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**GERMANY CONSIDERS PLAN TO LINK HYDROGEN PIPELINE WITH NORWAY**

**Saudi Arabia Railway awards \$260 million 5-year contract to CAF**

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**Masaka hospital staff ordered to renew tenancy agreements or lose housing**

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# \$125.3m ADF soft loan for Dodoma water project

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

A \$125.3M (290bn/-) loan from the African Development Fund (ADF) is slated to finance the first phase of the Dodoma resilient and sustainable water development and sanitation programme, the fund's parent body, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has announced.

Oswald Chanda, the AfDB director for water development and sanitation, said in a statement yesterday that the loan from the concessional window of the AfDB will specifically cover construction of a dam and water treatment plant to address supply challenges in the capital, along with its agglomeration suburbs of Bahi, Chemba and Chamwino.

The project shall improve water supply for multipurpose use, enhance access to potable water for two million people

**The capital city water supply and sanitation project is part of a series of infrastructure projects supported by the AfDB, seeking to accelerate long-term development aspirations of an enhanced middle-income and semi-industrialized economy by 2025 as outlined in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.**

and provide better sanitation services for about 1.5m people by 2025, it said, elaborating that around 52 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries are women.

The design seeks to ensure the sustainability of the water resources along with fostering improved rainfall community management by catchment protection in particular, while building resilience

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# 'JPM's economic freedom quest valid'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday vowed to energetically pursue the vision of the country's fifth president, the late Dr John Magufuli, notably the dream of attaining the country's economic independence.

Addressing a commemorative event at Chato in Geita Region following a solemn mass to mark one year since Dr Magufuli's passing, the president said the government would invest heavily in projects that stimulate growth to achieve that goal.

"The government will implement all development projects initiated during the fifth-phase presidency and start new programmes to ensure that the country becomes independent economically," the president declared.

She expressed her devotion to the late president's ethos inspiring people to work hard and realize

the goal of an independent economy. "Any time from now I shall launch the Tanzanite Bridge," she said, referring to yet another iconic project by her predecessor whose construction has more or less been completed.

She added that the implementation of the development projects the Magufuli administration initiated in his native Chato District would continue and would be completed on schedule.

Building the 3bn/- Chato/Kome ferry and a 3.2bn/- bus stand are two of the projects in question, she remarked, promising to launch them in person just as Dr Magufuli would have done.

She acknowledged that it was not easy to fill the shoes of the late president and she never expected to sit in that office (State House), "but after fate altered the country's course of events, I had to start from where the preceding phases ended".

Ex-first lady Janeth Magufuli meanwhile expressed appreciation for the government and the wider public for their participation in the commemoration, urging leaders and community members to uphold Dr Magufuli's values by jealously observing and promoting unity and solidarity across the country.

Meanwhile, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango said that Dr Magufuli was until his death a teacher who devoted his energy and dedication to serve Tanzanians.

He appealed to others also take up the spirit of service and sacrifice for wider public welfare. Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi emphasized the work ethic, patriotism and integrity which he said characterised Dr Magufuli, "so as to uphold his example and a life of dedication".

He said everyone must play a role in ensuring the most sustainable use of the country's resources. "It is very important to honour Dr Magufuli's philosophy and dreams," the VP declared, underscoring the importance of being courageous.

National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson said the commemoration was a sign of the depths of feelings on the fruitful service of the former president. "Today's commemoration has come with happiness and not sadness," she told the gathering, noting that the late leader's successor (President Samia) had elected to devote herself to bringing to fruition all projects initiated during the fifth phase.

Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma meanwhile said Dr Magufuli's life and service to the country and its people would be kept for generations - in writings and in individual memories.

It was not easy to separate the shift to the national capital, Dodoma, from Dar es Salaam without remembering the late president and his resolute leadership in that direction.

"We all recall the outpouring of sadness that characterised the aftermath of Dr Magufuli's passing," the CJ said, noting that it reflected the good of the late Dr Magufuli, "partly addressing members of the late president's family.

The commemoration was attended by representatives of political parties, senior government officials, legislators, heads of security organs and hundreds of local residents.

