



**Guardian BUSINESS**

**Tourism goodwill ambassador climbs three mountains to market Tanzania**

Global bond funds hit by rate risk, says report

**Vodacom opens service shop in Ukerewe Island**

**Mobile phone sales up 6pct in six months**

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# Government formulates digital commerce rules

By Getrude Mbago

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has pointed at ongoing government efforts to prepare a national digital economy strategy expanding access to the internet and boosting online trade.

He was officiating at the 5th annual leadership conference of the female future programme of the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He called on the private sector to back up these efforts by ensuring that they invest in programmes promoting the use of safe digitally based commercial opportunities.

Companies should ensure that they generate initiatives that promotes gender equality and ensure that women are prioritised in leadership positions as they are able to deliver, he said.

"We also need to invest in building capacity of women in the safe use of digital platforms to improve their professions," he said, urging that this has to eschew discrimination.

Private firms need to put up operational initiatives fostering the digital protection in their use, in compliance with regulations in making technology investments for the country's development.

He appealed to the international community to provide technical support to enable the country fully take up the various



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presses a button in Unguja's West B District yesterday to launch the Isles' electronic window and investment guide in commemorating Zanzibar Investment Day. With him are Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority executive director Shariff Ali Shariff (R) and Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Labour Economy and Investment) Mudrick Ramadhan Soraga (C). Photo: Zanzibar State House

**“We also need to invest in building capacity of women in the safe use of digital platforms to improve their professions.”**

global resolutions and strategies meant to empower women.

Critical components in driving a competitive economy include policy frameworks, delivery of strategic services, infrastructure capacity and participation of

## Minister inaugurates High Commission in Windhoek

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has opened a diplomatic mission in the Namibian capital, Windhoek.

Dr Stergomena Tax, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, officiated at the unveiling ceremony, accompanied by Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the country's deputy prime minister also charged with Foreign Affairs, a Foreign ministry statement said yesterday.

The decision to open a full diplomatic mission in Namibia is geared at enhancing ties as the two countries belong to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and share

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What to do when retrenchment of workers remains the only choice

**A MUST-READ PIECE**

## Mwinyi launches e-one-stop centre

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has launched an electronic investment processing format aimed at cutting time lags for regulatory processing for a conducive business and investment environment.

President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi officiated its launching here yesterday, assuring stakeholders and members of the public that the government was intensifying efforts to ensure that investments are smoothly processed.

The government has taken measures to reform the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) by strengthening the one stop centre for all incoming investors, geared to support the realisation of various development goals, he stated.

The measures have started to show positive outcomes as in the past two years a total of 226 investment projects worth \$3.5bn were registered, expected to yield 13,500 job opportunities, he said.

Along with these achievements, the government is installing electronic systems at the centre to simplify service provision and reduce complaints from investors, he further stated.

"As we all know, investment is an important aspect of the country's economic development and job creation efforts," he

## 'Up to 800 seek kidney treatment each month'



By Correspondent James Kandoya

DIALYSIS service often leading to kidney transplant is needed by upwards of 500 to 800 patients each month.

Health minister Ummy Mwalimu made this observation in Dar es Salaam yesterday, shortly after visiting the dialysis ward at the Muhimbili National Hospital, a tour pegged to the World

Kidney Day marked globally on March 9th. This year's theme for the day was 'Kidney health for all - preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable.'

"We may not realize how important kidneys are to our bodies until they start misbehaving," she said, noting that until January 31 a total of 3,250 people were attending dialysis



The coffin bearing the body of Nipashe newspaper's Lake Victoria Zone bureau chief, Richard Makore (45), is lowered into the grave during his burial in his native Remng'orori village in Serengeti District, Mara Region, yesterday. He died in a bus accident in Kasamwa ward, Geita Region, on the evening of Tuesday (March 7) while heading for Geita from Mwanza city. The crash has left at least nine other people dead, with scores injured. Centre (back to camera) is Nipashe newspaper deputy managing editor Epsion Luhwago, who represented the IPP media establishment at the solemn event. Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

## 'Up to 800 seek kidney treatment each month'

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services, with 335 others having undergone kidney transplants.

A total of 103 kidney transplants were done locally, with 70 patients having their transplants at Muhimbili and 33 at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma, she said.

The government is implementing various strategies as part of efforts to control kidney disease occurrence along with other non-communicable diseases (NCDs), she remarked.

"Let me stress the importance of changing lifestyles by exercising, stopping the use of tobacco and related products, avoid excessive alcohol and having a balanced diet," she said.

Citing World Health Organization (WHO) data she said that chronic kidney disease is a progressive condition that affects 10 percent of the world population, amounting to over 800m individuals. The government has established

dialysis services in eight regional referral hospitals by supplying 49 dialysis machines and refurbishing buildings, using up 2.8bn/-, the minister noted.

A study conducted in Kagera Region reported that hypertension-related diseases were the most common cause of hospital admission, chronic kidney disease (CKD) adding up to cause the bigger number of deaths, she said.

The World Kidney Day is a global health awareness event focusing on the importance of kidneys, seeking to cut the frequency of kidney disease and its associated health problems.

Diabetes is the most common cause of kidney disease, for both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, while heart disease and obesity contribute to the damage that causes kidneys to fail.

Urinary tract diseases and inflammation in different parts of the kidney can also lead to long-term functional decline, the study intoned.



Ali Gulamhussein (L), general manager of Dar es Salaam-based Plasco Limited, with sales and communications officer Shamim Mohammed (2nd-L), sales & marketing manager Edith James (2nd-R) and technical sales engineer Kelvin Temba at the firm's pavilion at an exhibition held on the sidelines of an International Maji Scientific Conference organised by the Water Institute in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. The event brought together experts from around the world bent on exploring potential options of enhancing water resource management in Tanzania. Photo courtesy of Plasco Ltd

## Minister inaugurates High Commission in Windhoek

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a broad range of values since the days of the liberation struggle, she stated.

Dr Tax noted that as Kiswahili emanates from Tanzania, deliberate efforts are being made to promote the language through its various embassies around the world. It is being propagated in colleges and international platforms, she said.

Talks are ongoing for Kiswahili to be part of optional languages in Namibian schools, she said, elaborating that the high commission has opened a mini library with books and magazines in Kiswahili.

"This is meant to enable people who are interested in learning Kiswahili to come and study there," she said.

In her remarks, the key Namibian minister said that currently the two nations have

diplomatic missions in each other's capital to heighten cooperation between the two governments and people.

She praised efforts by Tanzanian High Commissioner Dr Modestus Kipilimba for locating the mission in a modern, environmentally friendly building.

"Tanzania, being a champion in the fight for freedom in the African continent, has always been with us," she said,

identifying herself as among those who "come to study and do research in the Kiswahili library," as when doing so they are "safe hands."

The High Commission has been open since February 20th, 2020 with Dr Kipilimba as the first envoy there, with the current elevated premises being opened on the sidelines of the third meeting of the bilateral commission for cooperation in Windhoek from

March 8 to 10.

While there, the minister exchanged views with leaders of the Tanzanian community in Namibia, urging them to be good envoys and register in the on-going exercise for a database of Diaspora Tanzanians in various professions.

The database is intended for reference, to recognise them so that they can help their country in the specific professions where needed, she added.

## Ruto fortifies security around State House in Nairobi and Kisumu as Raila ultimatum lapses

NAIROBI

Security officers have been deployed to areas surrounding State House in Nairobi and Kisumu in what seems to be a precaution against likely protests today by the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition.

In Nairobi, at least two security officers were sent to guard roadblocks erected on several routes, including State House Road and the route between Kenya Comfort Suites and Ralph Bunche Road.

Another roadblock was erected on Processional Way, with a police car strategically placed at the junction with State House Road. Yet another blockade was at Crawford Business Park and Statehouse Girls, with six officers guarding it.

In Kisumu, police cordoned off the road leading to State Lodge. Jomo Kenyatta highway was blocked from the wee hours of yesterday morning as motorists

were forced to use alternative routes.

Only those who were designated to the neighbouring address were allowed to pass but after undergoing a through search and scrutiny by the officers who mounted barricades on the entrances leading to the protected area.

Some residents were however forced to walk some distance after boda boda operators were blocked from proceeding further.

"I hope this is a short term measure that will not inconvenience us," said Lorna Achieng, a resident.

The securing of the routes follow the near expiry of a 14-day ultimatum issued by Azimio leader Raila Odinga, with demands to President William Ruto to, among others, open election servers, lower the cost of living and call off the reconstitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)



Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) commissioner general Alphaayo Kidata (L) and Customs Unipass International Agency (CUPIA) chairman Yoon-Shik Kim come together in cutting the ribbon in Dar es Salaam yesterday, signalling the kicking off of the Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) enhancement project implemented by TRA. CUPIA is a professional trade facilitation solution provider delivering consultancy, development, operation & maintenance, and knowledge transfer services, with its headquarters in Seoul. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Mwinyi launches e-one-stop centre

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said, declaring that Zanzibar has opened doors for local and foreign investors to set up projects as they back up government efforts towards bringing development to the people.

Mudrik Soraga, the Economy and Investment state minister in the President's Office, praised United Nations agencies for helping with preparation of the guidelines and electronic regulations. These have brought a great contribution in promoting investment in Zanzibar, he stated.

ZIPA is finalizing a map to show in detail investment areas in Unguja and Pemba islands, the minister noted, while ZIPA director Sharif Ali Sharif said the improved one stop centre was key to implementing the government's development policy.

Its launch translates clearly how Zanzibar is keen to promote investment and create a conducive environment for business, he stated, underlining that investment and trade related institutions will team up. This will ensure that applications from investors are timely considered and given solutions within the one stop centre, allowing investors to complete their application so rapidly.

This includes opening a company, getting an investment certificate, applying for work and residence permits and other services even before arriving in the country or at ZIPA offices, he added.

## Government formulates digital commerce rules

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the private sector, he said, underlining that the government is intent on providing a conducive environment to enable e-commerce to thrive.

"The government's ICT vision is to get 80 percent of the population to have access to broadband digital connectivity by 2025. The expansion

of the national fibre backbone gets us closer to this goal," he stated.

"We have committed ourselves to this strategy because we want to ensure that all Tanzanians get the opportunity to enjoy the benefits that come with digital connectivity, improve individual income and contribute to the country's economic development," he explained.

The conference was tailored to the role of digital transformation in enhancing gender equality, where Suzanne Ndomba-Doran, ATE executive director profiled a training programme provided by ATE in partnership with the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI).

Many women have graduated and were performing well in leadership

positions, she said, noting that one of the most notable achievements of the female future programme in Tanzania is the successful running of eight cohorts with a total of 274 participants.

Wellington Chibebe, country director for the International Labour Organization (ILO) said new technologies are a critical component for decent work and

fair navigating in the fast-changing labour markets.

Demographic shifts, climate change, globalization and more recent crises such as global pandemics call for government and other stakeholders to implement appropriate digital transformation measures, he stated.

The Female Future programme, an initiative by ATE in partnership

with the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO) was launched by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan in 2016.

It is still the most relevant and successful programme shaping women from different industries at middle management to be able to take up top positions as well as take seats on various boards.



Morocco's Ambassador to Tanzania, Zakaria El Goumiri (2nd-R), and Sharik Choughule (R), councillor for Dar es Salaam's Kivukoni ward, pictured viewing entrepreneurs' products at an International Women's Day exhibition held at the ambassador's residence in the city earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## ATCL earns praise for transforming the country's national flag carrier

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has expressed its satisfaction with the performance of the management of Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) where the major reforms made have enabled the national airline to get into global commercial competition.

Nadil Abdullatif, deputy minister for Works, Communications and Transport made the remarks here on Thursday when opening the 2nd meeting of ATCL's workers' council.

He said the national flag carrier has entered into a major transformation in 2016 from one plane to 12 existing planes including two Airbuses. "Within almost six years all these planes. This is a great achievement. You need to be recommended," Abdullatif said

He also said from four service centers in Tanzania to reach 14 centers including 10 located abroad, adding that the success is largely due to responsibility and performance as well as creativity in the business sector in aviation matters.

The deputy minister also said he was pleased with the company's performance, including involving employees in decision-making.

"The secret of the success of the efficiency of work performance responsibilities is to involve the workers... I am pleased with your meeting of the workers' council

where I believe it will come and raise various challenges that are part of its success and point the way to find solutions," he said.

Eng Ladislaus Matindi, ATCL chief executive officer (CEO) said the company intends to increase flight services where they expect to buy a cargo plane that will arrive at the end of this month.

He said that the demand for cargo is great where in Zanzibar there are cargo loads of more than six tons involving marine products but the planes they have are capable of taking two tons.

The director said that despite the strategy of buying new planes, he acknowledged the existence of the challenge of two of their planes which are facing engine problems immediately after they were purchased.

He said a similar problem is faced by the Egyptian airline where 10 of its planes are facing similar engine problems along with Senegal. "Airbus type planes have problems with their engines where we have contacted the manufacturers of the airplanes while the Confederation of African Airlines intervened to see that the problem is solved so that it does not affect the business," he said.

ATCL's Zanzibar head, Abeid Hussein said that there is a great demand for people who want to make flights using ATCL Airlines planes in the island of Pemba.

## Doha Programme of Action to help build resilience in LDCs

By Jenifer Gilla, Doha

THE Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha, Qatar ended yesterday with member states committing to measures to deliver on the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) a ten-year plan to put the world's 46 most vulnerable countries back on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Some of the commitments are a financial package of \$60 million of which \$10 million to support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action and \$50 million to help build resilience in the LDCs.

Germany dedicated 200 million euros in new money in 2023 for financing for least developed countries.

Others are the EU Commission that announced cooperation agreements advancing sustainable investments in Africa totalling more than 130 million Euros of investment. The Green Climate Fund announced a new project to give 80 million dollars in equity to offer green guarantees to businesses in LDCs and bring down the cost of capital.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization, announced a new €10 million Tourism for Development Fund for LDCs, supported by

TUI Care Foundation, that will be invested to support sustainable tourism in LDCs as a key driver of development.

Under the theme: 'From Potential to Prosperity' the conference aimed to drive transformational change to positively affect the 1.2 billion people who live in the LDCs with discussions centered around delivery of the DPoA for the LDCs for the Decade 2022-2031 that aims to manifest a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments between the least developed countries and their partners, including the private sector, civil society, and governments.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, chairman of the LDCs Group, Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera, underscored the need for having stronger and deeper partnership amongst the LDCs to address common challenges, and on financing for development.

"If this and other promises in the areas of trade, foreign direct investment and technology transfer can be honored. Then we will be with fresh poll that the Doha programme of action will be implemented in full", he said

UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed said achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

in the LDCs is a test for achieving the 2030 Agenda including ensuring that no one in LDCs is left behind that is why the Doha Programme of Action must be seen as a vehicle for SDG Acceleration.

Rabab Fatima, Secretary General of the Conference and UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States said the commitments made this week are a true embodiment of global solidarity and partnership and will pave the way for a new era of international cooperation and will result in more of the LDCs to achieving the goal of gradu-

ation and a more prosperous and sustainable future.

The Programme, agreed in 2022 after LDC5 was postponed due to the Omicron outbreak, outlines a transformative agenda to tap into the potential of the LDCs. Measures include the development of a food stockholding mechanism for LDCs; an online university focusing on STEM education, especially for women and girls; an international investment support centre; a sustainable graduation support facility; and comprehensive multi-hazard crisis mitigation and resilience-building measures for least developed countries.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### UPDATING TAXPAYER'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBER(TIN) WITH NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (NIN) INFORMATION

**Dar es salaam, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

Following the, budgetary changes through the Finance Act 2022, Section 22 of the Tax Administration Act, (CAP 438) empowers the Commissioner General of TRA to register and issue Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) to every Tanzanian citizen aged 18 years and above, who has been registered and issued with National Identification Number (NIN) issued by National Identification Authority (NIDA). In addition to this, the provision of the Law requires every person who has been issued with TIN to ensure the information are updated accordingly with NIN information. The implementation of this legal requirement come into effect from 1st January 2023.

In view of that TRA would like to inform the General Public that, TIN registration will be done using NIDA information. Furthermore, for every Tanzania citizen who previously acquired TIN using identities other than NIDA Identity is required to update his or her TIN with NIDA information.

For convenient implementation of this requirement, it is advised that every eligible person who has not updated their TIN to visit nearby TRA office with his or her NIDA Identity/ NIN to update their TIN. For persons with NIN without TIN, can apply TIN online through TRA website.

It should be noted that all TIN services are provided free of charge and are accessible. For further information, please visit your nearest TRA office or through the following contacts.

**Website** : [www.tra.go.tz](http://www.tra.go.tz)  
**Toll Free** : 0800 750 075 or 0800 780 078 or 0800 110016  
**WhatsApp** : 0744 23 33 33  
**E-mail** : [huduma@tra.go.tz](mailto:huduma@tra.go.tz) or [services@tra.go.tz](mailto:services@tra.go.tz)

**"Together We Build Our Nation"**

Issued by

**TAXPAYER SERVICE AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
 TRA HEADQUARTERS**



Kilombo Sugar Company communications and public relations manager Willa Haonga (L) presents a gift to the firm's head of human resources, Diana Mwakitwange, at an International Women's Day ceremony held at the KSC premises earlier this week. Several other members of the KSC staff were similarly awarded. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Airtel announces plan to increase number of its women employees

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AIRTEL Tanzania has announced a plan to increase the number of women employees in senior positions by 2 percent at the end of this year.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during celebrations to mark the World International Women's Day (IWD), Airtel Tanzania Managing Director, Dinesh Balsingh said the company offers equal employment opportunities and encourages female employees.

He said this year's theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality," pushed the company to bring together girls from different universities in the tech innovation hub whereas they highlighted the significance of preserving the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online and ICT-enabled gender-based violence.

"We want to increase the number of women employees to 30 percent from the current 28 percent. We will also review the company's manpower requirement and identify their roles," he said.

He added that Airtel has also been identifying women from various labour markets who can be prospective employees who are interviewed through the female mentorship programme that was conducted last year and is expected to give results to women to hold senior positions in future.

The Airtel Diva's Chairman/Human Re-

sources Director, Stella Kibacha said the event was aimed at recognizing and celebrating women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology.

"As one of the leading network providers in the country, we support girls' and women's inclusion in technology and that is why we dedicated this day to bringing together female students to spend the day with Airtel female employees as a way of preparing them to embrace technology," she said.

She said it is encouraging to see how women are on the frontline taking leadership positions in the digital space contrary to the past when it was a male-dominated field. Women are now becoming resilient and confident in the Technology world.

She said girls will be introduced to ICT & Tech experts as part of their day at Airtel and hopefully, they will be inspired; thereafter they will join the Airtel women's forum for more empowering activities planned for the day.

She went on to say that the event was organised in collaboration with The Dar Teknohama Business Incubator (DTBI), who coordinated the participation of the 30 girls.

"We sincerely thank DTBI for this great partnership which has provided a platform for women to effectively participate in the digital space at different levels, we intend to grow further and ensure more women gain interest in the ICT field.

## Vodacom offers computers worth 89m/- to five schools in Korogwe

By Guardian Correspondent, Korogwe

OVER 2,000 students in five schools in Korogwe districts are set to benefit from a donation of ICT equipment from the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation.

The equipment, which includes computers and tablets worth more than 89 million/-. This donation is part of a Vodacom Tanzania Foundations' School Connectivity Project in partnership with African Child Project (ACP) and the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF), which aims at benefiting 300 schools countrywide.

Speaking during the handover, Jokate Mwegelo, the Korogwe District

Commissioner, thanked Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and partners saying this is a much-needed donation that will transform the delivery of education in the district.

"I commend this initiative as it is transforming the teaching methodology and how students access learning materials. Gone are the days when teachers and students only relied on textbooks for teaching and learning. With the internet and platforms like Vodacom's e-Fahamu, teachers are now providing guidelines and letting the students learn by themselves. With this trajectory, I believe Tanzania will be among the countries that produce creative students with innovative minds. With students of

this kind of mindset, they can thrive anywhere," added the District Commissioner of Korogwe.

The secondary schools that benefited from the donations are Joel Bendersa which received eight desktop computers while Mashewa, Ngombezi, Old Korogwe, and Kwamndolwa each one of them received six of them and at least one television screen, printer, and tablet. In addition to the donations, the 5 schools will also receive training on how to e-Fahamu learning portal.

"I would like to congratulate Vodacom on its agenda to use technology for good; I am impressed by the innovative digital solutions that cut across different sectors such as education,

health, finance, insurance, and agriculture. The government is grateful to have such a partner whose products and services are designed to solve their challenges. I have been informed that the m-mama solution is already working in Tanga region which is helping curb maternal mortality," she concluded.

Annette Kanora, the acting director of Corporate Affairs, and the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation outlined the objective of the school connectivity project while commending the government and partners for their support to the programme rollout.

"We have received tremendous support from the government and partners which is invaluable. As a

company, we have an agenda to lead Tanzanian into a digital age and transform lives through technology. This handover today is evidence of this commitment, as this aims to provide content through Vodacom's E-Fahamu learning portal, extend Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and internet connectivity to schools across the country. This we believe will not only drive digital inclusion but also performance of the students as they have access to wider range of learning material. I urge the student and teachers to make use of the equipment for research and learning." Said Annette. On behalf of other schools, the head-

master, Msemwa of Joel Bendersa Secondary School, urged his/her colleagues to ensure the devices are used as intended and maintained to cater to the long-term needs of both teachers and students.

"I would like to challenge all the beneficiaries of this project to embark on a journey to transform the ways of teaching and learning into a digital one. With the increase in internet penetration and smartphones ownerships, there is no reason why we should not abandon the old ways. Also, let us not only use well these devices but also keep them in good condition to benefit us more and encourage other stakeholders to follow their example.



Weights and Measures Agency acting CEO Stella Kahwa (2nd-L) briefs members of the Zanzibar Bureau of Standard board of directors on operations at the agency's Misugusugu calibration centre in Coast Region. The delegation toured the facility on Thursday, led by ZBS

## New constitution process should begin where Judge Warioba commission left off, TGNP urges

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) board chairperson, Gema Akilimali has said that stakeholders and activists are hoping the national process to obtain a new constitution will commence with the second draft led by Judge Joseph Warioba.

According to her, the journey towards making women and girls' rights respected by all, needs a joint effort and that stakeholders will be happy if the process will take the Judge Warioba draft.

Akilimali said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday at an interview with this paper on President Samia Suluhu Hassan's enthusiasm to resume the new constitution making process.

"We have heard President Samia's announcement that she will appoint a special team to work on the new Constitution, we hail this but as activists, we see that the government should take the Judge Warioba draft and it includes all the essential needs and priorities," she said.

Gema said there was no need to have a new team to coordinate the new process which has already spent a lot of public funds but what is needed is to take Judge Warioba's draft and go on with the process.

"That draft has all, because it carries opinions and views from the public, what

we should do now is to look at a few areas and improve them as per current changes and development so as to have a Constitution that touches all important areas," she asserted.

Verdiana Masanja, a Tanzanian mathematician said the Constitution making process was thwarted by politicians citing that it is only through dialogue and reconciliation that will help achieve the goal of having the Constitution.

"If the process will start afresh, the government needs to be careful on this by looking at the expenses that have already been used, what we got and what do we all need," she said.

The constitution review process began in 2011 where a law to govern the exercise was enacted which later formed the commission for the new constitution led by Judge Warioba.

The Judge Warioba's commission coordinated the collection of public views and preparation of the first draft of the constitution and later the second draft.

In 2013, another Act was enacted which formed the Special Constitution Parliament which received the second draft of the constitution.

However, the process got stuck in the parliament after some members entered into a misunderstanding to the extent that the politicians from the opposition boycotted the exercise.

## Agency in ten-year project for cultivation of major food and cash crops through organic farming

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Pan African Investors Association (TAPAIA) plans to embark on a major ten-year project for cultivation of key food and economic cash crops through organic farming in different councils across the country.

The association will execute the envisaged robust initiative which primarily targets to cover at least

2,000,000 hectare in a period of ten years in cooperation with different stakeholders, including the targeted councils, financial institutions, and suppliers of agro machineries as well as the stakeholders in the biopesticide from India.

