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African SMEs need an alternative capital market, says banker

ADIB accepts president's call on Zimbabwe's foreign debt

South Africa's market is important for sustainable growth

Privatisation: Ten factories retaken after investors fail

By Guardian Reporter

THE Treasury Registrar has handed over 10 factories to four public institutions after investors failed to develop them as per privatization conditions.

Mgonya Benedicto, the registrar, said at handover event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, that the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA), the National Development Corporation (NDC), the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and the Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) will run the repossessed factories.

In August last year, the government directed that of the 20 repossessed factories 10 factories should be transferred to public institutions and the other 10 handed to investors by a



The country needs investors. This is why we have witnessed President Samia Suluhu Hassan travelling in various countries to attract more investors, so we have to support the initiative to achieve the country's development goals

tendering process. The registrar tasked the new operators with submitting a work-plan within three weeks, which will be monitored by the regulatory authority. "Although I am handing over the factories today, you are required to submit your strategic plans for the

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Civil servants' travel, extra-duties pay rise



Omar Hamad of Tumbe village plants seaweeds at his farm in North Pemba yesterday. More than 400 farmers are engaged in seaweeds farming as a cash crop. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

CIVIL servants have another reason to smile after it was announced here yesterday that subsistence allowance for domestic travel and extra duty payments have been increased.

Dr Laurean Ndumbaro, the permanent secretary in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) said President Samia Suluhu Hassan authorized the upward review whose implementation starts with the new financial year on July 1.

He was addressing the working session of heads of departments, units of administration and human resource management in the public service, aimed at evaluating performance and improving service delivery.

This another boost for civil servants following the salary increase for civil servants by 23.3 per cent for minimum wage level. Subsistence allowance for domestic travel for senior public servants rises from 120,000/- to 250,000/- and lower scale rises from 80,000/- to 100,000/-.

Extra duty for public servants rises for the lower level from 15,000/- to 30,000/-, middle level uplift from 20,000/- to 40,000/- and for senior staff hiked from 30,000/- to 60,000/-.

The new rates will be embedded in the budget estimates for the new financial year, so institutions should not ask for additional allocations to pay those



Let public servants be held accountable voluntarily and without coercion," he appealed, asking them to be more creative in contributing to the national socio-economic

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BRELA lists 5,600 firms for scrapping over tax, finances

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DEREGISTERING a total of 5,676 companies that have failed to furnish annual tax returns and financial statements for 15 years is underway, the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) has

declared.

Godfrey Nyaisa, the BRELA CEO told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that deregistration is carried out in accordance with section 128 of the Companies Act, requiring annual tax returns while foreign firms submit financial statements.

A total of 5,284 local firms facing the axe and 392 foreign companies conducting operations in Tanzania, he said, noting that section 400 and 441 of the Companies Act vested power on the agency to deregister companies that are dormant.

The presence of many companies that are not operating violates the law and a burden to BRELA to keep records of companies that are

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IDA disburses \$550m for road, airport works



Much of Tanzania's development success over the past decade has been predicated on the critical advantages of its strategic maritime location, its rich and diverse natural resources,

By Guardian Reporter

INTERNATIONAL Development Association (IDA) financing at \$550m will allow Tanzania to unlock critical road and air travel bottlenecks, enhance its role as a transit country, and more effectively leverage its national parks for tourism. World Bank country director, Mara Warwick said in a statement yesterday,

citing information from bank headquarters in Washington DC, that the funds will be directed at the Tanzania Transport Integration Project (TanTIP). The project aims to improve the safety, climate resilience, the capacity of key road corridors and regional airports. Relevant transport sector institutions will be assisted to plan for and manage the sector, it

said.

"Much of Tanzania's development success over the past decade has been predicated on the critical advantages of its strategic maritime location, its rich and diverse natural resources, its socio-political stability, and its rapidly growing tourism industry," the statement observed. "Investments under this project will contribute to

wider government efforts to improve the integration of Tanzania's economy and its connection with its neighbors and global markets, while ensuring adaptability of the infrastructure," it explained. TanTIP financing will focus on supporting the upgrading and rehabilitation of about

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IDA disburses \$550m for road, airport works

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500 km of roads, including the Mtwara-Mingoyo-Masasi (201 km), Lusahunga-Rusumo (92 km), Songea-Rutukila (111 km) and Iringa-Msembe (104 km) roads. It will also integrate climate resilience measures to enhance resilience and adaptation of these roads and road network, with upgrading and rehabilitation of Lake Manyara, Iringa and Tanga airports, it said.

This is geared at enhancement of safety and capacity of the airports as well as climate resilience, while a third component is institutional capacity including on climate risk management and safety. This is geared at encouraging gender balance with greater inclusion and career development opportunities for women, linked with supporting project implementation, management, and monitoring, it said.

Gylfi Pálsson, lead transport specialist at the Bretton Woods institution, said that the road and airport designs under TanTIP are climate-informed, ensuring adaptability of the road corridors and regional airports to future natural disasters.

The project will enhance mitigation measures and mainstream climate resilience considerations in the national road transport sector planning, investments and management, he asserted. The project will directly benefit many communities and firms, including smallholder farmers, agribusiness operators, existing and potential private sector investors, importers and exporters, he said.

It will also have wider positive impacts on development outcomes such as economic welfare, social inclusion (jobs, gender), equity (poverty, inequality), environmental quality and economic resilience, the specialist noted.

The IDA was established in 1960 as African countries became free in a rapid fashion, intended to help the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives.

IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 74 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa, bank data indicates, showing that resources from IDA bring positive change to the 1.3bn people in poor countries. Since 1960, IDA has provided \$458bn to 114 countries, with annual commitments averaging about \$29bn over the last three years (fiscal 2019 to 2021), with about 70 percent going to Africa, the statement added.



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development of these industries by June 20. We want to ensure that the factories operate well and profitably to meet the government's goals," he stated.

The first batch of 10 factories include TPL Shinyanga Meat Plant, Ilulu Oil Mills (Lindi), Nachingwea Cashewnut (Lindi), Mkata Sawmill Limited and Sikh Sawmill Limited (Tanga), National Steel Corporation-Dar es Salaam and Mbeya Ceramics

Ltd. Others are Mang'ula Mechanical & Machine Tools (Morogoro), Mwanza Tanneries (Mwanza) and TPL Mbeya. The Mang'ula plant will be given to NDC, Mbeya Ceramic factory to SIDO and the remaining seven factories will be relocated to EPZA, he said, noting that those shifting to EPZA are TPL Shinyanga Meat Plant, Ilulu Oil Mills, Nachingwea Cashewnut, Mkata Sawmill Limited, Sikh Sawmill Limited, National Steel

Corporation and TPL Mbeya. He appealed to institutions vested with control over those firms to ensure that they achieve investment objectives including increasing productivity, increasing revenues, employment, introducing new technologies in manufacturing and production, to ultimately reduce poverty in the country. The government is handing over the rice milling factory located in Kyela District, Mbeya Region to CPB for rice

processing, as well as a crop warehouse in Kiteto District, Manyara Region. Mohamed Nyasama, the director of privatization with the Treasury Registrar, urged the new operating institutions to work hard to meet the government's expectations, tied to strengthening the country's economy and support job creation. EPZA executive director Charles Itembe lauded the registrar for handing over the responsibility to revitalize the

factories to ensure they regain productivity. "The country needs investors. This is why we have witnessed President Samia Suluhu Hassan travelling in various countries to attract more investors, so we have to support the initiative to achieve the country's development goals," he said. Dr Anselm Moshi, CPB director general commended the government for the trust, vowing to work to fulfill the directives meant to achieve the intended goals.



Anselm Moshi (R) during the handing over ceremony of 10 industries privatised and handed over to public institutions held yesterday in Dar es Salaam. Cereal Produce Board of Tanzania received threshing rice mill situated in Kyela, Mbeya region and crop warehouse based in Manyara region. Photo: Treasurer's Office.

BRELA lists 5,600 firms for scrapping over tax, finances

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dormant.

"Through power bestowed on me, I announce to initiate a process of deregistering companies that neither submits annual returns nor financial statements," he said, affirming that the process is sustainable and will be implemented in phases until BRELA is satisfied that companies in its books are

functioning.

BRELA has informed institutions that could be affected by scrapping those firms, such as the Treasury Registrar, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and various financial institutions, underlining that this is part of a wider exercise to identify companies where the government owns shares, companies linked with financial institutions, apart from eliminating dormant firms.

Deregistering dormant companies will ensure that the agency remains with correct information of companies, to reduce the challenge of registering new names and reminding the owners to obey the law, he said.

Firms registered under the Companies Act (212) and aren't listed for deregistration in the first phase to update their documents to avoid being deregistered, as it is a sustainable process, he said,

noting that some companies have more than 50 years in the books, are functioning but not submitting annual tax returns or financial statements.

Meinrad Rweyemamu, director for companies and business names, said the agency has introduced an online registration system where owners receive alert messages to remind them to submit annual returns and financial statements.

The agency also conducts

physical visits to company premises to ascertain the presence of those companies and take action. "We want all company registration to be online and avoid paper documentation that occupies big space," he said.

Future plans of the agency focus on seeing all companies registered in the online system, as if now five years since online registration started, he added.



Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade Ally Gugu presents a gift to the Swiss ambassador to Tanzania, Didier Chassot during a briefing with his guests at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Offices in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Civil servants' travel, extra-duties pay rise

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rates to staff, he said. Public servants need to work hard, applying knowledge, professionalism and exercise discipline to actively support President Samia's efforts to improve their welfare, he said. "Let public servants be held accountable voluntarily and without coercion," he appealed, asking them to be more creative in contributing to the national socio-economic development and the well-being of the country as a whole. "We must ensure we address people's concerns," he emphasised.

Heads of public service units, especially those in councils and institutions with branches, need to visit supervisors at workplaces so that they can identify the challenges they face and solve them.

This will help to eliminate the challenge of staff traveling long distances to headquarters with a view to finding solutions to their challenges, he explained.

Traveling to district, regional or national headquarters to solve challenges will be curbed by visiting outlying workplaces, as the government will pay for such travel, he pointed out.

Since taking office last year, President Samia has been at the forefront of improving the welfare of public servants to boost their morale, so that they render better services to the people. Ultimately the people become proud of the work that their government is doing, he added.

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Runapa to establish tourism concession to lure more tourists in southern circuit

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

RUAHA National Park (RUNAPA) is set to establish a special tourism concession in the southern part of the park near Usangu area in a new drive to promote tourism in the country's southern circuit.

Park's Conservation Officer, Amina Salum said recently while briefing the ruling CCM's district political committees from Iringa Municipality and Iringa DC when they visited the park recently.

The trip was organised by the Iringa District Commissioner Mohamed Moyo in move to actively promote tourism so as to bring positive results in the development of tourism in the park.

Amina said that a tourism concession area is a type of investment that will allow the investor to be allowed to have a specific area within the national park, under the investor's supervision by providing services to visitors.

The strategy, she said that would require the investor to have significant capital for the construction of buildings,

equipment and operating costs and would also allow the investor to provide accommodation, food and beverage, education and tourism activities.

She also stated that a special exclusivity tourism concession will require the investor to pay a special year-round levy.

RUNAPA has set aside various potential investment areas for building lodges, Permanent Tented Camps, special and seasonal camps, balloon safaris, hostels and cottages as well as building public campsites.

She said that in other strategies to promote tourism, they intend to introduce new forms of tourism namely boat safaris (trips), horse riding, fish sporting and allocating more places to guest camps, and providing services in accordance with the international quality management system (QMS) from the international standards organization (ISO 9001).

The park also manage and implement the organization's guidelines for dealing with the disease Covid-19 as well as the opening of tourism infrastructure through the REGROW project to enable local and foreign investors to invest in the park.



Tanzania Law Society president Dr Edward Hosea (L) presents electronic seal to the Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr Damas Ndumbaro in Arusha yesterday. Dr Ndumbaro urged all advocates to use it. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Govt to promote 999 retiring public servants

THE government has said it expects before the end of 2021/2022 financial year to promote 999 public servants who are about to retire so that they can receive a handsome golden handshake upon leaving their offices.

The commitment was made yesterday by the minister of State in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, Jenista Mhagama, during a two-day meeting with heads of Human Resources and Administration from the Central

Government, Public Entities and Local Government Authorities which kicked off yesterday.

The promotions according to the minister will include public servants mostly teachers who had spent many years without being promoted.

Mhagama said her office was still receiving complaints from retirees over delays in disbursement of their retirement packages. "The delays are orchestrated by failure to remit con-

tributions to pension funds by employees," she noted adding.

"Other reasons include submission of incomplete documents by retirees as well as having two different letters of promotions as well as retirees receiving promotions a few months before retirement."

The minister added that there were other complaints including indecent language to retirees when they visit offices to push for their payments af-

ter retirement.

"The issue of retirement from the public service is not an emergence issue which makes it difficult to process their payments timely," added Mhagama. She directed all employers to ensure that statutory contributions that ought to be deducted to employees were submitted to pension funds timely and that all important documents that are required for payment of retirement benefits six months

before they retire from the public service. She underscored the need to allocate a budget for retirees every month.

The heads of Human Resource and Administration met for a two day meeting purposely so that they can share experience and knowledge on how best they can discharge their duties, according to Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Dr Laurian Ndumbaro.

Speaking at the meeting which will be officially closed today by the minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Innocent Bashungwa, Dr Ndumbaro asked members to equally look at the challenges facing their offices so that they can come up with tangible solutions.

"This is a very important meeting because you are the main supervisors of your offices by ensuring that all laws, rules, procedures and directives guiding the public service are abided by.



Speaker of National Assembly Dr. Tulia Ackson (L) listens to Cultural, Arts and Sports deputy minister Paulin Gekul at the Parliament grounds in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MPs decry escalating country's land conflicts

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday decried ever escalating land conflicts, calling on the government to invest more on land planning and use.

Debating the Ministry of Land and Human Settlement's 2022/2023 budget estimates, they argued that a lot more need to be done before things get out hand as evidence show that such conflicts have resulted to deaths.

The MPs expressed anger on government institutions and organizations who delay compensation fees on land that they acquire from the public.

Bagamoyo MP, Murahami Mkenge (CCM) lamented the delayed compensation, pointing finger at the Eco-

nomical Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) that acquired land 13 years ago but has not developed and people have not been compensated too.

"The ministry should not issue land to EPZA and TIC for investments before people are compensated" he said, adding that when people continue using such land they are termed as intruders.

Hai MP, Saashisha Mafuwe (CCM) mentioned a conflict between are residents and the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) which has taken decades calling for immediate intervention of the ministry.

"Many villagers around KIA are living in fear since they do not know their fate in

the long time conflict with the airport" he said.

He also cited a case of other Hai residents who paved way for the building of district headquarters but have not been compensated.

Lushoto MP, Shabana Shekilindi (CCM), blamed lack of implementation laws and regulations as one of the reason leading to land conflicts.

He also pointed out the need to harmonize laws in different ministries such as Water, Agriculture, PORALG, among others that are related in land matters.

Geita Urban MP, Constantine Kanyasu (CCM) also noted that lack valuation and

demarcation on land has caused a lot of conflicts in Geita.

He argued that several residents live under fear due to conflicts dating back to 1999 and has not been resolved.

He said that areas that could host public institutions like schools, health facilities and religious institutions are not valued and demarcated.

Special Seats MP, Hawa Mwaifunga (CHADEMA) argued the ministry budget should be increased to enable it operate efficiently.

Winding the budget speech, Minister for Land and Human Settlement, Angelina Mabula said the government is doing

everything possible to end land conflicts in the country.

She said through the eight minister's committee that visited 975 villages in the country, some 720 villages have been returned to villagers.

The minister said the remaining 55 are still under discussions and decision will be made soon. "I thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the decision to return the land to village use" she said, adding that this is one of the efforts to end land conflict.

She said the government engages in solving land conflicts at different levels, noting that LGAs also intervene at their levels and not that central government has to intervene in all conflicts.

The Parliament yesterday approved

Tanzania rehabilitates airstrips, roads in national parks ready for rebound tourism

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA is rehabilitating nearly ten airstrips located in the country's National Parks and Game Reserves, in preparation for anticipated surge of foreign tourists this season.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Francis Michael pointed out that tourism is already picking up now, after the two-year long hiatus, caused by the global pandemic which froze the travel industry worldwide.

Addressing tour operators, travel agents, hoteliers, members of mountaineering and driver-guides associations in Arusha, PS Michael said the ministry received 90.2 billion/- from the central government to upgrade service points and infrastructure in tourism sites ready for business as the 2022 season kicks off.

Tanzania gets an average of 1.5 million tourists per annum. Nearly 90 percent of this figure prefers to visit the Northern Circuit featuring Serengeti, Tarangire and Lake Manyara National in addition to Ngorongoro Crater and Mount Kilimanjaro.


The spillover tourists travel to the Zanzibar Islands for beaches and the Southern Tourism Circuit.

The project entails the rehabilitation of eight airstrips in National Parks and Game Reserves across the country, the construction and upgrading of nearly 2400 kilometers of roads as well as building 14 active gates and information centers at the parks' entrances.

Part of the funds is also being invested to reinforce security around such destinations and strengthen digital communication facilities in the parks.

Tanzania, on the other hand, is still taking preventive measures against Covid-19. The Permanent Secretary supervised the distribution of sanitation equipment to service providers who come into direct contact with visitors and guests.

At least 140,000 packets of facial masks and 14,285 containers of hand disinfecting sanitizer liquid, to at least ten tour directors' and mountain guides associations with 16,000 members between them in Arusha and Kilimanjaro Regions.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA NOTICE OF DATE OF HEARING	
RULES 13 CIVIL PROCEDURE SUMMONS AND PLEADINGS RULES 1955 GN NG	
IN THE RYM'S COURT / DISTRICT COURT OF IGUNGA AT IGUNGA	
CIVIL CASE NO. 1 OF 2022	
ELIAS DOTTO JUSTINE.....PLAINTIFF	VERSUS
MICHAEL RAMADHAN MHANDO.....DEFENDANT	TO MICHAEL RAMADHAN MHANDO
Take notice that the hearing of the above suit had been set down for MENTION day in the DISTRICT COURT Noon 8:30 am this 6th day of JUNE 2022. You must produce on that day all the witness open whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to support of your case	
Given under my hand and seal on this court this 28 th day of MAY 2022	
 MICHAEL RAMADHAN MHANDO	

Rotary Club of Bahari Beach distributes reusable sanitary pad kits to schoolgirls

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Rotary Club of Bahari Beach in Dar es Salaam has launched a Menstrual Hygiene Management Project and distributed reusable sanitary pad kits to students and teachers at Mtakuja Beach Secondary School.

Speaking at the project launch yesterday at Mtakuja secondary school, President of the Club, Diamond Carvalho, said the event was part of celebration to mark the World Menstrual Hygiene Day.

Carvalho said the kits were distributed to 381 girls and 31 female teachers as the first phase of the project.

He said before the launching, the girls and boys in the target age group spent two days in awareness training on menstrual hygiene management on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

He said similar projects were conducted in other local schools by Rotary Club of Oysterbay and Rotary Club of Pugu in Dar es Salaam saying the second phase will be in October this year, to cover more students.

"The main objective of the project is to enable girls to increase their school attendance for days they have their period and therefore enable them to improve their performance."

Furthermore, to break the silence on menstruation by creating awareness and provid-

ing training to both boys and girls; students and teachers on menstruation management and debunking the taboos, myths and misconceptions associated with menstruation.

Also, to increase the proportion of young girls who are engaging in sustainable, environmentally friendly and proper menstruation hygiene management through the use of safe, hygienic and reusable sanitary pads and increase the self-esteem of adolescent girls on menstrual matters through open discussion and focused empowerment.

President said the environmentally-friendly reusable menstrual hygiene kit contains: eight liners, two shields, one carry pouch, 1 zip lock, one drawstring bag, two underwear and one instruction manual.

He said Rotary Club of Bahari Beach has been partnering with Mtakuja secondary school in Kunduchi in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam since 2011.

Other projects implemented so far included providing safe water systems, building modern toilets for boys and girls, boot camps for STEM, supplying chemical reagents for laboratories, and in the pipeline is soft skills training career guidance.

Rotary clubs bring together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (R) hands over Uhuru torch to Tanga district commissioner, Hashim Mgandilwa moments after it arrived from Zanzibar on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

UNHCR receives PPEs donation to support refugees in Kigoma

By Getrude Mbugo

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday received a consignment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worth \$550,000 (1.27bn/-) aimed to strengthen Covid-19 and other diseases control measures in health centres, refugees and host communities in Kigoma Region.

Donated by China Aid, the PPEs include respiratory masks N95, disposable fluid-resistant gowns, medical gloves, eye protection goggles and reusable gumboots.

Speaking during the handover event in Dar es Salaam yesterday UNHCR country representative Mahoua

Parums said the support from China Aid contributes to one of the core activities in any communicable disease epidemic preparedness and response through infection prevention and control.

She said the gears will protect the frontline health workers from infection as they respond and serve those affected at health facilities and in the community.

She noted that at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, UNHCR and partners in collaboration with the Refugee Services Department, regional and district authorities have ensured the presence of effective measures for preparedness and response to COVID-19 and other communicable

diseases of epidemic potential.

"Some of you here today may be asking if this protective, preventive equipment, commonly referred to as PPEs, is still relevant two and a half years after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Yes, indeed, prevention and good hygienic practices cannot be replaced, be it in the face of the Covid-19 virus or any other infectious disease. These medical PPEs will thus be used in the control and response of Covid-19 and other potential disease outbreaks within the health care setting," she explained.

Mahoua said the most sustainable and cost-effective public health model with the best results for refugees and host communities is the full inclusion

of refugees in national health systems and services where they receive the same conditions as nationals.

"Fundamentally, all people, including refugees, have the right to access the highest available standard of care without experiencing financial hardship," she added.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian said her government always attaches great importance to the refugee issue and is committed to preserving peace and promoting common development and actively participate in humanitarian assistance.