**It is very important to honour his philosophy and dreams**



President Samia Suluhu Hassan lays a wreath at the grave of former President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli at his home village in Chato District, Geita Region, yesterday as the nation marked the first anniversary of his passing in Dar Salaam. Second left is his widow, Janeth Magufuli. Photo: State House

# TICTS loses monopoly in clearing cargo ships

By Guardian Reporter

STRICT separation of eligibility to serve specified cargo ships at the port of Dar es Salaam will no longer be applicable, the government has directed.

Managements at the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) and the Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS) have been instructed to ensure that they work together to end the congestion of ships unloading cargo at the port.

Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa issued

**Make sure you add more cargo storage areas here so as to reduce congestion. TPA's procurement unit should also speed up its operations**

a three month decongestion deadline to the two concerns in a port inspection tour, directing that henceforth unloading cargo should be serviced at the port by TPA and TICTS gates without prior distinction to reduce congestion of ships waiting to enter the port.

"From today, the ships should unload cargo in TPA and TICTS directions to enhance efficiency in port operations," he stated, similarly instructing the port management to monitor the performance of TICTS on its productivity to port use.

If it does not, immediate action including terminating the contract and finding another company to help in port operations should be taken, he declared, with TPA director general Erick Hamis directed to ensure that all open spaces are upgraded, modernized and expanded to have bigger areas for cargo storage at the port.

"Make sure you add more cargo storage areas here so as to reduce congestion. TPA's procurement unit should also speed up its op

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# 'Nyerere hydropower project course steady'

By Guardian Correspondent, Rufiji

ENERGY minister January Makamba has said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has shown great speed in implementing strategic projects, including the 2,115-megawatt Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHP).

Addressing reporters while on a working visit with the parliamentary standing commit-

**We are going to scale up the bitter gourd export value chain, increase the country's capacity to supply to international markets and improve compliance to international standards requirements**

tee on Energy and Minerals, the minister said the president has authorized payment of 1.4trn/- towards the project, taking up from the 2trn/- authorised for payment for the first stages of the project during the fifth-phase administration of former president Dr John Magufuli.

On the basis of injecting sufficient amounts of money, work on the project has

now reached 56 per cent of total projected construction work, from around 40 per cent at the start of the sixth phase, he explained. He said the committee was satisfied with progress attained during the year long leadership of President Samia, noting also that the construction pace reflects on the

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## \$125.3million ADF loan for water project for Dodoma

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against poor rainfall and erratic catchment expectations, it asserted.

The program will create more than 640 jobs (140 permanent and 500 temporary) during the construction period, up to operating the dam and water treatment plant, it said, noting that the program will contribute towards the attainment of national targets and sustainable development goals.

Its goal number six on water and sanitation is slated for realisation by 2030, it recalled, highlighting the need to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene services to prevent waterborne diseases. The services are also vital in preventing the spread of Covid-19, in communities, healthcare facilities, schools and other public places, the director noted.

AfDB is financing most of the \$132.9m estimated cost of the first phase of the project, while the government will provide counterpart funding around six per cent of the total cost, in the project taking off towards this month.

The capital city water supply and sanitation project is part of a series of infrastructure projects supported by the AfDB, seeking to accelerate long-term development aspirations of an enhanced middle-income and semi-industrialized economy by 2025 as outlined in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

The program is aligned with the AfDB ten-year strategy (2013-2022) for inclusive growth and gradual transition to green growth. It is expected to contribute to one of the bank's five top priorities, that is improving the quality of life of the people of Africa, the statement added.



Filbert Mponzi (2nd-R), NMB Bank Plc's chief of retail banking, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting one five laptops to National Assembly deputy Speaker Mussa Hassan Zungu on behalf of an association for small entrepreneurs seeking to create a database. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Despite sufficient food supply, Tanzania grappling with stunting and malnutrition'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DESPITE Tanzania having sufficient food supply, it still faces stunting and malnutrition challenges which affect over 30 percent of children under the age of five.

This was said by the Assistant Representative-Programme from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Charles Tulahi in Zanzibar on

the sidelines of the US Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded regional training of trainers' workshop on the new FAO good emergency management practice (GEMP) tool.