Founder and the National Chairman of TAPAIA, Dr Sebastian Kingu said its long-term objective is to facilitate the country's industrialisation agenda by unlocking opportunities for youths to venture into establish-

ment of large scale industries through the formation of Public Limited Companies (Plc) of which the arrangements are at preliminary stages.

"We started to run some potential preliminary works last year that include identifying and communicating with potential stakeholders that we are mulling to partner with in the implementation of the initiative," he said.

He said that in its pilot project, the association is still doing preliminary

negotiations with several different councils in Coastal Region, Rufiji, Kisarawe, Kibiti and Chalinze.

"At the envisaged block farms, we're looking forward to grow a numerous nutritious foods and herbal plants through best organic practices with an eye to supply Tanzanians with varieties of organic produce that will help them to curtail and cheat a growing spate of the non-communicable diseases (NCD) across the country," he noted.

Dr Kingu disclosed the types of crops that will be cultivated during the project's first leg as moringa, chilli and rosella, to mention but a few.

"Our major focus is to cultivate at least 20 crop varieties of herbal plants as well as other potential nutritious foods to help Tanzanians to deter from a growing spate of contacting a number of NCDs such as diabetes, cancer, blood pressure and obesity because they can easily be cured through consumption of herb-

al plants, among others," he added.

Dr Kingu said they are in talks with some financial institutions, including the National Microfinance Bank (NMB) over possibilities to acquire capital loans to facilitate establishment of the said farming blocks.

He said they have approached some potential suppliers of agro-machineries from within and outside the country to obtain modern machines to help cultivate the farms professionally.

## IWD: Tanesco women staff plant trees on water sources

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Kilolo

FEMALE employees of the Tanzania National Electricity Company (Tanesco) from Dar es Salaam and Iringa regions have participated in a tree planting exercise as part of marking this year's International Women's Day.

The move is also meant to complement the government's efforts in the protection of water sources and environmental degradation to deal with the effects of climate change.

They planted 500 tree seedlings along the Mtitu River and various places in Kilolo district, Iringa Region and the seedlings were given by the Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS).

Eng. Regina Mvungi, Tanesco's manager for Kinondoni North in Dar es Salaam said they have a responsibility to protect water sources and serve the Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Plant (JNHPP) along the Ruaha River.

She said that in celebration of the day they have decided to promote the economy by planting trees in the water sources of the Mtitu River in collaboration with the people and the Kilolo District Council.

In this year's celebration, Tanesco's

women planted trees under the theme: "Plant Trees, Let It Rain, and More Electricity."

"Every year during the day, we do various activities. But this year, we decided to plant trees on water sources, which are key in generating hydropower in the country," she said.

Anna Msola, Kilolo District Council chairperson, asked people in the district to continue taking care of the environment and water sources.

Mtitu ward councillor Ramadhani Mkakatu praised the organization through the women's division for coming to plant water friendly trees at the source of the Mtitu River, which is a river that is used for various economic activities.

Mkakatu said that the river is beneficial to the people of Kilolo and the general public as its water goes into Ruaha River.

Kilolo residents who participated in the tree planting exercise praised the power utility firm for protecting water sources along Mtitu River.

One Mtitu villager, Bertha Mwinyi expressed her commitment towards protecting water sources as well as taking care of all the trees planted to be able to get water that will also be used in economic activities such as generating electricity.



Kilolo District Council chairperson Anna Msola speaks during the planting of 500 tree seedlings as done by Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) women employees on the Mtitu River banks and at various other places in the district yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

## Many Tanzanians live with diabetes and hypertension unknowingly, experts say

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

HEALTH experts have said the majority Tanzanians are living with diabetes and hypertension unknowingly, suggesting regular body check-ups to know their health status.

Regency Medical Centre (RMC) Specialist, Dr Sudakshina Ghosh who is a Nephrologist made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the closure of a one-day free kidney screening camp which was organised by the hospital to commemorate World Kidney Day which is observed today on March 9th all over the world.

"Most of the people do not have a culture of checking their health status thus finding themselves with diabetes, high blood pressure and hypertension. It is a serious problem that requires people to cultivate a culture of doing body check-ups before it is too late," said Dr Ghosh.

She said during the screening camp where various kidney specialists provided free consultations to the general public, more than 100 people attended.

Dr Ghosh added that most of the people were also found to be overweight, the thing that could endanger their lives due to possibilities of getting various diseases.

"Obesity related problems are on the increasing because of our lifestyles; people eat too much of junk foods while some do not care about healthy eating," she said.

She underscored the need for awareness campaigns all over the country to sensitize people to do regular body check-ups even when they are healthy instead. She said delayed diagnosis of the diseases makes it difficult to cure. "We interviewed people who attended the clinic, most of them acknowledged not to be aware of healthy eating," said Dr Ghosh.

She added: "People eat too much meat; we must do something to educate them on the con-

sequences of poor dietary habits. They should be educated on the importance of eating vegetables and fruits."

Lalit Kanabar, Chief Executive Officer of Regency Medical Centre said: "We will organise a similar camp in the future because most of the people wanted it conducted regularly. We feel good that we have done something for the community as part of our Social Corporate Responsibility (CSR)" he said, noting that it has been a vision of RMC founder, the late Dr Rajni Kanabar to make contributions in the country's health sector.

Robert Bona, a Dar es Salaam

resident, who attended the camp applauded RMC for providing the service for free, asking them to conduct the free medical screening regularly.

"Many people have health challenges but due to limited financial capabilities they cannot afford regular medical check-ups. Camps like this help a number of Tanzanians to know their health status," he said.

John Masatu congratulated the hospital for the free service, urging them to add the number of days to at least three to enable many people to get the services.

"We appreciate RMC for giving back to the community. We ask

other hospitals to conduct similar medical camps so that more Tanzanians can have access to medical services, especially physical check-ups," he said.



**Most of the people do not have a culture of checking their health status thus finding themselves with diabetes, high blood pressure and hypertension**



AutoXpress Company CEO Deven Kansara (2nd-L) and his Reliance Insurance counterpart, Ravi Shankar exchange documents in Dar es Salaam earlier this week shortly after sealing an agreement under which the latter firm will insure the former's tyres. AutoXpress is a distributor of tyres and auto parts to retail customers, resellers, garages and corporate fleet operators. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## AWID challenges exclusivity of activists in 67th UN Commission of the Status of Women session

By Guardian Reporter

THE Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) has launched a groundbreaking initiative that challenges the exclusivity and inaccessibility of activists in the 67th session of the UN Commission of the Status of Women (CSW).

In a move that demonstrates the power and limits of technology to bridge geographical and systemic barriers, feminist activists from Nairobi and Bangalore are connecting with New York through a physical-virtual hybrid space called "Feminist Portals."

The Feminist Portals initiative provides a unique opportunity for feminist activists to participate in the 67th CSW, regardless of their location, financial means, or visa status.

The physical-virtual hybrid space allows feminist activists from Nairobi and Bangalore to participate in the discussions and panels happening in New York City in real-time. This is a significant breakthrough as it is the first time that Feminist Portals have been installed during the CSW, creating an opportunity for feminist activists to challenge the systemic barriers that limit their participation and influence at the event.

Speaking about the initiative, Faye Macheke, AWID Co-ED said: "For too long, financial barriers, visa restrictions, and discriminatory poli-

cies have excluded feminist activists, particularly from the Global South, from participating in the CSW. By creating this virtual experience, we are transcending these barriers and building bridges between feminist struggles across linguistic, economical and geographical boundaries." The Feminist Portal experience provides a platform for feminist activists to amplify their voices and challenge the discriminatory barriers that limit their participation and influence at the CSW.

From March 6 to March 9, feminist activists from New York City, Nairobi, and Bangalore hosted discussions and panels on a range of issues, including accessibility, feminist digital alternatives, and the systemic barriers that limit the participation and influence of feminist activists from the Global South.

"Feminist activism must remain at the forefront of the fight for a more equitable and inclusive world. This feminist-led initiative is a powerful reminder that technology can be used as a tool for social justice," added Inna Michaeli, AWID Co-ED.

The initiative is expected to draw global attention and inspire more inclusive practices in political spaces around the world. The use of technology to create a physical-virtual hybrid space is a significant breakthrough in democratizing political spaces and transforming the way feminism is practiced globally.

By Beatrice Philemon

## Stanbic Bank becomes newest signatory of WEPs

OVER 2,000 companies around the world have signed the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), with Stanbic Bank Tanzania becoming one of the newest signatories.

Kevin Wingfield, the bank's Chief Executive Officer said the signing was done at the 6th Ring the bell for Gender Equality meeting organized by the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange to celebrate the International Women's Day.

The bank has signed the principles to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace.

The event was supported by the UN Global Compact Network Tanzania, UN Women Tanzania, UN Women Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE), United Nations Tanzania, and International Finance Corporate

with funding from TTCL Pesa and Stanbic Bank.

"We are honoured to be signatory to the WEPs, we believe this partnership will further support our efforts to enhance gender equality and inclusive culture," said Wingfield.

He said the bank is committed to uphold gender equality as a fundamental pillar of its diversity and inclusion agenda. He said prioritising gender equality and women empowerment makes business sense and is the right thing to do.

Marsha Macatta-Yambi, Executive Director at UN Global Compact Network Tanzania, encouraged other companies to sign on to the WEPs, a UN Global Compact and UN Women initiative to help companies ensure that their

business practices promote gender equality.

Grace Munisi, gender health development specialist at Generation Equality Forum National Committee (GEF) added that the Generation Equality agenda ensures that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and innovation is embedded in all aspects of interventions.

"We acknowledge the power of technology to propel Tanzania's delivery of Generation Equality promises, and now is the right time to advocate for the meaningful and strategic empowerment of women, in line with our commitments to improve women's economic justice and rights," she said.

"To harness this potential for ICT and innovation, we must embrace greater social in-

clusiveness, transformation including creativity and entrepreneurship for individuals and communities, and the use of local resources, skills, and knowledge to ensure meaningful gender equality," she said.

Women are increasingly taking advantage of ICT in all spheres of life, thus confirming that ICT can be a tool to promote gender equality and enhance the economic, political and social empowerment of women and girls.

Zlatan Milisic, UN Resident Coordinator noted that a paradigm shift is required to bridge the digital gender gap, improve safer and affordable access to digital tools, and guarantee women's full participation.

"This shift requires human rights, gender equality, inclusion and innovation to be placed

at the center of the design, skills development and utilization of digital tools and services," he said.

Frank Ajilore, International Finance Corporate (IFC)'s Resident Representative for Tanzania noted that digital inclusion is the responsibility of everyone.

IFC is committed to working with partners to promote innovation and technology for gender equality, he added.

"With the rise of innovative technologies, we have potential to revolutionize the way we live, work and interact with each other, and for women, to bring about sustainable change into our societies," said Suzan Ndomba Doran, on behalf of the Chair of the UN Global Compact in Tanzania.

# Burundi nationals appear in Dar court facing illegal entry charges

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

A total of 67 Burundian nationals yesterday appeared before Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court in Dar es Salaam facing two charges including entering the country illegally.

The charges were read by State Attorney, Godfrey Ngwijo before the Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate, Ramadhani Rugemalila.

Ngwijo told the Court that the accused committed the offences on February 15, this year at Jangwani area within Ilala District in Dar es Salaam Region.

Ngwijo told the court that on the first charge, the accused entered the country through unknown entries without having

a valid passport or any other legal documents.

On the second charge, it was alleged that on the same day and place the accused committed the offence after they were found in the country without having a valid passport or any other legal documents or visa.

He mentioned some of the accused as James Justin, Baranyizi Gyeserije, Birimani Eroge, Baraka Mustapha and Bayabahe Isack.

However, all the accused pleaded guilty except suspect number 60 and 64, whereby they were given bail conditions which include having two sureties to sign a bond of 500,000/- each.

However, all accused did not fulfil bail terms and were taken to remand.



Wanchoke Chinchibera (4th-L), a representative of the Ukerewe district commissioner, cuts the ribbon yesterday to launch a Vodacom shop. Looking on are Vodacom Lake Victoria zone head Ezekiel Nungwi and other staff. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Member states praise SADC for installing handwashing facilities at border crossings

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states have commended the secretariat for taking the lead in the fight against communicable diseases by installing handwashing facilities at border crossings.

SADC has installed a total of 11 portable handwashing facilities, termed SADC WASH Boxes at Chirundu, Beitbridge, Nakonde/Tunduma and Songwe/Kasumulu Borders in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Tanzania.

This has been possible in collaboration with Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) and with funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through the German Development Agency, GIZ.

The four are some of the busiest land borders in the region with official figures for instance indicating that about 15,000 travellers cross the border post daily.

A notable challenge experienced at the borders during the COVID-19 pandemic has been the increased need for improved water and sanitation services, as well as hygiene awareness to communicate the benefits of good hygiene practices at borders across the region.

Mapolao Rosemary Mokoena, Director Infrastructure in SADC's Infrastructure and Services Directorate said: "The large numbers in traffic at strategic border crossings has placed significant pressure for high standards of WASH services at these ports across the region, a situation which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic."

The WASH boxes were officially launched and handed over to the member states during a virtual event on February 27th 2022.

Speaking during the launch, Senior Programme Officer at the SADC Water Division, Dr Patrice Kabeya, said the SADC COVID-19 WASH border post response project has capacit-

ed member states to better function despite the limitations imposed by pandemics or outbreaks.

Alex Simalabwi, Executive Secretary of Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) which implemented the project on behalf of SADC, said the handwashing facilities will help facilitate growth of regional and continental trade.

"The creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) provides a unique opportunity to boost growth, cut poverty, and reduce Africa's dependence on the boom-and-bust commodity cycle. The AfCFTA is likely to attract cross-border investment, increase the population of cross border movements and yet, access to water and sanitation is one of the key barriers to intra-Africa trade," he said.

Marcel Grella, Head of the SADC-German Development and Economic Cooperation at the German Embassy in Gaborone, emphasised

that access to clean water and sanitation remains key to reduce not only the spread of COVID-19, but to ensure a general high-standard of hygiene measures at places of high-volume passenger traffic.

He said the project is of a general hygienic and sanitation improvement nature, meaning that even without the virus or communicable diseases; it makes a lot of sense and has a direct impact on the well-being of travellers and employees at their respective border posts.

Zambia has benefitted through facilities that have been installed at Chirundu Border Post, where the country borders Zimbabwe; and Nakonde/Tunduma border post where it borders Tanzania.

Engineer Zizwani Phiri, Director of Water Supply and Sanitation, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, Zambia said WASH remains a key development agenda as it plays a critical role in the social economic advancement of the

country and the COVID-19 WASH boxes project demonstrates SADC's commitment to improved human life while promoting production and trade for Member States.

SADC has installed similar facilities on the Zimbabwe side of the Beitbridge Border Post where it borders South Africa and Chirundu Border, where it borders Zambia.

Tinayeshe Mutazu, Chief Director: Water Resources, Irrigation Development and National WASH Coordination in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe said thousands of commuters cross Beitbridge Border Post every day.

Beitbridge provides a vital link to the entire sub region, thereby enhancing regional cooperation and integration and in so doing assisting countries to overcome economic barriers in terms of the flow of goods, services, movement of people, and even finances.

Tanzania joined Malawi in seeking

continuity of the project, having had the handwashing facilities installed at Nakonde/Tunduma border where it borders Zambia and Songwe/Kasumulu border where it borders Malawi.

"Now that we have the WASH boxes, we need to embark on a sensitisation campaign on the good habit of handwashing. Development partners should also consider working with us to upscale the project to other areas, not only the border posts. The handwashing facilities would also be useful at places where a lot of people converge such as bus terminals," said Eng Abdillah Mataka from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Tanzania.

The overall operation and maintenance of the facilities will be done by the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA), and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on behalf of their governments.



Christopher Newton, an officer with the community involvement unit of the Gender and Children's Desk at the Kinondoni Regional Police Commander's office in Dar es Salaam, conducts a sensitisation session on gender-based violence at the city's Mabibo Market area earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# IRDP scoops 9bn/- from HEET project to expand its delivering status

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) has received at least 6bn/- from the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project to support implementation of diverse projects to up its education service delivery status.

HEET project is a five years programme that is being implemented by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) in collaboration with the World Bank for the general purpose of improving and transforming the higher education sector in Tanzania.

Among others, the robust initiative has been tailored to revitalize and expand the capacity of universities to contribute to key areas for innovation, economic development, and labor market relevance, by investing in requisite infrastructure for modern and effective teaching and research, and by training to the highest standard the teachers, researchers and administrators needed by universities to achieve their full potential.

Through the so far received amount, the IRDP's Rector, Prof. Hozen Mayay told The Guardian in an exclusive interview that the plan was to implement an ambitious project for the

construction of a vast smart campus, the state-of-the-art facility which will accommodate the students in the faculties of environment as well as urban planning.

"Apart from the smart campus, we are also looking forward to expanding and installing modern ICT facilities at our campuses to help improve and accelerate teaching-learning processes among the lecturers and students," he noted.

Furthermore, Prof Mayaya added that out of the received money, at least 500m/- will be used to cover the cost of paying the fees of five lecturers who will be taken to undertake different courses at the level of PhD.

He added that so far, the Dodoma-based varsity had recently managed to implement key project to expand its status, including construction of four new modern hostels, each with capacity to accommodate at least 192 students, lecture theatres with capacity to shelter 430 students, as well as two major classrooms, each with capacity to harbor 231 students.

"And as future efforts to further expand infrastructure, we have obtained a total of 700 hectares in Dodoma, whereby in Mwanza at least 80 hectares have also been procured to pave way for expansion of our Mwanza-based campus," he unveiled.

Meanwhile, IRDP's Deputy Rector (Academic, Research and Consultancy), Prof Provident Dimoso noted that the institute was implementing a total of five development projects using Internal Generated Funds (IGF).

"The projects include construction of an administration block at Kitumba, Lake Zone in our Mwanza-based training centre at the tune of 397,482,925.43/- and construction of a mini-library worth 400,000,000.00/-," he unveiled.

Dwelling on more information over the projects, Dimoso added that the other projects being implemented under IGF include construction of cafeteria at Kitumba, at the cost of 435,239,691.45/-, compensation of 59.07 acres of land at Kitumba, Lake Zone training centre at around 1,728,039,000.00/- and compensation of 636.64 acres at Nala/Chigongwe in Dodoma city worth at 1,080,411,600.00/-.

"We're implementing these entire projects through our internally generated funds with an eye to expanding student's accommodation structures and staff offices. However, we're very happy for the patriotic manner to which the government through the ministry of finance and planning has always been supporting us in implementing key projects," he appreciated.

# EAC embarks on capacity building workshop to pesticide regulators

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) is conducting a capacity building workshop on 'Dossier Evaluation and Basic Risk Assessment' for regulators from partner states.

The four-day workshop which is ongoing in Kigali, Rwanda is being attended by members of the EAC Technical Working Group (TWG) on pesticides and regulators responsible for evaluation of applications for registration of pesticides, evaluation of pesticide dossiers, risk assessment of pesticides and evaluation of efficacy trial reports.

The regulators from Ghana and Ethio-

pia are also in attendance for benchmarking purposes.

The main objective of the capacity building workshop is to contribute to increased institutional capacity and better practices for the pesticides registration to safeguard human health and the environment.

In his opening remarks, Jean Baptiste Havugimana, Director of Productive Sectors at the EAC Secretariat underscored the significance of the workshop in promoting a common understanding on internationally agreed principles, methodologies and criteria for risk assessment and dossier evaluation of plant protection products.

He said the knowledge imparted will strengthen the capacities of regulators in the EAC to make science-based decisions that will ensure farmers in the region have access to safe, quality and affordable crop protection products, one of the enablers for increased production for food security and food safety.

Havugimana thanked USAID and USDA for consistently and generously supporting EAC in several areas of regional integration including food and nutrition security, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and agricultural trade facilitation and highly commended and appreciated members of the EAC technical working group on pesticides for the commitment

and dedication that they have demonstrated in the development and implementation of the harmonized guidelines.

Stella Simiyu Wafukho, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, CropLife Africa Middle East, affirmed the commitment of her organization in supporting the efforts towards full domestication and implementation of EAC harmonized guidelines.

In 2018 and 2019 the EAC's Council of Ministers and the Sectoral Council of Ministers on Agriculture and Food Security (SCAFs) directed EAC Partner States to domesticate and implement a set of six harmonised guidelines on testing and registration of pesticides.

Against this background, the EAC Secretariat with support from development partners has implemented several technical and capacity building activities to support the domestication of harmonised guidelines.

Capacity building in dossier evaluation and risk assessment has been identified as one of the priority areas.

A team of technical experts drawn from the CropLife network's expert teams of consumer safety and environmental risk assessment are facilitating the workshop, covering various aspects of environmental risk Assessment, toxicology, occupational and dietary risk assessment and Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs).

## IHI researchers now using drones to identify mosquito breeding grounds

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

RESEARCHERS at Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region have begun using a new technology that involves the use of drones in identifying mosquito breeding grounds that are difficult to reach for their extermination using insecticides.

IHI Senior Researcher, Najath Kahamba disclosed this at a special meeting that brought together more than 350 people and 51 officials from four districts - Ulanga, Ifakara, Mlimba and Malinyi for capacity building.

Kahamba said researches show that there are possibilities for mosquitoes to remember areas they had earlier visited, return to those areas and continue creating havoc to humans.

Kahamba, whose researches have dwelt on the Anopheles phonesta mosquito (stephensi) cited with fastest malaria infections said the new technology will also be used for spraying areas that will be found to be mosquitoes breeding grounds.

He said as for now they are in the stage of teaching experts who will be able to guide the drones as and when they will be ready for the exercise to search for the mosquitoes breeding grounds.

He said professional research reports show that there are more than 300 species of mosquitoes in the world divided in various families and out of these species five are known to cause malaria infections in the African continent, while three out of them cause malaria infections in the country.

He said in the past, researches that were being done on Anopheles mosquitoes employed satellite pictures which to a great extent it was hard to identify due to their small size, hence it was also difficult to identify their habits.

Another IHI researcher, Issa Mshani said research done in Kilombero River Valley has shown that mosquitoes assemble during evening hours and their extermination depends on the effectiveness of insecticides and the availability of vaccines. He mentioned ways they mooted to control the mosquitoes such as pouring sugar mixed with insecticide and spray between the roof and walls of houses.

He said malaria disease prevalence has been dropping in recent years but statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO) show that in 2022 more than 600,000 malaria deaths were reported worldwide.

He said 95 per cent of the deaths were in the African countries South of the Sahara.



Tanzania LPG Association managing director Amos Mwansumbue briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on the two-day LPG EXPO East Africa 2023 scheduled to be held in Dar es Salaam from March 15. Right is the expo's director general and organiser, Catherine Ho. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Experts, stakeholders to meet in Dar for 1st East Africa LPG Expo

By Getrude Mbago

LIQUEFIED Petroleum Gas (LPG) experts and stakeholders from within and outside the country are expected to meet in Dar es Salaam next week in the first 'East Africa LPG Expo' to discuss and share techniques that will help promote massive use of clean cooking energies.

Organised by the LPG Expo in collaboration with the Tanzania LPG Association with support from the Ministry of Energy, the two-day event from March 15 to 16, will bring stakeholders from 30 nations including 50 exhibitors of gas tools and technologies.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, Catherine Ho, director of LPG Expo said that Minister for Energy, January Makamba is expected to open the event which is free for all trade visitors.

"The East Africa LPG Expo - Tanzania 2023 is supported by the Ministry of Energy, as well as EWURA and the World LPG Association based in Paris, France. This is one of the largest regional LPG events which will fuel discussion of clean energy and promote use of gas in various uses for sustainable development," she said.

She said LPG Expo has been organising and managing LPG related exhibitions and conferences

internationally and has been active mostly in West Africa and Asia and now penetrating in East Africa.

"Our main goal and purpose for each event is to bridge the local LPG Industry with the diverse multinational LPG stakeholders from all across the world. We see our events as a platform for engaging the public sector with the private sector, to have perhaps challenging conversations and discussions that might otherwise be difficult to have. We bring in international experts to provide expertise and share case studies to help the hosting nation identify common challenges and possible solutions and strategies to propel the industry forward," she asserted.