"As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China takes an active part in seeking settlement of international and regional hot-

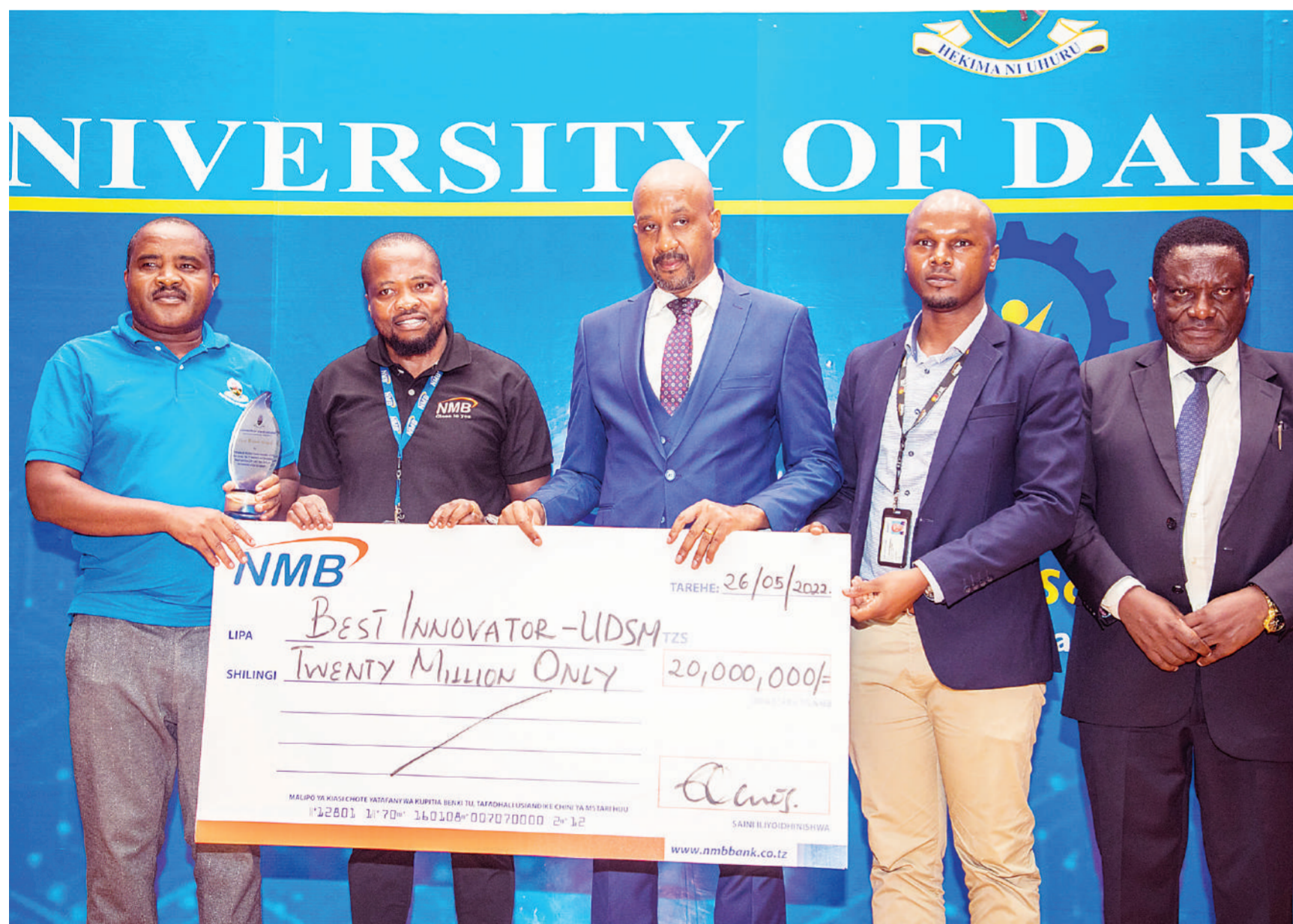
spots, advocates for resolving disputes peacefully through political and diplomatic means such as dialogue and consultation so that the root causes of large-scale refugees could be eliminated," she said.

She said since 2020, Covid-19 has brought an unprecedented crisis to refugees across the world and also posed severe challenges in front of refugee protection.

She noted that China took active actions to cooperate with UNHCR to help African countries in fighting the pandemic under South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, supported the United Nations Food Programme to launch a global humanitarian emergency hub in Guangzhou, China, and

donated food, clothes, tents, medicines and other necessary supplies to refugee-receiving countries.

Ambassador Chen added; "I sincerely hope the masks, gowns, gloves, goggles and other PPE delivered today could be distributed to the front-line medical staff and refugees in Tanzania's refugee camps as soon as possible to help them resist the virus, alleviate the shortage of PPE and share their pressure to fight against the pandemic." She said China will continuously pay close attention to the problems and challenges faced by the refugee camps in Tanzania and work with the international community, including UNHCR to provide more support to the populace.



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Prof. Eliamani Sedoyeka (3rd L) congratulates Dr Aldo Kilalika after presenting him with a dummy cheque worth 20 million/- He emerged best innovator in 2022. Second from left is NMB's market research and innovation manager, Prochest Kachenje. MNM was the main sponsor of the recently concluded Research and Innovation Week held at UDSM grounds. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

NMB Bank rewards 20m/- to UDSM 'Best Innovator 2022'

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

NMB Bank has handed over a dummy cheque worth 20m/- to the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) Material Science and Research Project after emerging the winner for the Best Innovator 2022.

This was held during the climax of the UDSM Research and Innovation Week 2022, under the theme: 'Research and Innovation for societal impact in Tanzania.'

The award was handed over by the NMB Bank Market Research and Innovation Manager Prochest Kachenje to the project's principal investigator Dr Aldo Kitalika and witnessed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka.

The innovative project is potential alternative cement to traditional cement and is made from plant residue and material obtained from mines in the form of various stones and soils with a potential at half price according to the current cement prices.

Handing over of the dummy cheque on Thursday evening, Kachenje expressed his bank's commitment to advancing the frontiers of technological innovation in Tanzania.

"NMB is committed to positively impacting lives and building the economy by providing innovative financial products. Over the years, the bank has invested in several initiatives and research geared towards improving financial service delivery while providing platforms for tech enthusiasts to innovate and make

massive impact on the society," he said.

Kachenje said the bank, which is a pioneer of financial solutions in Tanzania has already developed special system known as the NMB Sandbox environment which provides an opportunity for financial solutions innovators especially in the digital sphere to come up with their innovative solution adding that the bank was committed to partnering with successful innovators.

"By investing in research and innovation, we have contributed tremendously to the strides that we are experiencing in the country's financial landscape and to the growth of the economy at large. We will continue delivering digital products tailored to the Tanzanian market," he stressed.

Receiving the award, Dr Aldo Kitalika thanked the bank for its timely contribution adding that the funds will be used to scale up and commercialise the project.

"We are so grateful to NMB Bank for the award. The funds have come timely as we have already placed an order for a machine from Turkey worth 47m/-. Our focus is now to scale up the project and make it economically viable. We expect to begin production in July this year," he said.

Deputy UDSM Vice Chancellor - Research Prof Bernadeta Killian said the entries for this year's competition were overwhelming adding that the institution set aside 7.4bn/- to facilitate various research projects undertaken by the university.

Elephant summit participants push for more efforts to protect Africa's largest mammals

By Special Correspondent

THE Elephant Summit in Zimbabwe came to an end with participants suggesting the need to derive economic value from thriving elephant herds and management issues.

The meeting brought on board representatives of 14 African countries and two large consumer markets of Ivory gathered in a bid to develop a new strategy and restart trade despite the 1989 CITES ban on Ivory trade.

Zimbabwean officials say the country can support up to 55,000 elephants but the population has more than doubled to 100,000.

Moreover, humans-animals conflicts are on

the rise. Elephants have so far this year killed 60 people, compared with 72 in all of last year.

Kenneth Uiseb, Deputy Director for Wildlife Research and Monitoring - Namibia would like for the population to be involved in the decision-making process: "These communities share their living space with wildlife, sometimes with dangerous wildlife such as lions, elephants, and that sometimes they contribute actively to the conservation of these animals so if there are decisions to be made about the future of these elephants, about the trade then it's just important that community voice is heard and that commu-

nities actively participate in this process."

CITES is an international agreement between states. Its aim at ensuring that international trade in wild animals and plants specimens does not threaten the survival of the species. Two one-off sales of ivory were allowed since the 1989 under ban under the CITES.

Dr Kabelo Senyatso, the director department of Wildlife and National Parks Botswana believes it is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that needs a revamp: "When you look at how CITES is at the moment, the very people that bear the big-

gest brunt of living with the wildlife are not at the table. It's, it's amazing that even governments are struggling to be at the table because unfortunately it's particularly western NGOs that are dictating where CITES should, should head so it's a real issue."

In 2019, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe asked for the right to sell ivory acquired through natural deaths, confiscations and culling. But that demand was rejected by a CITES meeting in Geneva.

In addition to the impact of the ban on ivory trade on states' finances and the cohabitation between wildlife animals and villagers, the management of elephant herds was the

other pressing issue of the African Elephant summit.

Southern African countries are home to approximately 293,000, or 70% of Africa's elephant population and Zimbabwe gathers the world's largest elephant population. Dr Sam Perreira, scientific officer for the Rhino Specialist Group - South Africa: "About 70% of our elephants share boundaries with other countries, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. So yes our elephants don't have passports, and they don't do Covid tests. They walk forward and backwards so, so that means us, we cannot manage elephants in isolation from, from the rest of Africa."

Policy innovation around nature-based solutions can increase Africa's food security, report unveils

By Lucy Ngige

IMPROVED governance, multisectoral and multistakeholder coordination, and "bioeconomy education" are among the potential enablers of more sustainable and climate-resilient food systems on the African continent, a new report argues.

"Africa's rich natural resources offer a vast pool of possibilities for the development of a vibrant bioeconomy, which can contribute to driving economic growth and climate-proofing food production for a growing, urbanizing population," said Ousmane Badiane, co-chair of the Malabo Montpellier Panel, this produced the report.

Despite the abundance of resources, the report states that the bioeconomy – the production, utilization, and conservation of biological resources, including nature-based solutions, to offer products and services – can be inherently unsustainable.

"Like any finite resource bioeconomy must be developed sustainably and effi-

ciently, by diverting resources to the most value-adding and high-priority needs while also minimizing or eliminating trade-offs, such as the overuse of, and competition for, water resources and land," Badiane told AFN.

"By adopting a circular approach, Africa can develop a bioeconomy that ensures resources are utilized and re-utilized, building a more sustainable production system that promotes higher productivity, better nutrition, and more resilient livelihoods. Fundamentally, the success of a bioeconomy will rely on identifying trade-offs in advance and collaborating across stakeholder groups to develop inclusive solutions."

According to the report, agriculture can play a key role in Africa's transition to a bio-based economy as it will supply renewable biomass.

Smallholder farmers will get more connections to expanded markets, value chains, and agro-processing opportunities and it will create more employment opportunities, specifically in production.



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja (R) with other ministers from Zambia and Botswana bid farewell to Zimbabwe's First Lady Dr Amai Auxillia Mnanagwa (L) shortly after opening the symposium of African Elephants in Zimbabwe yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Happy Shayo

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Parliamentarians hail president Samia after winning trophy, promise support

THE Parliament yesterday unanimously casted weight behind "Road Builders-Babacar Ndiaye Trophy 2022 awarded to President Samia Suluhu Hassan by endorsing a resolution to commit its support.

President Samia received the prestigious trophy, given by Vice President for the Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialisation at the African Development Bank (AfDB), Solomon Quaynor in recognition of her commitment in developing the transport sector in Tanzania.

The parliamentarians said the award is a clear indication of President Samia commitment for improved transports sector thus a need to congratulate her and promised maximum support.

The decree tabled by the Special Seats MP, Zainab Katimba (CCM) has for the first time being seconded by all parliamentarians regardless of their political affiliation.

The parliament also congratulated President Samia for being recognised as

an influential leader in the world with high convincing power, something that needs accolades and praise to the nation.

The Parliament also commits its full support to the President to ensure she fulfills the development projects.

Debating, Geita Rural MP, Joseph Msukuma (CCM) said the resolution has won hearts from all parliamentarians even the opposition something that has never been experienced in

the past. Union and Environment Minister, Selemani Jafo said the consensus reached by the parliamentarians is a clear indication that they are all alongside President Samia's mission and vision.

Ummu Nderiananga said President Samia deserved the award as she took power during the covid-19 economic effects but managed economic growth increase from four per cent to 5.2 per cent.

Mafinga Urban MP, Cosato Chumi (CCM) said the trophy makes the road clear for the country to access grants and loans as it is among the criteria used for qualification.

Speaking after receiving the award in Accra, Ghana on Wednesday, President Samia explained that credits should go to her predecessor, the late Dr John Magufuli, president of the fifth phase government who implemented a number of infrastructure projects in-

cluding roads, railways and bridges.

At the event President Samia apart from thanking the organisers for awarding her with the trophy, said construction of infrastructural projects in her country began with the administration of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and his successor Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

She noted that the task was also inherited by other administrations, where great improvement started to be seen during the presidency of the late Benjamin Mkapa, following improvement of policies and debt relief money that Tanzania owed different countries and institutions.



Iringa district commissioner, Mohamed Moyo together with Iringa Rural District political committee during a tour at Ruaha National Park in Iringa district; Iringa region to support the efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan to promote the tourist attractions in the country. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

TAAT unveils new technologies to drive agri production in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) has unveiled new technologies in various food categories to boost agricultural production in the continent.

This is in line with its objective of ensuring food sufficiency and sustainability in Africa through increased agricultural productivity and deploying proven and high-performing technologies.

These technologies were unveiled at the Second TAAT Investors' Forum which took place virtually on Thursday, which aimed to scale up adoption and market penetration.

In his remarks, the director, Agriculture and Agro Industry at the African Development Bank, Dr Martin Fregene said with the current hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, which has hampered food exportation, there was need for the African continent to grow her food to ensure food availability.

To do this, he said the African Development Bank (AfDB) launched the African emergency food production plan. He remarked, however, that it was better to plan and forestall against emergencies by investing in the required structural transformations.

Dr Fregene said this necessitated the call for private sector involvement in infrastructural development and off-taking produce from farmers and supplying to users along the agricultural value chain.

He maintained that for the agricultural value chain to be fully harnessed, there was the need to create a market-led agricultural system that encourages private sector involvement through policy reforms, financing, infrastructural development and fast-track method of registering innovations. "We need to strengthen the regulatory environment, strengthen the national seed agencies. Certified seeds require regulation. We must have a seed council or a seed agency that actually tests certified seeds for purity, test them for germination.

By Special Correspondent, Abuja

USAID in new drive to boost investment in women-led businesses in West Africa

than their male counterparts.

WITH a \$1.2 million co-investment grant from the USAID-funded West Africa Trade & Investment Hub, ShEquity Partners—a n investment firm that promotes women's entrepreneurship in Africa, will invest in and support more than 100 high-potential women-owned or led businesses.

According to Pauline Koelbl, Founder and Managing Director of ShEquity, women entrepreneurs are integral for Africa's success, as they operate more than 40 percent of small and medium-sized businesses on the continent. However, African women entrepreneurs face the hurdle of collectively growing these businesses due to \$42 billion less in financing

"If Africa is to reach its full economic potential, smart investment for African women entrepreneurs need to be dramatically increased," Koelbl says. "The lack of financing, combined with insufficient business support, put potential women entrepreneurs and those seeking to expand their already successful businesses in a growth deficit or low-income trap, widening the gender gap and reinforcing negative biases."

ShEquity's USAID Trade Hub-backed project addresses these challenges by combining cash investment, structured technical support, and access to high-value networks. Specifically, ShEquity will leverage its \$1.2 million co-investment grant to attract at least \$15 million in

private funding that will be cumulatively used to invest in, scale, and accelerate women-owned or led businesses operating in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. The businesses targeted will operate in one of six key sectors: agribusiness, healthcare, tech-enabled solutions, renewable energy, mobility, and fast-moving consumer goods.

Also, as part of the USAID Trade Hub project, ShEquity will provide business development services and technical support to 120 women-owned or led businesses in the target markets and also select 12 high-growth, high-impact businesses that will each receive at least \$50,000 in venture capital funding. The combined investments in the 12 selected companies are expected to create at least 200 jobs and

benefit around 20,000 people economically either directly or indirectly, along their respective value chains, through 2024.

To accomplish its project goals, ShEquity will leverage its proven experience in championing women-led businesses for success. ShEquity is intentionally building an integrated and holistic approach towards unlocking the potential of African female founders. ShEquity's strategy involves combining its ShEquity Business Accelerator (SHEBA) and its Investment Vehicle to support women to grow their businesses. SHEBA provides pre-investment venture building support to allow access to a trusted pipeline of potential deals and serves also as a post-investment technical assistance facility.

Started by Koelbl in May 2020 with her own

seed capital of just \$250,000, ShEquity has since invested in eight businesses in Sub-Saharan countries. Since the launch, ShEquity has been investing as a special vehicle purpose and is now in the process of formalizing into a venture capital fund structure. According to Koelbl, ShEquity's current portfolio of companies have impacted more than 13.5 million people across Sub-Saharan.

Commenting on what this partnership means to ShEquity, Koelbl stated, "we are excited about the future, as we hope to see more action towards democratizing access to capital and closing the gender funding gap in Africa. Backing female-led funds are the best strategy to address gender funding gap because of its trickle-down effect: more diversity in capital allocators translates into diversity of businesses getting funded."



Senior Superintendent of Police (Gender and Children's Desk), Dar es Salaam Special Zone, SSP Leah Mbunda (R), talks to Kinondoni District Police chief of community engagement, ASP Jane Dotto at the defence committee members meeting women and children (MTAKUWWA) in Dar es Salaam region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

AU leaders search for solution for continents' humanitarian situation

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Union leaders are meeting in Equatorial Guinea for two summits as the continent contends with humanitarian crises, terrorism and military coups.

Around 20 heads of state as well as donors are expected in the Equatorial Guinea capital, Malabo, to raise funds at the AU's first "extraordinary humanitarian summit," taking place this Friday.

According to AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, 113 million Africans need urgent humanitarian assistance this year, including 48 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people (IDPs).

The AU said 15 particularly hard-hit countries required urgent aid, with climate shocks and conflicts requiring humanitarian assistance to increase "exponentially."

The war in Ukraine has also exacerbated food shortages.

Of the more than 30 million internally displaced Africans, more than 10 million are children aged under 15, it added,

pointing to inter-ethnic conflict in certain regions plus food insecurity.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization says around 282 million of Africa's 1.4 billion inhabitants are under-fed - an increase of 49 million compared to 2019.

High-Level Event in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in the backdrop of 4Cs: Climate, Conflict, COVID-19 and Cost of food. Reflection on issues hampering achievement of food security & nutrition related targets of #Agenda2063 & Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy, & SDGs #AUHS2022 pic.twitter.com/4NrtV16m7 - African Union (@AfricanUnion) May 26, 2022

Senegal's foreign minister Aïssatou Tall Sall told RFI that the continent's humanitarian situation is "alarming".

With all the refugees and IDPs "we see the most urgent thing is to find solutions here and now," she said.

There is talk of creating an African humanitarian aid agency and setting up a special emergency fund based on contributions from each African state, according to RFI's special correspondent in Malabo, Peter Sassou Dogbé.

Project seeking to end Aids in Mara Region by 2030 kicks off

By Correspondent Carlos Banda

A PROJECT seeking to end HIV/Aids in Mara Region by 2030 has kicked off with focus on increased testing and use of quality antiretroviral treatment.

Implemented by AMREF Health Africa in Tanzania, the USD50m "Afya Kamilifu project" is supported by the US President's Emergency plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the

US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in Tanzania in order to scale up HIV care and treatment efforts, joining global efforts to end AIDS by 2030.

The launch of the projects' expansion in Mara Region was officiated recently by Musoma District Commissioner, Dr Khalfan Haule on behalf of Mara Regional Commissioner, Ally Hapi and was attended by a number of stakeholders, including CDC

Tanzania's representatives, Amref Health Africa Tanzania Management and Staff, civil society organisations, implementing partners, media, development partners, religious leaders and the private sector.

Speaking at the event, Dr Haule commended Amref, CDC, and the partners' efforts in implementing the project.

"Having this project is a good step in the fight against HIV/

AIDS in the country, we appreciate the Ministry of Health who are at the driving force in this initiative, we are thankful for the working tools provided by CDC and AMREF that will be used by the project team in the region," he said. AMREF Health Africa Tanzania Country Director, Dr Florence Temu said the project seeks to increase the number of people living with HIV and AIDS who know their status through

HIV testing and get long term and sustained quality antiretroviral treatment (ART) services and Viral Load testing to assure they attain viral suppression of undetectable level.

"At the end of the project, we expect all people living with HIV in the Mara region to know their status and receive treatment. The project will also strengthen systems of linking HIV positive individuals to care and treat-

ment services and ensure the availability of well-functioning laboratory systems and support clinical HIV services in all health facilities" she said.

"The project will also introduce a robust real-time routine HIV data monitoring and reporting system using innovative technology that will ensure prompt availability of accurate and quality data from facility to the national level for decision

making and global reporting. It is highly expected that these quality data reports would be used to support data management systems at the facility level and build capacity for data ownership and improved data management and utilization at facility health care workers and District Health Management Teams to identify HIV service delivery gaps and improve accordingly," she added.



Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimweri talks to youths who were at the construction site of the modern airport located at Msalato, Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

WMA calls upon traders to use accurate digital measurements

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

WEIGHTS and Measures Agency (WMA) has called on traders to inculcate a habit of using accurate digital measurements to facilitate business and increase value for money in their daily activities.

Iringa Regional WMA Manager Lina Msuya made the call here recently during the climax of World Metrology Day (WMD), themed: 'Use of Digital Measurements.'

WMD is an event occurring on 20 May celebrating the International System of Units. The date is the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875 and metrology is the study of measurement.

Speaking during the celebrations Lina said WMA use the celebrations to educate various people and businesses, so that they can use accurate measurements during their business.

"As WMA, we celebrate in the various areas where we work by educating traders on how to use the correct measurements and to refrain from illegal measurements known as 'lumbesa' which largely confuse rural farmers," she said.

She added that in the Iringa Region they have various stakeholders working with them so this year they have decided to celebrate World Metrology Day in the petroleum trading sector and a set of agricultural products for food production such as maize flour.

She called on all trade officers and councils in the region to identify 'buying centres' so that when a farmer harvests their farm produce, he or she knows exactly where to take his/her products to avoid the issue of lumbesa.

Lina said that the issue of lumbesa requires a concerted effort to end the problem which has been plaguing some farmers who sell their produce after harvesting using the wrong capacity.

She clarified that the exercise of controlling lumbesa should start in the field in collaboration with other authorities to ensure lumbesa ceases and added that continuing to use lumbesa is a violation of the law of weights and measures and is a criminal offense and the punishment is severe.

Senior weights and measures officer Hassan Mrisho said that WMA has an annual inspection, a temporary inspection, and a surprise inspection to ensure that they protect the consumer.

Pensioners to be paid 33 percent of total savings upon retirement - govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

WORKERS in the country will now be paid 33 percent of their total savings in lump sum upon retiring, with the remaining 67 being reserved for monthly pension, the government revealed yesterday.

The increment is outlined in the new regulations which will come into effect on 1st July, 2022 and is an increase from the previous 25 percent.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of State, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Jamal Katundu said the development has been reached following consultations between the government, Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) and Trade Union

Council of Tanzania (TUCTA), among other stakeholders under special committee.