He described physical and cognitive stunting as a serious problem in the food secure Tanzania with a good number of under-five children being affected.

"We need to invest in the production of competent human resources but the 30 percent rate of stunted children in the country is irritating," he said.

He said the workshop aims at providing the basic principles of emergency preparedness and planning share the participants' respective experiences and provide them with practical knowledge based

on GEMP principles.

He said FAO plans to implement a special campaign on nutrition to fight malnutrition in the country. It will collaborate with other partners and is scheduled for launching soon.

Stunting results from lack of proper care during pregnancy, inadequate feeding in the first two years of life, poor water, sanitation and hygiene practices and inadequate access to

health care.

Chief veterinary officer at the Zanzibar's department of veterinary services Dr Talib Saleh Suleiman said Zanzibar is risky to contagious animal diseases, which must be avoided at all costs.

He said rabies is one of the challenges and the government was making efforts to make the island safe from rabies.



L-R: Cikay Richards, executive director of the European Business Group in Tanzania; Naike Moshi, founder and CEO of Women in Management Africa; Christine Musisi, UNDP Resident Representative in Tanzania; and Juliana Mwapachu, head of global markets sales with NBC Bank; come together in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday during the official announcement of Women in Management Summit and Awards for 2022. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Nyerere hydropower project course steady'

FROM PAGE 1

change of leadership on the project to intensely check that quality standards are attained.

The changes affected the entire management system, enhancing the role of expertise and mobilising the contractor to boost the number of site technicians having work experience in similar projects, he stated, also referring to changes in communication format between the state-run Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TanESCO), the ministry, the contractor and consulting engineer. Legislator Dunstan Kitandula (Mkinga), the

committee's chairman, said the committee is pleased with work on the project, as it shows great changes since the committee's earlier visit last year.

Maharage Chande, the utility's managing director, said that even with rapid progress on the project number of challenges had occasioned delays, including Covid-19 lockdowns outside, interrupting delivering of the key construction materials.

TanESCO was still assessing the viability of a manageable construction time-frame for completion of the project, he added.

## TICTS loses monopoly in clearing cargo ships

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erations," the minister intoned, whereof the TPA CEO said in assurance that all the directives will be fully implemented.

Within the next three months, there will be major operational changes at the port, he said, not-

ing that significant expansion at the port has increased the number of large ships using the port, a situation that contributes to congestion.

"So, we are going to implement all the directives issued by the government so as to increase productivity and attract more ships to use the port," he added.

## Z'bar women challenged to vie for leadership positions

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

CHAIRPERSON of Zanzibar House of Representatives, Mwanaasha Khamis Juma has called upon women to emerge and vie for top leadership positions because the patriarchy has begun to decline due to the society itself and voters in general who are now accepting women.

Mwanaasha made the remarks

at a forum to mark world women Day held on Wednesday in Unguja organised by Tanzania Media Women Association - Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) and Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA).

She said it was time for women to vie for top leadership positions due to change in the society's concept after seeing efforts done by women who were elect-

ed as representatives in their constituencies.

She gave her own example, whereby in 2015-20 she was an elected representative for Chukwani constituency but in 2020, ZEC made great changes to constituencies which saw the abolition of the constituency and established of another one - the Kiembesamaki Constituency.

She said the changes confused

her because the constituency she had invested for five years was no longer in existence and started to look for another one to contest for.

"I decided to contest in the Dimani Constituency in Unguja Urban West Region with more than 11 male candidates and won the seat," she added.

She called on women politicians not to fear contesting in

constituencies with male opponents as experience shows that women have started being accepted due to their trustworthiness and obedience in serving voters.

Former candidate for Malindi Parliamentary constituency, Halima Ibrahim from ACT-Wazalendo called on women to unite and put aside their party differences to make sure parliamentary

and House seats are grabbed by women.

"It is impossible - many voters in various constituencies are women but during elections, including those for preferential votes those who win are mostly men," she added.

Special Seats Representative, Salma Mussa said there are big changes in the country's politics whereby women have started

being accepted and hold many leadership positions including being elected in various constituencies.

