fight for yourself and the team, and it was so nice to receive this energy

in the game and then at the end of the game.

"This is how he needs to behave every single day. We are not bad people, who don't want to play with some players. Only you can connect with your talent if you show the right mentality."

Chelsea had taken the lead through Mykhailo Mudryk and had threatened to build a convincing lead before poor defending allowed Michael Olise to equalise for Palace on the stroke of half-time.

Nicholas Jackson missed a sitter and had a goal disallowed by Var, before the technology intervened for the penalty that Madueke won and scored. Referee Michael Salisbury had initially allowed play to continue after Madueke

had gone over Eberechi Eze's outstretched leg, but changed his decision after being sent to the monitor.

Palace manager Roy Hodgson said: "I'm tempted to say, 'What's the point?' You have to accept there's two referees in every game and every time something happens on the field of play, the referee makes the decision, you still have to wait a few minutes to see if the other referee has seen something different."

"It happens. People will discuss was it or wasn't it? People are taking away the decisions, trashing if you like, the decisions made by the guy on the field and handing it over to someone in front of a TV screen."

"It wasn't my obvious idea of what a penalty

looks like, but that's the same for so many penalties that I've seen given because I'm conditioned to some extent after seeing penalties given and not given for many years.

"Listen, I've got to be honest with you, I have no real interest in discussing referees, Var and, to cut a lot of questions short, I thought we played very well, deserved to get something from that game, I think we could have even said that a performance like that could have got us three points but it's got us nothing."

"Then the next question is whether I'm frightened to death now because we're only a few points above the relegation zone. I'll answer that one for you as well: No, I'm not."

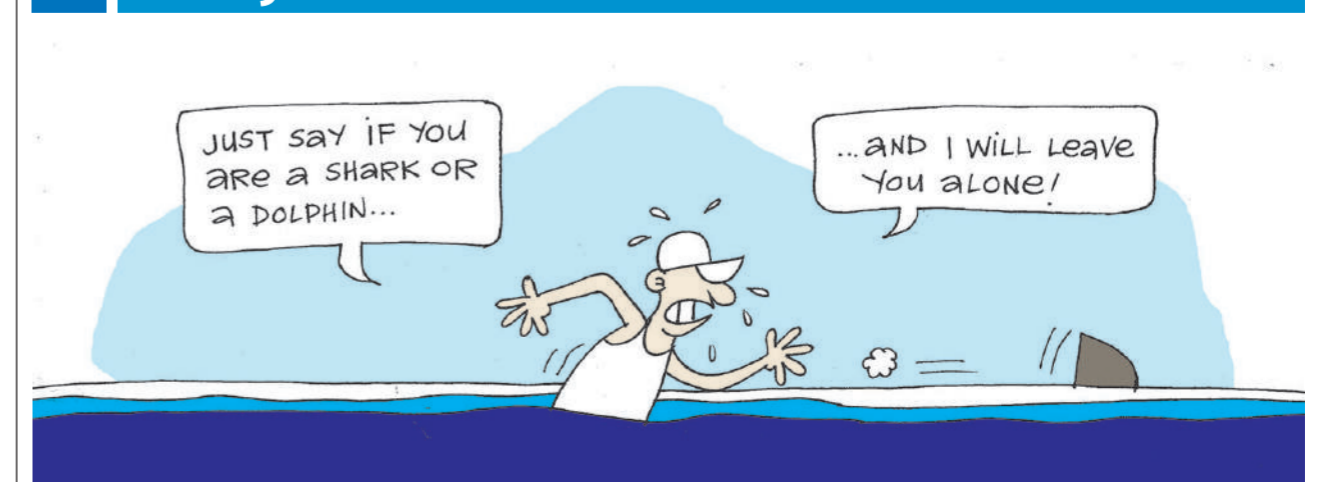
Describing his team's performance and his own frustration at half-time, Pochettino said: "We were thinking too much. I told them at half-time to stop thinking. We were moving so slowly in the beginning. They were nervous."

"When you are older like us coaches you can feel things. I felt them starting to struggle, there was a lack of communication in the game when we were winning 1-0."