He said the new arrangement also allows amendment of Section 25(a) of the Social Security Benefit Schemes Regulations announced recently by the government.

He said following outcries made by different parties in 2018, the government constituted a team of experts to review the old regulation and come up with proposal on how to amicably improve pension services.

He noted that key issues laid before the taskforce was to ensure new regulations provide better pension benefits to retirees and to ensure the pension funds remain sustainable and of benefit to all members.

"I hereby state that the committee has accomplished the task and that we now have new regulation in place," said the PS, calling

on workers appreciate the government efforts.

TUCTA President, Tumaini Nyamhokya who spoke at the same meeting praised the government for hearing the cries of workers.

He said workers should accept the new changes saying, "You cannot get everything you want in life, but since it will be reviewed after some time let's accept it."

He said the government decision will empower the funds, noting that prior to the move, PSPF had debts over 900bn/- and was at the brink of collapse.

They outlined the new formula by indicating that the annual accrual factor will be 2.07 percent, and the commutation factor will be 12.5 per-cent.

It means that the full pension benefits, under the respective scheme laws, shall be

calculated by 1/580 multiplied by the number of months served and multiplied by the annual pensionable emoluments.

Also, the monthly pension will have 1/580 times the number of months served multiplied by the annual pensionable emoluments times 67 percent and multiplied by 1/12.

Members employed to perform specific tasks, including those working in mining, construction, manufacturing, agriculture, and any other sector or area as may be specified, will qualify for special lump sum upon completion of their tasks.

He named the benefits of the new arrangement to include, some 1,364,050 workers, equivalent to 81 percent of the 1,690,187 members of pension funds in the country have increased pension from 25 to 33 per-

cent.

Monthly pension has increased from 50 to 67 percent for those who were under PSPF and LAPF while thirdly, the move has strengthened PSSSF and NSSF, making them more sustainable.

Under the new regulations special lump sum will also be paid to those who joined the scheme after the age of 45 upon cessation of employment. Others are foreigners employed in mainland Tanzania, and who leave the country upon cessation of their employment.

Other members eligible for special lump sum are those who, upon cessation of employment, emigrate, and have no intention of returning, and that the countries to which they emigrate have no bilateral agreement that allows portability of benefits.

Latra tasks commuter bus operators to charge passengers approved fares

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

LAND Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) in Tanga Region yesterday tasked commuter bus operators to immediately stop charging passengers exorbitant fares compared to the agreed ones.

This involved commuter bus operators that offer transport services between Kogroge Town and Tanga city bus terminal through Muheza District.

LATRA urged passengers to immediately report whenever they are charged more than the actual fare. This came after reports that some bus operators were charging high fares compared to the fare rates set by LATRA, claiming fuel price hike.

A survey carried out by this reporter shows that commuter bus operators charge 2,000/- per passenger instead of 1,610/- between Tanga city to Muheza District.

Before LATRA announced new fare rates on April 30th, this year, the fare was at 1,500/- per trip from Muheza to Tanga city. LATRA's acting officer in Tanga Region

Michael Kimia admitted the situation, directing commuter bus operators to abide by the law governing their operations.

Kimia called on passengers to report the issue once they are being charged high fare rates and should ask the conductors to write for them a ticket with the bus registration number and charged fares as a piece of supporting evidence that will help the authority to take legal steps.

"The distance from Tanga to Muheza is about 39 kilometers, the new fare rate placed by LATRA for such distance is 1,600/-, but commuter bus operators here are charging 2,000 per trip, something which is against LATRA's rates and they should stop immediately as soon as possible," he said.

One of the commuter bus drivers who preferred anonymity cited pump fuel price hike as the reason for them to increase the transport fare.

According to him, fuel price has gone high up to 3,276 per litre of petrol, and diesel increases the cost of operations.



Awadhi Salmuni a contractor airs his views during a meeting of Tanesco contractors, technicians and stakeholders on the introduction of the Nikonekt system organised by utility in Tanga region yesterday, Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

'Africa's Covid-19 recovery uneven, millions in extreme poverty'

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE massive investment to revive Africa economy devastated by the Covid-19, the recovery remains uneven and fragile, a new report shows.

The Annual Development Effectiveness Review released late Thursday by the African Development Bank (AfDB) shows that the revival is not stable yet even as the easing of Covid-19 restrictions has put many regions of the continent back on a growth trajectory.

The report estimates that continued vulnerabilities and new health measures pushed an additional 30 million Africans into extreme poverty in 2021. By the end of the year, the bank had spent USD\$4 billion underwriting countries' efforts to rapidly scale up Covid testing, train health workers, provide households with social support, and supply businesses with finance.

But the pandemic, and its far-reaching consequences, is not the only crisis facing the continent today. African countries are also grapp-

ling with the climate crisis, insecurity in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, and the impact of the war in Ukraine, particularly its impact on food prices. Investments need to accelerate.

The report's scorecard shows results in every sector. In energy, for example, AfDB's investments made possible the installation of 294 km of new or improved power transmission lines and 456 km of power distribution lines. As a result, around 1.3 million people received new electricity connections.

"They say that in every crisis, lies an opportunity," remarked Simon Mizrahi, director of the Development Impact and Results Department. "Africa, and the Bank, showed remarkable resilience again last year. For example, the Annual Development Effectiveness Review calculates that our projects provided more than 12 million people with access to safe water and sanitation in 2021. This was three times more than our target. And our investments in the private sector supplied more than 130,000 micro, small, and

medium-sized enterprises with financial services—double our target, to the benefit of 3.4 million people."

"We are pleased with the results, and the Bank's teams have a lot to be proud of," Mizrahi continued. "But the report also motivates us to reach higher, in the most ambitious way possible, so that more Africans can thrive."

In a foreword to the report, Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina observed that despite remarkable progress last year, the continent needs more resources now than

ever. "African countries must manage climate change, prepare for future health emergencies, and deal with the prospects of a global food crisis," Adesina said. "With just eight years left to achieve the sustainable development goals, we need more ambitious plans for mobilizing resources for Africa's development."

Adesina called on Africa's partners worldwide to join the African Development Bank in embracing a bolder vision for financing the continent's development.



Hanang' district commissioner in Manyara region Janeth Mayanja talks with Endasabogechan villagers at Gidahababieg ward after listening to their grievances on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Covid-19 worsen mental health issues in Kenya

By Special Correspondent

IN Kibera a low-income neighbourhood in the capital Nairobi, it can be difficult for Kenya's youth to find hope. 65-year-old Alice Wanjiku's son found life too much to bear during the pandemic. He took his own life in 2021.

Kimani was her youngest child, of seven, and he bore the financial responsibility of her medical bills and food after his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Wanjiku currently pays \$14 a week for her cancer treatment at Mbagathi Hospital, she had missed two months of medical care earlier in her treatment due to lack of funds.

The 29 year old was a father of 2 children. After his work dried up during the pandemic, Kimani could barely make ends meet. He sold his paintings and worked in casual construction jobs.

"If he had sought help, this would not have happened. He would have been counselled and changed his mind. Keeping inspired to himself by the negative action," says Wanjiku.

Kenya has a population of 53.77 million people and fewer than 500 mental health workers.

This has prompted community based initiatives to move to fill the gap. In Kibera slums, a 68-member self help group known as 'Ushirika Stress Free' aims to help residents cope with the economic downturn caused by COVID-19.

The group offers counselling and group therapy at no cost.

"Actually after the COVID pandemic, the majority of people leaving in Kibera slums lost their jobs and even casual labourers

had to relocate to upcountry and apart from that it also led to stress on mental health especially people that could not meet their basic needs of food, others could not even accommodate their shelter, paying rent and school fees. This has really led to economic challenges for people living in the slums," explains Anthony Onyango, a community health worker at Ushirika Health Centre, who also visits Wanjiku.

In Kenya's slums many cases of mental illness go unnoticed, because often residents choose to suffer in silence in an attempt to avoid discrimination associated with mental illness adds Onyango.

"The majority of our people are living in denial and we have myths and misconceptions. This is because of a lack of education and poor knowledge of status. So people don't believe that there is mental health and then they get into stress or depression, such things."

According to a report by Kenya's Ministry of Health, one in every ten Kenyans suffers a mental disorder.

The 2020 report by the Taskforce on Mental Health called for more funding for mental health facilities and recommended that "mental illness should be declared a national emergency of epidemic proportions, to prioritise mental health as a priority public health and socioeconomic agenda." The government recently announced a new neuropsychiatric hospital and a centre of excellence that will become a national education and training hub to address the mental health challenges the country faces.

AU extraordinary summits will tackle humanitarian, political crises

ADDIS ABABA

THE executive council of the African Union met in Malabo Thursday, ahead of two summits—Friday and Saturday set to tackle the humanitarian and political crisis the continent faces.

African Union leaders started to gather in Equatorial Guinea, ahead of two extraordinary summits scheduled on Friday and Saturday.

In an address, in Malabo on Thursday, the AU Commission Chairperson pointed at dif-

ferent issues about 20 heads of state are due to tackle: "From Libya in North Africa, to Mozambique in Southern Africa, from Mali in West Africa, to Somalia in the Horn of Africa, across the Sahel, the Lake Chad basin, down to the east of the DRC in Central Africa, terrorism continues to spread a deadly web with considerable consequences on finances, economies and people's safety."

Unconstitutional changes will also be on the agenda in a second meeting on Saturday. Military coups in Mali, Sudan or Guinea are just some of the regime changes that oc-

curred in the past two years with either no timetable set for a return to constitutional order or divisive ones.

AU chief Mahamat said the coups marked a "regression" in the democratic process countries had been undertaking for two decades.

"The transition deadlines put in place in the aftermath of these unconstitutional changes have become sources of dissension and sometimes tensions that are detrimental to the stability of the states concerned and that of their neighbouring countries,"

Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Commission Chairperson commented.

Some countries may raise the case of Chad, ruled since April 2021 by a junta led by General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, the son of long-serving leader Idriss Deby Itno.

The AU, the European Union and France backed the younger Deby even as they condemned and sanctioned military regimes elsewhere, after Deby promised "free and democratic" elections within 18 months following a national dialogue.

But "pre-cursor" negotiations between the

government and rebel groups in Qatar and boycotted by opposition political parties have dragged on, postponing the dialogue and a vote.

Deby has since mooted the possibility of extending the transition by another 18 months.

With 113 million Africans in need of urgent humanitarian assistance this year, this crisis will be the other key issue on the table. Donors are expected to assemble in Malabo, to raise funds at the AU's first "extraordinary humanitarian summit" on Friday.

May 29: Why Africa is cheerful on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers

MAINTAINING peace around the world is perhaps the most urgent of needs that humanity faces, for there is no scourge that is worse than war.

In situations of drought or pestilence there are means with which people manage to survive, by thinning out what they eat or drink, but that is not available if bullets are flying around. War is a disaster for settled communities as even if it ends someday, chances that the same community implying the same residents and neighbourhoods are restored are negligible, largely.

That is why the frequently used exhortation of safeguarding the peace we have is no laughing matter, but as society has all sorts of people and ambitions, intense arguments are sometimes made in street corners or perhaps informed seminars that the peace we have is fake, as it lacks this, that and the next thing.

That formulation is misplaced; it is one thing to say there is no freedom and it is quite another to say there is no peace. Those who make that formulation may be aware the argument about freedom is weak, so they belittle the peace to try and spur sentiments to some sort of action, often of the wrong order of things.

Peace keeping is something that has now been anchored into the day to day activities and duty expectations of the Tanzanian military forces, a situation that has grown gradually with no actual rules of engagement between countries. Each breakdown of law and order in neighbouring countries has its

characteristics and particulars, and those around them react according to their insecurity perception, for instance chances of spreading the conflict by getting involved or allowing a similar situation to develop within our borders for not having taken action where it was creeping up nearby. No solid formulas exist.

By and large international peacekeeping is an illustration of shared goals, or fears as to the intentions of a particular state or regional power in one part of Africa or another.

There isn't much peacekeeping on account of wars between nations for they tend to be brief, but in situations of civil war as they tend to be prolonged. Often such wars have partners in the neighbourhood, so there is need for active diplomacy to find some middle ground where a ceasefire can be instituted while work to solve underlying disputes continues. This aspect thus forms the 2022 theme, of 'People Peace Progress: The Power of Partnerships.'

Plenty of weapons sell with little or no control from the public authorities, while destabilizing a nearby state in the neighbourhood can be a priority for another, continuing an old civil war. Often a state harbours large groups of people engaged in civil war with a neighbouring state as in eastern DRC. It has all sorts of fighters wishing to change things in DRC itself, in Rwanda or in Uganda, while some wish to be left to exploit resources as they please. It is hard to find formulas suitable for each of these groups.

ICT suffices for registering land cases or maps, not really in settling disputes

OFFICIALS in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development are upbeat about the rising application of information and communication technology (ICT), where an integrated land cases management system is being set up.

The overall plan unveiled in its budget estimates indicates that this system will facilitate efficiency in storing references of land case rulings, filing of new land cases, monitoring performance of district council officials and easing access to land case rulings. If the key issue in this matter is individual disputes on plot ownership for instance, it shall definitely work as intended.

The trouble is that what keeps land authorities awake for many days of one month isn't urban land title contests, as to who bought this or that plot and if it has been mapped, etc.

This situation was prevalent in the past precisely because of double allocation habits in the Land Registry, a situation that has sharply lost its edge in the aftermath of digital conversion of land registry documents and titles.

The current initiative is a sort of networking, an integrated networking system of sorts; the big problems are outside this setup.

It is entirely likely holding customary land occupancy certificates on an individual basis is well covered in this initiative, the difficulty being in the group entitlement to land occupancy and its use.

Listening to Lands ministry pronouncements over the past

year or so, it is clear that group claims to land occupancy still exist, and district authorities are asked to lay out land use plans between migrant livestock keepers - who have no natural rights to land in areas they migrate - and regular settled farmers. That can't work.

Migration is by definition an act of conquest where newcomers take over an area for purpose of keeping livestock, but since there are public authorities other than their own clan heads, this becomes an issue to be mediated upon, whereas to local settled people the matter doesn't arise.

The land is theirs in perpetuity and is not the result of land use plans; this is the basis of customary law, that each clan has its land, and migratory rights don't exist. If one is a migrant he purchases land from a native, simply.

The budget speech said up to late April, land councils through regular meetings had resolved 1,898 land disputes and cases, way above the targeted 1,000 cases.

Yet these appear to be cases involving disputes of an individual character among settled people or purchasers of plots in urban or rural areas.

It is thus unclear what the 'land cases management system' has to show in resolving disputes of herders and farmers in many areas, which means native people vs intruders shifting as the land is empty, etc.

Ending communal ownership for individual titles will compel cattle keepers to put up funds to buy lands to graze.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

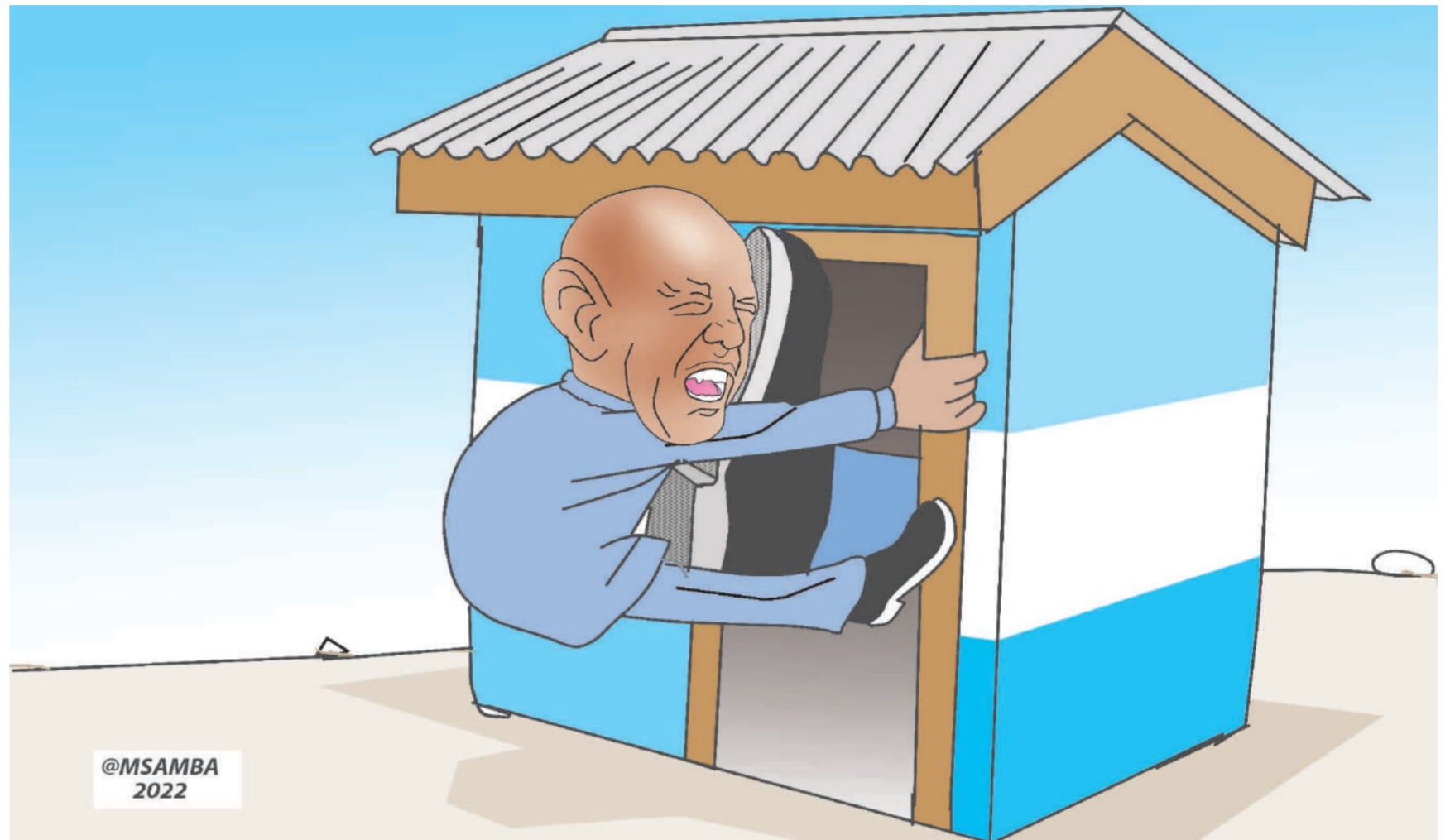
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Energy business trends start blowing in Africa's favour

By Thomas W. Pauken II

AMID the present-day challenges the world is confronting, such as soaring inflation rates, an international economy heading for a downturn, as well as the potential for energy and food shortages, the geo-political and global business trends are undergoing a remarkable transformation. These changes are shocking for many but they can be viewed as opportunities for many others. The new era could deliver more success for countries of the Emerging Markets in the Middle East, Latin-America and Africa since they are lands so rich in natural resources, especially in the fields of energy resources.

For the moment, Africa stands poised for stronger economic growth, despite the headwinds. The European Union (EU) member states and United Kingdom (UK) have urgency to find energy resources from other countries, while they transition away from Russian energy imports after Russian President Vladimir Putin had launched the 'Special Military Operation' in Ukraine starting on February 24th. In 2021, Russia had accounted for an estimated 40 percent of the EU's total imports. The EU purchased about 155 billion cubic meters (bcm) of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) last year alone. The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) disclosed that in 2021 - Germany imported 553,000 barrels per day (bpd) on average.

Brussels, London and Washington have coordinated on efforts to impose strict economic sanctions on Moscow with the purpose to block Europe's addiction to Russian oil & gas. Russia will simply re-direct their energy exports to the Asian markets but African countries, with large oil & gas reserves, can draw closer to Europe. Yet there will be no quick fix here, since Africa requires deeper investments to embark on new exploration and drilling projects, along with building, repairing and upgrading new pipeline networks running between Africa and Europe.

"Africa will succeed to export more oil and gas to Europe in the long-term, but not in the short-term," Jon Offei-Ansah, Publisher of Africa Briefing, a magazine based in London said.

"Africa needs more investments - they need to build more critical infrastructure such as their pipelines. It's important to complete the pipeline such as the one that will carry gas through Morocco from Western African countries."

Jon Offei-Ansah also pointed out that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited Africa earlier this week and his contacts from Senegal told him that Berlin was asking for more energy deals, but domestic companies have already promised deliveries to other markets, particularly to France. It will take time for Senegalese oil and gas companies to produce more energy and to upgrade the drilling equipment and pipelines.

"But Africa has the capacity - with more investments - to build the infrastructure to deliver more oil & gas to Europe in the mid- to long-term outlook."

Italy has already enjoyed some success by



Gas pumps sit holstered on the forecourt of a Sasol Ltd. fuel station in Pretoria, South Africa

forming good business relations with Algeria and other gas-rich African countries. Algeria accounted for 8 percent of the EU's gas imports last year and Nigeria was at around 2 percent. According to a report from Africa Business, Eni, Italy's leading oil and gas company, has reached supply agreements with Angola, Congo-Brazzaville, Algeria and Egypt starting since last March. The company announced plans to bring a LNG project off the coast of Congo to go on-stream next year, which has the capacity to deliver 4.5 billion meters of gas.

The experts believe that Africa could double their oil and gas production levels by 2030. And starting in 2023 or shortly afterwards, many new exploration and drilling projects will begin operating. A highly-touted project is the Tortue development located on the Mauritania-Senegal border, which is scheduled to go up and running with gas deliveries next year.

Connecting for prosperity

African oil and gas companies have long confronted challenges to lure in more inbound foreign direct investments (FDI). Foreign investors have expressed concerns over political instability on the African continent. The region has also experienced a high number of lengthy construction delays for many pipeline projects

that have to pass through Africa's Sahelia region, where many terrorists, pirates and criminal gangs prowl and terrorize the surrounding area.

Nonetheless, oil and gas prices have been soaring, while the EU and UK could be on the brink of having severe energy shortages this summer and in the foreseeable future. The timing is right for European oil & gas companies and investors to pour more financing into Africa and to resolve the challenges of completing major regional pipeline projects, which are undergoing construction.

African companies could also tap into the newly-established Cairo-based African Energy Transition Bank that pledges to offer alternative sources for African oil, gas and renewable companies. It's an African owned and operated bank seeking to finance African companies struggling to win over funding from Western firms.

New trends for new tomorrow

Meanwhile, N.J. Ayuk, executive chairman of the African Energy Chamber, has noticed that European companies are paying closer attention to Africa's energy sector. "There has been a big mindset change," he's quoted in media reports as saying.

"We've been invited to Berlin, to Paris, to Brussels. We've had

various communications and various bilateral discussions with energy ministers from at least nine countries, where we've had really fruitful conversations," Ayuk added. "This has never happened in the past."