For her part, ZAFELA senior official, Time Asaa Khamis said they were in a process of reviewing various laws that have been challenging women in vying for leadership positions, with the aim of attaining gender equality.

# Parliamentary committee happy with govt efforts to improve communication services

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Parliamentary Standing committee on Infrastructures Development has expressed its satisfaction with the government's efforts in bringing communication services closer to people.

Committee's chairperson Selemani Kakoso said this on Wednesday when the committee visited various communication services projects in the region that are implemented by the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology.

The committee inspected the construction of the Nyampande communication tower and access to telecommunications services in the area; monitor the implementation of the residential addresses exercise and inspecting plants of the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB).

Kakoso said the commit-

tee was satisfied with the ongoing construction of 40 communication towers in the region and thanked the ministry through Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF) for delivering communications to citizens in areas.

He urged leaders in the areas to supervise and ensure that the infrastructures are protected but also proceeds produced from the towers are used to improve economic and social development services such as building classrooms, dispensaries so as to benefit the public.

On his part, Minister Nape Nnauye informed the committee that the construction of the communication tower was a joint venture between the government and Vodacom Tanzania where the government gave the mobile firm funds so as to facilitate its construction of the tower.

He commended the Mwanza Regional Commissioner Eng Robert Gabriel for supervising well the implementation of the installa-

tion of residential addresses in the region and wanted others to emulate it.

UCSAF chief executive officer, Justina Mshiba said that the construction of 18 towers has been completed; construction of other 22 towers will be completed in June 2022 where 5.4bn/- will be used to build the towers in Mwanza Region to ensure that people living in remote areas have access to communication services.

Vodacom Tanzania CEO Sitholizwe Mdlalose said his firm was ready and will continue working closely with the government to construct more towers so as to enable access of reliable communication services to people.

Eng Gabriel said that the implementation of the residential address exercise is progressing well where a total of 643,298 houses out of the expected 551,554 houses have been installed with numbers and a total of 103,558 addresses have been registered in the NAPA system.

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**20 March 2022 | SUNDAY**

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# RPC for Mbeya says officer killed himself

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region have confirmed the death of its officer, Novatus Kalambo who 'committed suicide' by hanging using his trouser belt in his home.

Confirming the incident yesterday, Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said the cause of the suicide was yet to be established; however, the deceased had heart disease.

He said Kalambo 'committed suicide' around 5:00pm at home after locking himself in his room without members of his family knowing what was going on.

"The deceased was performing normal duties at Mbeya central Police Station, and due to the heart problems, he was granted leave for treatment, hence this could be the reason for taking his own life," said RPC Matei.

Matei advised police officers that

in case they experience difficulties in their lives, it would be better for them to seek advice from close relatives or from psychologists for counselling.

He added that the body of the deceased was transported to his homevillage in Rukwa region for burial, saying he will not receive military burial ceremony because he took his own life.

For his part, Mwambene Ward Councillor, Lucas Mwampiki said the deceased was on leave receiving treatment for heart ailment from which he started getting better and was seen visiting friends and relatives in the evenings.

He said on Tuesday at around 3:00pm he returned from his strolls and locked himself in his room.

Family members were surprised to find the door to his room locked from inside and afterwards they found him hanging.

# 'Govt committed to giving equal land rights to both men, women'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has expressed its commitment to ensuring equal land rights to both men and women in the country.

Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima made the remarks when speaking at the sidelines of the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in the US.

Dr Gwajima said the country is endowed with a lot of natural resources, including land and that every citizen has the right to use them for economic empowerment, noting that land is a crucial resource in Tanzania and that is why the government is concerned over ownership and women should not be left behind in decisions pertaining to occupancy.

The minister issued a key note address on a zoom meeting organised by Landesa, an international non-governmental organisation that champions and works to secure land rights for millions of the world's poorest, mostly rural women and men, to provide opportunity and promote social justice.

Through collaboration with the Oxfam and government, the organisation brought together different stakeholders to discuss matters pertaining women ownership through a zoom meeting moderated by the Tanzanian Ambassador to the US, Prof Gaston Kennedy.

The title of the meeting was "Promoting woman's participation

and decision making in addressing Climate Change: Tanzania's Village Land Use Planning Framework.