She noted that given the recent surge in LPG usage over the past few years, probably from the continuous efforts in promoting clean cooking and cleaner energy alternatives, Tanzania sets itself to be the ideal location for this year's East Africa LPG Expo series.

"We believe now is the opportune moment for LPG Expo to come in to help investors get to know Tanzania, acquiring the latest insights into this thriving market and help establish Tanzania as an integral link in the global LPG supply chain," she said.

Catherine said that enhancing the use of LPG on a national scale has the potential to eliminate energy poverty, which would have positive

impacts on population lives, economic growth, and the environment.

Furthermore, the usage of LPG can help minimise deforestation, a significant driver of global warming, as well as reduce air pollution.

"LPG definitely the best interim solution to improve the health of women and girls, significantly reducing their risk of diseases caused by smoke inhalation," she added.

Amos Jackson, the Tanzania LPG Association director said the will also serve as a collaborative platform to brainstorm solutions on the challenges faced in the industry as well as map out future paths.

He urged local players to continue

registering and take part in the event which will help them draw expertise to be able to improve their business and the whole industry.

He said that usage of gas especially in cooking was still very low in the country due to low awareness, something which needs efforts to increase public awareness.

"Many families are also opting not to use gas due to high prices, poor infrastructures to penetrate to rural areas as well as fear of safety, so these are among the issues which we are going to discuss during the conference and come up with way forward that will facilitate massive use of gas in households and other areas," he said.



Tanzania Gender Networking Programme project manager Mariam Oushoudada speaks at Wednesday's launch in Dar es Salaam of a 'BoreshaHabari' project, whose focus is on gender equality journalism. Photo: Correspondent SabatoKasika

## Songwe Region officials told to embrace strategic roads agenda

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

WORKS and Transport deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya has called upon Songwe Region officials to embrace the strategic roads agenda that contribute to the region's economic growth.

Kasekenya made the remarks here on Tuesday at a Road Board meeting held in Songwe Regional Commissioner's office.

He said there are many roads that are important for the Songwe Region's economic growth hence they must make sure the roads agenda is given utmost priority.

"Delay in completing the roads contributes to loss of revenues, for example the Mlowo-Kamsamba road is among important roads for economic growth because it acts as a link of two regions - Songwe and Rukwa hence its completion at tarmac level will increase our revenues," he said.

Songwe Regional Commissioner Dr Francis Michael called upon road contractors implementing the projects to closely follow them up else they would face termination of their contracts that will be given to others.

Neema Mwandabala, Special seats Member of Parliament from Songwe Region said she does not see the reason why steps cannot be taken against sluggish contractors.

Earlier, in his statement, TARURA Engineer Killian Haule said in regard to road projects implementation they face various obstacles including the shortage of working tools, especially vehicles, hence making supervision a difficult task.

He said in FY 2022/23 TARURA was allocated with 21.7bn/- for road construction in Songwe region.

## Women employees at NDC on campaign to spray biolarvicide at Mabibo as part of IWD celebrations

By Correspondent James Kandoya

WOMEN employees at the National Development Corporation (NDC) have organised a campaign to spray biolarvicide to kill malaria vectors at Mabibo Relini Street in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam Region as part of celebrations to mark the International Women Day (IWD).

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday,

Coordinator of the exercise, Esther Mwaigomole said the spraying exercise will be continued as the corporation is determined to eradicate malaria vectors in the country. She said when there is malaria, women become the most affected group, and hence the need to ensure women are free from the tropical deadly disease through spraying and destruction of larva.

"We will start by spraying biolarvicide

at Mabibo Relini Street before moving to other areas. Other women are also invited to participate in the exercise," she said, noting that effective control of mosquito's larvae will reduce malaria cases in the country.

Mwaigomole said that it is easier to kill larva than killing mosquitoes adding that once the larva are controlled, it controls hydrocele and dengue fever.

NDC Principal Human Resources, Valentine Simfukwe said that women are victims of malaria, specifically those with pregnancy. She said spraying biolarvicide will kill mosquito vectors thus helping to protect and keep women free from the disease. Dorice Simfukwe, NDC Commercial Officer called upon women to clear their environment by removing excess vegetation and organic debris that provide

mosquito larvae with food, shelter from the sun, and hiding places from predators.

TBPL is a state-of-art Biolarvicides factory that promises to wipe out mosquito vector borne diseases in Africa such as malaria, dengue and zika.

TBPL Ltd is a subsidiary company under NDC. The factory is the main producer of larvicides which are Griselesf (Bs) and Bactivec.

FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2023

**Taking A New Look  
At The News**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## We can end energy poverty to combat climate change

ONE of Africa's unique challenges with energy poverty is its rapid urbanisation and booming urban centres. However, access to modern energy services in cities is predicated by an increase in income, which is difficult to find in the economies of many African cities. This has led to only 25 per cent of the Africans living in urban centres to have electricity access. Furthermore, as Africa's population increases access to energy has not increased proportionally. Between 1970-1990, only 50 million people gained access to electricity against a population gain of 150 million. The largest barriers people in urban centres face in accessing energy is the huge cost compared to their relatively low incomes.

Most Africans who lack access to affordable sources of power, burning charcoal and wood remains their sole source of energy.

However, as these fires burn across the continent, black carbon and smoke do more than accelerate climate change; they are also a source of serious health problems and a cause of ongoing forest destruction. Fortunately, recent progress suggests that it is possible to provide alternative sources of energy to those in need and, in so doing, address human health, climate change, and deforestation all at the same time.

Africa has the highest per capita wood fuel consumption in the world. It is estimated that across Africa, more than 80 per cent of people use some form of wood fuel as their primary source of domestic energy; more than 80 percent of households in urban areas use charcoal, while firewood is used primarily in rural areas.

March 21 is the United Nations' (UN) International Day of Forests, which promotes the importance of

forests and trees in our lives. The day addresses issues such as deforestation.

This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests.

Forests cover one third of the earth's land mass, performing vital functions around the world. Around 1.6 billion people - including more than 2,000 indigenous cultures - depend on forests for their livelihood.

Forests are the most biologically-diverse ecosystems on land, home to more than 80 per cent of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. They also provide shelter, jobs and security for forest-dependent communities.

Yet despite all of these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, global deforestation continues at an alarming rate - 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed annually. Deforestation accounts for 12 to 20 per cent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Every year on the International Day of Forests we celebrate the ways in which forests and trees sustain and protect us. This year we are raising awareness of how forests are key to the planet's supply of freshwater, which is essential for life.

In this first year of implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, the International Day of Forests focuses on their role in supporting water systems, and investing in forests is an insurance policy for the planet. Forested watersheds and wetlands supply 75 percent of the world's accessible freshwater. About one-third of the world's largest cities obtain a significant proportion of their drinking water directly from forested protected areas

## Africa needs more industry to create more good jobs

AS trade continues to play a vital role in Africa's economic growth performance, its potential to induce industrialisation may not be realised if trade policies that could promote value-added activities are not designed and implemented. The latest Economic Report on Africa by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has shown.

The international community has a new set of development goals. They reflect Africa's aspirations much more closely than the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to a maintained focus on the eradication of poverty, Africa's single most important contribution is to recognise that sustainable development, especially in Africa, means creating good jobs - jobs that pay living wages and offer a chance to develop new skills.

In Africa today, only one in five workers finds employment in the wage economy. The rest are forced to settle for low-paying jobs, often through self-employment or in the services sector, where output per person is only about twice that in agriculture.

The Sustainable Development Goals, which took over from the MDGs, also suggest how to grow good jobs. Goal 9 of the SDGs sets as an objective to "by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product". Industry is singled out because it is a high productivity sector capable of absorbing large numbers of moderately skilled workers. Between 1950 and 2006, about half of the catch-up by developing countries to advanced-economy levels of output per worker was explained by labour moving out of agriculture and into manu-

facturing, combined with rising productivity within industry. In Africa, manufacturing output per worker is six times that in agriculture.

For more than 40 years Africa's industrial development has been disappointing. In 2013 the average share of manufacturing in GDP in sub-Saharan Africa was about 10 per cent - the same as in the 1970s. Africa's share of global manufacturing has fallen from about 3 per cent in 1970 to less than 2 per cent in 2013. Manufacturing output per person is about a third of the average for all developing countries and manufactured exports per person, a key measure of success in global markets, are about 10 per cent of the global average for low-income countries. Clearly, Africa needs more industry to create more good jobs.

Most of the heavy lifting in terms of public action will need to be done by African governments. To industrialise successfully, Africa will need to revisit the policy orthodoxy and break new ground.

The "investment climate reforms" of the World Bank, supported by some bilateral donors, have not and will not bring industry to Africa on their own. Industrialisation cannot succeed without the development "basics" that include infrastructure, skills and institutions. But these building blocks, while necessary, are not enough.

Three closely related drivers of firm-level productivity - exports, agglomeration and firm capabilities - have been largely responsible for East Asia's industrial success, and their absence also helps to explain Africa's lack of industrial dynamism.

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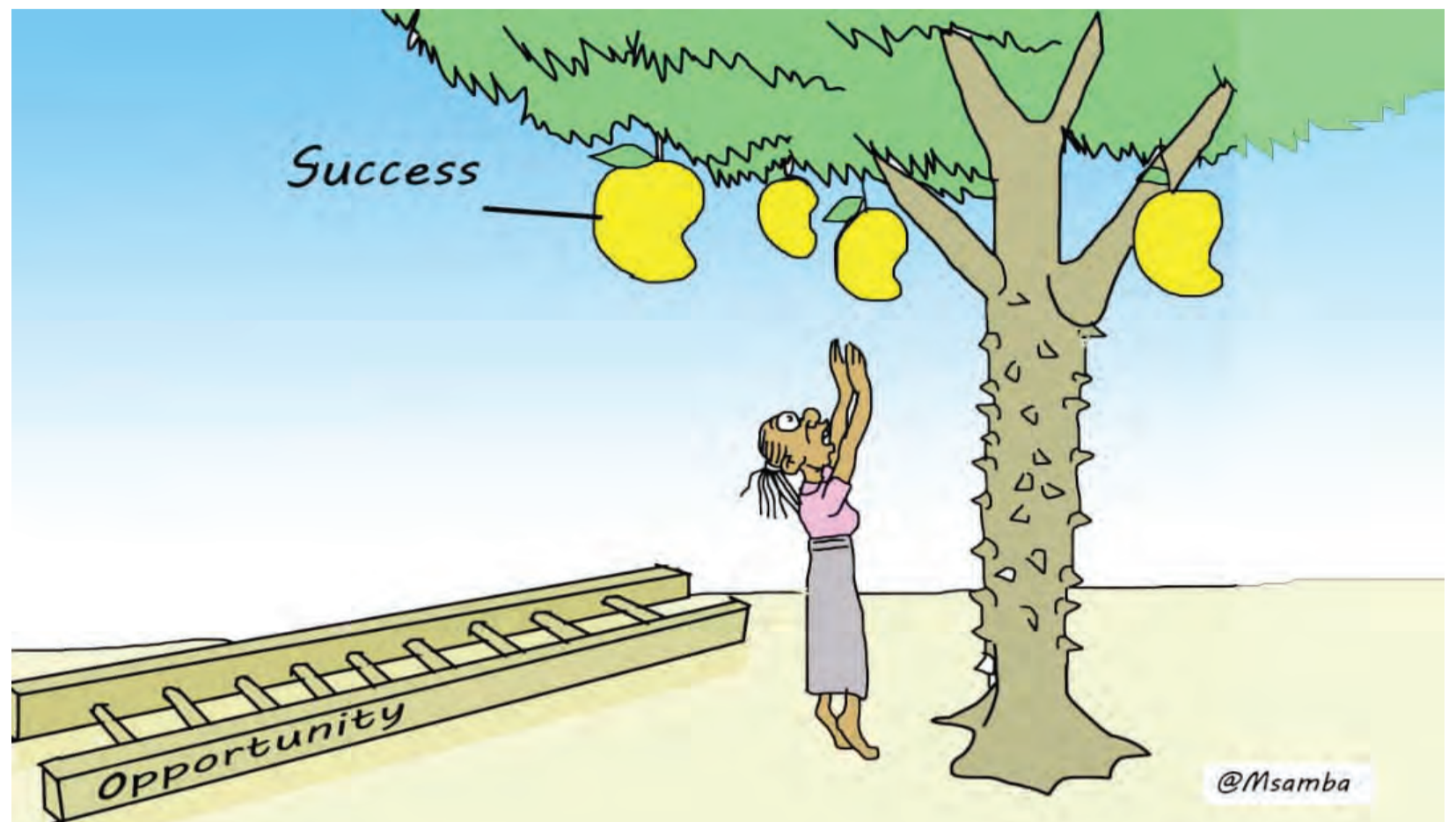
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## Awakening a sleeping giant: The Ethiopian economy



By Shana Gouridine

ETHIOPIA is undoubtedly the economic giant of the Horn of Africa. Since time immemorial, the economy has experienced growth as indicated by its gross domestic product (GDP), gross national product (GNP), and per capita income.

Growth projections are one of the key measures of a growing economy. In this, Ethiopia has shown tremendous progress and a promising trend. However, both foreseen and unforeseen factors have come into play, altering the growth rate pattern. Think of the war between Tigray and Ethiopia and the COVID-19 pandemic, and you will see some of the hindrances to Ethiopia's awakening as an economic giant.

It is unavoidable to look at the key growth indicators and the human development index to evaluate how far the country has gone in terms of growth. It is good to ask ourselves how the country is fairing in terms of investments, gross domestic product, consumption, international trade, and stability. These factors play a key role in determining the human development index (HDI). Ethiopia has seen a slow but consistent growth in HDI, which is encouraging.

Without focusing much on how the country is doing, we must ask ourselves what can be done to improve the economy. What strategies can it adopt to ensure growth?

### A menacing trade imbalance

An imbalance of trade, also known as a trade deficit, occurs when a country imports more than it exports, implying that a country spends more on buying while earning less by selling its products to the outside world. The trade deficit is one that Ethiopia should fight.

At the moment, most of the coun-

try's high-value goods, such as machinery, vehicles, fertilizers, iron, and, ironically, cereals, are brought in from other countries. On the other hand, it exports coffee and leather products, among others. From this list, we can always tell that the economy spends more on buying while the income it generates from its exports is not equal to the purchasing expenditure.

An imbalance of trade will inherently result in low job creation and high unemployment, eventually negatively affecting the economy. Minimising imports does not mean foregoing basic commodities. No, it means being creative enough to produce what they can and substitute some imports. This will leave the economy with a good amount of disposable income that could go into social services.

### Creating jobs and fighting unemployment

The relationship between economic growth and employment remains a complex one. However, many studies have been done to explain how they correlate. Besides, theories have been advanced to highlight their linkage.

People have money to spend when employed, which makes businesses flourish according to the Keynesian multiplier theory, named after John Maynard Keynes, a British economist. Eventually, the growth of businesses results in the creation of more jobs and, hence, economic growth.

In 2021, studies showed that about 2.07 million people were unemployed in Ethiopia. The number rose to 2.35 million in 2022 and could go up further. Job opportunities through formal or informal employment will positively impact Ethiopia's economy since employment and job creation reduce the crime rate, a major enemy of economic growth in any African

country.

### Improving access to finance

With unemployment rates going up in many African countries, giving people the tools they need to find work is important. One way of doing this is by giving them financial progress and supporting their courses and innovations.

To help small businesses, the Ethiopian economy should make it easier for people who don't have access to money to get it. This points to providing credit and loans to people at affordable interest rates and supporting women, youth, and those with disabilities. By offering people credit, the government empowers them and gives them the leeway to become more creative, create jobs, and contribute positively to economic growth.

Offering incentives to attract venture capital investors, encouraging equity, and financing businesses with performance-based loans encourage an entrepreneurial culture. This is one thing that the government should consider doing.

### The ease of doing business index

The ease of doing business refers to starting a business in a country. There are many factors considered in this index, starting with business registration, licenses, and compliance, as well as payment of taxes.

When a country makes it easier for businesses to do business, it attracts foreign investments, spurs innovation, and eventually creates jobs for its own people. In a 2020 ranking for countries and ease of doing business, Ethiopia ranked 168 out of 190 economies. In the long run, this could discourage investors, make it harder to create jobs, and derail economic growth.

There should be consideration

given to the ease of doing business. Let the requirements and the compliances be easy to attract investments while policies remain accommodative and welcoming.

### Add value

How developed, developing, and underdeveloped countries trade is one of the most interesting things I've seen on the world's markets. Developing countries like Ethiopia will mostly export coffee and leather to other countries. When that is done, the country receiving the coffee will then add value and sell it to other countries at a higher price.

If Ethiopia could find the means, it could export more refined products, adding value to them, and sell them for far better prices, spurring economic growth.

There is more that can be done for Ethiopia's economy. It is a sleeping giant with vast potential, and with the right policies and measures, it may go beyond its limits to rank among the best in Africa and beyond.



**An imbalance of trade will inherently result in low job creation and high unemployment, eventually negatively affecting the economy. Minimising imports does not mean foregoing basic commodities. No, it means being creative enough to produce what they can**



# Sometimes money can be used to defeat justice

By Telesphor Magobe

THE other week we briefly looked at the proposed amendments to the Media Services Act, 2016 in relation to the East Africa Court of Justice (EACJ) judgment delivered in Arusha on March 28, 2019 and the applicants' queries advanced against some unfriendly provisions and sections to the practice of journalism.

We then said that although the government had made a positive step to amend the Act, there were still many provisions and sections that still needed to be amended or repealed to make the law comply with the East African Community (EAC) Treaty and friendly to the practice of journalism in the country.

With the current proposed amendments as stipulated in the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2023, there are still some queries media practitioners and stakeholders still think put journalists in a precarious situation. However, media practitioners through Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) are still hopeful that the government will listen to them.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at an incident we had talked about a few weeks ago, this being a new development. It is about a man who violently attacked his wife using a machete and caused injuries on various parts of her body. This, according to eyewitnesses, happened hardly three months after the man attacked his wife, who was still nursing the wounds of the first attack.

When the wife was beaten up the first time, she went to his parents and she was still living with them when she was attacked the second time on the New Year's Eve of 2023. That evening, the wife had gone with her friends to a recreation centre to watch a movie.

After the movies, as she was returning home, (to her parents' house) at about 23:00, she sensed that there was a person who was running after her. Since it was at night, she wondered who the person was and so she was afraid. She too started running because she didn't

know the intention of the other person, but the man was so fast that by the time she was still thinking about it, she was suddenly attacked by a machete.

His wife started crying out to alert neighbours about the attack and come for help. She ran to the house of a neighbour while crying. Some neighbours came to help her, but the man threatened to attack them too with a machete and so they moved away. When they retreated, the man continued attacking his wife and suddenly she lost consciousness and fell down after which the man ran away, perhaps thinking he had killed her.

The news was spread in the village and other neighbours gathered at the man's house where she was laying down and they took her to hospital. The man fled from the village that night to a hideout far away from the village.

The wife's relatives went to report the incident to a police station. The following morning, the law enforcers and some relatives started hunting for the man and finally found him in a guesthouse. He was arrested and taken to the police station.

Meanwhile, his wife was taken to hospital and was immediately referred to the district hospital where she was referred again to the regional hospital. Seeing the gravity of the wounds, she was referred to a zonal hospital where she was admitted.

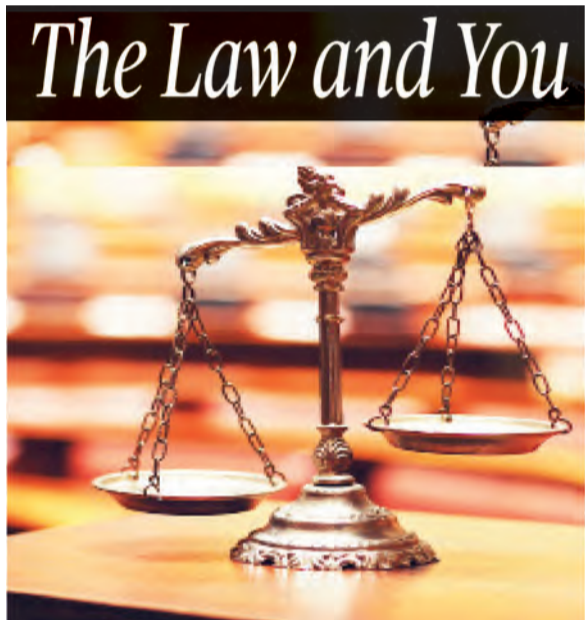
After she felt a little better, she went back to her parents' house and the police asked her to go and record a statement if she felt better, which she did. Then, a case was filed in the district court.

Thinking about what would follow since the issue was already filed in the district court, some relatives of the husband went to the family of his wife to seek reconciliation and offered to refund medical expenses, which amounted to 1,400,000/-. The husband's relatives said they were able to pay Sh800,000 cash and pay the rest of the money after a week, but before going to court.

A meeting was held and apparently



the wife's relatives accepted to take the money. After receiving it, the wife allegedly started



## The Law and You

saying she was not familiar with court proceedings and preferred not to continue with the case. Seemingly, this is what she was telling some of her relatives and was looking for an alternative to court proceedings because she would not benefit from the case.

Relatives who have seen her say the way she was attacked and wounded; she is most probably incapacitated and thus could be dependent for the rest of her life. According to them, until this time she is helped whenever she wants to eat, bathe, dress or go to answer calls of nature.

Some relatives say even if she returns to her husband, given the nature of village life and domestic chores, the husband could decide to look for another wife and chances are that she could end up being deserted. What an injustice!

**"Today's proverb: "A fool and his/her money are soon parted."**

**The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at [tmagobe@gmail.com](mailto:tmagobe@gmail.com)**

# Sparrows: The uninvited guests I can't kick out of my house

By Emmanuel Kwitema

NO research, no right to speak, so they say. All the same, I would like to share the story of small birds commonly known as house sparrows - which I have been living with for quite some time now. My neighbours, too, have a much similar experience with these uninvited guests at their homes.

These creatures don't build nests on trees the way we used to see birds of all manner of types do in the past. Instead, they prefer having the nests perched right under the roofs of people's houses.

Thus, most often they are seen in residential areas eating food leftovers thrown away. In the evening they disperse, I guess retiring to houses in various locations to spend the night.

One day I heard the desperate sound of a bird in pain. When I followed it, I saw an Indian crow pecking and consuming a sparrow it had chased and caught somewhere around my very own house.

It was then that I was tempted to think that the notorious crows had contributed to the shifting of these small birds to people's residences, possibly for enhanced security.

We all understand the ferocity with which Indian crows have descended on most other species of birds in the country by eating their eggs and destroying their breeding nests - this especially in the regions forming the Indian Ocean coastal zone, where these crows are widespread.

I am curious and would want to know if the Indian crows and other predators are the reasons for these small birds to shift from their natural habitats and seek safety in or around people's residences.

I believe relevant authorities and experts will be in a position to enlighten the public sufficiently on the environmental impact of the Indian crows and whatever measures have been - or should be - taken to arrest the situation.

And that should be before many more of these scavengers actually invade the various reserves lying not too far from the Indian Ocean coastline.

It should be remembered that Indian house crows are extremely aggressive and opportunistic feeders that prey on fledglings, small birds and mammals, reptiles and amphibians as well as their eggs.

The invasive birds cause significant damage to agricultural crops and are a menace to human garbage. They pose a significant health risk to communities carrying human intestinal diseases and transmitting bacterial infections.

Like other birds, house crows are intelligent and naturally wary of baits and toxins. That is why for decades they have been a constant menace to residents of most of the coast of East Africa, Saudi Arabia, Malay-



There is growing trend of house sparrows moving into people's houses instead of building nests on trees, which begs the question Why? Photo/Emmanuel Kwitema

sia, Singapore and Indonesia.

Throughout much of its native (extensive area of India) and introduced range such as here in Tanzania, the bird is considered a significant pest. Its recorded impacts include damage to fruit and grain crops, displacement of native bird species and general urban nuisance.

Indian house crow populations are strong-

ly commensal and depend heavily on open rubbish tips, food scraps and other urban food sources. Because they readily accept food from people, provided they are regularly fed, the birds reportedly stay on board travelling ships and easily migrant from one country to another. An invasive animal risk assessment released by Queensland government in 20116 says it as a result of this that

international shipping vessels arriving in Australia from Asia sometimes carry Indian house crows into the country.