Accordingly, the moment for Africa's energy companies to shine bright is now. But there's more good news. The sub-Saharan continent is also rich in the renewables field. The Saharan Desert could emerge as a pivotal global hub for solar and wind energy. Africa has plenty of energy resources to offer the European market and beyond.

But there's an old saying, "don't put the cart before the horse." Africa holds vast reserves of oil & gas, but the next step would be to upgrade the energy infrastructure on the continent. If Europe hopes to import more oil & gas deliveries from Africa they have to invest more into their pipeline networks along with the drilling equipment on site. However if they choose to march ahead it will become a 'win-win' scenario for both the Africans and Europeans in the long-term future.

Thomas W. Pauken II is the author of "U.S. vs China: From Trade War to Reciprocal Deal," a consultant on Asia-Pacific affairs and a geopolitical commentator.

Honest claim of right as defence to criminal liability

By Telesphor Magobe

WE have been covering albeit briefly some legal issues that are important, but that a layperson might not be familiar with. The aim of doing this is to enlighten the layperson on those issues, lest he or she gets into trouble with law enforcers where he or she could have avoided it.

At one time we said that ignorance of the law is not a defence as stipulated in Section 8 of the Penal Code (Chapter 16). As it is also often quoted in epistemology books "to know is better than not to know" or "knowledge is better than ignorance" so every person must know the law he or she is subject to.

This does not mean that a person who does not know the law violates it, but that when he or she is needed to know it, but doesn't there is no sympathy for him or her in terms of criminal or civil liability or even when he or she seeks legal remedy or relief.

Today, let us look at a bona fide (honest) claim of right as a defence to criminal liability. To explain it, let us take this example. A neighbour comes to you to borrow some money and promises to repay it by a certain date he or she fixes himself or herself because he or she believes by that time he or she will have repaid it.

He or she gets the money, but the time he or she fixed at the time of borrowing it expires without being seen and without even saying to you that he



The Law and You

or she will repay it at a later date. You may try to contact him or her, but without success and you don't know in such a situation how you are going to recover your money. What does the law say about it?

Well, Section 9 of the Penal Code (Chapter 16) can be your defence if you take action to recover it. The section states that: "A person is not criminally responsible in respect of an offence relating to property if the act done or omitted to be done by him [or her] with respect to the property was done in the exercise of an honest claim of right and without intention to defraud."

Taking the example of the neighbour who defaulted on his or her debt repayment we have just talked about above, you

have an honest claim of right if you go to his house and take some property whose value is equivalent to the money he or she owes you and because of this you won't be criminally liable.

Generally, theft is defined as the act of taking another person's property with the intention of permanently depriving that person of his or her property without his or her permission as defined in Section 258 (1). But a bona fide (honest) claim of right is an exception to this criminal liability.

A few months ago we saw that the burden of proof in criminal offences is on the prosecution to show to the court beyond reasonable doubt that the accused indeed committed the criminal offence or offences he or she is charged with. In civil cases, we saw that the burden of proof is on the complainant or the aggrieved person, who has to show by a preponderance of evidence. In the case of an honest claim of right the burden of proof is on the person who claims it.

The following cases explain better what an honest claim of right really means. In *Mussa v Kandege* (1968), the court held that: "It matters not whether such claim can in fact be substantiated in law; the question is whether the accused person, at the time of the commission of the act complained of, considered that he [or she] had any right to do so. Even if in law he [or she] had no such right, but considering that the taking was justifiable, then conviction cannot be [effected]."

In *Geoffrey s/o Buyombe v R* (1968), the court took this direction. X was employed by Y and the latter owed X an eight-month salary. X was assigned to collect revenue on behalf of Y and decided to appropriate part of it, claiming it was intended to recover the eight-month salary Y owed him. X was arraigned, charged with and convicted of stealing by servant contrary to sections 265 and 271 of the Penal Code.

He appealed, but lost because the court rejected his appeal on the ground that "even if an employee has not been paid his salary he [or she] has no right to use, without authorisation, the money which he has received for his employer."

In *Mohamed Hassan v R* (1969), the appellant was arraigned, charged with and convicted of burglary and stealing contrary to sections 294(1) and 265 of the Penal Code. He was sentenced to two-year and six-month imprisonment to run concurrently and to a 24-stroke corporal punishment after admitting that he took through the window some clothes from his employer's room using a long stick of wood. He appealed and defended himself saying he did so after he had been dismissed from employment while the employer still owed him a three-month salary, which he had not paid despite repeated requests. So, he decided to take his employer's clothes as a substitute for it.

The court held that "if the appellant's story is true, it would constitute a defence to the charge, as the appellant may well have thought he was acting under a claim of right." Therefore, the court allowed the appeal, quashed the conviction and set aside the sentence.

As the law stipulates where we have a bona fide claim of right we are exonerated from criminal liability in respect of an offence relating to property. This is an exception to the crime of theft.

Today's proverb: "A clear conscience is a coat of mail."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Menstrual Hygiene Day: Activists call for removal of VAT on sanitary pads

By Guardian Reporter

AS Tanzania joins other countries to commemorate the International Menstrual Hygiene Day today, gender rights activists have appealed to the government to exempt tax on sanitary pads to make the same accessible and affordable to women and especially school girls.

The campaigners are requesting the government to reconsider its decision to reintroduce the Value Added Tax (VAT) on sanitary pads in 2019 and think of another option as the move is affecting various sectors including education and health.

A study conducted by Msichana Initiative, showed that a lot of school girls as well as women from poor families both in rural and urban areas still struggle to access and afford sanitary towels thus thwarting their personal and national development goals.

Rebeca Gyumi, executive director of Msichana Initiative says that taxing women and girls on pads is depriving them the rights to enjoyment and access to education as menstruation is not a choice but a biological process that every woman and girl faces.

"The sanitary products have to be distributed free to women and girls through hospitals, public places, clinics and schools for ease of access and this will control the level of girl school dropouts," she said in an interview recently.

"Zero tax on pads is a right for women and girls; the taxation on pads is perceived to act as payment to the government for one being a girl or woman."

Gyumi said the pads can be distributed for free in schools located in low-income and to vulnerable populations under the supervision of the government, adding that it's the duty of the government to ensure there is tax justice that does not cause financial burden on women and girls.

She said Msichana Initiative joins the international community and the local stakeholders to sensitize gender responsive policies and legal reforms through mobilization the girls' voice, women

and stakeholders to enhance friendly and sustainable services on menstrual health and hygiene.

"The government should do something about the situation of taxes off such a commodity. Can you imagine, a girl saying 'I think I shouldn't have my periods this month!' These products should be affordable so that everyone is able to purchase them," she said.

Gyumi said the organisation has been pivotal singly and by networking with like-minded organisations in advocating for the reforms in policies with regard to menstrual health and hygiene as part of its strategic goals to ensure discriminatory legal framework and prohibitive laws are changed specifically in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda.

She said as part of commemoration of the International Menstrual Hygiene Day, Msichana Initiative conducted on the impact of tax on pads and how it affects accessibility of the same to the marginalized girls in Tanzania, adding that the investigative study was conducted in primary schools as well as in communities with girls in and out of school.

"The findings from the study conducted as well as analysis of the information obtained from interviews and desk reviews show that sanitary products are not affordable to most of the girls both in school and out of school in rural areas as well as in urban areas," she said.

According to her, the study found that the minimum price for the pads is 2000/- and the maximum 4000/- depending on the brand. She argued that the prices are not affordable to the majority of Tanzanian girls, adding that with the ongoing global economic crises, the prices are likely to go even higher.

"Tax on the sanitary products continues to escalate gender inequalities, most girls cannot afford the sanitary products and this deprives them their sexual reproductive health rights and right to education. Most girls continue to miss school due to period poverty, and use unhealthy materials such as rags, leaves,



Gender rights activists appeal to the government to scrap VAT on sanitary pads, saying the prohibitive prices force many girls out of school during menstruation. Photo courtesy of the internet

feathers, maize cobs which are unhygienic," she said.

Gyumi further asserted that tax removal will eventually make prices of the products more affordable which can benefit manufacturers and consumers as well as allow the school girls to participate effectively in attending classes without any encumbrances since the sanitary pads will be easily available and accessible.

She said tax removal will also increase school performance and reduce the rate of dropouts of girls in both primary and secondary schools and decrease inequalities that exist between boys and girls, since the girls will participate fully in school activities.

"By removing the tax, it will ensure access to affordable and quality menstruation products by the majority of women and girls in the country especially in the rural areas and those living with disabilities. Hygiene right for girls preserves girls' dignity," she added.

Janeth John, executive director of Binti Makini Foundation said; "The government should rather try and understand why the earlier exemption in 2018 did not lead to the expected results, and then correct the errors in the application of the exemption."

She said if the pads were distributed freely it would have decreased such chal-

lenges and consequently the rate of infectious diseases as some girls can wear one pad throughout the day which may cause negative effects to their health.

Jennifer Kayombo, Youth Advocate at African Youth and Adolescent Network said access and affordability of the pads is a challenge especially to girls in the rural areas, the government should remove the VAT on the pads and ensure proper implementation and follow up at the grassroots level to regulate the pricing of the pads but also to ensure that manufacturers do not pass the costs to the consumers.

"The manufacturers, sup-

pliers and retailers should not have the room to negotiate prices but rather the Ministry for Health should have the mandate to set directives with regard to accessibility and affordability of sanitary pads in Tanzania," she said.

Flaviana Matata, Executive director of Flaviana Foundation and Lavy Pads said: "I hope in the upcoming financial year, the government will remove tax on the sanitary pads, some of us (manufacturers) even with limited profit we still continue to distribute pads to schools without having a tax break, definitely we are forced to raise the prices as production and shipping costs increases every day."

Taxes on female sanitary products, which are basic necessities—have come under increasing scrutiny across the globe, and Tanzania in 2018 decided to join the nations scrapping VAT on pads and tampons.

The tax exemption, which took effect on July 1, 2018, was meant to enable women, especially school girls, to access the sanitary towels at affordable prices.

However a year later, the government said that the exemption of VAT was only benefiting traders and not women and girls thus reintroduced the tax. On regional situation, some African governments have taken positive decisions

to ensure that the products are accessed by women and girls at an affordable price.

In June 2017, Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta signed a law that allows all school girls who have reached puberty to acquire the pads free.

Namibia exempted 15 per cent VAT on pads on March 17, 2021 after a successful campaign dubbed #taxfreeperiod. This was a result of a lot of advocacy work and campaigning through social media and online petitions.

In South Africa, on April 1, 2019 the country lifted the sanitary pad tax which reportedly enabled more girls to attend school and receive education compared to before.

Child labour survivor has a dream of freeing others

DURBAN
SELIMATHA Dzedzorm Salifu was just seven years old when she went to work for the first time to support her family.

Born in the fishing village, Kpando-Torkor, in Ghana, Salifu, was forced to go out and work in the local fishing industry when her father Seidu died, leaving her mother, Mary, with six children to feed, clothe and shelter. The industry is well documented for child slavery and trafficking.

"When my daddy passed, I was drawn into child labour because mommy did not have something to take care of my siblings. She started travelling to the islands (on lake Volta) in a canoe to buy fish, and sometimes I helped her do that, and I helped other fishmongers who were in the same business," Salifu, now 25, told IPS in an exclusive interview. "I helped them get the fish ready for market, cutting and cleaning it, for a fee." She spoke to us on the sidelines of the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Durban, South Africa.

"I would wake up at 4 am and be there. We were a lot of children in the village so I had to get there early so I could get a customer. The boys would go out fishing, they didn't go to school, and some were ill-treated on the lake. They would get pushed inside the water to rescue the nets (when they got tangled). I found that when I would go to school, I was so exhausted, I would sleep in class, and my teachers would ask me why," Salifu said.

Her pay was just one or two Ghanaian cedis which could buy 'kenke' (similar to sourdough) and a little rice. Other children were often paid with just one small fish for their day's labour handling Tilapia fish, mudfish and electric fish, Salifu said.

Despite her arduous plight of juggling work and school to survive, Salifu had a dream: One day, she would be a teacher and help children like herself.

"Sometimes getting food on the table was very difficult, and purchasing a school uniform was very difficult. I almost dropped out of school, but



Photo taken on April 12, 2022 shows children of a kindergarten in Shuikou township, Changxing county, east China's Zhejiang province in a tire rolling game. File photo

the God I serve saved me. I had a vision to want to be a childcare practitioner, to have my own institution to support children on the street just like myself," Salifu said. "And then one day, I happened to meet this man at the river shore by my village, on the bank, going about my daily routine. I narrated my story to him, and he said he was going to talk to his team and they would help me."

That man was Andrews Tagoe, deputy general secretary of the General Agricultural Workers' Union of TUC. He is also a regional coordinator for Africa of the Global March Against Child Labour.

Tagoe had been working in the village, advocating against child la-

bour, speaking to parents and educating them about the importance of sending their children to school rather than to work.

"I met the parents in the village and the fishermen and was talking about decent work and the fishing process and normal union issues," Tagoe said.

He said most parents wanted their children to become lawyers and doctors, yet they were out on the beach working during school hours.

"So, I got up and went and looked at the beach during school time at around 10 am and found the beach full of children involved in activities, carrying fish, and I looked to

the left, and there were classrooms and teachers without children," Tagoe said.

Tagoe then made it his mission to reach out to the working children, like Salifu and began meeting with them and chatting about their lives, hopes and dreams.

"The parents also said that we didn't know the unions work with child labour. So, let's see what we can do to start a child labour free zone. There has been an enormous reduction in child labour, and more kids are now going to school," he said.

"Since 2000 to date, the union has helped more than 4500 children in the whole of the agricultural sector,

from rice, cocoa and palm oil to lake fishing," Tagoe said.

A report by NORC at the University of Chicago has claimed that there are almost 1.6 million children involved in child labour in the cocoa industry alone in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.

NORC conducted surveys with children aged between 15 and 17 between 2008 and 2019, showing cocoa production rose by 62%.

However, the report acknowledged that the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana had implemented education reforms, such as free education and compulsory attendance to fight child labour. This led to children's school attendance from agricultural households increasing from 58 to 80 percent in Côte d'Ivoire and 89 to 96 percent in Ghana.

Salifu said Tagoe's team - she fondly refers to him as "daddy" - assisted her in remaining in school to follow her dream.

"I thought my prayers had been answered. They came to take responsibility for my school (work), purchasing my textbooks, and I was able to write basic education exams," Salifu said.

She went to school in the mornings and continued working afternoons to support her family.

Salifu completed her Basic Education Certificate and

then worked for six months buying fish and selling it in nearby towns to raise money for Senior High School.

"Again, GAWU supported me by paying for some of my fees. I finished senior high at the age of 19 in 2016. I've always dreamed of being the greatest teacher in the world and owning my own institution, and working with children," Salifu said.

Her dream was partially realised when she got a job working at a local school before moving to Accra, where she studied at a Montessori teacher's training institution. She obtained her National Diploma in Montessori Training and took up a position at Tender Sprout International School in Accra.

"Where I am working, the children come from good homes and are even dropped off at school. But I want to go back to my community and help my brothers and sisters in the village and nearby communities and islands to help liberate them from child labour," Salifu said.

"I still want to build on my dream to help the orphans and get the children back home. My mom is very aged now too, so I need to support my other siblings and my mother at home. There is no money at home, so they look up to me. I need to go back to university to get a degree in early childhood education."

"God has saved me now because some mates my age ended up dropping out, and some had teenage pregnancies and STDs. I am very, very lucky," Salifu said.

Salifu hopes telling her story will be a voice to help those still trapped in child labour escape. **IPS**

Ugandan silent cafe changing attitudes toward deaf culture

KAMPALA

IN the dusty and noisy town of Nankulabye, a suburb of the Ugandan capital Kampala, is a coffee shop that is changing attitudes of the hearing world toward the world of the deaf.

African art paintings and a strong coffee aroma welcome you to Silent Cafe, an eatery owned and run by deaf people. A sign language board is hung in one corner while the menu is written on another board where diners can easily point at what they would wish to have.

The glass doors completely cut you off from the noisy street outside, apart from the occasional sound of the coffee ma-

chine. Roy Rusa, the manager and barista, welcomes you with a smile and sign gestures. As a diner, if you do not know the sign language, you point at what you want or write it down on paper or on the phone, and Roy or his other deaf colleagues will quickly work on the order.

Nasser Ssenyondo, the proprietor of the cafe told Xinhua in a recent interview that he started the restaurant not only to change the attitude of the hearing people toward the deaf but also to offer employment to the deaf and make them aware that they are able-bodied people.

"My interest is to do something that can bring social-economic empowerment to the people with disabilities. They

really need inclusion," he said. "It is very important for the community to understand that life is not about competition but to work together. We are all at the same level," he added. Ssenyondo, born in the central Ugandan district of Masaka 30 years ago, became deaf at the age of 10 years after a strong bout of meningitis.

His parents, who were coffee farmers, supported him throughout his education despite the negative community attitude toward the deaf people.

He is now a social worker with a master's degree in business administration. "My love for coffee began way back. My parents sold coffee to get me school fees. All that I have been through, I have been cared for by coffee," he said.

According to the country's last population census carried out in 2014, the state-run Uganda Bureau of Statistics estimated that there were over one million deaf people out of the over 40 million people in the country.

Uganda National Association of the Deaf, a non-governmental organization, estimates that the deaf population is more due to the inadequacies in data collection in addition to the fact that deafness is invisible.

Growing up as deaf people, according to Ssenyondo, is challenging as many of them drop out of school because of social discrimination.

Some communities see deaf children as a curse and therefore they do not want to interact

with them. He said most of the social discrimination is a result of ignorance about the world of the deaf.

He argued that it is that ignorance or attitude that he wants to change in the community.

When Ssenyondo is not out there on community outreach programs about the deaf, he is at the restaurant, where he gives a hand as a waiter.

"We want to build an inclusive society for all. I wanted to make a contribution and see how we can solve the challenges of unemployment, especially among the deaf people," he said. Chris Mugaya, a regular dinner at the restaurant, told Xinhua that his attitude like many of his business colleagues in the neigh-

borhood has changed toward the deaf people.

"Silent Cafe connects the deaf and us who speak. Before I used to see the deaf people doing signs but I did not know how to respond, but now I can interact with them. When I look at a deaf person, I look at him as a brother. I have learnt many things about them," Mugaya said. He said deaf people have to come out bold and strong, and show the world that they are equally able-bodied people.

Mugaya said besides that, the restaurant setup offers a good environment for social and business networking. Rusa, who also has a passion for art said as a deaf person, working in a restaurant where he interacts with

hearing people has restored his confidence.

His wish is to train more deaf people so that they too can gain confidence. "My dream is to become a trainer. If I get an opportunity, I do want to share the same skills and knowledge to train other people," he said. Ssenyondo said although business is now slow because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he dreams of setting up more branches of Silent Cafe across the country when business returns to normal. He argued that the more deaf people interact with the speaking world, the more negative community attitudes toward them will reduce. **Xinhua**

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

Girls challenged to prioritize hygiene, hand washing habits to avoid diseases

By Guardian Reporter

WATERAID Tanzania has since 1983 remained resolutely focused on tackling the three essential needs for all human beings by making clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation.

Without the above mentioned essential needs, people cannot live dignified, healthy lives. With all three, they can unlock their potential, break free from poverty, and change their lives for good. Children grow up healthy and strong, women and men get to earn a living, and whole communities start to thrive.

The organization is fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of the government and from all walks of life; political perspectives, citizens, donors, advocates, teachers, parents, policy-makers, students, religious leaders, business executives and many other people who understand that a girl child should not be denied her basic right to clean water and sanitation and proper hygiene.

While all this is true, in Tanzania, children's lack of satisfactory sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools and that has a greater negative impact on girls than boys.

Girls need safe, clean, separate and private sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools. Adolescent girls are especially vulnerable to dropping out as many are unwilling to continue their schooling since toilets and washing facilities are not private and simply not available.

Anna Mzinga, WaterAid Country Director said in these challenging and uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic, WaterAid is committed as ever to equity and inclusion for girls, and women and lasting, long-term solutions. She said the organization has a proud tradition of standing up for causes believing that they have a direct impact on the communities it serves with water, sanitation and hygiene services.

"You can count on us to continue doing what we do best: deliver water, sanitation and hygiene services, strengthen community know-how and advocate for long-term policy success in 28 countries across the globe. You can also count on us to continue our proactive advocacy in support of WASH and initiatives that focus on menstrual health and hygiene to help girls stay in school", she remarked.

Mzinga called for the government, donors, development partners, implementing partners and service providers to prioritize hygiene, instead of based on evidence of what does work. She added: "Let us design hygiene behavior change intervention packages to motivate people by understanding and appealing to what they care about, taking into account the norms and values they share with their wider community most especially girls, let us listen and commit to keeping all girls healthy and at school."

Mzinga said that together, through collaboration with



A student of Mringa primary school in Arusha Region demonstrates hand washing in a new facility at their school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

other stakeholders WaterAid want to make sure that children who are going to schools are in good environment and infrastructures that will enable and preventing them from infectious diseases and mostly through the hand-washing habit, thus helping the girl child to maintain hygiene when they are going through their menstrual periods.

WaterAid, through funding from Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) in partner-

ship and collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children, implemented a sanitation and hygiene campaign with specific attention to schools and neighboring communities.

A total of 20 schools from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Dodoma and Singida, are currently benefiting from "The back-to-school Campaign". WaterAid through this project were able to provide different teaching tools

and materials to teachers for teaching hygiene education in Mringa primary school such as a Menstrual Hygiene block which is fully furnished with 4 rooms: resting room, changing room, learning/knowledge room and a health/hygiene teacher's office.

Apart from the hand washing facility which was built near the menstrual block and the toilets to enable/ emphasize the behavior of hand washing to students, similar interventions were made whereas WaterAid Tanza-

nia will reach 30 schools in Kisarawe District, Pwani Region through the financial support from JICA.

The World Menstrual Day is observed on May 28th because menstrual cycles average 28 days in length and people menstruate an average of five days each month and the fact that May is the fifth month of the year.

It is meant to advance menstruation as a biological process so that people can menstruate without being cast out or missing out, without feeling fear or shame and without being treated like less or exposed to more vulnerabilities.

It also raises awareness of period poverty, or the inability to afford the menstrual supplies needed to manage health and hygiene with dignity.

Putting in suitable environmental actions key in curtailing cooking energy hiccups in urban areas

By Felician Kilahama

TANZANIA attained 60 years of independence, which is a period equivalent to a person born at that time; now categorized as a senior citizen. In that context, such a person has remarkable experiences generated over the years. Again, since independence to date tremendous changes have occurred in terms of natural forests mainly woodlands cover but also high tropical forests in mountainous areas like Kilimanjaro and Meru Mountains plus those in the Eastern Arc area including the Livingstone and Rungwe Mountains.