Dr Gwajima said, "We all know that women cannot be excluded in land issues in the process of economic transformation" she added that women should not be left out in the matters of climate change.

She thanked the embassy for organising the meeting, specifically applauding the ambassador for the good meeting aimed at sensitizing the public on women rights on land ownership and climate change. Speaking while welcoming the minister, Amb Prof Kennedy noted that land issues are vital in national development, noting that women who are key partners have always been left behind.

Landesa Country Director, Dr Monica Mhoja on her part noted that there are some customs and traditional beliefs that block women from securing land rights.

She said her organisation is committed to a future in which all women and men who depend on land for their livelihoods have secure and legal land rights.

"Land is one of the most powerful tools for lifting oneself, one's family and one's community out of poverty" she said.

She added that Landesa works at scale to create opportunities that help people and communities lift themselves out of poverty by working side by side with governments and other organisations to strengthen land rights for people experiencing landless.

**1st ANNIVERSARY**  
YEAR

**HAPPY**

The Board, Management and Staff of Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) wish to congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency **SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN** in completing one successful year in the office.

**HON. PRESIDENT OF UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN**

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TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

## CONGRATULATIONS



**HON. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN**  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) join hands with Tanzanians to Congratulate Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania for One Year of Achievements of the Sixth Phase Government. We have witnessed exponential growth in the Information, Communication and Information Technology Sector.

Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania | tcra\_tanzania



Tanzania Breweries Limited Country Director Jose Moran has a word with the company's employees, retailers and major distributors at the launch of a convenient online shopping phone APP known as BEES held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Sources said the service is used by more than 2 million people in more than 20 countries. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt has paid 91bn/- in arrears to 65,394 servants - minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has paid a total of 91.88bn/-, in arrears to some 65,394 public servants in the first year of the sixth phase government, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management), Jenista Mhagama, said yesterday.

Outlining the achievements recorded during President Samia's one year in office Mhagama said the government also offered promotions to about 190,781 public servants who had requisite qualifications for the promotions but had stayed for many years without being promoted.

"The government has spent 39.64bn/- just in one year in promotions, therefore, we will continue promoting more employees in the public service depending on the available budget," she noted.

The minister said that during the same year, President Samia transferred 19,386 public servants in other ministries, departments and institutions depending on their professions, spending 1.33bn/- in the process.

Mhagama added, during the similar period, the government provided employment permits to about 12,336 new employees in the public service, thus increasing the number of human resource in the public sector who increased performance, efficiency and service delivery. In this exercise to recruit new employees, Mhagama said, the government spent over 7.66bn/-.

In easing the tax burden to employees, the minister said that President Samia made the decision to reduce Pay as You Earn from 9 to 8percent.

Other achievements, the

minister said include the decision to put up new ICT systems in the public service which aim at improving service delivery, transparency and accountability.

For example, she said, the government decided to get away with the 2004 OPRAS system of evaluating the performance of public servants after learning that the system was not transparent and that it was encouraging favouritism.

According to Mhagama, the government is now preparing a new system called Public Employment Management Information System (PEMIS) which will come up with solutions on the challenges encountered during the previous system.

She said this is a paperless system which will allow the government to access all information of an employee in the public service and it is a transparent system which

will not favour anybody, adding that the new system will come into effect on July 01, 2022.

Also, the minister said, the government is now coming up with yet another system to evaluate performance in the public institutions.

Dubbed: 'Public Institutions Management Information System (PIMIS)', the system will force the institutions to sign performance contracts with the central government on their yearly targets and they will be rated at the end of each year, in efforts to ensure that they perform to the desired targets.

Mhagama said every end of the year, the institutions which will surpass their targets will be awarded while the underperforming Chief Executive Officers of institutions would also be punished.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI)

## Congratulations

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania  
**H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan**



The Management Committee, Leadership and Staff of the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) wish to congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, in completing ONE successful year in office. We wish you a good health and prosperity as you continue to lead the nation.