"They started to feel the pressure and you can feel when they are going to crash. I wasn't so happy that we conceded in the last minute of the first half but I am happy that the players came off the bench and made an impact."

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Manchester City show title-winning character to find way to beat Everton

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**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zote Kuntu  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
17:00 SSELKET  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 5SPORTS  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

**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**



URA FC's players. AGENCIES

## URA FC reveals reasons for pulling out of Mapinduzi Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

FOUR-TIME Uganda Premier League champion, URA FC, has revealed reasons for pulling out of the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup tournament slated to start yesterday and come to an end on January 13 in Zanzibar.

According to URA FC, it received an official invitation from the tournament organizers, which was also accompanied by a letter from the Tanzania Football Federation to the Federation of Uganda Football Associations.

The tax collectors affirmed their willingness to form part in the tournament, only for the tough conditions set by FUFA to force their withdrawal.

The local football custodians insisted that URA FC could only participate if they did not violate their schedule in the Uganda Premier League.

In the two weeks of the tournament, URA FC had three UPL matches scheduled, and FUFA could not allow a postponement for the sake of the Mapinduzi Cup.

"In a letter from FUFA dated December 22, after expressing readiness to travel to Zanzibar to represent the country, the approval to go and take part in the tournament was subjected to the following conditions as agreed upon by FUFA and UPL," URA FC's statement said.

"All URA FC's SUPL fixtures must continue uninterrupted," URA FC revealed FUFA's tough condition for the outfit's participation.

In the same period of the tournament, URA FC will play Mbarara City FC (December 28), KCCA FC (January 2) and SC Villa five days later.

"It left us with no option apart from withdrawing in order to honour our fixtures," the club added.

The taxmen had been pooled in Group A of 2024 Mapinduzi Cup along with Mainland Tanzania's Azam FC and Zanzibar outfits Mlandege FC and Chipukizi United.

It has since been confirmed that South Sudan's Jamus FC has taken up URA FC's spot in the annual tournament.

In 2016, the tax collectors became the second Ugandan club to win the tournament after KCCA FC had lifted the top honour in 2014, when URA FC beat Tanzania's Mtibwa Sugar 3-1 in the final.

## President Mwinyi's call to action as Taifa Stars readies for 2023 AFCON



Zanzibar's President and Chairman of the Isles Revolutionary Council, Hussein Ali Mwinyi (L), receives the senior national football team's jersey from Tanzania Football Federation president, Wallace Karia, during the opening ceremony of the refurbished New Amaan Sports Complex in the Isles on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

EXCITEMENT rippled through Zanzibar on Wednesday evening as the Isles' newly refurbished sports complex, christened the New Amaan Sports Complex, received its official blessing.

The grand opening ceremony was graced by the presence of Zanzibar President, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, also the Chairman of the Isles Revolutionary Council, who made a momentous announcement.

Mwinyi said: "Tanzania's senior national football team, Taifa Stars, would be setting up a three-day training camp at the New Amaan Sports Complex before jetting off to Egypt for their final preparations ahead of the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Ivory Coast."

President Mwinyi, acknowledging the ardent pleas of local sports enthusiasts, declared: "The team is welcome! If possible, they should even

play a friendly match with one of our teams here to get into good shape before flying off for the AFCON contest."

His words resonated with the crowd, igniting hope for a thrilling pre-tournament encounter that would not only benefit the Taifa Stars but also serve as a baptism by fire for Zanzibar's sporting talents.

And the New Amaan Sports Complex's significance extends far beyond this one pre-tournament camp.

President Mwinyi envisions it as a cornerstone in a grander plan to revitalize Zanzibar's sporting infrastructure.

He stated: "This is just the beginning. We intend to continue building sports infrastructures in many parts of the country. Soon, the project to construct sports

centers in all districts will be launched."

And the ambition does not stop there. With a twinkle in his eye, Mwinyi revealed a future even more dazzling.

The Zanzibar President disclosed: "By 2027, if God keeps us alive, we will have a brand new stadium here in Zanzibar, similar to the legendary Old Trafford!"

The prospect of a world-class sporting arena on the spice island sent a wave of cheers through the crowd.