In Tanzania and East Africa as a whole, various sources indicate that the birds first arrived in Zanzibar by boat in the 1890s from where they later spread to the Mainland and elsewhere. Some accounts state that certain British government officials ordered the

scavengers in a desperate bid to clean up the Island's mounting waste but by 1917 authorities realized they had a new, winged problem as the birds did more damage than good and declared them unwanted pests.

# Free public education should be every woman's right

By Dana Abed

**T**HIS month, government and civil society organization representatives gathered in New York for the United Nations' 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to discuss technology as a tool to facilitate access to education for women and girls.

But what should have been discussed were the basic issues of gender equality in education. As more than 85% of the world is living under austerity, and with 70% of countries cutting funding to education services, access to education for women and girls is being devastated by the lack of public funding.

The gap between boys and girls when it comes to school enrolment continues to be major, and quite concerning. Data consistently shows - particularly in low- and middle- income countries - that girls from poor families are the children most likely to be, and remain, out of school.

And the cost of education is one of the main barriers for access - which raises the question of affordability when it comes to technological integration.

While technological innovation has the potential to support instruction and education governance, we cannot turn a blind eye to the reality of digital inequality, the possibility of increased fees, and the privatization of education.

That is on top of the existing risks that are associated with the use of technology, including online violence and abuse and the lack of digital protection for girls, further locking girls out of their rights to education.

Austerity measures, public funding cuts, and privatization severely limit the goal of universal education. In a report published last November, Oxfam found that austerity is a form of gender-based violence.

And during CSW67, we emphasized that access to public and quality education is fundamental to gender equality and the realization of the rights of women and girls.

Oxfam does not claim that austerity measures are designed to hurt women and girls, but as policy makers design those policies, they tend to ignore the specific needs of women and girls and turn a blind eye to the disproportionate impact that those policies have on our communities.

We've reached this conclusion by gathering evidence from around the world, which showed that governments do not prioritize the needs to women and girls.



The 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (6-17 March) gets underway at UN headquarters in New York. Credit: UN Photo/Manuel Elias

For instance, more than 54% of the countries planning to cut their social protection budget in 2023 have minimal or no maternity and child support.

In their misguided attempts to balance their books against a looming global economic crisis, governments are treating women and girls as expendable. Women, particularly those from marginalized racial, ethnic, caste, and age groups, are inherently discriminated against when it comes to economic and social opportunities and accessing available public resources. Additional cuts to inequality-combatting public services mean these groups

are the hardest hit.

Cuts to both the public wage bill and public health and social protection services - measures that women and their families rely on for survival - mean that women and girls bear the brunt of this austerity because health, education, feeding the family, paying the bills, caring for children and elderly all fall most heavily onto them.

For example, cutting wages in the public work force - especially in sectors like health where women represent 90% of the workforce or education where they represent 64% of the workforce - will directly impact job security.

We must resist austerity and should instead be taxing the wealthiest corporations and people properly. A progressive tax on the world's millionaires and billionaires could raise \$1.1 trillion more than the savings that governments are currently planning to make through their austerity cuts.

With such funding, governments could adopt feminist budgeting across all sectors that put women and girls in all their diversity at the heart of policy making, including ensuring access to quality, and public education.

Feminist movements have for years pushed for bold alternatives

to our neo-liberal, capital-oriented economies, and Oxfam raises its voice with them. The integration of technology in education must be looked at from an intersectional lens, taking into consideration barriers to access for girls and low- and middle-income countries, and should not come with an additional cost to the education bill.

We need to stand in solidarity with the women's rights and feminist movements in demanding that our leaders stop peddling the gender-based violence of austerity as the solution and support more feminist progressive representation beyond identity politics. We must resist creating societies that prioritize the needs of the most privileged at the expense of everyone else - and instead work to create communities and policies that reflect our diverse backgrounds and identities.

IPS UN Bureau

By Karlos Zurutuza

## The Sami people's fight against Norwegian windmills

**T**HERE are 151 wind turbines and more than 130 kilometres of connection routes and power lines on the Fosen peninsula, 530 kilometres north of Oslo. Norwegian judges say that they should not be there, and the owners of those lands since time immemorial do too.

But it is not a mirage. "The wind farm crisscrosses areas of winter pasture that can no longer be used because the reindeer will never come near the windmills. Thus, an ancestral migration route that is crucial for us has been destroyed," says Maria Puenchir, a 31-year-old human rights activist who is well-known in the region, and presents herself as "queer, Sami and disabled", told IPS over the phone.

The Sami, also known as Lapps or Saami, are a people spread across the northern borders of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, in a territory they call Sápmi.

Puenchir spoke from her native Trondheim, very close to the peninsula where the wind complex stands today under scrutiny. Its construction began in 2016 despite numerous calls for its suspension, including one from the United Nations, citing its potential

impact on the way of life of local communities.

Five years later and one after its completion, the Norwegian Supreme Court ruled unanimously among its eleven judges that the installation was illegal and violated the rights of reindeer herders to develop their culture. "The ruling is clear, but it does not explain what to do with the wind turbines. Not only have they not been dismantled, but they continue to function," laments Puenchir.

On January 30, Amnesty International launched a campaign asking that the judicial resolution be respected and "a continuous violation of human rights be stopped and repaired."

It was on February 23 when a group of young people dressed in traditional Sami costumes decided to wrestle with the Norwegian state. After occupying the offices of the Ministry of Oil for four days, they were evicted by the police, but managed to block several other ministries before a crowd sit-in front of the Royal Palace, on March 3.

The initiative arose from an Instagram campaign among the



The Sami people protested in the centre of Oslo against the Fosen wind farm, in the north of Norway (Jannicke Totland/ Natur og Ungdom)

Sami youth. They began to count the days that passed without any finger being lifted since the Norwegian Supreme Court ruling. When the account reached 500, they took to the streets," Puenchir recalls.

She did not hesitate to fly to Oslo to join the group, nor did Greta Thunberg. The well-known activist for the defense of the climate this time joined a protest against a "green" energy project.

"I had the chance to come and show my support to this struggle. All those who have a possibility to support local struggles like these should do so," Thunberg explained to IPS, by phone from the streets of Oslo.

"All over the world we are seeing the continuation of land grabbing and exploitation of indigenous land, but we can also see that the resistance is continuing and growing," claimed the activist before calling for "the end of the colonization of Sápmi."

On March 2, the Sami heard an apology from the Norwegian Government delivered by Terje Aasland, the country's minister of Oil and Energy.

"They have spent a long time in a difficult and uncertain situation and I feel sorry for them," Aasland said, after meeting with the president of the Sámi Parliament, Silje Karine Mutoka.

For the moment, Oslo has repeated a mantra that the wind power project can coexist with reindeer herding. A firm decision is lacking on the future of the controversial infrastructure, however.

From north to south According to data from the International Energy Agency, 98% of Norway's electricity supply comes from renewable energy. The six wind farms in the Fosen complex produce more energy than all the wind farms built in the rest of the country combined.

Although Fosen's turbines are the work of a multi-company conglomerate with Swiss and German participation, 52% of the investment remains in the hands of Norway's Statkraft.

Responding to questions posed by IPS, Statkraft stressed that

the Supreme Court ruling "does not mean that the licenses for the wind farms have lapsed and it did not conclude what should happen to the turbines."

The operation of the Fosen wind farm, the company adds, "can be maintained without irreparable damage to reindeer husbandry as long as there is an ongoing process to clarify the necessary mitigation measures necessary for a new licensing decision that does not violate the rights of the Sami."

The company claims it is "working actively to contribute to reaching a solution that enables the Sami people to continue their cultural practice in line with international law."

On its website, Statkraft claims to be "Europe's largest renewable energy producer and a global company in energy market operations." Their figures point to 5,300 workers in 21 countries.

Complaints and legal rulings against the Norwegian energy giant have also come from other continents.

# 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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

## Stakeholders praise re-entry policy, call for special budget, increased awareness

By Guardian Correspondents

IN November, 2021 the government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology announced the 'Education Circular No. 2 of 2021' that allows re-entry of school dropouts due to various reasons including pregnancy back to a formal system of education.

The announcement changed the whole situation that was previously described as Tanzania's position in regards to the education destiny of school girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy.

Again, in February 2022, the government issued a 'Guideline to reinstate students who dropped out of primary and secondary education for various reasons' which reflects the provisions of the 'Education Circular No. 02 of 2021'.

The decision has been backed by many stakeholders but some of them recommended more issues that need to be addressed so as to ensure that the girls go back to school and continue with their studies smoothly.

Msichana Initiative as an NGO that advocates for equal access to education for all and especially girls' education also commends the government for this huge step. This is an important and appropriate decision in liberating a Tanzanian child as it provides an opportunity for school dropouts to return to school and complete their studies, but also increases the chances of this group becoming a potential workforce in the near future.

Recently Msichana Initiative sat down with other education stakeholders and reviewed the provided re-entry guideline with the aim of looking at opportunities available for stakeholders' collaboration with the government in implementation.

After a thorough review, they identified several areas that will require further improvement and clarification to facilitate smooth implementation of the guideline.

Adoption of Re-entry Policy and Guidelines in Tanzania implies that all school dropouts including young mothers are given a second chance to education and an opportunity to shape their bright futures.

Despite this huge accomplishment, there are still some controversies around this issue that are yet to be unpacked including the big question of whether the policy and its guidelines reflect the real context of the country and how it plans to address the public attitude. More importantly, what guarantees the smooth implementation of the policy and its sustainability.



The organisation sees that there is no clarity provided by the government on the commitment to set a budget to support the implementation of the Re-entry Guideline and monitor its performance.

Majority of Tanzanian citizens are not aware of the re-entry policy nor the guidelines issued by the government since February 2022. Teen pregnancies impede girls from finishing schools which contributes to perpetuating cycles of generational poverty.

Reasons that lead to majority of young girls to quit from school are early pregnancy and child labour. The guideline does not clearly show how to fight against these root causes as well as educate young girls to beware.

Absenteeism itself is a discipline issue which can automatically amount to expulsion or dropout. The guideline allows re-entry for students who dropped out due to absenteeism and on another hand prohibits re-

entry for students who drop out from school due to disciplinary cases," the organisation states in its analysis.

It notes that the re-entry guideline has not specified the responsibilities of other ministries that in various ways should be involved in the implementation including the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development, Gender and Special Groups as well as the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs. The implementation of this guideline is cross-cutting and thus the exclusion of these ministries will dilute the division of responsibilities and ultimately affect the implementation of the guideline.

According to Msichana Initiative's analysis, the re-entry guideline does not show or explain the procedures for removing a child who becomes pregnant while at school. The guideline only describes the responsibilities of teachers, parents and students when

returning to school, but it does not explain how she will leave school, what are the preparations for removing her from school, and taking care of the pregnancy until the time of delivery.

The guideline should include a provision that will allow students to take their national exams if they are known to be pregnant a few months before the exams and it is proven that they are in good health to be able to take the exams.

Findings from country reports for Senegal, Malawi, Namibia and Tanzania commissioned by the Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE) have outlined robust recommendations on re-entry policies for teenage mothers.

The reports note a need for broad-based awareness of the readmission policies, which should ideally be driven through a multi-stakeholder approach involving relevant government representatives, civil society, school admin-

istrators, religious leaders and community-based/family structures.

The reports also recommend governments enact policies that support girls' re-entry for example, empowering district-level officials to ensure schools readmit girls who want to go back to school and provide friendly environments for these child mothers.

One way of achieving friendly environments is to institutionalize a comprehensive counselling programme for teenagers (boys and girls), mentors and other vulnerable groups in school. There is also an urgent need for a standardized curriculum for mentorship and a training program for both teachers and pupil mentors.

In keeping school dropouts in school, FAWE reports recommend the ministry of education to pay particular attention to child-headed households.

In addition to providing counselling, schools should

consider day care support for such girls and, where possible, support teenage mothers and their parents in income-generating activities that support the baby and help retain the teenage mother in school.

Msichana Initiative calls on the government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to restructure and redesign the Re-entry guideline to accommodate the necessary requirements of sustainability and smooth implementation including; addressing economic and social need young mothers face to reduce the burden that is kept upon them that results to giving up their education dreams.

The government should capacitate all necessary stakeholders such as teachers, education officials, parents and others on the re-entry guideline and how to support school dropouts cope and feel compatible with changes.

Stakeholders should consider providing day care to support teenage mothers in nursing and taking on parental roles while catching up and focus on her studies.

Msichana Initiative also recommends that the government should take initiatives to popularize the Re-entry policy so it can be widely known by all citizens to avoid anyone missing out an opportunity to pursue education even after dropping out.

It also needs to address other root causes of School dropout including long distance to schools and others so as to offer relevant solutions.

The government should also amend the provisions of the Law of Marriage Act of 1971 as ordered by the Court of Appeal to eliminate child marriages as a major cause of child pregnancies that contribute to school dropouts for young girls."

The policy says that girls will have two years in which to return to school after giving birth, however this is not legally binding and girls will continue to be banned from class while pregnant," adds part of the analysis.

## EAC troops in DRC seem to be on peace mission, not fighting rebels

By Guardian Correspondent

LISTENING to international news media and then observing what is happening in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, there are feelings that change on the ground is limited even as more member states of the East African Community (EAC) put troops on the ground.

At the same time a secret or diplomatic consensus is emerging, that EAC states more or less acted to send a replacement of the United Nations Mission in the Congo (MONUSCO) that ran into sand as mass demonstrations demanded their departure. An initial impression was that EAC troops would be fighting the rebels but it isn't evident/

With the DRC being part of the EAC in the past year, sending troops there appeared to signal the wish to find 'East African solutions for East African problems', where residents of the eastern part of DRC wish for troops engaging the M23 guerilla force to dislodge

it from a series of towns and villages it has taken over the past six months in particular. As it was the case for French troops in Mali and Burkina Faso in particular, people in those countries got tired of the presence of substantial troop units who did least in engaging the rebels, precisely what the residents wanted. Yet it is unlikely anyone shall fight others' wars.

Selecting an aphorism to best sum up a social, economic or political situation is not easy, as it all depends on how one receives bits of information from time to time. There is an old adage of half full glass of water and half empty glass, which are precisely the same but sound differently to two people.

That is what one sees, if current initiatives are the same as those seen earlier, or they have a greater chance of success. For once, they are more coordinated and occur in an environment of greater strategic cohesion in the zone.

Recently, it was Burundi which moved to deploy troops in the eastern

city of Goma, where the direct agenda was somewhat uncertain, but is likely to be patterned on the strategic objectives of another EAC member state, Kenya, whose troops moved there a bit earlier.

On the surface it would appear the units are there to combat the M23 rebel movement but EAC protocols in recent summits, in Nairobi and Angola with different parties to the conflict, haven't quite settled that aspect. There is a visible element of peace keeping in what the EAC units are doing, on the background of civic fatigue with that role, avidly demonstrated during the stay of the UN peacekeeping mission there.

There is all the same a measure of difference between a country sending troops to aid the East African Regional Force in the eastern part of the DRC than if it is the UN mission. Countries send in troops with specific objectives and they can make decisions in consultation with the host countries, to scale up their actual engagement on the ground, despite obvious diplomatic trappings. Kenya for

instance doesn't see the M23 in a similar manner as Al Shabaab in Somalia which it has combated for a decade or so, as M23 by comparison has negotiable demands which the DRC finds it hard to consider.

Examples in neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi don't quite show what model is applicable for DRC or rather its north east part, as it combines unequal components having different bearings to the conflict. The bulk of the DRC lives with the conflict as a persistent disturbance in one part of the country which doesn't by far and away imperil the state, while people in eastern DRC see it as an existential emergency. When a country rushes troops there, it is to the government in Kinshasa with whom it is liaising, not the desperate residents in the area, as that would be a pacification drive. That is why the plan set out by Dr Peter Mathuki, the EAC secretary general on EAC partner states contributing troops would shortly deploy them within the agreed time frame was not clear enough. Clearly it is in line with the roadmap set by EAC army commanders at a meeting in Nairobi last month, with the deployment being part of

implementation of directives by the Heads of State.

There was also a restrained summit on peace and security in Eastern DRC on the sidelines of the 36th African Union summit on February 17 in Addis Ababa. Here as well there was an agreement on deployment that agrees with the EAC time frame. The problem is in actual objectives.

The Burundi contingent commander said something to the effect of M23 troops moving out and the unit taking over the space left blank. The issue was apparently to avoid some other militia, notably the anti-Rwanda post genocide guerrillas in their second generation present in the area. The issue isn't too easy to solve.

This is among the more contentious issues setting off M23 against the Kinshasa authorities, but the more intractable issue is the control of mining areas within the war ravaged districts. M23 thus demanded to be integrated in the Congolese army but remain stationed in the North and South Kivu provinces as at present, which thus suggests a Tigray situation, federal but with its own army.

## Massive efforts needed to reduce salt intake and protect lives - WHO

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation's global report on sodium intake reduction shows that the world is off-track to achieve its global target of reducing sodium intake by 30 percent by 2025.

Sodium, an essential nutrient, increases the risk of heart disease, stroke and premature death when eaten in excess.

The main source of sodium is table salt (sodium chloride), but it is also contained in other condiments such as sodium glutamate.

Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said: "Unhealthy diets are a leading cause of death and disease

globally, and excessive sodium intake is one of the main culprits. This report shows that most countries are yet to adopt any mandatory sodium reduction policies, leaving their people at risk of heart attack, stroke, and other health problems."

Dr Ghebreyesus called on all countries to implement the 'best buys' for sodium reduction, and on manufacturers to implement the WHO benchmarks for sodium content in food.

"This important report demonstrates that countries must work urgently to implement ambitious, mandatory, government-led sodium reduction policies

to meet the global target of reducing salt consumption by 2025," said Dr Tom Frieden, President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, a not-for-profit organization working with countries to prevent 100 million deaths from cardiovascular disease over 30 years.

He added: "There are proven measures that governments can implement and important innovations, such as low sodium salts. The world needs action, and now, or many more people will experience disabling or deadly—but preventable—heart attacks and strokes."

The report shows that only 5 percent of WHO



Member States are protected by mandatory and comprehensive sodium reduction policies and 73 percent of WHO Member States lack full range of implementation of such policies.

Implementing highly cost-effective sodium reduction policies could save an estimated 7 million lives globally by 2030.

It is an important component of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target of reducing deaths from non-communicable diseases.

Only nine countries (Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Uruguay) have a comprehensive package of

recommended policies to reduce sodium intake.

A comprehensive approach to sodium reduction includes adopting mandatory policies and WHO's four 'best buy' interventions related with sodium which greatly contribute to preventing non-communicable diseases includes reformulating foods to contain less salt, and setting targets for the amount of sodium in foods and meals.

Others are establishing public food procurement policies to limit salt or sodium rich foods in public institutions such as hospitals, schools, workplaces and nursing homes and behaviour change communication and mass media campaigns to reduce salt/sodium consumption

Mandatory sodium reduction policies are more effective, as they achieve broader coverage and safeguard against commercial interests, while providing a level playing field for food manufacturers.

As part of the report, WHO developed a sodium country score card for member states based on the type and number of sodium reduction policies they have in place.

The global average salt intake is estimated to be 10.8 grams per day, more than double the WHO recommendation of less than 5 grams of salt per day (one teaspoon).

Eating too much salt makes it the top risk factor for diet and nutrition-related deaths.

More evidence is emerging documenting links between high sodium intake and increased risk of other health conditions such as gastric cancer, obesity, osteoporosis and kidney disease.

# Next Ebola outbreak 'not a matter of if, but when'

By Wambi Michael

IT is two months since the World Health Organization declared Uganda free of the most recent Sudan Ebola virus, which killed 55 people.

Uganda employed public health measures to end the outbreak. In the absence of vaccines and therapeutics, the threat of the next outbreak looms.

Scientists are yet to find answers to questions like who was the first person to be affected. Or the index case, what viral host reservoir did that patient get in contact with?

"We don't have answers to those questions. And honestly, we are hoping that Uganda will provide us and the world with those answers," says Emmy Bore, program director for the CDC's Division of Global Health Protection in Uganda.

"In every Ebola outbreak we have responded to, in West Africa, in DRC, there have been attempts to trace the roots back to the very first person who got infected. When you figure out where that person went and what they ate, you can figure out how they managed to get the virus. In most outbreaks, we don't," she said.

With those questions answered, Lt Colonel Dr Kyobe Henry Bossa, who has been at the front lines against Ebola outbreaks and COVID-19, told IPS that it is urgent they track precisely the viral host reservoir before the next outbreak.

"We know that the reservoir lives in the jungle innocently. We suspect that the viral host reservoir is a bat circulating in the area, and the virus is maintained in nature," said Kyobe.

Bats have long been the prime suspects for what scientists have termed as the "spillover" of novel pathogens to humans. They are believed to harbor diverse viruses more lethal to humans than any other mammals.

Ugandan Veterinarian and Epidemiologist Dr Monica Musenero Masanza is no stranger to fighting viruses like Ebola and Marburg in Uganda and West Africa.

Musenero came to be commonly known as Dr Kornya—loosely translated as a female warrior for her fight against Ebola in Port Loko in northern Sierra Leone. She told IPS that Ebola is categorized among emerging or re-emerging diseases.

"And those diseases show up with a lot of drama. Ebola, when it shows up, there is a lot of drama. Now those emerging and re-emerging diseases are attracting a lot of attention. Unfortunately, because we don't know much about them, there is usually little we can do about them in the immediate except control," said Musenero.

According to Musenero, now that Uganda successfully ended the Sudan Ebola virus, efforts should be geared towards finding pathogen X otherwise, another outbreak is guaranteed. "It's not a matter of if, but when. That is why we should get to the jungles to find the host reservoir," she said.

On September 20, 2022, Uganda declared an Ebola disease outbreak caused by the Sudan Ebola virus species in the Mubende district.

It was the country's first Sudan Ebola virus outbreak in a decade and its fifth of this kind of Ebola. There were 164 cases (142 confirmed and 22 probable), 55 confirmed deaths, and 87 recovered patients.

The outbreaks have over the years occurred in a very similar region, with the suspected viral host reservoir suspected to be a bat.

Dr Trevor Shoemaker, an epidemiologist in the Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology at the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases at the Center for Disease Control (CDC), suspects that bats carrying the virus are circulating in that area.

"It is not unexpected that there would be an outbreak where we have seen previous outbreaks in the central region of Uganda," said Shoemaker.

According to Shoemaker, during the course of testing for Ebola virus cases in the just-ended outbreak, three of the



Uganda used public health measures like screening, testing of temperatures, and isolation of suspected cases to contain the Ebola outbreak. While those measures were successful, scientists warn that another outbreak could occur. Credit: Wambi Michael/IPS

samples were negative for Ebola virus but tested positive for another viral hemorrhagic fever called Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever.

"There are pathogens that we know about, and there are those we know. So we need to trace them before they spill over to humans," said Shoemaker.

Scientists from the University of Bonn have in the past confirmed the presence of Crimean Congo viruses in African bats and therefore suggesting that bats could play a role in spreading the virus. Others studies have linked Crimean Congo viruses to ticks. While bats have been suspected as reservoirs of the Sudan Ebola virus, no conclusive evidence exists.

The district of Mubende and Kasanda forested with indigenous trees. Some private plantation forests are also thriving. Late in the evening, dif-

ferent species of bats fly into the darkening sky.

Forty-two-year-old Bright Ndawula is an Ebola survivor. He tells IPS that there are as more as ten types of bats that he knows of "Some are tiny, they live under the rooftops, some are big, and they live in trees. Health workers told us that bats carry Ebola, but we don't know one," said Ndawula who lost his wife and three family members to the virus.

So far, scientists have been able to identify only one species of African fruit bat (*R. aegyptiacus*) positive for Marburg virus infection. No evidence of the Marburg virus was identified in the other species of insect-eating or fruit bats tested.

A few kilometers out of Mubende town, IPS comes across farmers and loggers living on the edge of the forest, risking some of the infectious diseases that may spill over from bats to humans.

Dr Charles Drago Kato leads a surveillance team with USAID funded project named Strategies to Prevent Spillover, or STOP Spillover. It targets viral zoonotic diseases—infections that originate in animals before they "spill over" into humans. His teams have been to Districts like Mubende, Kibale, and parts of the Rwenzori Mountains, specifically researching bats and humans.