Let's protect our Peace, Unity and Solidarity for the prosperity of our Nation.  
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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
PRESIDENTS OFFICE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
DAR RAPID TRANSIT AGENCY

## ONE YEAR OF PRESIDENT SAMIA IN THE OFFICE



Management and staff of the Dar Rapid Transit (DART) Agency congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, on her successful one-year anniversary in office.

We wish her good health, prosperity, and the very best as she continues to lead the nation.

@Wakala wa Mabasi Yaendayo Haraka | @DartMwendokasi

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

17th March, 2022

### COMING INTO FORCE OF FEES AND CHARGES REGULATIONS, 2021

1. TMDA would like to inform its esteemed customers and stakeholders that the new Regulations for Fees and Charges, 2021, has been approved for implementation through the Government Gazette GN. No. 686 of 24th September, 2021.
2. With this announcement, all services will be provided upon payment of relevant fees as prescribed in the Fees and Charges Regulations, 2021 effective from 01st April, 2022 and not otherwise.
3. All payments for services as outlined in the mentioned regulations will continue to be made into the Authority's Bank accounts through the Government electronic payment system (GePG) after obtaining a pro-forma invoice from TMDA indicating a payment Control Number.
4. All customers and stakeholders are requested to abide to the said Fees and Charges Regulations, 2021 which can be accessed through TMDA website known as [www.tmda.go.tz](http://www.tmda.go.tz) and/or its offices located in Dar es salaam, Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, Dodoma, Mtwara, Tabora and Geita.

Issued by: The Director General

Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority,  
P.O. Box 1253, Dodoma. P. O. Box 77150, Dar es salaam  
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### Request for Proposals (RFP)

#### Consultancy: Development of Community Based Forest Financial Management Manual and Income Diversification Investment Framework

##### Background

The World-Wide Fund for Funder (WWF) through the forest program has been promoting, scaling up, and maintaining areas under Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in four districts of Kilwa, Rufiji, Tunduru, and Namtumbo. With the support from WWF, Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) over the past 20 years has managed to put about 500,000ha of forest under SFM through Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) in over 45 villages. Out of these, 200,000ha of Village Land Forest Reserves (VFLRS) in 15 villages are certified under MCDI's Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) group certificate, the only of its kind in Africa. Moreover, villages supported by WWF through MCDI have been empowered to generate TZS 1.6 billion (\$ 760,000) through sales of hardwoods timber. Part of the collected revenue has been reinvested in forest management activities and the remaining fund put on community development projects and enterprises.

Despite the extensive revenue gains attained by communities from sustainable harvesting, limited financial management including investment skills amongst communities has accounted for short-lived financial balances in turn leading to reduced finance to support community-led projects and forest conservation work. Limited continuous support to manage community forests provides loopholes for illegal logging and massive encroachment as Village Natural Resource Committees (VNRCs) lack regular support to undertake forest patrols. In the same sense, village governments tend to lack progressive flaws to implement community-level social projects and support individual community members on livelihood matters.

It is based on this background; WWF Forest Program intends to recruit a consultant to facilitate the development of a community-based forest financial management manual and income diversification frameworks for the communities managing their forests under the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) scheme.

##### Objective of the consultancy

The overall objective of this assignment is to facilitate the development of a community-based forest financial management manual and income diversification frameworks for the communities that manage their forests. Specifically, the consultant will 1. Undertake an analysis of the financial streams and revenues from community timber harvests and the expenditure models. 2. Develop a financial management manual for communities with village forests reserves in the Ruvuma landscape 3. Develop an income diversification framework for the CBFM communities in the landscape.

##### Application procedure & Submission of Applications

All interested applicants may get the detailed ToR on WWF websites at [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/jobs/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/) and also, send your full proposal (technical & financial) through procurement email at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org) only softcopy proposals are accepted addressed to;

##### Secretary, Procurement Committee

WWF Tanzania  
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni  
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535;  
[website. www.wwf.or.tz](http://www.wwf.or.tz)

All applications should reach us by or before 1600hrs Tanzania local time on Monday, 4th April, 2022.