However, over the years, rates of natural forests/woodlands losses have been alarmingly highland one of the reasons being increased demands for charcoal and firewood particularly in urban areas. Conversely, forests are truly resources highly used by majority of Tanzanians for a living. I'm obliged to state that nearly all households, in Tanzania, use charcoal, firewood and other forest-based products. Experiences show that apart from firewood and charcoal, forest resources have been used for obtaining traditional medicines, food like mushrooms, edible insects, fruits, wild-meat; honey, water, traditional vegetables, but also tracking down other products like withies, poles, timber and raw materials for hand crafts, building/roofing materials and fodder for livestock and wildlife.

Majority, in urban areas, depend on charcoal for cooking while in villages firewood is mostly used. Although there're other sources of energy but



marginally utilized due to prohibitive costs, such as the use of electricity, gas for cooking; the household must have relevant gadgets, which are expensive.

A quick survey recently conducted indicated that a medium rice cooker costs about 80,000/- to 100,000/-; similarly pressure cookers are expensive ranging from 275,000/- to 425,000/-.

It's also known that a gadget with one electric burner and three gas cooking facilities its value ranges from 800,000/- to over 1m/- depending on the model and the producer com-

pany.

Examining these costs as well as the costs for LPG—55,000/- to 60,000/- 15 kg cylinder and high electricity tariffs; the only option for the majority of urban dwellers to depend on charcoal mostly obtained from the unmanaged villages' woodlands.

Currently, the situation of domestic energy in urban areas is not attractive because of escalated costs, whether it is charcoal, gas or electricity the prices aren't attractive to users.

Almost all households in different corners of urban areas are crying for escalated costs

for cooking meals. In some areas, Ubungo Municipality, managed to talk to some charcoal vendors and buyers where one family of four members indicated that five years ago used to spend about 1,500/- to obtain charcoal needed for one day in combination with 15kg cylinder (LPG) lasting for one month thus total costs amounting to about 100,000/-; whereas nowadays they spend 50,000/- more on same amount of charcoal and LPG.

On that count, the woman lamented saying: "Currently it is hard to part with life in urban

areas due to ever-escalating costs of living."

She unfortunately noted that charcoal does not last long because it is carbonized using juvenile trees—the situation which is a critical challenge to sustainable forest management options required to maintain sound environmental conditions for our well-being.

The rate of natural forest resources loss is rated between 370,000 to about 470,000 hectares annually and this has been caused by high demand for charcoal and firewood.

Reports have it that excessive

forest resources loss observed in Katavi, Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions. If charcoal and firewood are dependable sources for cooking in urban and rural areas respectively, why is the Ministry of Energy not making budgetary provisions, to support availability and affordability of domestic sources of energy as championed for gas and electricity?

For instance, provision of 100bn/- to leverage the costs of oil products demonstrated government commitments to ease the costs of living and contain inflation at manageable levels. Similar options should as well, be well-thought-out for domestic cooking energy.

It is useful for the Energy Ministry to promote and encourage gas and electricity for cooking instead of charcoal and firewood.

The use of gadgets like pressure/rice cookers in households can be increased if their costs and related gas/electricity tariffs can be regulated to affordable levels. The suppliers/sellers should be required to set prices at fair and reasonable levels while considering the customers' individual circumstances and their trends of past cooking energy uses and/or records of incomes. However, for this to yield felt and positive impacts, the government must intervene accordingly. The Ministry of Energy should make budget provisions to finance pertinent requirements for domestic energy for cooking. The idea is to make a domestic energy shift from high dependence on charcoal and firewood; while progressively encouraging use of gas and electricity for cook-

ing. By doing so, Tanzania will sustain natural forest resources needed for sound environmental conditions and land protection. As a result, sustainable ecological services will be endured in terms of adequate and predictable rainfall; food, reduced soil erosion and lessened carbon footprints (CO2) to keep global warming below 20 Celsius. Nothing is impossible, the government in collaboration with other stakeholders including the private sector; should take thoughtful actions now than later. The Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) be further empowered to manage natural forests, while efforts to plant more trees are doubled or tripled.

Charcoal and firewood should come from well-managed natural woodlands and forests but not the opposite. It is anticipated that taking appropriate actions will lead to well secured environmental conditions enabling natural forests/woodlands to contribute to sustainable economic development and secured wildlife habitats with adequate water, fodder and grasses' resources—keeping National Parks and Game Reserves including Nature Forest Reserves, Forest Reserves and Wetlands attractive. Thus, the fruits of Royal Tour and its campaigns will highly benefit the nation through increased tourists and related tourist products and services.

Dr Felician Kilahama is the former director of the Forestry and Beekeeping division in the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

BUSINESS

UBA Tanzania celebrates the Africa Day in a style

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Bank for Africa (UBA) Tanzania Ltd has celebrated its Africa Day that dedicated at celebrating African diversity and success and to highlight the cultural and economic potential that exists on the African continent.

Africa Day has been celebrated since 1963 on May 25th across the African continent and worldwide. The day was inaugurated by the Organization of African Unity, in celebration of the unity, diversity and beauty of Africa and its people.

This day is important to us because, we have come a long way to announce our place in the global economy and embrace our uniqueness in diversity. Africa day brings the beauty of all origins in the rich motherland that is full of talent, creativity and potential to change the trends in changing times.

With a continued spirit of excellent service delivered, UBA Staff celebrated the day in grand style as they dressed to their native origin to work and serve customers in a display of the best of Africa's rich attire.

Various customers were invited to the celebrations and UBA MD/CEO Gbenga Makinde, had an opportunity to thank and appreciate them for making UBA their bank of choice.

"We celebrate all our customers and celebrate what we stand for as United Bank for Africa. As we facili-



UBA Bank Tanzania Managing Director, Gbenga Makinde (2nd Rt), cuts the cake in celebration of Africa Day together with the bank's Chief Operating Officer Flavia Kiyanga (1st R) and Head of Corporate Banking Dora Kayungu (C) at the Bank's Head Office in Dar es Salaam. Others from the left are the bank's customers who attended the event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

tate transactions, business opportunities across Africa and beyond the shores of the continent, we will continue to focus on our customers, we will continue to be the best in customer experience and make sure that we represent the African economic powerhouse." Makinde said during the celebrations.

He also highlighted on the African diverse culture as one of the bank's strength.

"The quality of our decisions and the way we drive business, comes from the

diversity that African culture represent. We will continue to focus and leverage on the competencies we have so that we can keep supporting businesses across the continent," he added.

As one of the best and most resilient bank, UBA has proven expertise and capacity in key sectors of economies across Africa as it provides corporate, commercial, SME, consumer and retail banking services to more than 27 million customers who are served through diverse channels and robust online

banking services, and with over 2,669 ATMs and 87,223 PoS.

UBA United Bank for Africa remains to be a leading Pan-African financial institution, connecting people and businesses across 20 African countries through retail, commercial and corporate banking, innovative cross border payments and remittances, trade finance and ancillary banking services with presence in New York, London and Paris.

African SMEs need an alternative capital market, says banker

ACCRA, Ghana

THE head of Investment Banking at Stanbic Bank Ghana, Kobby Bentsi-Enchil, has advocated the development of an alternative capital market for small businesses in Africa to enable them raise adequate financing for business growth.

Speaking at the opening of the two-day West Africa Capital Market Conference (WACMaC) in Accra, on the topic: "Access to finance via cross-border listings on stock and fixed income exchange", he said the intervention could be key in addressing the inadequacy of attractive instruments for small businesses in the West African sub-region.

"Small businesses are unable to list on local bourses due to inherent challenges. Small businesses are confronted with challenges such as corporate governance and compliance, perceived high credit risk, inadequate or incomplete business disclosures and unclear growth strategies.

However, providing options for second and third tier alternative market board listings with relaxed listing requirements, including entry barriers and disclosure requirements could be an incentive for local businesses to list on bourses," he said.

Bentsi-Enchil also elaborated on some of the reasons for the hesitancy of foreign capital inflow into domestic markets in West Africa.

He mentioned unattractive returns on investments, capital controls and convertibility risks, lack of robust continuing disclosure standards, limited access to current real time information and relative illiquidity in the secondary markets as some of the main reasons for the hesitancy in foreign capital inflow.

In addressing the challenges confronting West Africa's capital markets, Bentsi-Enchil advocated for collaboration among key stakeholders across the various countries.

According to him, "Collaboration

and collaborative efforts are critical to improving access to finance. There has to be coordinated efforts between Ministries of Finance within jurisdictions to encourage potential issuers to pursue cross-border listings. Member countries should also consider increased collaboration on issuer solicitation, information sharing, regulation and reporting standards as well as concessions on fees and levies."

"There is also the need for regional bourses to explore collaboration with multilateral institutions and global stock exchanges while engaging in consistent investor education to enumerate benefits of investing in cross border listing. Also, leveraging the benefit of AfCFTA's Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) is one key tool that could facilitate regional integration," he added.

The two-day conference is being organised by the West African Securities Regulators Association (WASRA).

WASRA is the regional body for Capital Market Regulators in West Africa with the mandate of facilitating cooperation and consultation among capital markets in the West African region.

The event, which is being held under the theme: "Deepening and strengthening the capital markets across West Africa through effective regulation", brings together relevant stakeholders and experts, including regulatory agencies, market operators, inter-regional economic bodies, academics, among others, to share experiences and deliberate on best practices to improve West Africa's Capital Markets. WACMaC is a biennial event that seeks to present the West African region, and indeed Africa as a whole, the opportunity to address important issues related to the orderly growth and development of the regional and continental capital markets.



There is also the need for regional bourses to explore collaboration with multilateral institutions and global stock exchanges while engaging in consistent investor education to enumerate benefits of investing in cross border listing. Also, leveraging the benefit of AfCFTA's Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) is one key tool that could facilitate regional integration

AfDB accepts president's call on Zimbabwe's foreign debt

By Tapiwanashe Mangwiro

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) President Dr Akinwumi Adesina says he has accepted President Emmerson Mnangagwa's request for the bank to lead the country's debt repayment strategy as Zimbabwe seeks to expunge its onerous debt overhang.

The development was communicated by Adesina at the ongoing AfDB annual general meeting (AGM) in Accra, Ghana.

An unsustainable sovereign debt, now at US\$19 billion, has been blamed for blocking access by the country to affordable long term financing from both multilateral and bilateral financiers, which has hindered efforts to turn around the economy.

Adesina told journalists that, "I have written to the President of Zimbabwe that I humbly accept what you requested me to champion as the vice president said the arrears clearance and I know that with the understanding and the support of our partners we will get there soon."

Finance and Economic Development Minister Prof Mthuli Ncube first revealed the bank's willingness to assist Zimbabwe on its debt when he met the AfDB President in Washington DC, USA last month, where the two were part of the World Bank annual meetings.

"The President of the AfDB has put himself forward as a candidate to help the country come up with good staff monitored programmes which also include the International Monetary



Fund (IMF)," Minister Ncube said at the time.

Dr Adesina said Zimbabwe used to be the breadbasket of the region and "it's in everybody's interest to have a revived, renewed and energised Zimbabwe".

Minister Ncube said Zimbabwe was working on a debt clearance pathway with its creditors, which involve possibly entailed staff monitored programmes monitored the International Monetary Fund in order to find a sponsor who can help Harare repay its external debts.

Debt sponsorship is when a country finds another country to pay off its debt from the international financial institutions (IFIs) and in turn gets a 'soft' loan to use to repay part of the sponsorship debt. This gives the country a more favourable platform to borrow than getting expensive loans from bilateral lenders.

While in Washington DC, the finance

minister held re-engagement meetings with various lenders on the sidelines of the meeting, including the 17 members of the Paris Club.

According to Minister Ncube, the country has been making token payments to its creditors who have expressed their gratitude to the gesture, but stressed the intention was to expunge the total debt.

Zimbabwe has begun making token payments all its foreign financiers it woos among them the Paris Club, which has 17 members, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

"We are now making token payments to the 17 members of the Paris Club, this means that we are now servicing all our creditors, and payments are being made quarterly for the past 9 months," Minister Ncube said last month.

"So we are committed as that bank to that. We will walk with our partners. We

will walk with the World Bank. We will walk with the IMF, we will walk with all the bilateral partners. My vice president [Yacin Fal] just went there," Adesina concluded.

Zimbabwe is presently ineligible to get loans from the IFIs due to its external debt, which exempted it from the Covid-19 relief debt, which were extended to its neighbours South Africa and Zambia.

"Zimbabwe has been a member of the IMF in good standing since it repaid arrears outstanding in late 2016. However, Zimbabwe has external arrears to multilateral development institutions (World Bank, AfDB and EIB). As a general rule the IMF is prevented from lending to any member country that has arrears to other international financial institutions," the IMF said in November 2021.

South Africa's market is important for sustainable growth

JOHANNESBURG

WITH May celebrated as Africa Month, the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) has identified the rest of the African continent as an important market for sustainable growth.

This is consistent with its strategic plan 2020-2025, but also as part of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.

"In the next financial year, the CDC will focus on fast-tracking the implementation of projects in the Central

African Republic (CAR) and Zimbabwe, whilst marketing its services to increase the portfolio of clients," CDC Programme Director Idriss Mouchili has said.

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Strategic Framework 2020-2030, has identified cross-border exchanges with the rest of Africa as a key pillar of the implementation of reconfiguring and expansion of existing SEZs.

The CDC has expanded

its non-SEZ services to other markets in countries that include Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal under the Coega Africa Programme (CAP).

The CDC is providing technical advisory and co-development of SEZs, industrial parks, dry ports and public infrastructure.

Through its African Trade and Investment Solutions Strategy, the CDC is championing the country's renewed push for business exchanges

between South Africa and the rest of the continent.

"The CDC, with its proven track record in infrastructure implementation and programme management spanning over two decades, has delivered mega infrastructure projects successfully within budget, scope and quality standards.

"The organisation has an arsenal of systems and processes, utilising international best practice in project management using advanced project methodology which also enables job creation

and transform economies through developing emerging businesses," the CDC said.

With a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than USD3 trillion, the CDC said the African continent is a major market for trade for any country that is serious about sustainable development.

According to the CDC, the AfCFTA, which is the largest global free trade area by countries participating, could transform the continent's economic prospects.

"The agreement aims to

reduce all trade costs, improve intra-African trade and enable Africa to integrate further into global supply chains. Ultimately, AfCFTA aims to improve the continent's economic integration in line with the Agenda 2063's Pan-African vision of an industrialised, stable, and peaceful Africa," the CDC said.

The agreement also aims to eliminate customs tariffs for intraregional trade, to improve capital and individual mobility, and to facilitate investment at the national and

continental levels.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Regional Economic Outlook (April 2022), looking beyond the pandemic and current geopolitical tensions, job creation and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals will require strong, inclusive, and sustainable growth in the region. To this end, decisive policy action is needed to enhance economic diversification, unleash the private sector's potential, and address the challenges posed by climate change.

Africa's land area exceeds that of China, Europe, and the United States combined. Its 54 countries have a collective population of 1.2 billion, with over a thousand languages being spoken, huge diversity in income levels, resource endowment, business sophistication and infrastructure development.

With the world's largest free trade area and a 1.2-billion-person market, the continent is creating an entirely new development path, harnessing the potential of its resources and people.

WTO accepted proposal to finance African trade

GENEVA

THE World Trade Organization (WTO) accepted a proposal from Ivory Coast to improve access and trade financing for African countries, particularly small businesses.

During a workshop organized by that nation, the WTO and the International Finance Corporation, Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala welcomed the initiative for the business sector and banks to establish a dialogue with the aim of helping merchants reduce the costs of transactions and better integrate into world trade.

The senior WTO official highlighted the urgency of improving access to trade finance for small entities in Africa, and underlined the serious monetary constraint facing the sub-Saharan region.

Okonjo-Iweala commented that global surveys show that

while around 30 percent of international trade finance goes to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), banks reject around 40 percent of their applications.

She stressed that the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated trade finance gaps in Africa, which previously totaled some \$80 billion a year.

The WTO director-general said that the lack of monetary resources or their availability at higher costs than the world market are major obstacles to the integration of African nations in global trade.

For countries to be successful in international markets, their logistics, transportation, border crossing and trade financing costs must be competitive, she added.

In this regard, she pointed out that controlling these costs requires experience and training, which eventually reduces transaction costs.



South Africa needs \$250bn to transition from coal - report

By Special Correspondent

SOUTH Africa will need to spend \$250 billion over the next three decades closing down its coal-fired power plants and replacing them with green energy, according to a report released on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum said on Thursday.

\$125 billion of the total investment, is needed to ramp up wind and solar power projects as the country suspends coal-fired plants that currently supply the bulk of its energy needs, the documents reveal as reported by the Reuters.

The report was produced by academics at South Africa's Stellenbosch University in conjunction with the Blended Finance Taskforce, a body set up in 2017 to help mobilise large-scale private capital in a bid to end poverty in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to closing down the country's coal-fired plants and building wind and solar power plants, households that have been affected by the change would also have to be compensated. The Blended Finance Taskforce and the Centre for Sustainability Transitions at Stellenbosch University said.

The report also states that Most of the money will need to come from the private sector, according to the study.

South Africa is the world's 12th biggest emitter of climate-warming gases and the biggest in Africa. In November, the United States, Britain, France, Germany and the European Union agreed to offer an \$8.5 billion package to help South Africa accelerate its transition from coal, although exact details and timelines are still being discussed.

"It will take at least \$250 billion spent over the next three decades to transition to a low-carbon, more equitable energy system in South Africa under an ambitious decarbonisation scenario (coal off by 2040)," the authors said.



It will take at least \$250 billion spent over the next three decades to transition to a low-carbon, more equitable energy system in South Africa under an ambitious decarbonisation scenario (coal off by 2040)

World Bank won't support CAR's Sango crypto hub

By Jesse Coghlan

THE World Bank has said "it will be physically impossible" for the lender to fund the planned Sango crypto hub and voiced concerns regarding the country's adoption of Bitcoin.

The World Bank has signaled its concerns over the Central African Republic (CAR) adopting Bitcoin (BTC) as a legal currency and says it won't support the newly announced "Sango" crypto hub.

At the end of April, CAR president Faustin-Archange Touadéra established a regulatory framework for cryptocurrency in the country and adopted Bitcoin as a legal tender. On May 24, he announced a plan to launch the country's first crypto hub called "Sango."

Sango is described as the country's first "crypto initiative" – a legal hub for crypto-related businesses encompassing economic policies including no corporate or income tax and the creation of a virtual and physical "crypto island."

An official document outlining the Sango project states that the country "received approval for a \$35 million development fund from The World Bank for the digitization of the public sector." However, a spokesperson for the institution told Bloomberg via email the recently approved grant "is unrelated to any cryptocurrency initiative" and that "the World Bank is not supporting 'Sango' – The First Crypto Initiative Project."

The \$35 million grant from the World Bank announced May 5 was meant for the updating and digitization of the existing public financial management system, for instance, by improving digital bank payments.

In the statement, The World Bank added "it will be physically impossible" for the institution to fund the Sango project and expressed disapproval of the CAR's adoption of Bitcoin:

"We have concerns regarding transparency as well as the potential implications for financial inclusion, the financial sector and public finance at large, in addition to environmental shortcomings."

CAR's Bitcoin adoption has also caught the ire of the governor of the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) Abbas Mahamat Tolli, who wrote a scathing letter to CAR Finance Minister

Hervé Ndoba shortly after news of the adoption.

In the letter, Tolli wrote the new law "suggests that its main objective is to establish a Central African currency beyond the control of the BEAC that could compete with or displace the legal currency" which, he believes,

would "jeopardize monetary stability."

The World Bank echoed the sentiment saying: "It is important that the relevant regional institutions, such as the central bank and the banking authorities, are fully consulted and remain in the driver's seat."

There is a growing dislike of the

CFA franc – the official fiat currency of the CAR pegged to the euro in the country. Meanwhile, crypto adoption rates have skyrocketed in Africa, according to a March report from crypto exchange KuCoin, which shows that crypto transactions have increased by over 2,500% in 2021.

It's unclear what the adoption rate of crypto is within CAR, specifically. The country only has an internet penetration rate of just over 7% of the total population, meaning only around 350,000 individuals are even online, according to data from DataReportal, dated January 2022.



Sex workers in Ghana increase charges over current economic hardship

ACCRA, Ghana

GHANA'S economic crisis seems to be affecting all sectors, with commercial sex workers also bearing the brunt of the meltdown.

On some noted streets of Accra - Ghana's capital, the majority of commercial sex workers in Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Liberia have been parading for years.

Until recently, many of them say they had been charging €50 (7 dollars) for a short session that lasts between 15-20 minutes and €300 (40 dollars) for a full

night.

Despite their courageous approach to the trade, they always meet some clients who make them question their choice of work.

"Some people don't cum quick. If you know you don't release early you have to give her more money. You have to pay the girl well to make her happy," one of the sex workers said in a report cited by local media.

Since the increase in fuel prices, which has affected the prices of goods and services across most parts of the

world, the sex workers are not in the position to satisfy their clients at the same rates they initially charged.

The majority of the sex workers have increased their charges by up to 100%. Lapaz, Cantonments, Osu, East Legon are a few hotspots in the city for the trade.

One of them, Vivian, said though sales were slowing down gradually, her income saw a brief uptick at some point in December last year as she "was taking €200 for short."

However, the New Year came with

an uncomfortable situation, creating the need for a commensurate upward adjustment in her charges.

"There has been an increase in goods lately. To pay my rent is difficult now and because of that, I have increased my price," she said.

"Food these days is very expensive. I clothe myself, and the rest of that. So I can't reduce my price."

This persistence on not backing down on her new rates is now beginning to cut both ways.

This is because the same financial

challenges that the country is facing are holding her clients from seeking her services.

"That is chasing my clients away," she lamented. She pleaded with authorities to provide austerity measures that will ensure a flourishing economy.

"Things have become very difficult for us so they should reduce some of the goods."

Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, is expected to communicate key measures and reliefs sanctioned by the government to recover the economy

later this week, after a crunch three-day Cabinet retreat chaired by President Akufo-Addo.

According to the Information Ministry, details on some of the reliefs will include the reopening of land borders, the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, and measures to arrest the depreciating cedi.

While the country awaits these interventions, clients of these sex workers may have no option but to find a middle ground between satisfaction and strong finances.

Cameroon slashes taxes to tap its solar power potential

By Elias Ngalame, Yaounde

BEFORE the University of Yaounde I got its solar micro-grid in 2018, erratic power supplies in Cameroon's capital meant Adamu Gilbert could not stock the fresh, chilled items he knew his customers wanted when they came to his shop near campus.

Now that he has reliable electricity from the micro-grid, which serves the university and surrounding small-scale businesses, he has a refrigerator filled with cold drinks, fruits and yoghurts - and business is booming.

"With sales from these perishables that are really loved by students, I make double the amount I used to," Gilbert told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

With more than half of its electricity generated by hydropower, Cameroon should be a poster child for renewable energy use.