He told IPS that under the project, they are trying to trace pathogens in bats that may be dangerous when they cross over to humans.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Joel Netshitenzhe

## South Africa's post-disaster choices: Social upheaval, dictatorship or renaissance?

MAJOR disasters do not necessarily generate novel social fissures. They tend rather to sharpen existing contradictions and create a sense of urgency for their resolution. In trying to manage a disaster's repercussions, three broad categories of journeys of fate play out.

The first direction is one of social upheaval that either results in new social systems or a complete collapse, with the mutual destruction of contending forces. This, in a sense, is what happened with the 1917 socialist revolution in Russia at the end of World War I. On the other extreme is the dislocation that left ruins in the Machu Picchu citadel of the Inca in the Americas, and Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe in southern Africa, and other such civilisations.

The second possibility is the emergence of dictatorship either as an insidious creeping in of populism and social acquiescence or as an abrupt seizure of the political reins.

Many coups have been carried out on the African continent and elsewhere in the name of removing governments accused of failing to deal with the impact of one disaster or the other. Nazism emerged in Germany in the context of the socioeconomic consequences of the reparations imposed at Versailles by the victors at the end of World War I.

The third broad direction is one of reformation and renaissance.

Although many changes in social stratification, organisation and settlement influenced the advent of the European Renaissance, it occurred against the backdrop of a subsiding bubonic plague pandemic which had caused the deaths of more than 70 million people in Asia, Europe and Africa in the middle of the 14th century. The renaissance was associated with technological and architectural innovation, artistic creations, the deliberate study of ancient Greek and Roman knowledge,

critical engagement with religious texts as well as interactions with other civilisations including in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

It should be acknowledged, though, that social development is complex, and elements within these categories of journeys may flow into one another.

In some instances, societies may start off by plodding along the same pre-disaster path, but gradually trend in one of the three directions. What is critical is that social agency plays a central role, as a mass response to prevailing conditions and as a reaction to leaders' political and intellectual choices.

An appropriate interpretation or a misreading of factors that led to the disaster and of conditions before the disaster - and debate on how society can embark on a better path - influence the direction in which societies move.

### South Africa

Humanity as a whole is grappling with these issues at various levels of intensity in the post-Covid era. It is understandable that this is more intense in South Africa, given the depth of the social problems in our society - not helped by the damage being wrought by Eskom's load shedding with its dire economic, social and psychological effects.

The difficulties facing South Africans range from low investment and unemployment rates to the high cost of living, serious dysfunction in many municipalities as well as the soaring murder rates, gender-based violence and other crimes. Add to this a seeming sudden surge in pitbull attacks and itinerant big cats, and things can seem quite awful!

Does this, though, mean that we should succumb to fatalistic pessimism? Aligned to this is a narrative that South Africa has, since 1994, been incapable of high rates of economic growth and job creation. This is to ignore the fact that, in the 20 years before 1994, per capita growth



Disasters tend to sharpen existing contradictions and create a sense of urgency for their resolution. Photo: EPA / Nic Bothma

had in fact declined by about 11 per cent, while it increased by about 33 per cent in the 21 years from 1994. Unemployment during the period of high growth in the 2000s was reduced from 31 per cent to 23 per cent. However, per capita growth declined by about three percent between 2014 and 2019; and the unemployment rate is today at about 33 per cent.

### Profound changes

Do the difficulties mean that we should underplay the profound changes that have taken place since the attainment of democracy - a form of acontextual presentism?

Besides access to many social services that Blacks in particular didn't have, Black people are today the majority in skilled and professional categories and their proportion in senior and top management positions is increasing. There has also been an improvement in gender participation across most areas of social endeavour, especially in the public sector.

As recent protests have underlined, there are many prob-

lems in tertiary institutions. But the number of students in these institutions has doubled since 1994; and, from less than half in 1994, African students now constitute about 75 per cent of this cohort.

Acontextual presentism also includes an approach that underplays the fact that, for over two years, Covid scuppered many of the plans to deal with declining per capita growth and State Capture.

Progress is being made in the operations of such agencies as the National Prosecuting Authority and the South African Revenue Service. But the pace is slow and the impact hardly visible to citizens.

In her recent letter, Busi Mavuso of Business Leadership South Africa applauds "impressive achievements" such as "the long-delayed auction of spectrum, shifting the regulation around private generation of electricity, improving the ease of access to visas for both tourists and workers, improving the process to access water use rights". But these are too few, their impact is hardly felt by citizens, and there will

be long time lags before many take effect.

And so, understanding context does not mean that South Africans should be understanding and grateful for the current state of affairs. Such is the nature of progressive realisation of rights that, once granted, a right does become a given in the social psychology. This applies especially to young people, who have grown up in an environment in which many rights have become the default of South African life.

However, failure to recognise the progress made since the attainment of democracy and the efforts since 2018, including during and after the Covid pandemic, can have the effect of questioning the very utility of the democratic dispensation.

Combined with resistance to the campaign to end State Capture and combat corruption, as well as surreptitious efforts to undermine a democratically elected government, the situation does become complex. Therefore, some measure of care and level-headedness is required as we seek to answer that

existential question: in what directions do societies move after major disasters?

### Fraught geopolitics

In the global terrain, the challenge is how to pursue the country's interests in the midst of fraught geopolitics. We must appreciate that the world can be a very cruel and lonely place. With growing mercantilism and "great power" confrontation which, as many argue, is bound to get worse, we cannot expect any favours.

Worse still, history teaches that, when cold and hot wars among major powers become the norm, rules are thrown out of the window, with those who do not conform either way being undermined and punished. And so, EU rules on false codling moths in fruit and Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms, and the US African Growth and Opportunity Act can mutate to grow Ukrainian and Taiwanese legs. Lest we forget, much worse happened during the Cold War. Besides the millions who perished in all manner of interventions by the "west", ask the

families of Lumumba (Congo), Sukarno (Indonesia) and Allende (Chile), or about Mandela's arrest in 1962 - to name just a few instances - to appreciate the dangers.

But before becoming starry-eyed, also ask, particularly on current issues, whether the South African government has to strain repeatedly to explain an issue that arises in interactions with their Russian counterparts: that we can only consider new nuclear generation if and when the country can afford it - and this within the law.

And also ask whether Transnet would be experiencing paralysing problems with locomotives and spare parts due to the standoff with the state-owned Chinese CRR Corporation arising from the company's conduct during State Capture.

What is the lesson from this? It is that, if the global tensions are not resolved - and if Bertolt Brecht's 1941 warning about the womb that bore the beast of war comes to pass in the current age - the machinations are bound to become more ruthless. It is thus necessary for South Africa to shed any modicum of naivety and credulity, and navigate the minefield of volatile geopolitics collectively, in the country's interest.

Strange as it may sound, this is the mindset that underpinned the approach among South Africa's adversaries in the early 1990s: that the negotiations would be conducted among South Africans and not mediated by any external force.

### What direction for South Africa?

And so, in what direction will South Africa move as it tries to climb out of the Covid-19 and other disasters?

This depends on the quality of leadership - political, business, working class, religious, youth, women and otherwise - and the social agency of the broad mass of South Africans. The starting point should be an honest appraisal of the situation before, during and after the pandemic.

## BUSINESS

## Global bond funds hit by rate risk, says report

KUALA LUMPUR

By most accounts, February was a brutal month for global bonds as major central banks vowed to keep hiking. But Malaysian securities proved to be a rare exception.

Overseas funds poured \$919 million into ringgit debt in February in a third month of inflows, central bank data showed. The buying contrasted with outflows recorded by some other regional markets, with foreign investors pulling \$1.1 billion from Thai notes and \$498 million from Indonesian bonds.

Malaysian securities bucked "the regional trend due to attractive USD-hedged ringgit yields versus Treasuries and better visibility over Bank Negara Malaysia's peak rate," said Winson Phoon, head of fixed-income research at Maybank Securities Pte in Singapore. Inflows were likely concentrated in short-to-mid dated tenors, he added.

Investors are zeroing in on bonds where borrowing costs are showing signs of peaking as they seek to unearth pockets of buying opportunity in the as-

set class. Hawkish rhetoric from the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank have hammered global debt, with hopes for a policy pivot waning as central banks vow to tame inflation.

Bank Negara Malaysia is among authorities that have paused their tightening campaign in recent months, fueling speculation that it may be almost done with raising rates. The central bank left its monetary settings unchanged for a second straight meeting on Thursday.

Demand for ringgit debt has also been boosted by attractive returns, which helped to offset the dampening effect of its three-year yield discount over similar-maturity Treasuries. Malaysia's three-year government notes offer a yield of 6.1% for investors who hedge against a weak ringgit using three-month currency forwards, compared with 3.5% without hedging.

"USD-hedged ringgit yields will remain attractive as long as the wide divergence between BNM and Fed monetary policy continues," said Maybank's Phoon.

## Vodacom opens service shop in Ukerewe Island

By Frank Monyo

As part of bringing its services closer to customers across the country, Vodacom Tanzania Plc has added Ukerewe to the list of areas covered with a network of Voda Shops across the country as it was launched this week.

Speaking during a brief opening ceremony at the shop, head of community development department, Ukerewe District Council, Wanchoke Chinchibera on behalf of the District Commissioner Hassan Bomboko commended the role the Voda Shops play in assuring people with quality and reliable services as offered by Vodacom across the country.

"This is a representation of the presence of Vodacom Tanzania Plc in our area, it holds the company accountable with quality and the same services and products as offered at their headquarters in Dar es Salaam," he said.

"I am grateful for the opportunity that our town has been provided with. Opening your services here means that the people of Ukerewe are your potential customers, and you must have seen lots of opportunities."

The launch of the Voda Shop in Ukerewe adds to the list of shops that contribute to both direct and indirect employment that offer products and services of the same quality across the country.

Vodacom Tanzania Plc, executive

head, Lake Regions at Ezekiel Nungwi reiterated that the shop is meant to bring the company's products and services closer to the end-users and reduce the hustle of traveling long distances.

"Voda Shops have been instrumental in serving our customers better as millions of Tanzanians across the country could be served wherever they are. At this shop a customer can be served with technological gadgets such as features and smartphones, routers, as well as other added value services concerning our data and voice products, and M-Pesa to mention a few," said Mr. Nungwi. "Vodacom has been welcomed everywhere in Tanzania as a development partner, this is due to the strong and prosperous partnership that has been existing and continues to grow with the government," he said.

He explained that the company's innovative technological services have impacted Tanzanian communities in different sectors such as finance, education, health, agriculture, and e-commerce.

"I hope people of Ukerewe will jump into the opportunities brought by this shop and encourage to open another one as soon as we might have planned," he added.

Recently, its health technological service, m-mama which offers emergency transport to pregnant women and newborn is expected to kick off in Mwanza and serve Ukerewe areas as well.

## Tourism goodwill ambassador climbs three mountains to market Tanzania

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

The Tanzania's tourism goodwill ambassador from United States who was selected by the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), Macon Dunnagan has climbed three 'Genuine Summits' of Tanzania including Mount Kilimanjaro (5895 m ASL) 49 times, Mount Meru (4562m ASL) and Hanang' (3423m ASL), to promote the country's tourism destinations across the world.

In the year 2021, the tourism envoy had for the first time suc-

cessfully Mount Meru Climb to its highest peak-Meru Summit-4562 metres above the Sea levels, before his 46th Mount Kilimanjaro Climb for the cause.

He climbed Mount Meru located within Arusha National Park, visiting some other tourism destinations within the park including Little Serengeti and Momella lakes.

Speaking with the Guardian recently in an exclusive interviews in Moshi, soon after his arrival from Mount Hanaga' the US national from Charlotte, North Carolina, explained that although he has climbed mount Kilimanjaro

49 times, he experienced more challenges on his 2-days Mount Hanang' Climb from 26 to 27 February 2023.

He applauded the role played by the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) in the protection and conservation of natural resources.

He said, "Mt. Hanang is Diamond in the Rough", noting that there is a need for infrastructure improvements without taking away natural beauty or the challenge of climbing the mountain.

Dunnagan also started his 49th Six-Day Mount Kilimanjaro climb last month with a group of other tourists through the Rongai route.

"I'm a professional mountaineer, I will have my 49th Mount Kilimanjaro expedition with a group of other tourists from my country including my nephew Willy Dunnagan," he explained.

He further explained that, he said that mountain (Mount Meru) is more challenging than Kilimanjaro, as during his Meru summiting he used a special chain to climb as technical climb.

"My Meru expedition was more special and more challenging to me compared with Mount Kilimanjaro climbing, but I have also climbed the fourth highest mountain in Tanzania, Mount Hanang' located in Manyara region, one of the northern zone regions of Tanzania" he enlightened.

The envoy further explained that, he has advertised major tourism destinations of Tanzania Washington DC Chicago Travel Shows, a move that aims at promoting the country's tourism destinations.

"Between March 25 and 26 this year I will also advertise Tanzania's major tourism destinations in the Atlanta Georgia Travel Show with the core aims promoting this country's tourism destinations," Dunnagan further explained.

He added that, after his 49th Mount Kilimanjaro Climb, he is going to visit some Zanzibar tourism destinations including beautiful beaches in the famous Tanzania's Isles.

"I would also like to appreciate all who made my Mount Kilimanjaro Climbs successfully including the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) officials, as well as my professional Mountain Guide, Edwin Kilawe from ZARA Tours who always guided us during our expedition," Macon explained during the interviews.

The US national also commended the making of the Royal Tour Documentary by the president of the United Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan, saying good results have been seen in promoting Tanzania's tourism destinations worldwide.

He added that the president made a wise decision to go for the film as it will help attract more investment that would result in creation of more jobs.

Before his official marriage in the US, the Goodwill Ambassador engaged his wife Kim Brown at the Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) some years back before celebrating their engagement by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro through the Rongai route in a special expedition organized by ZARA Tours.

Macon who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, with ZARA Tours for 48 times, comes to Tanzania every year two or three times with a group of tourists to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro and visits some tourism destinations.

He has also written many books about the attractiveness of the country's tourism destinations including his famous book named 'Sons of Kilimanjaro', and later on he was named by the TTB a 'Goodwill Ambassador' for tourism in his country.



Tanzania's goodwill ambassador for Tourism Macon Dunnagan (right) poses for the photo with the former Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Pindi Chana (left) in Zanzibar recently where they met for a tourism meeting. Dr Chana is now the Minister for Sports, Arts and culture Photo by James Lanka.

## Mobile phone sales up 6pct in six months

NAIROBI

Consumers bought 3.78 million more mobile phones in the six months that ended December 2022 compared to a similar period a year earlier, defying the introduction of excise tax that made the gadgets costlier.

Industry data from the Communications Authority (CA) shows that 63.36 million mobile phones were in use in the period, a 6.3 percent rise from 59.58 million in the six months that ended in December 2021.

The rise comes despite the introduction of a 10 percent excise tax on all imported mobile phones from July 1, 2022, a levy that made the phones costlier

and was anticipated to depress demand, especially for smartphones.

"The trend indicates an increasing demand and uptake of smartphones mainly driven by demand for broadband-enabled services and accessibility to the devices," the CA says in the report.

The data shows that smartphones accounted for more than 90 percent of the increase as the number of gadgets rose to 29.74 million at the end of December last year, compared to 26.51 million in a similar period a year earlier.

Feature phones that are popular with the low-income economic band rose marginally to 33.61 million in the period from 33.06

million in a similar period that ended in December 2021.

The Treasury imposed a 10 percent excise tax for every mobile phone imported from July 1 last year, prompting telcos to pass the changes to consumers in the form of price hikes.

SIM cards also went up from July last year following the imposition of a tax of Sh50 for every imported ready-to-use SIM card, through the Finance Act 2022.

Safaricom said it would increase the prices of imported mobile phones to reflect the tax changes, barely two weeks after the new tax took effect.

The telco also added it would factor in a 25 percent import duty introduced that month as part of

the Common External Tariff.

A surge in demand for smartphones has led to cut-throat competition as mobile phone manufacturers introduce new models with slight variations in phone specifications and prices in a bid to grow sales.

Telcos, notably Safaricom, also allow customers to buy smartphones through the redemption of their loyalty points and cash top-ups, highlighting the smartphone craze in the country.

The telco also allows customers to buy smartphones through the Lipa Mdogo Mdogo initiative where they make daily payments of as low as Sh20.

Telkom Kenya - the third largest telco - in June last year intro-

duced a mobile phone purchase deal that allows customers to buy the gadgets through hire purchase.

Smartphones have become a necessity for the middle class, offering remote working platforms and enabling students, especially in higher learning to study online.

The feature phone market continues to thrive albeit at a slower pace than smartphones mainly in the lower-income band and those in far-flung areas where network coverage is shaky.

Feature phones are also preferred for their long battery life and also offer an alternative for callers who are keen on not getting tapped by bugs that are common with smartphones.



# Tesla supplier CATL smashes profit estimate

BEIJING

China's Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd. reported annual earnings that beat estimates on stronger demand for cleaner cars, underscoring its dominance as the world's biggest maker of batteries for electric vehicles.

The Tesla Inc. supplier on Thursday reported net income for the 12 months ended Dec. 31 of 30.72 billion yuan (\$4.4 billion), an increase of 92.9 percent from the previous year.

That beat the median analyst estimate of 28.8 billion yuan, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, and was in line with CATL's preliminary guidance in January for profit between 29.1 billion yuan to 31.5 billion yuan.

Revenue came in at 328.6 billion yuan, up 152 percent and in line with analysts' forecasts. CATL's core power battery business, which in 2021 accounted for the majority of the company's sales, generated margins of 17.2 percent, matching market estimates. Shares in CATL surged as much as 3.3 percent Friday despite a broader EV rout sparked by a round of steep price cuts that have stirred worries about overcapacity.

CATL commanded a 37 percent

share of the global market for EV batteries in 2022, testimony to the popularity of its cheaper-to-produce lithium-iron-phosphate (LFP) batteries.

In joint second place, with 13.6 percent each, are South Korea's LG Energy Solution Ltd. and China's BYD Co., the Warren Buffett-backed company that also makes cars, according to SNE Research data.

The size and dominance of CATL – which recently sealed a deal to build a plant with Ford Motor Co. in the US – has caught the attention of Chinese President Xi Jinping, who in rare remarks offered at annual parliamentary meetings in Beijing earlier this week said he viewed its leading position with “joy and worry.”

CATL also reported a strong performance in its fast-growing energy storage segment, which generated revenue of 45 billion yuan, ahead of expectations. That's an area of the business that billionaire Chairman Zeng Yuqun is taking a keener interest in, recently calling for stricter standards – a move that could benefit his firm at the expense of smaller rivals.

Based in Ningde, Fujian province, CATL is facing intensifying competition in the battery space. Those dynamics are in part be-

ing spurred by CATL itself, which reportedly has been offering discounts to some Chinese car-makers against the backdrop of tumbling prices for raw materials like lithium, where it has direct investments.

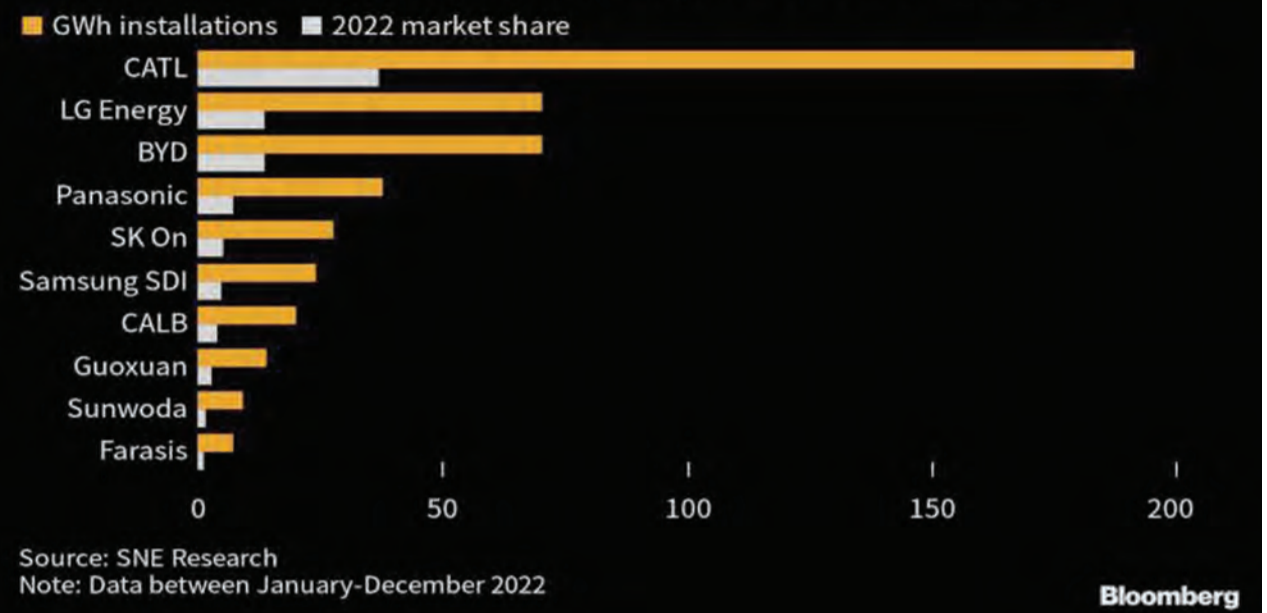
In comments to investors Friday, the battery maker clarified that recent rebates to some car-makers were aimed at sharing lithium mineral resources with long-term strategic clients.

CATL's battery profitability can recover further in 2023 on falling materials costs and greater economies of scale. “We expect CATL's battery sales volume to surge another 40-50 percent after more than doubling last year, fueled by robust demand from EVs as China extends a zero-purchase tax after ending Covid-Zero,” said Bloomberg economist.

Jefferies Financial Group Inc.'s Johnson Wan, which downgraded CATL, remained unimpressed with its battery business margins, and foresaw pressure ahead, he said in a note Friday.

Being the industry behemoth means CATL is particularly exposed to geopolitical risk, especially with the US seeking to limit reliance on Chinese companies in the EV supply chain and encouraging automakers to manufacture in North America.

## The World's Biggest Battery Makers CATL leads among Chinese, Korean and Japanese EV cell producers



CATL's recent agreement with Ford to license its LFP battery technology for use in a new \$3.5 billion EV battery plant that Ford will run and control in southwest Michigan has drawn scrutiny from Beijing, people familiar with the matter have told Bloomberg News, with officials concerned that competitive aspects of CATL's technology could be given to or accessed by the American automaker.

## Uganda appealed to engage Kenya on powder milk ban

KAMPALA

Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) and the Private Sector Foundation Uganda have appealed to government to engage its counterparts in Kenya over its decision to unilaterally ban importation of powdered milk products.

The appeal follows a letter in which Kenya Dairy Board ordered for an indefinite suspension of milk powder imports.

In a March 6 letter, Kenya Dairy Board said the expected rains this month will significantly boost milk production, thus reducing the need for imports.

“In anticipation of the long rains, government has stopped importation of milk powders to cushion the industry from surplus production and low producer prices,” Ms Margaret Kibogy, the Kenya Dairy Board managing director, wrote, noting that the board had temporarily suspended the issuance of milk import permits until further notice.

Reacting to suspension yesterday, Dr Ezra Rubanda, the UMA executive director, told Monitor that as manufacturers, they had reached out to responsible government agencies to understand the implication of the ban, which seems to have unilaterally banned any powdered milk imports into Kenya.

However, he also noted, manufacturers were “engaging our counterparts in Kenya [Kenya Manufacturers Association] to interest Kenya Dairy Board to appreciate the bigger picture of a regional market.”

It was not readily clear if UMA had made any headway by press time yesterday.

Mr Stephen Asimwe, the Private Sector Foundation Uganda executive director, said that whereas Uganda was a good trading partner with Kenya, the decision to unilaterally ban products including from within the region, was against the spirit of the East African Community.

“Whenever these bans come we don't

reciprocate. So, their action is not in the spirit of the East African community,” he said, noting that whereas government should diplomatically engage Kenya, the option of other measures, which he did not clarify, should be left open to send a signal.