The New Amaan Sports Complex, it seems, is just the first chapter in a much larger story, one where Zanzibar aspires to become a sporting powerhouse, nurturing talent and hosting major events on the African stage.

As the ceremony drew to

a close, President Mwinyi announced one final change, saying: "The former Amaan Stadium would now be known as the New Amaan Sports Complex, a symbolic gesture marking a new era for sports in Zanzibar."

With its state-of-the-art facilities, passionate fans, and ambitious vision, the New Amaan Sports Complex is poised to play a pivotal role in Zanzibar's sporting future.

And who knows, perhaps it will one day witness the Taifa Stars lifting the coveted AFCON trophy, a testament to the transformative power of sport and the unwavering spirit of the island nation.

The Taifa Stars face a tough challenge in Group F of the 2024 AFCON, which includes Morocco, Zambia, and DR

Congo.

However, the team's recent performances have been encouraging, and they will be hoping to use the New Amaan training camp to fine-tune their preparations and build momentum for the tournament.

Tanzanian fans are already gearing up for the AFCON, and the prospect of seeing their team compete on the big stage is generating a lot of excitement.

The New Amaan Sports Complex is sure to be a hive of activity in the coming weeks as the Taifa Stars prepare for their African adventure.

Whether they manage to bring home the trophy or not, the Taifa Stars' participation in the 2024 AFCON is a significant moment for Tanzanian football.

It is a chance for the team to showcase their talent on a global stage and inspire a new generation of players.

And with the New Amaan Sports Complex as a symbol of their growing ambition, the future of Tanzanian football looks bright.

The opening ceremony also witnessed a thrilling goalless draw friendly match between Kilimanjaro Stars and Zanzibar Heroes.

The tie added to the festive atmosphere and providing a glimpse of the exciting footballing action that awaits at the New Amaan.

With its modern facilities, passionate fans, and ambitious vision, the New Amaan Sports Complex is poised to become a hub for footballing excellence in Zanzibar and beyond.

The future of Tanzanian football is indeed looking bright, and the New Amaan is sure to play a key role in its journey to success.

## Yanga Princess have more work to do despite grabbing huge win, says coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe



Yanga Princess' midfielder Precious Christopher (L) negotiates her way past Amani Queens' players as the clubs locked horns in this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SLWPL) tie held at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday and ended in a 6-1 win for Yanga Princess. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA PRINCESS

YANGA Princess head coach Charles Haalubono believes there is still a lot to be done despite the outfit's perfect start to the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League match at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Hosts Yanga Princess made light work of Amani Queens in Wednesday's Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League match at the stadium, cruising to an emphatic 6-1 victory.

Nigerian attacking midfielder Precious Christopher opened the scoring with a quick brace inside the opening 10 minutes to give Yanga Princess a 2-0 lead.

New signings Kenyan striker Janet Bundi and Malian winger Madina Traore added the third and fourth goals respectively.

Noela Luhala added a fifth

in the 77th minute before the experienced Janet made it 6-1 to cap off a sensational debut.

Janeth Cletus scored Amani Queens' consolation goal in the 27th minute after timing her run to round off Yanga Princess goalkeeper, Husna Zubeir, before tapping into an empty net.

Haalubono whose side have now won their two games played so far, said he is happy they are now scoring goals but there is still work to do if they are to excel in the subsequent matches.

The Zambian coach said: "We are slowly getting there because in the previous games we played in the Community Shield we could not score any goal."

"We lost in penalties in the semi and then won in penalties in the third place playoff without scoring," the gaffer noted.

"We started the league by scoring two goals in the first

game, I was happy. Today we scored six, I am happy at least now they are understanding."

The tactician revealed: "I would say we are almost there but we have to work extra hard because I have seen these other teams, they are good. We have to really work extra hard to beat them, we still have more work to do."

The comfortable result sent Yanga Princess to the top of the Mainland Women's Premier League table.

A tricky start to the season for Yanga Princess sees them face both Simba Queens and Fountain Gate FC Princess in the opening five games.

Simba Queens and Fountain Gate FC Princess finished second and third respectively last season.

Next on the assignment table for Haalubono and his charges is the first heavy-weight clash of the season against long-time rivals, Simba Queens, on Wednesday.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

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