But in recent years, erratic rainfall and prolonged droughts linked to climate change have hit the county's hydroelectric dams https://news.trust.org/item/20170726005858-68kh2, leading to blackouts and power rationing that almost daily plunge parts of the country into darkness.

To try to solve the problem, Cameroon is looking to solar power, introducing significant tax cuts to attract

funding for projects that could grow and stabilise the country's energy grid while lowering carbon emissions.

Among the incentives, which went into effect late last year, are a 10-year elimination of several taxes, including stamp duty, on equipment used to build renewable energy projects. The country earlier reduced customs duties on imported renewable products.

The idea is to bring a stable power supply to more Cameroonians, especially in rural areas, Pierre Narcisse Massoma Bille, director of renewable energy at the Ministry of Water and Energy, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"The incentives will not only help the country meet its development challenges, but also help in the fight against climate change," he said.

Some industry experts applaud the move, saying it could prove a model for other African countries looking to tap their solar potential.

But others warn that if Cameroon's green energy sector grows too big and too fast, corruption and a lack of local technical expertise could dim its solar ambitions.

DRYING HYDROPOWER

Over the past decade, Cameroon's power supply has been hobbled by increasingly unreliable rain, by droughts and by outdated, dilapidated infrastruc-



Workers install solar panels at a power plant in Maroua, Cameroon.

ture. According to the World Bank, about 60% of the country's population has access to electricity, with most of that concentrated in urban areas. Rural electrification is just 25%.

Cameroon wants to electrify more of the country and increase its grid capacity from 1,500 megawatts (MW) to 5,000 MW by 2030.

It also wants to reduce its dependence on hydropower by getting a quarter of its electricity supply from other renewable sources by 2035, up from just 6% today, according to government figures.

Massoma Bille said the government has no target or estimate for how much investment the tax changes

could bring in, but it expects the response to be "positive".

For the charities and companies already backing solar projects in Cameroon, the incentives are a chance to amplify reach and increase

profits.

Eugene Ngueha, technical director of Energy of Cameroon (ENEO), the country's main electricity supplier, said the partially state-owned company is already taking advantage of the tax

cuts to construct two solar power plants in Maroua and Guider, in the country's electricity-hungry north.

The French Facility for Global Environment, a public bilateral fund, also took advantage of the incentives

as it installed photovoltaic systems in five towns, all run by women.

Rose Ngassa, head of the rural council in Tombel, one of the towns, said the new micro-grids mean people now can run businesses like restaurants and bars at night, something impossible with the former persistent power outages.

"Solar power is sure and certain," Ngassa said. "Many will embrace small-scale activities they were scared of doing before."

The tax cuts also should make it easier for major international players to expand their solar investments, said Edmonde Djokeng Teboh, a spokesperson for technology firm Huawei, one of several Chinese companies putting money into Cameroon's renewables sector.

"All over Africa, investors are now taking renewable energy very seriously," she

said.

ROADBLOCKS?

But the incentives will only work if the government commits to stamping out corruption to ensure investors don't end up spending as much in bribes as they would have paid in taxes, said Zachee Nzohngandembou, head of the Centre for Environment and Rural Transformation, a non-profit based in Limbe.

"It's a good move - provided there is a strict follow-up for implementation in the field. Sometimes the law says one thing and implementation is another," he said.

Taku Alain, CEO of renewable energy firm TakuEnergy, warned that Cameroon's solar efforts also could hit a snag when it comes to finding enough trained engineers to maintain the equipment for a raft of new solar energy projects.

Pfizer to sell all its patented drugs at nonprofit price in low-income countries

By Michael Erman

PFIZER Inc (PFE.N) will make all of its patented medicines including COVID-19 treatment Paxlovid and big-selling breast cancer drug Ibrance available at a not-for-profit price to 45 of the world's poorest countries, the drug maker has said.

These countries lack good access to innovative treatments. It can take four to seven years longer for new treatments to become available in low-income countries, according to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, if they become available at all.

Pfizer said its plan includes 23 wholly-owned, patented medicines and vaccines that treat infectious diseases, certain cancers, and rare and inflammatory diseases. In addition to Paxlovid and Ibrance, the list includes pneumonia vaccine Prevnar 13, rheumatoid arthritis drug Xeljanz and cancer

treatments Xalkori and Inlyta.

The COVID-19 vaccine Comirnaty developed with BioNTech SE (22UAY.DE) was also on the list.

Chief Executive Albert Bourla said in an interview that all the medicines being made available should be of use. "But clearly the antiviral (Paxlovid) is going to be a very big deal for them - if they need it they can get it immediately," he said.

When Pfizer launches new medicines and vaccines, they will also be included in the drug portfolio at a not-for-profit price, it said.

The 27 low-income countries and 18 lower-income countries included in what Pfizer is calling "An Accord for a Healthier World" cover most of Africa and much of Southeast Asia. Five countries - Rwanda, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal and Uganda - have already committed to joining the accord, which was announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos.


Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera said in a statement the accord will allow the countries and the drug-maker to share "the burden of costs and tasks in the production and delivery of supplies that will save millions of lives."

Pfizer has been criticized for how it rolled out its COVID-19 vaccine, with some poorer countries waiting for months after the earliest doses arrived in wealthier countries.

Bourla said the new accord has been informed by the difficulties of that rollout, particularly the lack of health infrastructure in some countries that made distributing the vaccine difficult.

"Instead of washing our hands and saying, 'I gave you the product, do whatever you want with them,' we're saying, 'We'll give you the products and we will sit with you to see how we can help organize a system that can utilize them,'" Bourla said.





MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM



ITV	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	10:30	11:10	11:50	12:40	13:20	15:30	16:40	17:30	18:00	18:15	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:05	21:15	21:40	22:10	22:50	23:40	01:15																																							
SATURDAY 28 May	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	Habari	Al Jazeera	Watoto wetu	Shika Bamba 5	Mjue Zaidi rpt	Chetu ni chetu rpt	Hawavumi lakini wamo	Korean: Jumong rpt	Soap: Love to Death rpt	Igizo: Mizengwe	Igizo: Rebeca	Shamsham za Pwani	Kipindi Maalum: Smart Quiz	Jiji Letu	Korean: Jumong	Jungu Kuu	Shika Bamba	Habari	Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	Igizo: Rebeca	Shangweka	Art and Lifestyle	ITV TOP 10	Hawavumi lakini wamo	Soap: Uzalo rpt	DWTV																																					
SUNDAY 29 May	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	Habari	Al Jazeera	Watoto Wetu	Soap: Uzalo rpt	Kipindi Maalum: Smart Quiz	Bongo Movie rpt	Tamasha la Michezo	Mwangaza	ITV Top 10	Kipindi cha kikristo	Jiji Letu	Mapishi	Matukio ya wiki	Igizo: Rebeca	Habari	Kipindi maalum: Biko	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	Igizo: Mizengwe	Mjue Zaidi	Bongo Movie:	Soap: Love to Death rpt	Al Jazeera																																									
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TUESDAY 31 May	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	Habari za saa	Kumekucha Kishindo	Soap: Uzalo	Habari za saa	Watoto wetu	Jagina rpt	Habari za saa	The Base rpt	Habari za saa	Al Jazeera	Aya ya jami	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Patrick Mission	13:15	Ripoti Maalum rpt:	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Soap: I Plead Guilty	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto wetu	17:00	The Base	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:50	Chetu ni chetu	22:20	Soap: I Plead Guilty	23:00	Habari												
WEDNESDAY 1 June	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	Habari za saa	Kumekucha Kishindo	Soap: Uzalo	9:30	Watoto Wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Soap: I Plead Guilty	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto Wetu	17:00	The Base	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	18:30	Jarida la wanawake	19:00	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	20:00	Habari	21:05	Albu Yako	21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	21:40	Ripoti Maalum	22:20	Soap: I Plead Guilty	23:00	Habari	23:30	The Base	00:30	Al Jazeera	02:00	DWTV
THURSDAY 2 June	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	Habari za saa	Kumekucha Kishindo	Habari	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	13:30	Chetu ni Chetu rpt	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Chetu ni Chetu rpt	14:15	Soap: I Plead Guilty	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto Wetu	17:00	The Base	18:00	Jiji Letu																																
FRIDAY 3 June	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	Habari za saa	Kumekucha Kishindo	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt	13:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ	14:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto Wetu	17:00	The Base (DJ Show)	17:30	Kisihami	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe	18:30	Uchumi wetu	19:00	Shamba lulu	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipima Joto	23:00	Habari	23:30	The Base	00:30	Al Jazeera	02:00	DWTV
SATURDAY 4 June	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	Habari za saa	Kumekucha Kishindo	Habari	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	13:30	Chetu ni Chetu rpt	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Chetu ni Chetu rpt	14:15	Soap: I Plead Guilty	15:00	Meza Huru	16:40	Shamsham za Pwani	17:30	Kipindi Maalum: Smart Quiz	18:00	Jiji Letu																																
SUNDAY 5 June	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	Habari za saa	Kumekucha Kishindo	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt	13:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ	14:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto Wetu	17:00	The Base (DJ Show)	17:30	Kisihami	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe	18:30	Uchumi wetu	19:00	Shamba lulu	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipima Joto	23:00	Habari	23:30	The Base	00:30	Al Jazeera	02:00	DWTV

CAPITAL

Sat 28 May

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot
14:30 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love
17:15 EcoAfrica
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Music : Club 101 rpt
23:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 29 May

08:00 Aljazeera
09:00 In good shape

WORLD

Police face questions over response to Texas school massacre

UVALDE

THE gunman in the Texas school massacre barged unchallenged through an unlocked door, then killed 19 children and two teachers while holed up in their classroom for an hour before a tactical team stormed in and killed him, police said on Thursday.

The latest official details from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on Tuesday's mass shooting differed sharply from initial police accounts and raised questions about security measures at the elementary school and the response of law enforcement.

The school district in Uvalde, Texas, about 130 km west of San Antonio, has a standing policy of locking all entrances, including classroom doors, as a safety precaution. But one student told Reuters some doors were left unlocked the day of the shooting to allow visiting parents to come and go for an awards day event.

The newly detailed chronology came hours after videos emerged showing desperate parents outside Robb Elementary School during the attack. They pleaded with officers to storm the building, and some fathers had to be restrained.

The human toll of the rampage, which ranks as the deadliest US school shooting in nearly a decade, deepened with news that the husband of one of the

slain teachers died of a heart attack on Thursday while preparing for his wife's funeral.

At a briefing for reporters, DPS spokesperson Victor Escalon said the gunman, Salvador Ramos, 18, made his way unimpeded on to the school grounds after crashing his pickup truck nearby. The carnage began 12 minutes later.

Preliminary police reports had said that Ramos, who drove to the school from his home after shooting and wounding his grandmother there, was confronted by a school-based police officer as he ran toward the school. Instead, no armed officer was present when Ramos arrived at the school, Escalon said.

The suspect crashed his pickup truck nearby at 11:28 am (1628 GMT), opened fire on two people at a funeral home across the street, then scaled a fence onto school property and walked into one of the buildings through an unlocked rear door at 11:40 am (1640 GMT), Escalon said.

Two responding officers entered the school four minutes later but took cover after Ramos fired multiple rounds at them, Escalon said.

The shooter then barricaded himself inside the fourth-grade classroom of his victims, mostly 9- and 10-year-olds, for an hour before a US Border Patrol tactical team breached the room and fatally shot him, Escalon said. Officers reported hearing at least 25 gunshots coming



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II

from inside the classroom early in the siege, he said.

'Tough question'

The hour-long interval before border agents stormed in appeared to be at odds with an approach adopted by many law enforcement agencies to confront "active shooters" at schools immediately to stop bloodshed.

Asked if police should have made en masse entry sooner, Escalon answered, "That's a tough question," adding that authorities would offer more information as the investigation proceeded. He described a chaotic scene after the initial exchange of gunfire, with officers calling for backup and evacuating students and staff.

In one video posted on Facebook by a man named Angel Ledezma, parents can be seen breaking through yellow police tape and yelling at officers to go into the building.

"It's already been an hour, and they still can't get all the kids out," Ledezma said in the video. He did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Another video posted on YouTube showed officers restraining at least one adult. One woman can be heard saying, "Why let the children die? There's shooting in there."

"We got guys going in to get kids," one officer is heard telling the crowd. "They're working."

'Awards day'

Investigators were still seeking a motive, Es-

calon said. Ramos, a high school dropout, had no criminal record and no history of mental illness. Minutes before the attack, however, he had written an online message saying he was about to "shoot up an elementary school," according to Governor Greg Abbott.

The gunman's father, also named Salvador Ramos, 42, expressed remorse for his son's actions in an interview published Thursday by news site The Daily Beast.

"I just want the people to know I'm sorry, man, [for] what my son did," he was quoted as saying. "He should've just killed me, you know, instead of doing something like that to someone."

In one of the more chilling accounts of the shooting, a fourth-grade boy who was in the classroom told local TV station KENS5 that the gunman announced his presence when he entered by crouching slightly and saying, "It's time to die." Why a rear door to the school building would be left unsecured remained under investigation, Escalon said.

Miguel Cerrillo, 35, and his 8-year-old daughter, Elena, a third-grader at Robb, said the door the shooter used was usually locked.

"But that day they were not locked because it was awards day, and some parents were coming in through those doors," said Elena, who was in the school at the time of the shooting. "The parking was really packed in front so people were parking back there and using that door."

Agencies

West has declared total war on Russian World – Lavrov

MOSCOW

The West has declared a total war on Russia and the Russian world, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday.

"The West has declared a total war on us, on the Russian World. Nobody makes any secret of this," Lavrov said at a meeting of the Council of the heads of Russia's constituent territories at the Foreign Ministry.

Lavrov (pictured) warned that the Western policy of "cancelling" Russia would continue for a long time.

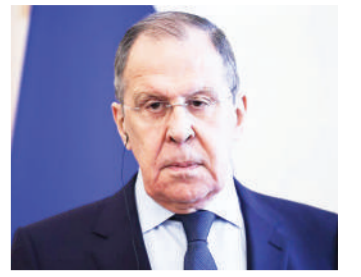
"The culture of cancelling Russia and everything related with our country has reached a point of absurdity. Bans have been imposed on such classics as Tchaikovsky, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy and Pushkin.

Persecution is underway against Russian culture and art workers. In general, one can be certain that this situation will last," Lavrov said.

"We must realize that it has exposed the West's real attitude to the beautiful slogans that were put forward 30 years ago after the end of the Cold War, the calls for universal humanitarian values, for building a common European home from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Now we can see the real worth of these fine words," Lavrov said.

He stressed that Russia would certainly not agree to put up with this.

"In this situation there is a great demand for a concrete discussion on how we develop our cooperation, cooperation between our ministry and civil society, including at the level of regions," he added.



Palestine: Israel force deliberately shot Al Jazeera reporter

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

THE Palestinian Authority said on Thursday its investigation into the killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh showed that she was shot by an Israeli soldier in a "deliberate murder".

Israel angrily denied the accusation and said it was continuing its own investigations into the death of Abu Akleh, who died on May 11 while she was covering an Israeli military raid in the city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli army had said previously that she might have been shot accidentally by one of its soldiers or by a Palestinian militant in an exchange of fire.

Palestinian Attorney General Akram Al-Khatib told reporters that its inquiry showed there had been no militants close to Abu Akleh when she died.

"The only source of fire in that place came from the occupation forces with the intention to kill," Al-Khatib said, referring to the Israel Defence Forces.

He added that Abu Akleh, who had been wearing a helmet and a press vest that clearly marked her as a journalist, had tried to flee with some fellow reporters as the first shots rang out. "It represents a war crime," Al-Khatib said.

Qatar's Al Jazeera TV Network said it would refer the killing to the International Criminal Court.

Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz rejected the findings.

"Any claim that the IDF intentionally harms journalists or uninvolved civilians, is a blatant lie," he wrote on Twitter.

He reiterated his call for the Palestinians to cooperate with Israel in the investigation and hand over the bullet for ballistic tests to see if it matched an Israeli military gun.

The Palestinians say they do not trust Israel and have refused to hold a joint probe.

Al-Khatib said tests showed that the bullet that killed Abu Akleh was a 5.56 mm round fired from a Ruger Mini-14 semiautomatic rifle, which is used by the Israeli military.

That same 5.56 caliber can also be fired from M-16 rifles that are carried by many Palestinian militants. Al-Khatib did not say how he was sure it had come from an Israeli rifle.

Israel has said the only way to be sure if it was fired by one of its soldiers was to analyze the bullet and see if the markings on it matched the barrel of an Israeli gun.

"I continue to call on the PA to hand over the bullet and findings. We are prepared and willing to conduct an investigation in collaboration with international actors," Gantz said on Thursday.



US 'marginalizing' one-China principle

BEIJING

ATTEMPTS by the United States to marginalize the one-China principle and use the Taiwan question to contain China are nothing but pipe dreams, a spokesman for the Chinese military said.

Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, said on Thursday in Beijing that the conflicting statements recently made by the US State Department have clearly displayed the intentions of the US.

"The US has been continuously marginalizing and diminishing the one-China principle. It wants to use the 'salami-slicing tactic' to play the 'Taiwan card' to contain China and that is a complete illusion," Wu said.

"We want to make it clear to

some people in the US that their hands will also be chopped off when they play the 'salami-slicing tactic' in dealing with the Taiwan question. The People's Liberation Army is ready to take all necessary measures to crush any form of 'Taiwan independence' moves and to safeguard our national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The spokesman refuted claims by senior US military officers that China is a "bully and rule breaker" in the international community, stressing that when it comes to bullying in international relations, it is the US that is the initiator and master of bullying tactics.

"We request that the US stops disguising its own rules as international norms and promoting the US-style, hegemony-based order. It must accept China's peaceful development with a rational, objective perspective, which is in the interest



Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense

of Sino-US relations and the world's peace and stability," Wu said.

Speaking about Japan's recent moves regarding Taiwan, the spokesman said that Japan is in no position to make wanton comments on the Taiwan question.

"The Taiwan question is part of China's internal affairs and China

Japanese media had recently reported that the draft of Japan's defense white paper for 2022 stated that "stability in the Taiwan Straits is crucial to Japan's security" and Japan will continue to monitor the situation.

"We urge Japan to draw lessons from its history, reflect on its war crimes and use concrete moves to gain trust from its Asian neighbors," the spokesman said.

Responding to a request for comment on Japan's close surveillance of China's CNS Liaoning aircraft carrier, Wu said it is clear that Japan wants to play up issues related to the Chinese carrier to create excuses for its military expansion, to which China is strongly opposed. The spokesman said the moves by the Japanese aircraft and ships were very dangerous and were prone to misjudgments or even accidents.

Xinhua

Economic war started by West will not prevent further EAEU integration, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE economic war started by the West against Russia and Belarus will not prevent further integration in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

Speaking about the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin in the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council yesterday, Peskov noted that such

an integration form "is very advanced," while its development continues.

"There are difficulties connected with the economic war that has been started at least



against two EAEU members, meaning Russia and Belarus. However, it cannot and will not prevent further development and strengthening of this format," he said.

The Supreme Eurasian Economic Council overall is one of the most advanced integration formats in Eurasian space, Kremlin Spokesman noted, adding that "the most advanced format is probably the Union State of Russia and Belarus."

Earlier reports said the participants of

the meeting were expected to consider the relevant aspects of the activities of the Eurasian Economic Union, including strategic areas of integration development through 2025, as well as to approve the guidelines for macroeconomic policy of the Union's member states for 2022-2023, and to discuss the issues of expansion of the EAEU's trade and economic cooperation with foreign partners.

Agencies

China's BeiDou system achieves in-depth integration with various industries

THE BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), a global navigation system independently developed and operated by China, has achieved in-depth application and extensive growth in various fields.

In the agricultural sector, BeiDou-related deep soil loosening machines, as well as drones for plant protection and seed sowing, can be remotely controlled and managed. In the forestry sector, BeiDou terminal products can assist forest rangers and fire guards to patrol forests and check their routes.

The navigation system has also been applied in other fields, including dam deformation monitoring, the establish-

ment of management and monitoring platforms for the transportation of construction debris in urban areas and measurement of the height of Mount Qomolangma, among others.

Statistics suggest that there were more than one billion terminal devices with the BDS positioning service by the end of 2021.

The BeiDou system has comprehensively served transportation, public security, emergency management, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, and many other industries. It has also been integrated into the construction of infrastructure projects in the fields of electric power, finance and

communications, widely adopted in the fields of mass consumption, sharing economy and people's livelihood.

The BDS has achieved a comprehensive breakthrough in mass consumption represented by its extensive application in smartphones and smart wearable devices.

The world's major chipmakers, including component providers for smartphones, can provide products that widely support the BDS. BDS ground-based augmentation messaging has been applied in smartphones, with meter-level positioning capabilities.

In 2021, the number of China-made

smartphone shipments with BDS application support reached 324 million, accounting for 94.5 percent of the country's total that year.

The BDS's high-precision positioning and timing services had been used over 100 billion times per month as of March 2022, of which the monthly requests for the system's acceleration auxiliary positioning service had exceeded 60 billion, and that for its real-time high-precision positioning services with centimeter-level accuracy and sub-meter level accuracy had surpassed 48 billion.

At present, the BDS's acceleration auxiliary positioning service has been embedded in almost every China's

homemade smartphone.

The BDS is employed to provide precise positioning and timing services for all kinds of intelligent machines, from automobiles, drones, shared bikes and buses, to road infrastructure facilities, and to monitoring equipment of bridges and mines.

The BeiDou system has provided services for a total of more than 1.1 billion people from more than 100 countries and regions around the world.

The system has achieved integration across industries and regions, seeing thriving applications such as intelligent vehicle infrastructure cooperative systems and unmanned delivery, among

others.

Industries won't achieve digital and intelligent development without the support of major timing and positioning infrastructure.

By providing timing and positioning services, the BDS has become a major infrastructure that supports the development of the digital economy, being of great significance for promoting the synergy of the digital industry, digital transformation of industries and digital governance, according to Yang Changfeng, chief designer of the BDS, who is also an academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

People's Daily

South Africa's Zuma suffers new setback in corruption trial

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's former president Jacob Zuma has suffered another setback in his attempts to remove the lead prosecutor from his arms deal corruption trial, as a top judge dismissed his latest petition in the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA).

Zuma, ousted in 2018 after nine years in power, accuses the prosecutor of bias against him.

He has pleaded not guilty to charges including corruption, money laundering and racketeering in the long-running case over the \$2 billion arms deal in the 1990s.

Zuma had asked the SCA's president, Justice Mandisa Maya, to reconsider an earlier ruling by two SCA judges and allow him to appeal a High Court decision not to take the lead prosecutor off the case.

But the judiciary said in a statement on Thursday that Maya had "issued an order disposing of the application".