In 2020, manufacturers warned government against handling Kenya with soft gloves as it banned a number of exports from Uganda from its market.

Manufacturers also noted that they were frustrated “over government's inability to decisively resolve the unfair trade practices subjected to Uganda by Kenya in blatant disregard to EAC common market commitments.”

“Yes, Uganda believes in regional integration. However, Uganda must benefit from the integration. UMA thus demands that government of Uganda changes tactics to retaliate against partner states that breach the EAC Common Market Protocol,” a statement released then noted.

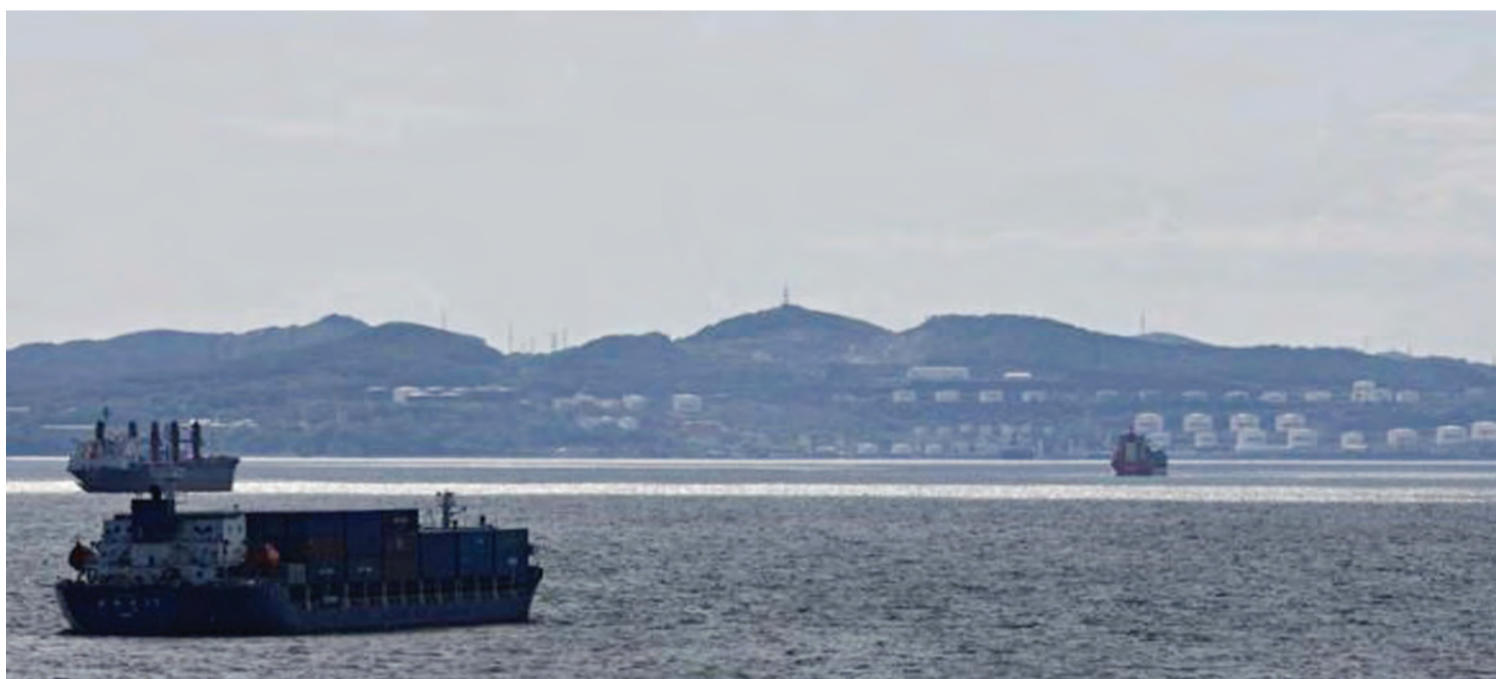
However, President Museveni has previously ruled out any retaliation measures, noting that countries that are looking towards economic and political unification can't be seen imposing trade restrictions.

“I saw people say reiterate. I will not accept because [then president of] Kenyatta is a very friendly person, very clear-headed on business because he is a businessman himself. He is also very clear-headed on African issues,” he said.

The ban comes at a time when President William Ruto has previously indicated that he will lift any ban on goods coming within East Africa as the country seeks to find new markets for its products instead of imposing restrictions to protect the largely small market within Kenya.

Monitor could not readily establish how government will react in the face of the new unilateral ban.

Kenya, has at different intervals, banned a number of Ugandan products from entering its market, among which include milk, sugar, beef and poultry products, among others.



## Oil prices set for 5pct weekly drop

LONDON

Oil fell for a fourth session on Friday, heading for its biggest weekly loss in five weeks on worries about the prospect of steep interest rate hikes in the United States hitting fuel demand.

Brent dipped 41 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$81.18 a barrel by 0852 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) was down 56 cents, or 0.7 percent, at \$75.16.

Expectations of further rate hikes in the world's largest economy and in Europe have

clouded the global growth outlook and driven both crude benchmarks down more than 5% so far this week, their worst drop since early February.

A strengthening dollar is also making oil more expensive for holders of other currencies.

US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has warned of higher and potentially faster rate hikes, saying the Fed was wrong in initially thinking inflation was “transitory”.

Broader US employment data later on Friday looms as a crucial

barometer of the health of the U.S. labour market, considered tight, and as an indicator on the direction of interest rates.

Nonfarm payrolls likely increased by 205,000 jobs last month, according to a Reuters survey.

“A forecast-beating number will be the final nail in the coffin for rate doves and should provide fresh ammo for oil bears,” PVM analyst Stephen Brennock said.

On the supply side, the United States was reported to have privately urged some commodity

traders to shed concerns about shipping price-capped Russian oil in a bid to shore up supply, which suggested more Russian oil might flow into the market.

Investors are closely monitoring export cuts from Russia, which decided to trim oil output by 500,000 barrels per day in March.

Reuters this week reported that Russia plans to cut oil exports and transit from its western ports in March by 10% on a daily basis from February.

## US bank troubles hammer stocks, boost treasuries

NEW YORK

Stocks tumbled and Treasuries rallied amid mounting concerns about the health of the US banking system. Nasdaq futures pared losses in early trading.

Europe's Stoxx 600 equity gauge dropped 1.7 percent, with an index of bank stocks sliding the most since June, led by a 7 percent plunge for Deutsche Bank AG. Credit Suisse Group AG shares tumbled to a record low, and HSBC Holdings Plc was down more than 5 percent.

Contracts on the S&P 500 index lost 0.4 percent. Shares in SVB Financial, which sparked the turmoil with a share sale to shore up losses, extended a slump in US premarket trading, tumbling as much as 22 percent.

Shares of larger banks including JPMorgan Chase & Co, Wells Fargo & Co. and Bank of America

Corp. slipped more than 1 percent. Contracts on the Nasdaq 100 were little changed.

As investors dashed for safety, Treasury yields fell, with the two-year segment slipping to 4.75 percent and heading for its biggest two-day slide since last June. Ten-year benchmark yields were down about eight basis points. Still to come on Friday is the key US monthly payrolls number, which may re-chart the path of Federal Reserve rate increases.

“The events around SVB highlight some of the additional risks of financial stress,” said Sarah Hewin, senior economist at Standard Chartered Bank in London. “There is a sense now of the bigger risks to the economy the more the Fed raises interest rates. At the margins it is raising the question of whether the Fed will indeed be able to do a 50

basis-point rate hike this month.”

The rout came after Silvergate Capital Corp. collapsed as the crypto industry's meltdown sapped its financial strength, while SVB's troubles prompted Peter Thiel's Founders Fund and other prominent venture capitalists to advise portfolio businesses to withdraw their money. Their woes highlight the impact of relentless Fed policy tightening on the financial sector as soaring rates erode balance sheets.

Money markets have already scaled back bets the Fed would opt for a half-point hike at its March 21-22 meeting to about an even chance, having earlier priced a 75 percent likelihood.

Data on Thursday showed the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits unexpectedly swelled to the highest this year.

That set the stage for Friday's

monthly jobs report. Economists project a 225,000 increase in February payrolls, about half January's blockbuster pace, and a softer number could further tilt expectations back to a quarter-point hike.

However, the Fed will have to position to “potentially raise by a half a percentage point very quickly” if the payrolls data come in hotter than expected, Danielle DiMartino Booth, chief executive officer and chief strategist at Quill Intelligence, said on Bloomberg Television.

In currency markets, the dollar stayed flat against a basket of currencies, while the yen retreated after the Bank of Japan kept monetary settings unchanged at Governor Haruhiko Kuroda's final policy meeting. The pound firmed after data showing the UK economy had bounced back in January.



# Europe's lenders sucked into global banks rout

LONDON/FRANKFURT

A dramatic sell-off in US bank stocks spilled over into Europe on Friday, as some of the region's biggest banks saw their shares tumble in their largest decline in nine months.

Europe's STOXX banking index fell more than 4 percent and was set for its biggest one-day slide since early June, with declines for most major lenders, including HSBC, down 4.5 percent, and Deutsche Bank, down 7.9 percent.

Shares in Italy's UniCredit and Intesa Sanpaolo also fell sharply.

The global rout in bank stocks was prompted by Silicon Valley Bank, a major banking partner for the US tech sector, being forced to raise fresh capital after losing \$1.8 billion selling a package of bonds to meet depositor demands for cash.

Neil Wilson, Chief Market Analyst at Markets.com, said that the episode could be the "straw that breaks the camel's back" for banks after worries about ever higher interest rates and a fragile US economy.

The episode underscored the vul-



nerability of banks, many of which were propped up by taxpayers' cash following the global financial crisis more than a decade ago.

That crash and the economic fallout from the pandemic led central banks and governments to print trillions to support the economy but they are now seeking to

rein that in.

Investors in SVB's stock had fretted over whether the capital raise would be sufficient given the deteriorating fortunes of many technology startups that the bank serves.

SVB's CEO Gregory Becker had been calling clients to assure them

their money with the bank is safe, according to two people familiar with the matter.

But some startups have been advising their founders to pull out their money from SVB as a precautionary measure, the sources added.

# Ghana president remains optimistic on restructuring

ACCRA

Ghana is trying to break out of the vicious circle of its sovereign debt, which, although modest, is now perceived as risky by some investors.

Nevertheless, its president, Nana Akufo-Addo, says he has no regrets and remains confident of a successful outcome to the ongoing processes.

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo (photo) has no regrets about his country's debt since the borrowed resources were invested in infrastructure and economic development projects, according to Bloomberg.

Indeed, the country faces GHS576 billion (\$45 billion) in sovereign debt, according to data published in November 2022.

It started restructuring its debt, starting from domestic ones, but the process is quite difficult and its impacts are already visible to some investors. For instance, South African bank FirstRand depreciated its sovereign Ghanaian assets by 57 percent, leading to a \$27.3 million drawdown in the book value of those assets.

The situation is complicated by continuously high inflation and a depreciated local currency, which is

trading at its lows against the US dollar.

Nevertheless, President Akufo-Addo is confident that the country can complete the restructuring process on time, which is a key condition for accessing a \$3 billion International Monetary Fund loan and restoring macroeconomic stability.

Meanwhile, S&P Global Ratings estimates that private creditors may have to write off up to 50 percent of their sovereign Ghanaian assets, which is a challenge for the country.

Some investors have even activated the mechanism that will ensure they get compensated in the event of a Ghanaian sovereign default.

Also, the country began discussions with China this month but, the outcome of these exchanges remains to be seen.

Some analysts are sure to point out the risks of investing in sovereign bonds in emerging markets.

But FirstRand's willingness to continue investing in Ghana and Morocco's recent issuance of Eurobonds at historically low rates show that the global credit market is maybe shifting its view of risks on the continent.

# OPEC is back in control of the oil market

NEW YORK

OPEC is once again the most influential force in global oil supply - and will be so for the foreseeable future - now that US shale production growth is slowing, American industry executives say.

The days of exponential growth in US oil supply from before the pandemic are over, as capital discipline, returns to shareholders, supply-chain bottlenecks, cost inflation, and lower well production combine to hold back production increases.

During the 2010s, the shale industry boomed as companies drilled all they could - often beyond their means - to boost production. US oil supply was growing so quickly that America was often referred to as the new swing producer on the market, capable of ramping up output quickly when global oil prices and demand were rising.

The post-Covid reality is quite different - US shale production is recovering, but at a slow pace, and output hasn't reached the record levels from late 2019 and early 2020.

The US Energy Information Administration estimates in its latest Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) from this week that US crude oil production would rise from 11.88 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2022 to 12.44 million bpd this year.

The expected growth of 560,000 bpd year over year is half the pre-pandemic growth pace. For several years, US oil production rose by more than 1 million bpd every year to 2019.

US oil executives also expect just 500,000 bpd growth this year, some said at the CERAWeek energy conference in Houston this week.

Growth is set to further slow in 2024, with production seen to average 12.63 million bpd next year, per EIA estimates. That's less than 200,000-bpd growth from the estimated average level for 2023.

"The plateau is on the horizon," ConocoPhillips' CEO Ryan Lance said at CERAWeek, as carried by the Financial Times.

The US oil industry is now prioritizing shareholder returns, despite criticism from the White House. Faster depletion rates at many wells combine with labor and supply chain hurdles to hold back growth.

Chevron, for example, flagged at its investor day last week that it fell short of its performance targets in the Delaware basin in the Permian "primarily due to higher-than-expected depletion after completing long-sitting DUCs."

As US production growth stalls, OPEC's market share and clout over global oil supply will only rise. The cartel, led by its biggest Arab Gulf producers, is in control of the markets now, shale executives say.

"The world is going back to what we had in the '70s and the '80s unless we do something to change that trajectory," ConocoPhillips' Lance told delegates at CERAWeek.

According to the executive, OPEC's market share will jump from around 30% now to close to 50% in the future, in which additional supply comes from OPEC and U.S. shale growth plateaus.

Scott Sheffield, CEO at the largest pure-play shale producer, Pioneer Natural Resources, told FT on the sidelines of CERAWeek, "I think the people that are in charge now are three countries - and they'll be in charge the next 25 years." "Saudi first, UAE second, Kuwait third."



ITV

**TUESDAY 7 March**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jagina rpt  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Chetu ni Chetu  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Alya ya Jamii  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Ripoti Maalum  
13:35 Shikabamba  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Shikabamba  
14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebeca  
14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza Huru  
16:30 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
17:00 Music: The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapiishi  
18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ  
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba  
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF  
21:45 Chetu ni chetu  
22:30 Soap: Uzalo  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTW

**WEDNESDAY 8 March**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt  
14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
14:55 Habari za saa

**FRIDAY 10 March**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon

15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 Music: The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA  
18:30 Jarida la wanawake  
19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT  
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Aibu Yako  
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco  
21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasti  
22:00 Ripoti maalum  
22:30 Soap: Uzalo  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTW

**THURSDAY 9 March**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Shamba lulu  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT  
13:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Breila  
13:45 Shamsam za pwani rpt  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Shamsam za pwani rpt  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza huru  
16:30 Watoto wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapiishi  
18:30 Kipindi maalum: TMDA  
19:00 Usafiri Wako  
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Malumbano ya hoja  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTW

**SATURDAY 11 March**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO  
10:05 Shika Bamba 5  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
13:00 Usafiri wako  
13:30 Jagina  
14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt  
16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe  
16:30 Igizo: Rebeca  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu Kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka  
21:15 Igizo: Rebeca  
21:40 Art and Lifestyle  
22:10 ITV Top 10  
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
01:15 DWTW

**SUNDAY 12 March**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari

9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Usafiri Wako  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA rpt  
11:15 Jungu kuu  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt  
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ  
14:30 DW: Afrimax rpt  
15:00 Meza Huru:  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)  
17:30 Kislimu  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Jagina  
18:45 Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet  
19:00 Shamba lulu  
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipima Joto  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 DWTW

**SATURDAY 11 March**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO  
10:05 Shika Bamba 5  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
13:00 Usafiri wako  
13:30 Jagina  
14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt  
16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe  
16:30 Igizo: Rebeca  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu Kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
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21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka  
21:15 Igizo: Rebeca  
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22:10 ITV Top 10  
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
01:15 DWTW

**SUNDAY 12 March**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari

8:00 Al Jazeera  
09:00 Watoto Wetu  
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt  
11:50 Bongo Movie rpt  
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo  
15:30 Mwangaza  
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt  
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapiishi  
18:30 Matukio ya wiki  
19:30 Igizo: Rebeca  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko  
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology  
21:15 Kipindi maalum: Michezo Supa Jackpot  
21:30 Igizo: Mizengwe  
21:45 Mjuzi Zaidi  
22:20 Bongo movie:  
23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
02:05 Al Jazeera

**CAPITAL**

**Wed 08 March**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Dw  
11:00 Al Jazeera  
11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt  
12:00 Dw News Africa rpt  
13:00 Our Earth  
13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana  
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
16:00 Business Edition rpt  
16:30 Culinary delight rpt  
17:00 Innovation rpt  
17:30 Meza Huru  
19:00 Sports Gazette  
19:30 Chetu ni chetu  
20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt  
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana  
21:30 Capital Prime News  
22:00 Dakika 45:  
22:45 The Décor  
23:15 Al Jazeera

**Thurs 09 March**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Dw  
11:00 Al Jazeera  
11:30 Spots gazette  
12:00 Innovation  
12:30 Culinary  
13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana  
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
16:00 Tomorrow Today  
16:30 Business edition rpt  
17:00 In good shape  
17:30 Meza huru  
19:30 Out & About Rpt  
19:30 Eco@Africa  
20:00 Our Earth Rpt  
20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana  
21:30 Capital Prime News  
22:00 Capchat rpt

23:00 Al Jazeera

**Frid 10 March**

06:00 Al Jazeera  
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)  
09:00 Dw  
11:00 Al Jazeera  
11:30 Capchat  
12:30 Décor  
13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana  
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)  
16:00 Dw News Africa rpt  
16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt  
17:30 Meza huru  
19:00 Rev  
19:Out & About Rpt  
20:00 Aibu Yako  
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition  
20:45 Telenovela The Three Sides of Ana  
21:30 Capital Prime News  
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt  
00:00 Al Jazeera

**Sat 11 March**

08:00 Al Jazeera  
09:00 Rev rpt  
09:30 Jagina 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 Aljazeera  
14:30 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana  
17:15 Eco@Africa  
17:45 Bundesliga kick off  
18:15 Capchat rpt  
19:15 Mizengwe  
19:30 The Décor  
20:00 Ripoti Maalum  
20:30 Tomorrow Today  
21:00 Out n' About  
21:30 Music: Club 101 rpt  
23:00 Capchat Rpt  
01:00 Al Jazeera

**Sun 12 March**

08:00 Aljazeera  
09:00 In good shape  
10:00 Capchat rpt  
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt  
11:30 Dw  
12:00 Jagina rpt  
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt  
13:00 In good shape rpt  
13:30 Dw  
15:15 Aibu yako  
15:30 Rev rpt  
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt  
16:45 Mizengwe rpt  
17:00 The Décor rpt  
17:30 Meza huru  
19:00 Eco@Africa  
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights  
20:00 Jagina  
20:30 Out & About rpt  
21:00 Dw News Africa  
21:30 Capchat live  
22:15 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana  
00:00 Al Jazeera



## WORLD

## Record-breaking storm Freddy due to hit Mozambique again

JOHANNESBURG

TROPICAL Storm Freddy is due to hit the coast of Southern Africa again on Saturday after killing at least 21 people in Mozambique and Madagascar when it first made landfall last month.

The storm is on track to break the record of longest-lasting tropical cyclone, according to the World Meteorological Organization, which said the current record is held by a 31-day hurricane in 1994.

More than 166,000 people were affected when the cyclone swept through southern Mozambique two weeks ago,

washing away roads and flooding houses and schools, according to the country's national disaster management agency.

As many as 565,000 people are at risk this time around in Zambezia, Tete, Sofala and Nampula provinces, with Zambezia expected to be the hardest hit, the United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA said, citing Mozambique's disaster agency.

After making landfall overnight on Saturday morning the storm should weaken as it moves inland, but it will still cause heavy rains in the interior of Mozambique as well as southern Malawi, said French weather forecaster Meteo



Men repair the roof of a house in the aftermath of cyclone Freddy in Mananjary on Feb 23, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

France, which has a cyclone-monitoring station on the island of La Reunion.

Freddy has already set the record for highest accumulated cyclone energy, a measure of the storm's strength over time, of any southern hemisphere storm in history, according to the US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said it is likely to set up an investigation after the cyclone has dissipated to determine whether it broke the record for longest

duration.

"World record or not, Freddy will remain in any case an exceptional phenomenon for the history of the South-West Indian Ocean on many aspects: longevity, distance covered, remarkable maximum intensity, accumulated cyclone energy amount, (and) impact on inhabited lands," said Sebastien Langlade, a cyclone forecaster at the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in La Reunion, in a statement from the WMO.

Agencies

## Xi Jinping unanimously elected Chinese president and PRC CMC chairman

BEIJING

Xi Jinping was unanimously elected president of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the PRC yesterday at the ongoing session of the 14th National People's Congress.

Xi made a public pledge of allegiance to the Constitution at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing after the election.

Zhao Leji, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, was elected chairman of the 14th National People's Congress Standing Committee on Friday at the ongoing annual session of China's national legislature.

Han Zheng, formerly China's top-ranked vice-premier, was elected Chinese vice president on the same day at the annual session of the national legislature.

China's national political advisors met on Friday afternoon to elect a new leadership for the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

The top political advisory body's new leadership, including chairperson, vice chairpersons, secretary-general and standing committee members, is due to be elected at the third plenary meeting of the ongoing session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee.

The CPPCC serves as an important mechanism for multiparty cooperation and political consultation led by the CPC.

Xinhua

## UN chief proposes Emergency Platform to tackle global shocks

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday proposed strengthening the international response to complex global shocks through an "Emergency Platform."

The global response to such shocks is often ad hoc, fragmented, and improvised. There is a need for a mechanism to tackle multidimensional threats with a multidimensional response, he said in his presentation of a policy brief for the Summit of the Future scheduled for 2024.

"Our global interconnectedness means that shocks that occur in one country or sector can quickly have cascading consequences elsewhere, often in unforeseen ways. Those shocks are coming at us with greater strength and frequency, with serious implications for peace and security, economic stability, and environmental sustainability," he said.

Those shocks can have a disproportionate impact in some areas. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the global cost-of-living crisis hit the poorest and most vulnerable hardest, throwing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) progress and Agenda 2030 further off-track, he added.

For the sake of a more formal, predictable, and structured approach, the Emergency Platform would leverage the United Nations' convening power and capacities in a timely and predictable way. It

would identify and bring together actors at the appropriate level to respond. It would be flexible and agile, responding to different types of shocks. Crucially, it would promote a global response based on solidarity and equity, and the key principle of leaving no one behind. All people and countries hit by a shock must have access to the support they need, said Guterres.

Accountability would be built into the Emergency Platform, in order to hold all parties to their concrete commitments, he said.

While decisions would continue to lie with member states, the Emergency Platform would also include the private sector, civil society, and other non-state partners with an ability to contribute to the global response.

But he clarified that the Emergency Platform would not be a standing entity or body. It would, instead, consist of a set of protocols around convening key actors in the event of complex, global shocks, and operationalizing their coordinated response.

The Emergency Platform would not displace or duplicate the work of intergovernmental bodies, including the Security Council. Nor would it interfere with the mandate of specialized agencies or existing mechanisms. It would be a tool for the multilateral system to support intergovernmental decisions and complement existing mechanisms, he said.

The United Nations is the only



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks to reporters

organization that can bring together all stakeholders in the event of complex global shocks, and has them work together to the best effect. It is time to take decisions that enable it to do so, said the UN chief.

Another policy brief presented to UN member states by Guterres concerns how to take the future into account in decision-making and deliver on responsibilities to generations yet to be born.

"Achieving the SDGs, upholding the rights and meeting the needs of people alive today are clearly preconditions for a better future. At the same time, we must make those decisions with an eye on the future, recognizing the rights and interests of people who are not yet born," he said.