The spokesman of the Jacob Zuma Foundation did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Zuma's corruption trial has been repeatedly delayed. This month proceedings were adjourned until a holding date in August to give the SCA president time to make her decision.

Agencies

UN remembers its fallen peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday laid a wreath at the UN Headquarters in New York to pay homage to the more than 4,200 UN peacekeepers who lost their lives since 1948, and presided over a ceremony to honor the 117 peacekeepers who died last year serving under the UN flag.

At a ceremony of its kind held in person for the first time in three years, Guterres awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal posthumously to the 117 fallen peacekeepers.

"Our peacekeepers face great and growing challenges," said Guterres. "Despite these risks, our peacekeepers press on. They work tirelessly in the toughest of conditions. They adapt to rapidly evolving situations on the ground.

And they constantly innovate to protect the most vulnerable while representing our diverse global community. They advance the greatest mission of all – peace."

The secretary-general awarded the Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal, the United Nations' highest award for valor, posthumously to Chadian Capt. Abdelrazakh Hamit Bahar. The late captain's father received the medal on his behalf.

Capt. Abdelrazakh had been deployed with the Chadian military contingent as part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali. He and other peacekeepers were stationed in a remote camp when they were targeted.

"Heavy artillery fire, including rockets, rained down on their camp during this cowardly attack. As the situation deteriorated, Capt. Abdelrazakh and his commanding officer bravely counter-attacked to protect their teams.

As he worked to secure the perimeter, Capt. Abdelrazakh noticed attackers entering a house near the base. Determined to stop them from doing more harm, he set out, on his own, to evacuate and secure the house.

It was then that Capt. Abdelrazakh was shot dead," said Guterres at the ceremony. Three other Chadian peacekeepers also died and 34 were injured. But, without the courage of Capt. Abdelrazakh, many other people would have lost their lives that day.

This is a true example of self-sacrifice, said Guterres. "Capt. Abdelrazakh Hamit Bahar was only 34 years old. But his actions revealed an extraordinary humanity and bravery that we will never forget."

It is only the second time the UN Security Council-authorized Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal has been awarded.

The medal was named in honor of Senegalese Capt. Mbaye Diagne. He saved hundreds of lives while serving as a UN peacekeeper in Rwanda in 1994 before being killed in action. Guterres also awarded a Letter of Commendation to Lt-Col. Chahata Ali Mahamat, who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Capt. Abdelrazakh that day helped evacuate 16 wounded colleagues. At the ceremony, Guterres presented the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for 2021 to Maj. Winnet Zharare of Zimbabwe.

Thursday's events formed the annual observance of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, which falls on May 29.

Xinhua

Africa concerned over market for its COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers

ADDIS ABABA

THE Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) on Thursday expressed its concern over lack of market for African COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers.

The concern was expressed by Ahmed Ogowell, acting director of Africa CDC, as he emphasized the need to ensure a sustainable market for African vaccine manufacturers in line with the continent's higher demand for vaccines.

"It is a very big concern that we have facilities manufacturing a health product and there is a need and, indeed, there is a market for that health product here on the continent; and that product is not being purchased," Ogowell told journalists during a regular briefing Thursday.

Xinhua

DR Congo military says several army positions attacked by M23 rebels

KINSHASA

SEVERAL positions of the army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have come under attack by March 23 Movement (M23) rebels since early Wednesday in the northeastern North Kivu province, the military confirmed.

"The Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) were attacked on several axes by the M23 and its allies from 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday," Col. Ndjike Kaiko, an army spokesman in Goma, told Xinhua.

"At present, the situation has stabilized in the zones of Chanzu, Runyonyi, and the surrounding area except in Kibumba, where the FARDC is working to repel the assailants from where they came from."

He said M23 rebels have occupied Kibumba, about 20 kilometers from Goma, capital of North Kivu province, and that they also cut the road linking Goma and Bunagana, a Congolese town bordering Uganda where fighting has also been ongoing since Wednesday morning.

Clashes in Kikumba reportedly forced about 10,000 people to flee toward Rugari, in Rutshuru territory, and Kibati, about 8 kilometers from Goma, according to the United Nations.

Since last week, fighting has raged between the DRC army



Displaced people are seen in Kibumba, North Kivu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on May 26, 2022. Several positions of the army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have come under attack by March 23 Movement (M23) rebels since early Wednesday in the northeastern North Kivu province, the military confirmed. Xinhua

and M23 rebels attempting to regain control of several localities after being pushed back by government troops supported by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). On Tuesday, MONUSCO head Bintou Keita accused M23 rebels of deliberately targeting MONUSCO peacekeepers

stationed in the Shanghi area of the northeastern North Kivu province early Sunday, hours after attacking DRC army positions.

The M23 is a group of former rebels of the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP). The name came from the March 23, 2009, agreement between the CNDP and the

Congolese government. M23 leaders have accused the government of failing to respect that agreement.

The M23 announced in early April its withdrawal from the villages it took earlier in the Rutshuru territory of North Kivu province. However, early Sunday, intense fighting resumed between DRC armed forces and the M23 in the Rutshuru territory.

Xinhua

Unprecedented happy life enjoyed by people of all ethnic groups represents biggest human rights success in Xinjiang

BY creating an unprecedented happy life for people of all ethnic groups and enabling them to enjoy stability, security, development and progress, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has made its most important achievement in respecting and protecting human rights.

During the 12th "China Tourism Day" celebrated across the country on May 19, various thematic activities were held in Xinjiang, making the culture and tourism brand, "Xinjiang is a Wonderful Land", more attractive.

The exuberant vitality and increasingly prominent role of Xinjiang's tourism industry in driving economic and social development have reflected the region's progress in human rights development to a certain extent.

Over the past more than six decades since the establishment of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, the region's GDP has expanded 160 times, its per capita regional GDP has grown 30 times, while its Uygur population has increased from 2.2 million to about 12 million and its residents' average life expectancy has climbed from 30 years to 74.7 years.

There is one mosque for every 530 Muslims in Xinjiang. The ratio is higher than that in many Western countries and Islamic countries.

Since December 2018, more than 2,000 people from all walks of life in more than 100 countries have visited Xinjiang and witnessed the region's achievements in development, including social stability, economic prosperity, as well as ethnic unity and harmony.

Sonia Bresley, a French writer and expert on China, has visited Xinjiang many times and written multiple monographs on the region. She pointed out that it is because of the Chinese government's policies on ethnic groups and for the governance of Xinjiang that the vast region with a good number of ethnic groups has realized tremendous economic development, continuously improved local people's living standards and heightened their sense of happiness.

The right to development is an inalienable human right. In Xinjiang, people of various ethnic groups have shaken off poverty, sought prosperity through hard work, and enjoyed an increasingly strong sense of gain, happiness and security, which is the best proof of human rights development.

Due to natural and historical reasons, Xinjiang used to be one of the main battlefields and key regions in China's fight against poverty. Through painstaking efforts, the region eradicated extreme poverty and won the battle against pov-



Tourists buy flowers at a flower industrial park in Fengqing township, Beitun city, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, May 3, 2022. File photo

erty through the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation at the end of 2020. The region has lifted all its nearly 3.06 million rural residents living below the current poverty line in China out of poverty and removed all its 3,666 poor villages and 35 poor counties from the poverty list, bringing about a historic solution to the problem of absolute poverty.

Personages from many countries have spoken positively of Xinjiang's achievements in human rights protection, praised China's people-centered development philosophy and efforts to promote human rights through development, and believe that China's remarkable achievements in human rights development have also contributed to global human rights progress.

Social stability is an important guarantee of the realization of human rights.

Xinjiang has suffered from the combined impact of ethnic separatists, religious extremists, and violent terrorists, and been plagued by frequent terrorist attacks, which have severely jeopardized the safety of the lives and property of people of various ethnic groups and posed serious threats to people's basic human rights, including the rights to life, health, and development.

In an effort to protect people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang from terrorist acts, China has carried out anti-terrorism and de-radicalization struggle in the region in accordance with the law, guaranteeing the people's basic human rights to the greatest possible extent.

Since the end of 2016, there have been no violent terrorist cases and incidents in Xinjiang for over five consecutive years. In addition, the

infiltration of extremism has been effectively curbed, and the right to life of people of all ethnic groups in the region has been fully guaranteed.

All foreigners who have visited Xinjiang and adopted an impartial and objective attitude toward China believe that Xinjiang's experience in anti-terrorism and de-radicalization is worth learning from by the international community.

Ignoring the remarkable achievements Xinjiang has made in human rights development, some politicians in Western countries including the U.S. have cooked up and spread lies about Xinjiang to vilify China's governance of the region, misrepresent the region's human rights situation, and seek excuse for abusive unilateral sanctions. By despicably confusing right and wrong, these politicians have politicized human rights issues and used them as a tool, affronting and contaminating global human rights cause.

Scholars and media outlets in many countries have published articles to share true stories of Xinjiang. They revealed that by concocting lies about Xinjiang, certain Western politicians have intended to contain China and sabotage Xinjiang's ethnic unity, stability, and development.

Last year, representatives of nearly 100 countries voiced support for China's legitimate position on Xinjiang-related issues in ways including making joint speech and individual speech and sending letters, at meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

People's Daily

US Senate Republicans block bill to battle white supremacy

WASHINGTON

US Senate Republicans on Thursday blocked debate on a bill that represented the first effort by Congress to address mass shootings since a white supremacist's killing of 10 Black people in New York and a gunman's massacre of 19 pupils and two teachers in Texas.

The 47-47 vote along strict party lines fell short of the 60 yes votes required to launch debate in the 100-member Senate on a bill titled the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act.

The vote effectively blocked the bill which would have authorized federal agencies to monitor and report jointly on domestic terrorism within the United States, including incidents related to white supremacy.

Republicans said the legislation was unnecessary as Democratic President Joe Biden already had the authority to organize his administration's response to violent extremism.

Democrats said the bill was needed to bolster the federal government's response to rising incidents of violent extremism. They said amendments to any such bill could address potential restrictions on guns.

Mass shootings in recent years have provoked discussion in Congress on what to do about gun violence but little action as the two parties are deeply divided on gun restrictions. Americans have little confidence in Congress' ability to solve the problem, with a Reuters/Ipsos poll on Tuesday showing that just 35 percent believe lawmakers will act.

The House of Representatives passed the domestic terrorism bill along party lines last week, after an avowed white supremacist killed the 10 Black people in a livestreamed shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, on May 14.

On Tuesday, a gunman stormed a school in Uvalde, Texas, and killed the 9- and 10-year-old children and two teachers.

Senate Democrats and some Republicans have discussed the possibility of bipartisan legislation to address mass shootings, including proposals to expand background checks for gun purchasers and to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill.

Some 79 percent of Americans - including 78 percent of Republicans - are more likely to vote for a candidate in November's congressional election who supports passing red flag laws of that kind, the Reuters/Ipsos poll found.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said that at least five Democratic lawmakers including Senator Chris Murphy have reached out to Republicans about possible measures related to gun and school safety.

Murphy, a leading advocate for gun restrictions, told a news conference that talks with Republicans were expected on Thursday and would continue through next week. But the odds are slim at best that the Senate will enact any bill to restrict guns.

"None of us are under any illusions that this will be easy," Schumer said on the Senate floor, accusing Republicans of being in the "vice grip" of the US gun lobby. But he added: "We need to give it a short amount of time to try."

Schumer's Republican counterpart, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, told reporters that any proposal capable of passing the Senate would need to be limited to address "the facts" of the Texas massacre. He did not elaborate but Republicans broadly oppose new gun restrictions that would infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Other Republicans expressed potential interest in red-flag legislation that would encourage states to deny firearms to anyone found mentally unstable or dangerous, possibly using unspent COVID-19 funding to pay for the initiative.

With the 100-seat Senate split 50-50, gun legislation would need 10 Republican votes to meet the chamber's 60-vote threshold for passing most bills.

None of us are under any illusions that this will be easy," Schumer said on the Senate floor, accusing Republicans of being in the "vice grip" of the US gun lobby



Dar es Salaam's dance music artist Patrick Kessy.

Dance musician to release new track

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

ONE of Tanzania's leading dance music artists, Patrick Kessy, has released a track titled 'Heshima', which talks about the moral collapse in society.

The musician has featured renowned local dance music rapper, Greyson Semsekwa, in the track.

Kessy disclosed in an interview that took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday he decided to compose the song as a contribution to efforts to get rid of bad habits that are increasingly flourishing and seemingly perceived as normal.

"I have felt I should contribute via releasing this song that has been composed in 'rhumba'... I have collaborated with rapper Semsekwa seeking to end moral erosion," Kessy noted.

Kessy, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of an agricultural company, Mo Green, said he started composing songs three years ago and recently released the new one and it is already on domes-

tic radio stations.

"Some of my previous songs are 'Mwalimu', 'Siri', 'Dunia Kituo', 'Amenibamba', and 'Africa', I believe they play a major role in promoting dance music in the country," he said.

Kessy said that dance music songs can play a significant role in protecting good values in society.

He for that matter advised dance musicians to focus on composing such songs.

He said given the importance of dance music in the community, he has also been committed to sponsoring the genre to see to it that the genre continues to contribute to educating, entertaining, and teaching.

"Respect protects values in the community, brings peace, and helps to avoid acts of violence, so I believe this song of mine can help the community change if it is willing to do so," he said.

Kagera resident wins betting game

By Guardian Correspondent

KAGERA resident, Baraka Shoki, has won prize money amounting to 168,972,500/- after precisely predicting the results of 12 matches of different football leagues in the world through M-Bet Tanzania's Perfect 12 draw.

Shoki, who supports Simba SC, Geita Gold FC, and Chelsea, said it was not an easy task for him to win the prize money due to difficulty in placing bets on some of the teams that were playing.

He said this season's NBC Premier League tie between Dodoma Jiji FC and Namungo FC played at Jambhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Monday turned out to be the match that gave him the hardest time when it came to placing the bet.

According to him, although Dodoma Jiji FC won the match, he was at crossroads because Namungo FC had good results in its previous matches compared to Dodoma Jiji FC.

Shoki, a mathematics teacher at Bukoba's Kikukwe Secondary School, said he placed two bets and one of his predictions won.

He said that Namungo FC was in top form ahead of the tie following a series of good results it had posted, he never-

theless bet for Dodoma Jiji FC to win the encounter since the side was playing at the home ground.

"I did not believe I have won such an amount of money till I received a call from M-BET officials informing me of the win, I was very happy as my dream came true," Shoki noted.

He said he would use the money to raise capital for his business, invest in agriculture, as well as educate his relatives.

Allen Mushi, M-Bet Tanzania Marketing Manager, said that Shoki joins other Perfect 12 draw winners who managed to change their lives after winning millions of shillings.

Mushi also urged Tanzanians that are either 18-year-old or adults to continue placing their bets with M-Bet to win the draw known as 'Zali la M-Bet'.

According to Mushi, the winner will be awarded a brand new car, the second-placed will get a motorcycle, and 1m/- will be presented to the third winner.

He said that so far they have presented 12 motorcycles to Tanzanians that emerged victorious and 12 other winners were each presented with a 1m/- cash prize.

Yanga midfielder has offered lesson to Dar footballers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WHEN I went through some pieces of writing stating that Yanga has extended its contract with a defensive midfielder, Zawadi Mauya, for two years I reminisced many issues.

I remember the behaviour of Tanzania's football players. It is good to congratulate him, people do not always have to write on criticism.

Foreign football players are often praised more than local players but let me take this opportunity to congratulate Mauya.

It was not an easy task for him, he arrived at Yanga two years ago from Kagera Sugar.

He was registered during the same transfer window with Congolese defensive midfielder, Mukoko Tonombe.

Mukoko was considered Yanga's favourite because of his dedicated football style, some nicknamed him a 'teacher'.

I do not know why they handed him the nickname but the fact is that Mukoko appeared to be a natural player for Yanga due to his dedicated character.

Mauya and Mukoko were brought to Yanga for what seemed like a merger with Feisal Salum to create a stylish midfield, the club felt like the three years it had spent without lifting a crown were enough.

Mukoko seemed more committed to the squad but the reality is that Mauya looked better with the ball at his feet.

While Mukoko impressed Yanga fans within a short spell, Mauya won Yanga supporters' hearts after his only goal in a Mainland Premier League clash against Simba SC last season.

However, this season had



Yanga's midfielder Zawadi Mauya.

to be tough for Mauya given he and Mukoko were bound to face competition following Yanga's decision to bring in two midfielders, Ugandan Khalid Aucho and Congolese Yannick Bangala, at the beginning of the season.

The issue was who could fall for the third option in the defensive midfield.

Salum was safe because his coach moved him forward to play in an advanced role, the problem came to Mukoko and Mauya because two technical midfielders took their places.

Mauya eventually found himself falling for the third option while Mukoko turned out to be the fourth option.

Yanga was going through another team change, while Mauya and Mukoko strengthened Yanga in the midfield, Aucho and Bangala took the side to the next level. The issue of Mukoko being the fourth option was more obvious.

If a soccer follower looks at Mauya and Mukoko it is clear that the former seemed to be more brilliant.

The difference is that Mukoko was more committed but the fact is that Mauya had a more natural talent than the former.

It was not surprising to see Mauya turn out to be Yanga's third option in defensive midfield and then Mukoko

becomes the fourth option.

However, there were times Mauya seemed desperate when he was benched and his place was taken by Bangala and Aucho.

That was the time there was a fine line between either being released by Yanga or fighting to get a new contract.

Fortunately, there were times when either of Yanga's central defenders, Bakari Mwamnyeto and Dickson Job, could be missing.

Bangala returned to play as a central defender and Mauya played in defensive midfield alongside Aucho.

Mauya seemed to be able to play well with the Ugandan midfielder while Mukoko was on the bench.

There was no doubt Mukoko saw this and that is why he decided to pack his bags and made his way back to his home country.

Yanga fans also felt relieved following Mukoko's move because the club would keep one foreign player's position for future use.

But at the same time, Mukoko was not well regarded by some Yanga officials since he deliberately beat Simba SC forward John Bocco when the two outfits locked horns in the 2020/21 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma.

The Jangwani Street club's officials believed Mukoko had sabotaged the team which went on to lose 1-0 to Simba SC in the clash.

Playing as a third defensive midfielder helped Mauya greatly but more importantly, he has improved because he plays with gifted midfielders.

At the same time, Bangala's continued good performance defensively has helped Mauya find a place he did not expect.

He has worked hard to persuade Yanga's supporters to continue to trust him. Only a handful of Tanzanian players would continue to stretch.

Some players would end up blaming the coach and complaining in the media that they are being ignored.

At Simba SC there are many players like Mauya who have continued to make the nation proud.

They are local players who have decided to fight despite the presence of many foreign players in their positions.

Fullbacks Mohamed Hussein and Shomari Kapombe are the Msimbazi Street outfit's players whose positions appear to be secure because their substitutes are indigenous.

Midfielders Jonas Mkude, Hamis Dilunga, and attacker John Bocco have however been battling against foreigners.

Mkude had played alongside Ghanaian James Kotei, Brazil national Gerson Fraga, and now plays with Ugandan Tadeo Lwanga.

However, he is still just fighting despite sometimes loosening here and there due to his misbehaviour. Mkude though is doing what he is currently trying to do.

Dilunga has also been fighting foreigners. There were many gifted players in his position including Luis Miquissone, Bernard Morrison, and even Clatous Chama who has sometimes been played in the wide areas.

However, Dilunga has remained steadfast in his position. It is as if Bocco has continued to fight Chris Muga and Meddie Kagere in the process.

One message is that the footballers resorted to believing that they would be more influential by avoiding allowing foreign players to play ahead of them.

Tanzania's clubs cannot protect local players by removing them from the competition.

The players in the likes of Mauya have to work hard even when the outfits are roping in foreign professional players to take the locals' positions.

The likes of Bangala and Aucho have come to show local footballers what the latter should do on the pitch, it is up to Mauya and fellow locals to either learn or sulk.

I think Mauya has decided to learn and fight, it is something that helps his team but it can also help the national team.

Popular clubs like Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC will not stop bringing in talented foreign footballers.

It is a comprehensive combat role. Thankfully Mauya has decided to do so much that Yanga has opted to extend its contract with the player.



Dar es Salaam youths take part in football at Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park's ground in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Star trio leads Warriors to 6th NBA Finals spot in 8 years

SAN FRANCISCO

KLAY Thompson drained the 3-pointers. Draymond Green anchored the defense and even chipped in on the offensive end for a change. Stephen Curry capped off an MVP performance.

The trio that led Golden State to so much success in recent years is whole again and has the Warriors in position for another title after advancing to the NBA Finals with a 120-110 victory over the Dal-

las Mavericks on Thursday night.

"Like I've said over and over again, I'm going to keep saying it: No one has proven that they can move us off that spot," Green said. "That's the mindset we come into this thing with. We understand what it takes to win a championship."

The triumvirate of Curry, Thompson and Green is in rarified air in NBA lore as the core of a team that has made it to six NBA Finals in an eight-year span. It's an accomplishment only the greatest groups have

reached with Bill Russell's Celtics of the 1950s and '60s, Magic Johnson's Lakers in the 1980s and Michael Jordan's Bulls of the 1990s doing it.

Now the Warriors hope to add a fourth title to the ones they captured in 2015, '17 and '18 when the Finals start June 2 against either Boston or Miami. The Celtics lead the series 3-2 headed into Game 6 at home on Friday night.

"We're happy to be here, but it would help our legacy a lot if we completed the mission and won

the whole thing," Thompson said. "We can be happy tonight, and we will be, I'll celebrate tonight. But tomorrow when this Game 6 comes on, I'm turning the page and I'm scouting because we want to finish this thing off the right way."

The last time the Warriors made it to the Finals they fell short, starting a two-year spiral filled with losing and injuries. Thompson tore his left ACL during a season-ending Game 6 loss in the 2019 NBA Finals.

Why Salah's commitment to Liverpool could cause club a headache

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

MOHAMED Salah solved a problem for Liverpool by confirming this week that he would "for sure" still be at Anfield next season, but by saying so, he created an even bigger one for the club.

You only need to consider how the past 12 months have played out for Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Paul Pogba to realise that Salah and Liverpool are facing a decisive period in the months ahead and it is the player who now holds all the aces.

On the face of it, hearing your star striker -- and leading goal scorer -- end speculation about his future just days before a Champions League final is a major boost for Jurgen Klopp and his team.

Had Salah chosen to follow his Liverpool teammate and strike partner Sadio Mane by leaving everyone guessing -- Mane said he will "answer after the Champions League" as to whether he will stay or go this summer -- the uncertainty over the Egypt international's future would have swirled around the build up to Saturday's clash with Real Madrid in Paris to the point of becoming an unnecessary distraction for player and club alike.

But while Salah, 29, has dealt with a short-term issue by insisting he would still be at Liverpool next season, he really only kicked the can down the road in terms of his long-term commitment to the club.

He has just 12 months to run on his contract at Liverpool and there is no sign of him signing a new deal anytime soon. The one certainty is that he can only end up as the winner in what has become a crucial financial decision for Liverpool.

If he chooses to stay at Anfield and sign a new contract, Salah knows he can justifiably expect to move alongside Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne and Erling Haaland on a salary worth in the region of £400,000-a-week. Only Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo, who earns in excess of £500,000 per week, is paid more than City's best player and their new signing from Borussia Dortmund.

But if Salah decides that it's time for a new challenge, six years after arriving in Liverpool from AS Roma in 2017, the former Chelsea winger will also know that his status as a free agent enables him to pick of any of the hugely lucrative contracts that would be offered in 2023.

Paris Saint-Germain fended off competition from City to sign Messi following the end of his contract at Barcelona last summer, and Mbappe also cashed in on his dwindling contract status by negotiating a mammoth new contract at PSG, despite Real Madrid being ready, willing and able to take him to the Santiago Bernabeu.

France midfielder Pogba will not be able to command the same kind of pay deal awarded to Messi and Mbappe, but as he enters free-agent status following the end of his Manchester United contract, the 29-year-old is the master of his own destiny and will be richly rewarded wherever he chooses to take his career after six disappointing years at Old Trafford.

As he attempts to win a second Champions League with Liverpool this weekend, having also won every domestic honour at Anfield, Salah is already a much more appealing target than Pogba.

He scores goals -- 31 this season, all competition -- and also topped the Premier League assists table with 13 goals created. And at 29, Salah still has plenty to offer at the top end of the game.

But despite the many positives of securing Salah to a long-term contract, Liverpool's problem is that Mane also is in the same contractual situation and the Senegal forward has been just as important to the club's success in recent seasons.

He is also 29, so the dilemma for Julian Ward, the man who will replace Michael Edwards as Liverpool's sporting director this summer, is how to solve the problem of Salah and Mane's future at the club.

If Salah is worth a salary of £400,000-a-week, then Mane could legitimately argue for the same, but Liverpool would be committing to two huge contracts for players approaching their 30s and top clubs are increasingly reluctant to be locked into expensive long-term deals for players beyond their late 20s.

Why? Because the majority of players are beginning to deteriorate physically once they are in their 30s and it can be an expensive mistake if a star player begins to slow down and loses his place with half of his contract still to run.

There are exceptions, such as Ronaldo, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and James Milner, who continues to be an effective squad player for Liverpool at the age of 36, but players tend to be at their peak in their mid to late 20s -- as Salah and Mane have shown to Liverpool's benefit in recent years.

Salah's excellent fitness record suggests he can still make an impact when he is approaching his mid-30s, but it would be a gamble for Liverpool to rely on that and might yet choose to offer him a shorter, less lucrative deal to stay. Alternatively, they could let Mane go -- sources have told ESPN that Bayern Munich are interested in signing him this summer -- and use the proceeds to boost Salah's contract and sign a replacement.

But with Diogo Jota and Luis Diaz already giving us a glimpse of the future at Liverpool, the club might even decide that the financial cost of keeping Salah is too much when they have emerging stars already proving their worth.

Whatever Liverpool and Salah decide is the best way forward, it will be a decision with so many complications and layers.

And by saying he will stay next season, Salah has ensured that the noise that was already surrounding him and his future will only get louder and louder as the end of his contract approaches.

Champions League final: Liverpool vs. Real Madrid will be box office

PARIS

IF the Champions League final is the European game's answer to the Super Bowl -- and there are some powerbrokers who would love to make it even more so -- then most will be more than happy with Saturday's contenders. Liverpool versus Real Madrid ticks many of the hype boxes so dear to sponsors and broadcasters, but also likely reflects the current pecking in order in Europe.

There's no fairytale here. There's merit and savvy, quality and confidence, experience and grit. Most observers would rank Liverpool, runners-up in the Premier League and winners of the League Cup and FA Cup, and Real Madrid, winners of LaLiga, as two of the top three club sides in Europe this season. (In case you're wondering, the third member of this season's dominant trinity is Premier League champions Manchester City, who were beaten by Real Madrid in a dramatic semi-final comeback.)

Those three were the elite among Europe's already elite super clubs as the others fell to the wayside. Paris Saint-Germain, despite the Neymar-Kyl-



ian Mbappe-Lionel Messi frontline, and Chelsea, the reigning European champions, were felled by, yes, Madrid, whose run to the final has seen them knockout multiple potential winners with late comebacks.

Bayern Munich and Juventus fell to giant-slaying upstarts Villarreal (themselves beaten by Liverpool, after giving them a scare). Fellow blue-bloods Barcelona and Manchester United also made early exits, burdened respectively by the fallout of a near financial meltdown and the ongoing chaos and psychodrama that is Old Trafford.

So you have two more-than-legitimate finalists. We'll let marketing folk with their consumer sur-

veys work out where they rank, but it's safe to say that in terms of global fan base and brand strength, both Real Madrid and Liverpool are in the top five.

Part of the reason why the City of Light's tricolor may as well ditch the blue for the next few days and leave just Madrid's white and Liverpool's red, because that's all you'll see on the streets.

Nobody can question their history, both past and present. Nobody has been European champions more than Real Madrid, who have won it 13 times, dating back to the days when it was called the European Cup (same trophy, by the way, just rebranded as Champions League) in the mid-1950s.

But Liverpool have won it six times and victory on Saturday will see them match AC Milan's seven victories in second place. And we're talking recent success, too. This is Liverpool's third trip to the final in the past five years; Real Madrid have won it four times in the past eight campaigns. But you also have a delicious tasting menu of subplots and backstories.

For a start, in some ways it's a grudge match following the 2017-18 Champions League final in Kyiv. That night, Real Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1, but, for many Reds, the way the game unfolded still smarts. Goalkeeper Loris Karius made two colossal blunders and star forward Mohamed Salah had to be substituted after half an hour following a clash with Sergio Ramos.

Salah will be there on Saturday night, along with 18 others from both teams who were involved in Kyiv. Ramos, the sort of player loathed by opponents and adored by supporters, might be tempted to be there too, and not just for trolling purposes: after all, he spent 16 years at Real Madrid and now plays for PSG, just a short trip around the Peripherique from the Stade de France.

Then there's the fact that

Real Madrid arrive with the ego somewhat bruised. Not the players mind you -- if there's one thing this season's comeback run to the final has taught us is that few can match them for resilience, unflappability and sheer self-belief -- but Madridismo, that great collective (part-philosophy, part-flesh and blood) of supporters and club members itself.

After months in which it appeared dead certain that they were signing star striker Mbappe, one of the two heirs apparent to the Messi-Cristiano Ronaldo duopoly, as a free agent, the French superstar said "non" and instead opted to stay at PSG.

It was a shock to many and even prompted Mbappe to personally reach out to Real Madrid president Florentino Perez and give long interviews to explain his decision. It's not just the fact that it throws Madrid's summer transfer plans into disarray, it's the fact that this is a club unaccustomed to not getting its way. Mbappe, who was born and raised just a few miles away, will hang over Madrid fans on Saturday; in spirit, if not in body.

There's more to ratchet up the hype meter and the

star power. Real Madrid have the presumptive Ballon d'Or winner (Karim Benzema) and a pixieish turn-back-the-clock floppy-haired genius who, even at 36, sees and hits passes others can only draw on whiteboards (Luka Modric).

Liverpool have Salah, the Premier League's top scorer, and Sadio Mane; bitter rivals on another continent -- Mane's Senegal outlasted Salah's Egypt in the final of the Africa Cup of Nations -- brothers in goals on the pitch. The goalkeepers, Madrid's Thibaut Courtois and Liverpool's Alisson, are arguably the best in the world, capable of the sort of stand-on-your-head performance that can single-handedly win you a final.

Both coaches are wildly popular and quick with a smile, albeit all business in the 90 minutes in their own way: Jurgen Klopp maniacally waving his arms and roving the sideline, Carlo Ancelotti intensely chewing gum and huddling with his assistant, Davide, who also happens to be his son. Klopp is looking for his second Champions League title; Ancelotti his fourth, more than any other manager in the history of the game.

Real Madrid's Ancelotti, the players' coach, is on the brink of UCL history

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THE quadruple is still alive as Paris prepares to host the Champions League final, but only when it comes to Carlo Ancelotti's pursuit of a fourth European Cup. The Real Madrid coach can eclipse Liverpool's Bob Paisley and his Madrid predecessor, Zinedine Zidane, by becoming the first to win four Champions Leagues as a manager if the LaLiga champions beat Liverpool in Stade de France on Saturday.

History awaits for Ancelotti, the 62-year-old Italian manager who also won two European Cups as a midfielder in Arrigo Sacchi's great AC Milan side in 1989 and 1990, but there is no sense of personal legacy being a driving force for him this weekend.

"He couldn't care less about the record books," professor Chris Brady, who co-authored Quiet Leadership, Ancelotti's book about management and coaching, told ESPN. "He knows about it, but he just shrugs his shoulders when you mention it to him. In Carlo's mind, only one thing matters. When I ask him what his job is, he simply says, 'to keep the president happy,' and he has done that with Florentino Perez at Real, with Silvio Berlusconi at Milan and Roman Abramovich at Chelsea.

"It's not about Carlo, and it never has been."

The same applies this weekend in Paris. Here is a coach who has won as many European Cups as Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp combined, more than Jose Mourinho, Sir Alex Ferguson, Vicente del Bosque, Ottmar Hitzfeld and Johan Cruyff. But, despite standing on the verge of becoming the first to win it four times, the prematch build-up is centred not on Ancelotti but on Karim Benzema and Mohamed Salah, Luka Mo-

dric and Virgil van Dijk -- the great players who will decide the outcome on the pitch.

There has always been something understated about Ancelotti despite his stellar record. Some coaches are all about their so-called "philosophy" or destiny -- sometimes both -- and every trophy won or lost is viewed through the lens of their own personal success or failure. In the meantime, Ancelotti wins a trophy, shrugs those shoulders and leaves it to the players and the president to take the plaudits, although he did celebrate Real's LaLiga title this season by smoking a cigar on the team bus during the trophy parade -- a photograph that went viral after Madrid's dramatic Champions League semifinal fight back against Manchester City.

"No, I don't smoke cigars!" Ancelotti said afterward. "It was only a photo with my friends and yes, these players are my friends."

Ancelotti's relationship with his players is perhaps what defines his coaching approach. When he was dismissed by Chelsea in 2011, less than a year after guiding the team to a Premier League and FA Cup double, a key factor in Abramovich's decision to fire him was because the Russian owner believed that Ancelotti was not tough enough with his squad and too collegiate with his senior players.

"He always sides with his players," Brady said. "That's why they all love him. He still thinks of himself as a player who is now managing and he will side with them, even if it costs him his job."

For many who have played for him, Ancelotti's readiness to consult his players and discuss tactics and training methods is what sets him apart and enables him to deliver success at the highest level. "When speaking to me,

Frank [Lampard], Didier [Drogba], he wanted to pick our brains: 'Is this too much tactics for the players to do? Are we doing too much of this? I want to get the right balance,'" former Chelsea captain John Terry told The Coaches' Voice.

"I've never had a manager actually, in probably all of my career, that asked the players and gave them a bit of responsibility.

"He made you feel that the togetherness was incredible, and we went on to win some big things."

As Real battled to eliminate Guardiola's City in the Santiago Bernabeu during their incredible semifinal second leg earlier this month -- City were two goals ahead on aggregate before Madrid scored twice in stoppage time to take the tie to extra time -- Ancelotti once again turned to his senior players to find a way to win, speaking to Toni Kroos and Marcelo on the sidelines to canvass their opinion.

"The coach himself had a few doubts about who he would bring on and who not to bring on," Kroos said after the game. "We [Madrid's players] have all seen a few football games ourselves. That allows you to exchange ideas a bit. That describes him really well, and why things always work well with the

team. It's outstanding. In the end he decides, but of course he's interested in our opinion."

One source close to Ancelotti told ESPN that the secret of his success comes from him being a manager of men rather than youngsters. Throughout his coaching career, his big successes -- Champions Leagues with Milan, domestic success with Chelsea, multiple trophies with Madrid -- have been with teams stacked with experienced players, not emerging youngsters. At Real, whom he rejoined for a second spell last June after stints in charge of Bayern Munich, Napoli and Everton, Ancelotti has once again managed to inspire a team of ageing players into feats many regarded as being beyond them, with the 34-year-old Benzema enjoying the best season of his career under Ancelotti.

"During his first spell at Real, Carlo used Benzema as the pivot between Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale, so he always played with his back to goal in the No. 9 role," Brady said. "But Carlo always knew that Benzema was really important to the team, and now he is able to let him play with more freedom.

"Carlo knows how to get the best out of players. Bale

had his best two seasons at Real under Carlo between 2013 and 2015 and Ronaldo was outstanding, too, even though Carlo wanted to play him as a No. 9. But Cristiano told him he was better coming off the wing, so he let him do that. 'Why argue with a player who can score so many goals?' was Carlo's view of that one."

Liverpool are the team standing between Ancelotti and his "personal quadruple," and they are an opponent that has delivered joy and pain in similar measure over the years. In 2007, Ancelotti won his second Champions League as a coach by guiding Milan to victory over Rafael Benitez's Liverpool in Athens, but two years earlier, he was on the wrong side of the so-called "Miracle of Istanbul" when Liverpool overturned a 3-0 half-time deficit to draw 3-3 and win on penalties.

Perhaps typical of Ancelotti, it is not a defeat that has caused him sleepless nights since.

"He just says 'these things happen' when you mention Istanbul," Brady said. "Carlo still says that the first half in Istanbul is the best performance of any team that he has coached and that the second half, aside from eight minutes, was just as good.

They played so well, but he just couldn't change things quickly enough during that eight-minute spell when Liverpool scored three goals.

"And when it went to penalties, he wanted Andriy Shevchenko to take the first penalty. Shevchenko said he wanted to take the fifth -- which was saved -- so Carlo agreed. Why? Same reason as letting Ronaldo play off the wing: Why argue with one of the best players in the world?"

After almost 30 years as a coach, Ancelotti won't change his approach to management now, regardless of the stakes involved. Aside from his own potential milestone, Real are chasing a record-extending 14th Champions League, while Liverpool are bidding to win their seventh.

Ancelotti beat Klopp's Liverpool twice with Napoli and became the first -- and only -- Everton manager to win at Anfield this century when he guided the team to a 2-0 win against their neighbours in February 2021, so he knows how to win against one of the best teams of the Premier League era. When Saturday comes, though, the past will count for nothing. Ancelotti will send his players out and leave them to get on with the job, just as he has always done.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



All set for nail-biting Dar derby in Mwanza

SPORT

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Leading scorers per country in COSAFA Cup

CAPE TOWN

GOALS win games and there have been many great strikers who have made their name in the COSAFA Cup over the last 25 years.

But who has been the top marksmen from each of the 14 member nations of COSAFA and who leads the tournament honours overall ahead of the 2022 COSAFA Cup that will be played in Durban, South Africa from July 5-17?

Youssef Ibrohim (Comoros Islands) 2 goals

Striker Youssef Ibrohim is the only player to score twice for Comoros Islands in the COSAFA Cup among their team's eight goals in total. Both his goals came in the first two games of the 2019 competition that was staged in Durban, where Comoros reached the quarterfinals for the first time.

Victor Letsoalo (South Africa) 4 goals

Letsoalo leaped to the top of South Africa's scoring charts with an outstanding display in the 2021 COSAFA Cup, netting a hat-trick on debut against Lesotho and then grabbing a further goal in the semifinals against Mozambique. His hat-trick was just the second-ever for Bafana Bafana and the first by a player winning their maiden cap.

Kersley Appou (Mauritius) 4 goals

Appou was a lead forward for the Mauritians in the early years of the tournament, playing between 2000 and 2007. Forward Ashley Nazira scored three goals in the 2019 competition and will hope to get another opportunity when the islanders return to the COSAFA Cup.

Philip Zialor (Seychelles) 4 goals

All of Zialor's goals in the COSAFA Cup came in one game as Seychelles stunned Mauritius with a 7-0 victory, still the largest win in the history of the competition. His four goals in a single game is also a COSAFA Cup record!

Fabrice Akwa (Angola) 5 goals

Akwa was a star striker for Angola at the turn of the century, who turned out for Portuguese giants Benfica, among other overseas clubs. He scored a hat-trick against Mauritius in 2006 to go with goals in 2000 and 2001. The goals have dried up for Angola, they have not scored in 10 of their last 15 COSAFA Cup games dating back to 2007!

Sarivahy Vombola (Madagascar) 5 goals

All of Vombola's goals came in the 2015 COSAFA Cup, where he was in electric form and took the Malagasy to third place. He has since battled to repeat that feat.

Justin Shonga (Zambia) 6 goals

Shonga took over as Zambia's leading scorer from the great Collin Mbesuma at the 2021 tournament when he netted three goals despite Chipolopolo's early exit. He also scored three times in the 2017 tournament as Zambia was beaten in the final by Zimbabwe.

Motbang Sera (Lesotho) 6 goals

Sera is another who moved to the top of the scorers' charts for his country in 2021 when he took his six in the competition. He has now scored in five separate COSAFA Cup tournaments, having first netted in 2016, then 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021. He is the only player to score in the last five tournaments held.

Deon Hotto (Namibia) 6 goals

Hotto was level with Namibia legend Congo Hindjou going into the 2018 COSAFA Cup, but his strike in the Plate semi-final defeat to South Africa took his career tally to six. Hotto was a star player for Namibia when they lifted the title in 2015, scoring twice in the final win over Mozambique.

Gabadinho Mhango (Malawi) 6 goals

Gabadinho Mhango scored a hat-trick against Angola in the 2016 COSAFA Cup and then added three goals to his tally in 2019 to streak ahead in the leading scorer stakes for The Flames. Behind him on three goals are legend Esau Kanyenda and current teammate Gerald Phiri Jr. All of the latter's goals came in 2019.

AGENCIES

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA and Simba SC lock horns once again today afternoon, as the two meet for a mouth-watering Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-final at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

This comes less than a month after tacticians Nasreddine Nabi and Pablo Martin's men faced each other at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam where they drew 0-0 in a Premier League game.

Sitting first and second in the table in the Premier League, they turn their attention to the Federation Cup.

These are the two best teams in Tanzania's football with almost nothing to pick between them, two 0-0 draws so far this term is enough evidence.



Yanga winger, Ducapel Moloko (L), negotiates his way past Simba SC fullback Mohammed Hussein when the outfits locked horns in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League match, which took place in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Yanga has not lifted a notable trophy in over four years but head coach Nabi has the chance to change that this season, with the Federation Cup allowing the

Yellow and Green outfit to end their painful silverware drought with a domestic double.

Nabi has urged his players to keep concentration in their pursuit

of a repeat of the 2015/16 season when they lifted both the Premier League and Federation Cup trophies.

The tactician noted: "Players need to keep concentration level high to ensure we fight for the league title and the Federation Cup until the end."

Simba SC will not be claiming the league title after an underwhelming campaign and the side's Communication and Media officer, Ahmed Ally, acknowledged the shortfalls saying his side needs to pay back its supporters by going all the way in the Federation Cup.

The official revealed: "Our target was to win all three domestic trophies, Mapinduzi Cup, NBC Premier League, and Federation Cup. We have won the Mapinduzi Cup but the Premier League is a tough one, every Simba SC fan must understand this."

"However, the Federation Cup is still up for grabs, anyone who will be better in the remaining two or three matches can win it."

"We are still fighting in the league but our focus is on the Federation Cup. That's how life is, sometimes you have to

focus on realistic targets."

"We have a better chance of success in the Federation Cup. If we lift the Federation Cup we will be the most successful side this season."

A tough league outing at the CCM Kirumba Stadium against Geita Gold FC last weekend has left Pablo with a couple of concerns for this weekend.

Shomari Kapombe and John Bocco - who both left the pitch prematurely should be okay to feature. Jonas Mkude and Clatous Chama are set to miss the showpiece clash.

Nabi's side looks in better health than their adversaries for this one, having come out of their recent back-to-back games with an almost completely clean bill of health.

Said Ntibazonkiza and Dickson Ambundo are so far the absentees having been suspended after sneaking out of the team's camp in Shinyanga.

Having rotated on Monday against Biashara United, Nabi should be set to recall some big names for this clash of titans, with the likes of Yannick Bangala, Khalid Aucho, and Djigui Diarra all returning to the starting XI.

Mgunda tips Coastal Union to win ASFC semi against Azam FC



Coastal Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda.

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

COASTAL Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda, has assured the Tanga-based club's fans it will win this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) second semi-final between the side and Azam FC which will be played at Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium in Arusha tomorrow.

Mgunda offered the assurance, saying that his players are all healthy, physically fit, and ready for the match.

Coastal Union which showed good performance in the past five NBC Premier League matches, returned the lost happiness to its fans after commanding wins in four games and drawing one match.

In this season's NBC Premier League table, Coastal Union is sitting sixth after taking part in 26 matches.

The Tanga side has notched 34 points, two points adrift of fifth-placed Geita Gold FC.

The five league games which ended with Coastal Union notching good results and moving out of the relegation zone are home ties against Polisi Tanzania FC, Biashara United, Mtibwa Sugar, and Dodoma Jiji FC, all taking place at Mkwakwani Stadium, and one away tie against Mbeya City FC.

Coastal Union cruised to a 2-0 victory over Polisi Tanzania FC and later posted a 1-0 victory over Biashara United.

The Tanga side drew 0-0 with Mtibwa Sugar, and thereafter commanded a 2-1

victory over Dodoma Jiji FC.

In the away clash that pitted Coastal Union against Mbeya City FC at Sokoine Memorial Stadium in Mbeya, the visitors cruised to a 1-0 victory.

Speaking from Arusha, Mgunda said all players in the club are ready for the historic game and assured it will cruise to victory over Azam FC.

"All players in my squad are healthy, physically fit to confront Azam FC in the second ASFC semi-final on Sunday and I'm sure we will win," he boasted.

Commenting on Coastal Union player Mtenje Albano, who had been out of the pitch for at least two months, the coach said the midfielder has started training before joining his teammates but will not be included in tomorrow's line-up.

The Tanga club has made it to the last four of the ASFC for the second time.

Coastal Union had previously hosted Yanga at Mkwakwani Stadium in the 2015/16 ASFC last four's duel which ended with Yanga cruising to a 2-1 victory.

The clubs had settled for a 1-1 draw by the time the regular 90 minutes ended.

The then Yanga striker Amissi Tambwe scored the second goal for the club in the first 15 minutes of extra time.

The outcome caused great chaos, with Coastal Union's fans claiming the ball had hit Tambwe's hand and the attacker pushed it into the net.

The home side supporters hurled stones on the pitch and injured the first assistant referee that fainted.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