Most members of future generations will be born in countries that

are currently low- and middle-income ones. They are likely to live in places that are already suffering the effects of poverty, hunger, the climate crisis, crippling debt, discrimination and inequality. The policy brief makes it clear that a secure and equitable future starts now, he said. "Considering the future pays off in the present."

The policy brief proposes three concrete steps at the global level. First, it proposes the appointment of an envoy who will be the global voice for future generations, raising awareness about the impacts on them of the decisions that are taken today.

Second, it proposes ideas to inform a political declaration defining duties to the future. This would be an opportunity to consolidate the commitments already made to future generations and to

adapt these commitments to new challenges.

Third, it proposes a dedicated intergovernmental forum, where member states could advance the commitments in the declaration and share experiences and innovations. The brief, therefore, recommends the establishment of a Commission on Future Generations as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.

"These first two policy briefs start our contribution to the consideration by member states of the decisions and changes needed to equip the multilateral system for the challenges of today and the future," said Guterres.

Nine more policy briefs for the Summit of the Future will be published by July.

The goal is simple: to breathe new life into the multilateral system so that it can deliver on the promises of the UN Charter and the 2030 Agenda, he said. "As our world becomes more complex, more uncertain, and more dangerous, we have an even greater responsibility to strengthen the multilateral system. That must be the ultimate aim of the Summit of the Future."

The SDG Summit this September and the Summit of the Future in 2024 are key moments for member states to come together around the decisions necessary to put the world back on track to a fair, inclusive, and sustainable future for all, he said. Xinhua



Xi Jinping, newly elected president of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and chairman of the Central Military Commission of the PRC, makes a public pledge of allegiance to the Constitution at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, yesterday. (Photo/Xinhua)

## Rebels in Indonesia's Papua call in NZ hostage video for UN mediation

JAKARTA

A New Zealand pilot who was taken hostage last month by rebels in Indonesia's Papua region has appeared in videos put out by separatists calling for the United Nations to mediate in the conflict in the resource-rich region.

Pilot Phillip Mehrrens, who works for the small, domestic Susi Air service, was abducted by the armed wing of Free Papua Movement (OPM) on Feb 7 after landing at an airstrip in the Nduga district.

"OPM requests the United Nations to mediate between Papua and Indonesia to work towards Papuan independence," Mehrrens said in one video, echoing comments in an earlier video statement, in which he said he would only be released if Papua became independent.

Reuters could not independently verify where and when the videos were taken. Sebby Sambom, a spokesperson for the rebels, said they were shot on March 6.

Papua, the western half of New Guinea island, has seen a low-level separatist insurgency since the region that was once governed by the Netherlands was brought under Indonesian control following a UN-supervised vote in 1969 that separatists say was flawed.

Indonesia's chief security minister and other officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the videos.

Since the rebels seized the pilot, officials have sought to use dialogue to secure his release, saying a "law enforcement operation" would be a last resort.

In one of the videos, Mehrrens read out a statement while sitting in a jungle clearing and surrounded by a group of men, some with guns and one with a bow.

Wearing a blue jacket, beige trousers and a camouflage hat, Mehrrens said he had been instructed to read the statement with new demands from OPM.

"No foreign pilots are permitted to work and fly in Papua until Papua is independent," said Mehrrens.

Hostage-taking of foreigners has been rare in the region, but the conflict has escalated since 2018, with rebels mounting deadlier and more frequent attacks.

## Namibia launches book that chronicles COVID-19 impact on society

WINDHOEK

A BOOK that chronicles the Namibian society's battle against COVID-19 was launched on Thursday evening in Windhoek.

The book, "In Times of Pandemic," contains 13 short stories. An initiative of Goethe Institute Namibia, it offers a multi-dimensional view of the impact of, and Namibians' response to, the pandemic.

The 13 pieces were chosen from 33 submissions in a competition for short stories on the

theme of the pandemic, said Detlef Pfeifer, head of information and library at Goethe Institute Namibia.

"The anthology is a true imitation of the reality experienced during the most challenging time the world had to endure," he said.

Sarah Negumbo, director of National Library and Archives Services at the Namibian Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture, said the book would not only serve as a reflection of a difficult period but would further offer

hope.

"The pandemic has affected us all directly and indirectly in one way or the other. Stories in this book, therefore, represent courage and hope," she said. "Moreover, (it) emphasize community support during the surge of cases and death," Negumbo said.

Since the outbreak in 2020, Namibia has recorded more than 170,000 cases of COVID-19, with over 4,000 deaths, according to Ministry of Health and Social Services fig-

ures. Meanwhile, winners of the competition said writing has been therapeutic amid lockdowns.

Lloyd Tendai, the third-prize winner, said that participating in the contest has helped ease anxiety, isolation, and grief amid a scourge of COVID-19 cases. In addition, the book also helped some young writers to get published. Charmaine Gamxamus's entry, "Dehisce," was included in the book.

Xinhua

## China adopts multiple measures to promote high-quality development

THE State Council Information Office held a press conference in Beijing on March 6 about promoting high-quality development to set the stage for building a modern socialist country in all respects.

Zhao Chenxin, vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), outlined China's remarkable economic performance in 2022.

According to Zhao, the country's GDP exceeded the 120-trillion-yuan (\$17.22 trillion) mark for the first time, and the consumer price index only rose by 2 percent while global inflation has surged to its highest level in over 40 years.

Besides, a total of 12.06 million new urban jobs were created last year, exceeding the annual target of 11 million. China maintained a basic equilibrium in the balance of payments, and the scale of the country's foreign exchange reserves remained over \$3.1 trillion as of the end of last year. China's development quality saw steady improvement.

Innovation-driven development has played a more important role. China's total expenditure on research and development (R&D) amounted to 3 trillion yuan for the first time, with the country's ratio of R&D expenditure to GDP increasing to 2.55 percent. The country has climbed to 11th place in the Global In-

novation Index (GII) 2022 Report.

Structural adjustment accelerated in the sectors of industry, investment, consumption and trade. Green and low-carbon development achieved steady progress, and poverty alleviation achievements have been continuously consolidated. The social security system and public services were also improved firmly. China has constantly consolidated the foundation for safe development.

Fiscal and financial operations were generally stable and sound, and international payments were in basic balance. The country has achieved a bumper grain harvest for 19 consecutive years, and its annual grain output has exceeded

650 billion kilograms for eight years in a row. It also enhanced the systems of energy production, supply, storage and sales, and the energy supply is maintained at a stable level. The capability to maintain the security of key industrial and supply chains has been continuously improved.

According to the government work report this year, China's annual growth target is set at around 5 percent.

Zhao explained that as a developing country, China still takes development as its top priority. To achieve the targets set at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the country needs to maintain reasonable economic

growth to boost employment, improve people's livelihoods, and prevent and defuse risks, Zhao added.

The 5-percent growth target, which is conducive to accelerating the creation of a new development paradigm and promoting high-quality development, is in line with current economic momentum, and will guide all sectors to focus on improving the quality and efficiency of development, Zhao said.

Besides, regions across China all have strong confidence in their development prospects, which lays a solid foundation for the country to achieve the annual growth target. Zhao said the country will strengthen macro policy regulation,

maintain the continuity and consistency of macro policies, make them more effective and targeted, enhance the integration and coordination of policies and ensure that all policies are consistent with the direction of macro policies.

The country will ensure that the implementation of the strategy to expand domestic demand is integrated with efforts to deepen supply-side structural reform, further unleash the potential of household consumption, boost investment, and implement the innovation-driven development strategy in an in-depth manner, and accelerate the building of a modern industrial system.

People's Daily



## Putin congratulates Xi on re-election as president of China – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin yesterday congratulated Xi Jinping on his re-election as president of the People's Republic of China.

Putin's message posted on the Kremlin website reads, "The decision by the National People's Congress is a recognition of your services as head of state and of the broad support for the course you have been pursuing to ensure China's further socio-economic development and protect the nation's interests in the international arena."

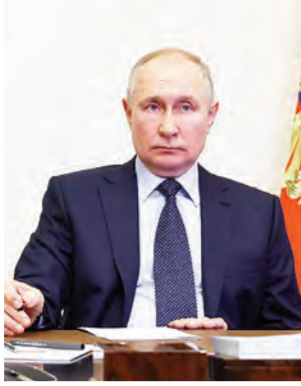
Moscow and Beijing will continue coordinating joint efforts to address major issues, the Russian president assured. "We will continue to coordinate our joint work to address the biggest issues on the regional and global agenda," Putin said in his message.

The Russian leader also expressed confidence that he and Xi would be able to boost bilateral cooperation in various domains. "Russia highly appreciates your personal contribution to strengthening relations of comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction between our countries. I am confident that working together, we will ensure the further growth of fruitful Russian-Chinese cooperation in various fields," he underscored.

Putin wished his Chinese counterpart continued success in his state duties for the benefit of the friendly Chinese nation as well as good health and prosperity.

Earlier yesterday, Xi, 69, was handed an unprecedented third five-year term as China's president. This became possible after the Chinese constitution was amended in 2018 to allow the head of state to stay on indefinitely.

Also, the third plenary meeting of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress voted on Friday to reappoint Xi as chairman of China's Central Military Commission, the Xinhua news agency reported. The vote was unanimous, as all 2,952 delegates signed off on the move.



## Kenya's pastoralist women unbowed despite suffering wrought by climate crisis

NAIROBI

NURIA Gollo, a livestock keeper and gender rights advocate from the vast northern Kenyan county of Marsabit that neighbors Ethiopia, said that losing nearly all her cows and goats to the raging drought in her backyard has been traumatizing.

The 50-year-old mother of five said that the worst drought to hit a large swathe of northern Kenya in four decades has upended the livelihoods of herders and subsistence farmers, pushing them to the brink of starvation and financial ruin.

Speaking at an event to mark International Women's Day on Wednesday in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, Gollo admitted that an acute dry spell linked to climate change has taken a heavier toll on the female pastoralists who have been robbed of their prized possessions, and reduced to a life of penury.

"The drought crisis is getting worse in northern Kenya. Our cows and goats are dying. Even camels that are renowned for their resilience to extreme heat are also succumbing," Gollo said.

She was among a group of women and girls from Kenya's arid lands that are currently ravaged by drought who attended an event to mark International Women's Day convened by Plan International, a development and humanitarian organization which works in over 75 countries across Africa, the Americas, and Asia to advance children's rights and equality for girls.

Gollo, in her captivating speech, painted a picture of a dire humanitarian crisis that is unfolding in the drought-affected counties, with women and girls bearing the brunt of hunger, malnutrition, water stress, and displacement.

She described the devastation that the climate crisis has brought to the nomadic communities in Marsabit, Kenya's largest county, saying that women, despite being the victims, have also taken the mantle to confront the phenomenon.

According to Gollo, as nomadic women and girls face a bleak future due to climate change, a good number of them have also risen to the occasion to offer solutions by leveraging indigenous knowledge to help boost the resilience of grassroots communities and their ecosystems.

Gollo said the tenacity and resilience of pastoralist women in the face of the climate crisis has manifested itself prominently as they initiate projects like reforestation, and conservation of watersheds to boost the adaptive capacity of households.

She added that women and girls in Kenya's northern frontier districts have been on the frontline of climate response, motivated by the desire to bequeath a green, hopeful and prosperous future for their children.

Kenya marked International Women's Day with pomp and pageantry, as senior officials acknowledged the critical role of the female gender in the realization of the sustainability agenda, peace and stability.

President William Ruto reiterated his administration's commitment to achieving gender parity in all spheres of public service, to ensure Kenya becomes a modern, prosperous and inclusive society. Ruto noted that women's contribution will be key to helping the country confront pressing challenges



Pastoralist woman searching for water at a well in Kenya.

like climate-induced hunger crisis and economic downturn that threatens long-term stability. Sadia Hussein, a grassroots mobilizer from the coastal county of Tana River which is also reeling from an acute drought, said that women's active involvement in confronting the climate crisis has provided some respite to nomads and subsistence farmers in her backyard.

Hussein cited female-led mangrove restoration projects in the wider coastal region as game changers, strengthening communities' resilience to climate change through stabilizing fisheries and agriculture.

The 34-year-old mother of three regretted that the climate crisis has escalated poverty, hunger, gender-based violence, and fragility of coastal ecosystems, adding that women's involvement will be key to finding durable solutions.

Hussein said that coastal women and

girls are already promoting awareness of climate change besides implementing some resilience projects including small-scale irrigation, bee-keeping, and ecosystem restoration.

George Otim, Kenyan country director for Plan International, noted that the climate crisis had perpetuated gender inequalities in northern Kenya and the Horn of Africa region, adding that providing women and girls with digital tools, knowledge and innovations to respond to the phenomenon was paramount.

Otim added that as primary food producers and custodians of vital ecosystems like forests, women's role in helping local communities respond to climate emergencies like droughts cannot be downplayed.

He added that the government should address technological, policy, knowledge, and cultural barriers that have inhibited the full

participation of women in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Rehema, a 19-year-old gender rights advocate from Kenya's coastal county of Kwale, said that young girls in her backyard have taken up the search for climate justice, having borne the brunt of food insecurity and water scarcity that has worsened in the current drought season.

"It is us girls who are dropping out of school or trekking many kilometers in search of water and have therefore resolved to be champions of a climate-resilient future," said Rehema.

## US must pull troops out of Syria, stop marauding – Chinese MFA

BEIJING

CHINA calls on the US to withdraw its troops from Syria and to stop plundering that country, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a news briefing yesterday.

"The United States has illegally intervened in military activities related to the Syrian crisis, which has led to the death of a large number of innocent civilians and a serious humanitarian disaster," Mao said.

"We call on the United States to sincerely respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other countries, and to immediately stop its illegal military presence and marauding in Syria," she said.

Mao called on the US authorities to lift "illegal unilateral sanctions" against Syria and to stop actions that aggravate the humanitarian situation in the country.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, during the years of the Syrian crisis in the country at least 350,000 people have lost their lives to the military conflict, and 14 million are in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

The House of Representatives of the US Congress on Wednesday failed to pass a resolution according to which the Washington administration should withdraw all US troops from Syria.

The initiative was introduced in February by Republican Matt Gaetz, from Florida. He stressed that Congress had not given permission to use US forces in combat operations on Syrian territory.

On March 4, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, visited Syria, where he claimed that the US military presence in the country was of critical importance to the security of both the United States and its allies.

## Russia, US maintain dialogue on prisoners' swap via specialised channels – diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA and the United States will carry on with discussions on prisoners' swap using specialised channels, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said yesterday.

"If speaking about the exchange of prisoners through specialised channels, I should say that the relevant issues are still under consideration," Ryabkov said in an interview with RT Arabic news agency.

According to the high-ranking diplomat, "certain results were achieved in recent months, regarding such humanitarian issues as well."

"We view it as a positive development in the recent Russian-American relations," Ryabkov added.

On December 8, 2022, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced that Russia's Viktor Bout had been exchanged for US basketball player Brittney Griner.

Bout was arrested in Thailand's capital of Bangkok in 2008 following a sting by US federal agents. The Russian was charged with conspiracy to deliver weapons to a rebel group called the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia regarded as a terrorist organization by the United States. In April 2012, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison and fined \$15 mln.

Griner was arrested at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport for attempting to smuggle hashish oil into Russia and eventually sentenced to nine years in prison.



## Chinese chili planting programme leads Pakistani farmers to prosperity

By Song Haoxin

"IT'S my first time growing chilies. I was not expecting such a good harvest," said Wahid, a farmer from Pakpattan, Pakistan, while Chinese expert Zhao Jianhua was instructing him to pick the plants.

Looking at the glowing red chilies, the Pakistani smiled with joy.

The seeds of the chilies planted by Wahid and its planting technology were from Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan province, which is thousands of kilometers away from where he lives.

The seeds were brought to Pakistan over three years ago by Chen Changwei, head of the Sichuan-based company Litong & Food, as well as technicians of the company.

After analyzing the climate, temperature and soil in the country, the company established an international agricultural development corporation together with another company in Sichuan, and started massive chili planting in multiple regions in Pakistan, including Hyderabad, Multan, Kasur, Okara and Lahore.

In 2021, the chili planting program started in the village where Wahid lives, and it struck Wahid after he learned that chili planting is a highly profitable business. In November of that year, the man who originally planted corn tested water in chili planting.

The average income of chili planting is three times that of other crops, which stands at around 1,500 yuan (\$215.31) per mu, or 667 square meters.

According to Wahid, farmers joining the program would receive seedlings as well as technical support and guidance on management, picking and drying. After the plants are dried by the farmers and pass quality inspection, they will be purchased by the Chinese agricultural company, he told People's Daily.

Finding that the chili planting business has doubled the previous income, Wahid and several other farmers recently extended their contract for another three months.

During the 2022-2023 planting season, 15,000 acres of chilies were planted by Pakistani farmers in cooperation with the Chinese agricultural company, and the harvest is expected to reach 37,500 tons, said Chen.

According to him, the business will generate export value of \$45 million and has created thousands of jobs for the local community. Besides, it has also nurtured more than 100 local experts of chili planting.

On the third meeting of the China-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Agriculture held in September 2022, the chili planting



Farmers celebrate chili harvest in Pakpattan, Pakistan. (Photo courtesy of the publicity department of the Communist Party of China Pidu district committee in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan province)

program was included on a list of agricultural projects under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Six demonstration farms that joined the program in Punjab and Sindh provinces reported bumper harvests in the past year. At present, chili seedlings are being planted and transplanted in South Punjab, and soon field management will kick off. The planting in Sindh is also advancing as scheduled. These chilies are expected to enter the Chinese market in June this year.

Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said both China and Pakistan are major agricultural countries, and Pakistan is home to vast fertile and arable land. Over 60 percent of the people in Pakistan are engaged in agriculture-related jobs.

"China has gained rich experience in seed cultivation and crop planting. The two countries see huge potential in agricultural cooperation," Gu said.

Enhancing South-South agricultural cooperation is an important means to cope with hunger, malnutrition, poverty, inequality, and other global issues.

Over the past few years, China has actively launched South-South agricultural cooperation with other developing countries and practically implemented cooperation projects to help more countries and regions improve sustainable agricultural productivity and promote common progress of developing countries.

People's Daily



**In 2021, the chili planting program started in the village where Wahid lives, and it struck Wahid after he learned that chili planting is a highly profitable business. In November of that year, the man who originally planted corn tested water in**

## UN Security Council to contain 20 nations at most after reform - Russian diplomat

UNITED NATIONS

THE best possible number of member states of the UN Security Council after its reform should not exceed 20 countries, Adviser to Russia's Permanent Delegation to the organization Dina Gilmudinova said at the informal meeting of the UN General Assembly, adding that an extension to 25-26 members is excessive.

The Security Council consists of 15 countries, of which five (Russia, the UK, China, the US and France) are permanent members, while another ten are non-permanent members that are elected for two years.

"The issue of the UN Security Council's reform is not only one of the most important, but also most complicated on the agenda of the global organization.

This is due to the fact that the issue is about a body, which pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations is ultimately responsible for maintenance of international peace and security," she said. "We consistently presume that the main guideline for the Council's

reform is making it more representative.

The efforts on extending the Council should not affect its ability to efficiently and quickly respond to emerging challenges," the diplomat added.

"We advocate keeping the Security Council compact. Its best possible number should not exceed 20 member states. We consider the proposal to increase the number to 25-26 members and even higher made by some delegations, excessive," she noted.

Russia seeks to make the Security Council more balanced, reflecting the modern vision, which "requires African, Asian and Latin American developing countries being more involved in its work," Gilmudinova stressed.

"We see no added value for increasing in the Security Council the number of the most developed states, mainly from Western Europe, which from the viewpoint of fair representativeness in the body of all regions of the world already have an unfounded majority in it," she concluded.

Agencies





Tanzania Darts Association (TADA) vice-chairperson, Redempta Mwebesa.

## Dodoma to host National Darts Championship

By Guardian Correspondent

THE National Darts Championship is set to be held in Dodoma from March 30-April 1.

Tanzania Darts Association (TADA) vice-chairperson, Redempta Mwebesa, disclosed that the competition aims to find a national team that will battle it out in various international tournaments.

"The competition seeks to find a good national team that will represent the country in various international tournaments," the TADA leader said.

Redempta said apart from the competition, there will be an election that will usher in new leadership for TADA.

According to the leader, the election, slated for April 2, will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting.

The TADA leader said they need competent leaders who will develop darts.

Redempta asked various stakeholders to come forward to contest for leadership in the association so that the body can fulfill its plans.

Darts is a competitive sport in

which two or more players bare-handedly throw small sharp-pointed missiles known as darts at a round target known as a dartboard.

Points can be scored by hitting specifically marked areas of the board, although unlike in sports such as archery, these areas are distributed all across the board and do not follow a principle of points increasing towards the center of the board.

Although several similar games using various boards and rules exist, the term 'darts' usually now refers to a standardized game involving a specific board design and set of rules.

Darts is both a professional shooting sport and a traditional pub game. The darts game is commonly played in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and is recreationally enjoyed around the world.

The original target in the game is likely to have been a section of a tree trunk, its circular shape and concentric rings giving rise to the standard dartboard pattern in use today.

An older name for a dartboard is 'butt', the word comes from the French word but, meaning 'target' or 'goal'.

## Chabata election set for next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S National Cycling Association (Chabata) will, next month, in Dodoma elect new office bearers in Dodoma.

National Sports Council (NSC) Secretary-General Neema Msitha said the election will be held on April 2 and all posts in the association are up for grabs.

She said interested candidates started collecting forms at NSC offices in Dar es Salaam or through the council website on Thursday.

Neema disclosed: "The Chabata election will be held in Dodoma next month, all those interested and meet the conditions can collect forms at NSC offices or through our website." "Some of the conditions are, a candidate must have a minimum academic education of Form Four, professional qualification, strong interest in cycling, and be a citizen of Tanzania," she said.

The current Chabata Chairman, Godfrey Jax Mhagama, confirmed the development but stopped short of disclosing whether he will seek re-election or not.

"NSC has communicated to us that there will be an election next month,

we are happy for this development, the election brings in new people who come with new ideas for developing the sport in the country," he said.

Mhagama was elected to the post in 2013, he was elected alongside his assistant Simon Tungu Jackson.

John Mchemba and Fabian Bukami were elected as secretary-general and assistant secretary respectively, and Juma Njiku was elected as treasurer.

Joseph Kadege, Lucas Bupilipili, Moses Andrea, Pius Mponda, and Tabu Kessy Lugendo were elected as the association's executive committee members.

Those who will be elected will have the huge task of reviving cycling in the country, as the sport that had in the past been loved by many has, in recent years, been inactive.

The last time Chabata hosted a well-organized and recognized National Championships was in 2013.

The association has recently been putting much effort into coordinating the 'Twenzetu Butiama' tour, which is hosted in honour of Father of the Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

## Culture, awareness on high ground: Local children shocked by Man United thrashing

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

NIZAR (12 years old), a Standard Six pupil for years living in the Uzuri suburb in the city of Dar es Salaam and this school year shifted to Moshi municipality, was in a poor mood on Sunday night.

He quite simply failed to take his supper, having lost appetite for the shock and sorrow of his vaunted club, Manchester United, being whipped 7-0 by a well-oiled Liverpool football machine in an away Premier League encounter.

It was a problem for the granny to rectify the situation, with family members saying it is not the first time he is so shocked.

The grandmother phoned the boy's mother in the city and she had a candid talk with her son, demanding why he was not taking his supper.

He complained of his having been hit (the same as beaten in the national language) and the mother wondered if it was by his grandfather or his grandmother.

"It would have been better if it was that way, but I have been pained in the heart," was his explanation, and then grieved over the Manchester United thrashing.

The mother used some kind words, soothing the pain, and he took his supper at last, before retiring to bed and school in the morning, never missing school.

The mother explains that the young boy is nearly addicted to football, doing everything he can to have at least the rolled-up play balls where proper balls purchased in shops are not available.

His identification with Manchester United is a bit curious as it also tied up with Cristiano Ronaldo global role model legend, and as the England Premier League has far greater attention than Spain's La Liga in Dar es Salaam, his attraction to Ronaldo pulled him to the English midlands



Junior soccer players take part in a recent training session at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

club, either because Ronaldo was there before or it was cemented during his brief stay there lately. The boy was then 'maturing' in football, at age 10, etc.

That is a kaleidoscopic view of what is happening in the nooks and crannies of society, the reality of what experts have in the past half-century described as a global village, for not wishing to say it is a global country.

Tanzania is in that sense an extension of the England Premier League and local kids are in many ways comparable to those of other countries, and it is not a matter of there being specially endowed kids.

It is more or less a trait of being a child, similar to learning other languages fast just with street exposure, etc.

It is situations like these which are eating away at the fabric of traditional sentiments about citizenship, where a fellow like Yusuf Poulsen, playing for an important club like RB Leipzig was refused to play for Taifa Stars because he has Danish citizenship, having been raised there, while one of his parents is Tanzanian.

When a Tanzanian child of 12 years has nearly the same pain for the crushing defeat of Manchester United the way a child

in the same city would feel, that implies a shared culture and even living experience.

There is a great distance between the two countries but sports beings up extensive shared space.

Nationalist critics of globalization and traditionalists quite simply, especially in the city and Dodoma establishment, continually repeat to a bemused public that what matters to us, first and foremost, is what is happening on the local scene, followed by East Africa and then the African scene.

Yet it is unlikely that the 12-year-old Nizar would have felt as much pain if it was either Yanga being thrashed by Simba SC or the other way round unless of course if the margin of scoring is comparable.

That means there is no discernible level of difference in his attachment to the English midlands team and any important local club.

This idea of being attached to what is local is continually being pushed down the throats of the public by those who have made a career in culture, sports, or politics pulling strings attached to valuing the 'difference' between what is local and what is foreign.

Gradually the public is weaning itself of this milk, such that in Simba SC it remained problematic to sideline veteran captain, John Bocco, for recently recruited professionals, just as it was the case for Bakari Mwamnyeto at Yanga on the other end of the street.

Eventually, they give in but as the Feisal Salum saga shows, another aspect of low gaze for local players exists.

What all this means is that a time will come when there will only be sportsmen and women, where one will play for a single club at a time and one national team.

Usually, a youth can play for his country of upbringing nearly tournaments but when arriving at the senior national side he has an opportunity to choose again, either stick with it or shift to a country of birth or of his parents, especially of his father for many of them.

Here we have a more solid anti-Western tradition being dissolved by cable television and multiple sports and cultural channels, such that drawing neat spheres of experience for a UK child and another in Tanzania starts to look slippery - and admittedly, not just in club soccer.

## Fumba Town by CPS Junior Open Tennis Championship garners bumper entry

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MORE than 50 junior tennis players are expected to compete in the Fumba Town by CPS Junior Open tournament which gets underway tomorrow at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

One of the organizers, Salum Mwamvita, said so far more than 50 juniors have registered for the tournament and the number is expected to increase as many collected the registration forms but the youngsters are yet to submit them back to the organizers.

Mwamvita disclosed: "Preparations for the maiden Fumba Town by CPS Junior Open Tennis Championships are going on very well and so far more than 50 players have registered to take part in it."

"We expect the number to increase as many who collected the registration forms have not returned them," he said.

Mwamvita thanked the management of Fumba Town by CPS for sponsoring the junior tournament and disclosed that plans are underway to make it an annual feature.

He said in recent years



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) junior tennis player, Wazaino Mutale, battles it out in a past BQ Open tournament that took place at the club's courts. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

domestic junior tennis players have not been getting a chance to participate in tournaments as many sponsors have been bankrolling senior events.

Mwamvita, also a tennis tactician, noted: "We are thankful to the management of Fumba Town by CPS for coming in to sponsor the tournament, our wish is to see them sponsoring it annually."

"We want them to continue as junior tournaments are vital for

the development of the sport," he said.

Mwamvita said they will be medals and trophies to be handed over to winners in each category.

Fumba Town by CPS had last year sponsored two senior tournaments played at DGC and in Arusha.

More than 150 senior players battled it out in the showdowns and winners received cash prizes.

Winners in singles and doubles categories

were presented with cash prizes, winners in men's singles took 500,000/-, runners-up got 300,000/-, and 150,000/- went to players that sailed through to the semi-finals.

Each of the players who made it to the quarterfinals took home 100,000/-.

In the women's singles category, the winner received 350,000/-, the runner-up walked away with 200,000/-, while in the men's doubles, the winners were presented

with 300,000/-, runners-up got 200,000/-.

The showdowns' competitors who secured progression to the semi-finals were presented with 150,000/-.

The CPS Chief Executive Director Sebastian Dietzold said his company seeks to give children an opportunity to showcase their talent.

He said Tanzania has many tennis players but they stay idle.

According to Dietzold, youngsters need the private sector's support so that they can play in many tournaments.

Dietzold said his company is committed to seeing to it that the country has a tennis league that will see local players make it to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) rankings and eventually battle it out in the Davis Cup.

"We are committed to seeing to it that tennis is played in many parts of the country, we want to have a strong tennis league that can help our players earn the ITF ranking and soon play in the Davis Cup but that can be done if the private sector helps," he revealed.

## United beats Betis 4-1 in rousing response to Liverpool rout

MANCHESTER, England

CHANTS of "Bruno! Bruno!" reverberated around Old Trafford as the healing process began for Manchester United.

The wounds from Sunday's humiliating 7-0 rout by Liverpool remain fresh. But a 4-1 win against Real Betis in the Europa League was an encouraging response from Erik ten Hag's players.

None more so than Bruno Fernandes, who scored one and had a role in two more in the round-of-16 first leg on Thursday.

"I think he was the best player on the pitch, it showed his personality," United manager Ten Hag said.

The Dutchman had given his team the chance to begin making amends for Anfield by naming an unchanged lineup. It had the desired effect.

Marcus Rashford scored his 26th goal of the season.

Antony swept a shot into the top corner from distance. And Wout Weghorst, who had faced a backlash on social media for touching the famous "This is Anfield" sign, let his emotion show when firing in United's fourth.

But perhaps no one needed redemption more than Fernandes, who received the brunt of the criticism after the collapse against Liverpool. On this occasion his efforts were greeted with approval by United fans as well as Ten Hag.

"Bruno was fantastic. He led the

The Portugal international raced toward the Stretford End after heading United into a 3-1 lead in the 58th minute and placed his hands over his ears as if to shut out the noise that has followed Sunday's loss.

There was a moment when he let his enthusiasm overflow with a late challenge on Betis goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, but this was night when he channeled his passion in the right way by putting United within reach of the quarterfinals.

Former United captain and now TV analyst Gary Neville had labeled Fernandes' performance against Liverpool a "disgrace."

Against Betis he was United's driving force.

The Old Trafford crowd sang his name loud as he walked out onto the field to confirm he still had their support.

It was his cross that led to the opening goal after six minutes when Luiz Felipe diverted the ball into Rashford's path. The England striker drove into the box and lashed a shot into the top corner.

The game was level at halftime after on-loan Leicester forward Ayoze Perez fired a low shot past David de Gea in the 32nd. Perez was only denied a second when Fernandes' challenge diverted his shot against the post before the break.

Antony put United back in front seven minutes into the second half with a curling effort from outside of the box after being played in by Fernandes. United's No. 8 went from provider to goal-scorer when he headed in Luke Shaw's corner to put his team in complete control.

But perhaps the biggest cheer of the night came when Weghorst lashed the ball home in the 82nd after missing a host of earlier chances. The raw emotion was evident as he celebrated only his second goal since joining on loan from Burnley in January and his first at Old Trafford.

### ARSENAL HELD

Premier League leader Arsenal was held 2-2 at Sporting Lisbon in their Europa League round-of-16 first-leg match.

Hidemasa Morita's own goal in the 62nd minute salvaged the draw for Arsenal ahead of the return leg at Emirates Stadium next Thursday for a spot in the quarterfinals.

"There are things to improve, but we showed a lot of resilience," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said.

Morita deflected Granit Xhaka's long-distance drive into his own net.

Arsenal dominated early possession and went ahead through William Saliba. The defender headed in the opener for Arsenal from a corner from Fábio Vieira to capitalize on early pressure in the 22nd.

Sporting equalized with almost an identical reply, as Arsenal's defense looked vulnerable.

Gonçalo Inácio headed home off a Marcus Edwards corner past goalkeeper Matt Turner 12 minutes after Saliba's goal.

It was Sporting's first goal against Arsenal in their fifth encounter in European competitions.

### POGBA DROPPED

Ángel Di María headed in the winner in the second half to give Juventus a 1-0 first-leg win over Freiburg.

The 35-year-old veteran has scored four goals in his last two Europa League games.

Juventus was without midfielder Paul Pogba who was dropped due to "disciplinary reasons."

Elsewhere, Joan Jordán and Erik Lamela scored in a 2-0 win for six-time champion Sevilla over Fenerbahçe.

Ezequiel Bullaude equalized late to secure a 1-1 draw for Feyenoord at Shakhtar Donetsk, the last Ukrainian team left in this season's European competitions. Yaroslav Rakitskyi scored for the hosts in Warsaw because of the Russian military invasion of Ukraine.

AP

# Arsenal struggle without their spine but salvage draw against Sporting CP

BY SAM DEAN

**A** TIME may come when Mikel Arteta is able to rotate half of his team, introducing a different spine for different matches, without hurting the quality of Arsenal's performances. That time has not yet arrived, though, and this trip to Lisbon was another reminder that Arsenal's hopes this season are probably dependent on the fitness and form of a few key players.

Aaron Ramsdale, Gabriel Magalhães, Thomas Partey, Martin Odegaard, Gabriel Jesus. Arsenal have proven that they can handle the absence of one or two of those star performers this season, but doing so without all of them at once is another matter entirely.

Injury, illness and the need for rotation prompted Arteta to make six changes to his side for this Europa League round of 16 first leg against Sporting CP. What followed was a watchable yet chaotic 70 minutes of football, in which Arsenal looked slick at one moment and then dangerously disordered the next.

Only when two of the big boys – Partey and Gabriel – entered the fray in the final 20 minutes did Arsenal show more control. By then the score was 2-2, and it stayed that way against Portugal's fourth-best team, who will feel that they should have scored at least once more in front of their own fans.



Arsenal's Reiss Nelson, left, challenges for the ball with Sporting's goalkeeper Antonio Adan during the Europa League round of 16, first leg, soccer match between Sporting CP and Arsenal at the Alvalade stadium in Lisbon, Thursday, March 9, 2023. (AP Photo)

A passable result for Arsenal, then, after a patchy performance, and Arteta's side should have more than enough to win this tie in the second leg. But it was hard to shake the feeling that there are bigger fish to fry for this team, the Premier League leaders, and one can certainly expect their side to look a little different at Fulham on Sunday.

For much of the last decade, the Europa League has represented an important opportunity for Arsenal, as winning it provides an alternative route into the Champions League. It is a measure of their season so far that it no longer feels so significant – the Champions League will, surely, be secured through good old-fashioned

league position.

Europe is important, of course, because all trophies are important, but the priorities for this club have shifted in recent months. Hence the inclusion here of backup goalkeeper Matt Turner and new centre-back Jakub Kiwior, making his long-awaited debut following his arrival in the January transfer window.

In truth, neither player inspired huge confidence. Indeed, both appeared to be at fault for Sporting's opening goal, which came after William Saliba had given Arsenal the lead from Fabio Vieira's set piece. From a right-wing corner, Gonçalo Inácio was able to simply divert the ball into the net as Kiwior decided against challenging him

in the air.

Arsenal have now conceded five goals from set pieces in their last 10 matches, and twice as many goals from corners since the World Cup as they shipped before the break in the campaign. A worrying trend. "It is something we must improve dramatically in the next few days," said Arteta.

Similarly concerning was the way in which Sporting were able to take the lead, with striker Paulinho converting after Turner had saved a low shot in the second half. Arteta said his team are "conceding too many simple goals".

For a brief moment, it seemed as if the night would be remembered for producing one of the best goals of the season. Gabriel

Martinelli embarked on an extraordinary run from his own half, barrelling through challenges like a rugby forward, before he was finally denied at the last second.

Arteta must have felt his luck was out, until Granit Xhaka's attempted cross bounced off Sporting defender Hidemasa Morita and trickled slowly into the net. A fortuitous equaliser, and not necessarily one that Arsenal deserved.

The tie remains in their control, though, and they will no doubt look much stronger this weekend, when they look to continue their title charge.

"We are alive and everything is still to play for at the Emirates," said Arteta.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Arsenal face Fulham test, Liverpool target top four

LONDON

ARSENAL travel to Fulham in the latest test of the Gunners' Premier League title credentials this weekend as Manchester City aim to ramp up the pressure on Mikel Arteta's men by winning at Crystal Palace.

Liverpool are the in-form side in the race for a top-four finish ahead of their trip to Bournemouth after a historic 7-0 thrashing of Manchester United last weekend.

At the bottom of the table, nine clubs are separated by just six points. Leicester and West Ham are among them and home games this weekend may be must-wins for Brendan Rodgers and David Moyes to keep hold of their jobs.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the weekend's action in the English top flight.

- Euro effect on title race -

Dramatic late fightbacks against Bournemouth and Aston Villa in recent weeks have kept Arsenal five points clear of City in the title fight.

But the Gunners have the extra complication of their trip to Craven Cottage on Sunday being

sandwiched between two Europa League last 16 ties against Sporting Lisbon.

Arteta was able to heavily rotate his side during the group stages, but named a strong starting line-up for a 2-2 first leg draw in the Portuguese capital on Thursday.

City have enjoyed a rare midweek off, but Pep Guardiola's team selection could also be impacted by Tuesday's Champions League last 16, second leg against RB Leipzig with the tie finely balanced at 1-1.

- Momentum with Liverpool -

Liverpool's humiliation of Manchester United hauled Jurgen Klopp's men back into the running for a top-four finish.

The Reds can move into the Champions League places for a few hours at least should they continue their upturn in form away at Bournemouth in Saturday's early kick-off.

But their last meeting with the Cherries serves as a warning that one spectacular performance does not necessarily turn a season around.

Bournemouth were annihilated 9-0 at Anfield in August, but Liverpool went on to win just one of their next four league games.

However, after a season of frustration, Liverpool do appear to be getting their act together in time to secure Champions League football for a seventh consecutive season.

Five consecutive clean sheets have been the bedrock of a run of 13 points from a possible 15 in the Premier League.

A new-look front three of Cody Gakpo, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah then stole the show in spectacular fashion as all three scored twice against United.

"We saw what a positive result can do to the boys," said Klopp.

"Now we have five days or so of time to prepare for Bournemouth... We have to make sure we are ready for that fight."

Tottenham remain in fourth for now but have failed to score in their past three games to crash out of the Champions League and FA Cup either side of a 1-0 defeat at Wolves.

Spurs need a reaction when they host Nottingham Forest, while Newcastle will hope to end a five-game winless run in the Premier League when Wolves visit St. James' Park.

- Rodgers and Moyes in the firing line -

In recent seasons, Rodgers and Moyes have been nominated for manager of the year accolades after leading Leicester and West Ham into Europe.

Their credit in the bank has kept them in

charge until now as all four clubs below the Foxes and Hammers in the table have already sacked their managers at least once this season.

Leicester appeared to have turned the corner with four-goal wins over Villa and Tottenham last month, but four straight defeats, including a FA Cup exit to second-tier Blackburn, has put Rodgers back in the firing line.

His side face a rejuvenated Chelsea on Saturday fresh from sealing a place in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Moyes has reportedly already saved his job twice by securing home wins against Everton and Nottingham Forest, but a 4-0 thrashing by

Brighton has put the former Manchester United boss on the brink once more.

Anything other than three points at the London Stadium against Villa could finally see the axe fall.

**Fixtures (all times GMT)**

**Today**  
Bournemouth v Liverpool (1230), Everton v Brentford, Leeds v Brighton, Leicester v Chelsea, Tottenham v Nottingham Forest (all 1500), Crystal Palace v Manchester City (1730)

**Tomorrow**  
Fulham v Arsenal, Manchester United v Southampton, West Ham v Aston Villa (all 1400), Newcastle v Wolves (1630)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Arsenal struggle without their spine but salvage draw against Sporting CP**

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## Simba SC out to keep title push alive, visits Mtibwa Sugar



Mtibwa Sugar's forward, Charles Ilanfy (L), battles for possession with Simba SC center-back, Joash Onyango, as the sides took on each other in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel that took place in Dar es Salaam last year. Simba SC won 5-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

**S**IMBA SC will endeavour to keep the pressure on 2022/23 NBC Premier League title rivals Yanga, who are eight points adrift at the top of the standings, when the former comes up against Mtibwa Sugar at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro this Saturday afternoon.

This means there is no room for mistakes for Simba SC head coach, Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho', and his troops here, even though Mtibwa Sugar is a tricky opposition when playing at the side's home base in Turiani.

Despite their recent troubles in 2022/23 CAF Champi-

ons League Group Stage, Simba SC is undefeated in the side's last four games in all competitions and has won four of their last five matches in this season's NBC Premier League, mounting a 16-game unbeaten run in the Tanzanian top flight.

The wins have come at home against Singida Big Stars and Tanzania Prisons plus away to Dodoma Jiji FC and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

The away form in the NBC Premier League shows Simba SC are undefeated and have won four of their last five fixtures on the road.

Simba SC midfielder Mzimiru Yassin pointed out that he believes their recent win over Uganda's Vipers SC has boosted their confidence and is looking forward to an exciting match between his club and Mtibwa Sugar coming off victories and clean sheets.

The midfielder noted: "The league is heading towards the end and every team is fighting for three points. We know we are facing Mtibwa Sugar who need three points but we are fully prepared to battle them."

"At the moment, we need to win

every remaining game, we don't need to drop points because we are in the title race," Yassin said.

Head coach 'Robertinho' is unlikely to make changes to his back four, with Mohamed Hussein, Shomari Kapombe, Joash Onyango, and Henock Inonga all set to protect Aishi Manula between the sticks while Moses Phiri may continue as the central striker ahead of John Bocco and Jean Baleke.

For Mtibwa Sugar, the game comes on the back of a slim 1-0 win over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and progress to the quarterfinals of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

Hopes of claiming three valuable points on Saturday may be slim, but they have frustrated opponents at Manungu Stadium this season, losing just two of their 12 home league games, all of which against teams currently placed in-

side the top three.

Mtibwa Sugar played out a goalless draw in their last home meeting with Simba SC, but that stalemate extended their winless home run against the 'Msimbazi Reds' to nine matches since a 2-0 victory back in November 2012.

In head-to-head terms, Simba SC and Mtibwa Sugar have clashed in 25 league matches since the 2009/10 season.

The Msimbazi Street outfit has dominated the rivalry, claiming 16 wins compared to two for Mtibwa Sugar.

The team in Red and White has managed four wins from 11 away matches in the rivalry, suffering one defeat in the process.

When the teams met earlier this season, Simba SC claimed a 5-0 home win thanks to goals netted by Muzamiru Yassin, a brace by Pape Ousmane Sakho and Moses Phiri, and one more by Augustine Okrah.



NBC Bank's Head of Customer Service, Salama Mussa (L), hands over a dummy cheque of 1m/- along with a trophy to Kagera Sugar's head coach Mecky Mexime, who was declared the Best Coach of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League for February. The handing over event took place before a match pitting Kinondoni Municipal Council FC against Kagera Sugar held at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Mexime wins NBC Premier League best coach award for February

By Guardian Correspondent

MAINLAND Premier League main sponsor, NBC Bank, has presented cash prizes and trophies to the league's Best Coach for February, Kagera Sugar's Mecky Mexime.

The handing over event took place in Dar es Salaam on Thursday shortly before the commencement of the league fixture between Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and Kagera Sugar held at the Uhuru Stadium.

The game ended with Kinondoni Municipal Council FC to a 2-0 victory.

The NBC Bank's Head of Customer Service, Salama Mussa, handed over a dummy cheque of 1m/- along with a trophy to coach Mexime.

Salama disclosed: "In fact, we are largely satisfied with the pace of competition going on in the NBC Premier League."

"We are even more pleased to see that our investment in the league stimulates other jobs indirectly.

"There is a good number of small and large scale businesses which benefit through the sale of various products related to this kind of sport, including jerseys' suppliers, food and drink vendors," she said.

She called on the football fans in the country to attend matches in large numbers in the stadiums to enjoy and motivate their teams for better performance.

## Prisons look to boost survival hopes against Namungo FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

**T**ANZANIA Prisons will be desperate to end their winless spell in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League when they make the trip to Ruangwa to play Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium this evening, with kick-off slated for 7 pm.

Despite replacing Kenyan tactician, Patrick Odhiambo, with former JKT Tanzania boss Mohamed Abdallah 'Baresi' in their managerial dugout in early January, Tanzania Prisons' fortunes are yet to turn around as their dismal form continued with a 1-0 defeat away to Coastal Union in the last league outing.

Ending a six-game winless run in this season's NBC Premier League would be the first step towards clambering away from danger for the wardens.

They last won a game against town rivals Mbeya City FC at Sokoine Stadium on December 30, 2022.

Baresi's men find themselves in 14th place - just three points clear of the automatic relegation spots and 10 points behind Namungo FC.

They can have no complaints about their current position, however, as they have only managed to win five of their 24 league games this season.

To make matters worse, Prisons just cannot seem to be able to find goals these days. They have failed to find the back of the net in their last three games.

Their 18 goals through the campaign are the joint-second worst in the league this season.

This is a big game for Prisons and they cannot afford to lose this



Namungo FC's Zambian attacker, Obrey Chirwa (R), seeks to outfox Tanzania Prisons' center-back, Nurdin Chona, when the teams met in a past NBC Premier League clash at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi. Tanzania Prisons won 2-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NAMUNGO FC

match. A win could see them move out of the relegation zone and boost their survival hopes.

By contrast, Namungo FC is nine points clear of the relegation play-off spot. It seems unlikely that the home team will be sucked into the fight for survival this season.

A top-four finish is also out of the question as they find themselves 15 points adrift of fourth-placed Singida Big Stars with only six games remaining.

Although Namungo FC's recent home record is inconsistent, they have won five of their last 10 league matches on home soil.

With their forthcoming opponents desperately out of form, head coach Dennis Kitambi will be determined for his players to seize the moment and push to break into the top six.

In head-to-head stats, Namungo FC and Prisons have met in seven league matches since the 2019/20 campaign.

Prisons have claimed two wins compared to one for their Ruangwa counterparts, while four matches have been drawn.

When the teams met earlier this season, they settled for a 1-1 stalemate at Sokoine Stadium in November last year. It was the third straight draw between the two sides.

## Mtibwa Sugar vows to turn season around

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**M**TIBWA Sugar will be on the quest to end their poor run in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League when they welcome Simba SC at the Manungu Stadium in Morogoro in the afternoon.

The game will see Mtibwa Sugar determined to take revenge for losing 5-0 to Simba SC in this season's top flight first phase game bringing together the two squads, played last year.

The Sugar Millers defeated Polisi Tanzania 2-1 and later notched a similar scoreline after beating Dodoma Jiji FC on February 11, with both wins coming at home.

Mtibwa Sugar's Head of Information and Communication Department, Thobias Kifarur, stated their team has been well prepared to face Simba SC, an outfit he admitted has good players who can get good results at home and away.

Kifarur noted that posting three points is their biggest mission after losing the first phase game played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last year.

The official revealed: "On Saturday we expect a good game at home and a difficult match against Simba SC, our players know that it is a game in which we need three points so that we can continue keeping ourselves in good shape and stay in a good position."

"We know that we have been struggling lately to get good results winning only twice since November 22, which is not a good sign heading into half of the second round of the Premier League," the official pointed out.

"We are very determined to get good results to regain winning ways towards the remaining games."

The official revealed: "Simba SC has good players with great ability to fight for good results, but we also have players with that caliber, so we welcome them for what is going to be an interesting battle."

"Apart from needing three points from the game, the other mission is to take revenge against our visitors, Simba SC, who scored five goals against us in Dar es Salaam, so we will need to make it hard for them on Saturday," Kifarur stated.

Simba SC has traveled to Morogoro as a second-placed outfit in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League standings with 54 points, trailing Yanga who are at the top with 62 points.

Mtibwa Sugar, one of the oldest teams in the Premier League, is sitting ninth with 29 points after playing 23 games.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