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Tanzania

Tel: 255 22 2700077  
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[info@wwftz.org](mailto:info@wwftz.org)  
[www.wwftz.org](http://www.wwftz.org)

### Request for Proposals (RFP)

#### Consultancy: Support the Establishment of a Carpentry Model Workshop in a Selected Village in the Ruvuma Landscape

##### Background

In the past 20 years, the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) supported Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) to put about 500,000ha of forest under Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) in over 45 villages in four districts of Kilwa, Rufiji, Tunduru, and Namtumbo. Out of these, 200,000ha of Village Land Forest Reserves (VFLRS) in 15 villages are certified under MCDI's Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) group certificate, the only of its kind in Africa. Moreover, villages supported by WWF through MCDI have been empowered to generate TZS 1.6 billion (\$ 760,000) through sales of hardwoods timber. Part of the collected revenue has been reinvested in forest management activities and the remaining fund put on community development projects and enterprises. WWF Tanzania in partnership with MCDI has facilitated the forest products value addition by purchasing and donating two highly efficient mobile sawmills and a solar kiln to the communities in the Ruvuma Landscape.

Despite the support of this technical equipment, the overall perspective, and expectations for improved livelihoods through value add, there is still more potential to build on in investments of value chains through the processing of furniture-based products which can be of high value compared to trading of timber and logs. It is based on this background; WWF-TCO intends to recruit a consultant to support the establishment of a carpentry model workshop in a selected village in the Ruvuma Landscape.

##### Objective of the consultancy

The overall objective of this consultant is to support the establishment of a carpentry model workshop in at least one selected village in the RLS. Specifically, the consultant will be required to; Develop a sustainable furniture business model for the community, develop a business plan for the community carpentry workshop to be operational, develop a procurement plan for relevant equipment for the carpentry, support development of a bill of quantities for the construction of a carpentry building and installation of all equipment (procurement to be done by WWF), Support training of the selected youth at a relevant Wood processing training center preferably in the landscape, Support and facilitate the processing of all required registration and legal pre-requisite for the carpentry to become fully functional and Facilitate one-day workshop in collaboration with WWF to share results of the assignment.

##### Application procedure & Submission of Applications

All interested applicants may get the detailed ToR on WWF websites at [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/jobs/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/) and also, send your full proposal (technical & financial) through procurement email at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org) only softcopy proposals are accepted addressed to;

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All applications should reach us by or before 1600hrs Tanzania local time on Monday, 4th April, 2022.



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
OFISI YA RAIS  
TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA  
WAKALA WA MABASI YAENDAYO HARAKA



KUMBUKIZI YA MWAKA MMOJA WA HAYATI  
DKT. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI



Mtendaji Mkuu, Menejimenti na Wafanyakazi wa Wakala wa Mabasi Yaendayo Haraka (DART), Wanaungana na Mheshimiwa Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan, Familia na Watanzania wote katika kumbukizi ya mwaka mmoja tangu kuondokewa na Dkt. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli. Rais wa Awamu ya Tano ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania.

Wakala utaendelea kukumbuka na kuenzi juhudi zako katika kuendelea na kusimamia miundombinu ya Mabasi Yaendayo Haraka.

Pumzika kwa Amani  
HAYATI DKT. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI

# Journalists advised to change public attitude on news by involving both genders - TAMWA

By Guardian Reporter

THE Managing Director of Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) Dr Rose Reuben has reminded journalists that it is their responsibility to change the public mind-set by ensuring the news they write incorporates both genders.

Dr Reuben made the remarks on Tuesday as she was closing a one-day training seminar to journalists aimed at understanding gender issues, leadership and freedom of expression in media outlets.

The training was also designed to enhance women status in media outlets.

"Journalists must learn to have agendas, we want to be journalists who are able to pose questions to people understanding their agendas, we should not ask our news sources about their opinions, you must know what you want from them as that is where you can build your own name," added Dr Reuben.

She said women have been victims of attack by media outlets causing some of them to be afraid of being interviewed.

Because of this problem, Dr Reuben called upon journalists that whenever they go out to interview their news sources, they should make sure they have agendas as well as their identities; they should not leave questions behind.

Regarding the training, she said they are provided under the project sponsored by the European Union, through International Media Support (IMS) aimed at bringing about

freedom of speech and press freedom.

"In TAMWA we have gender equality in so far as press freedom is concerned whereas we need to see all news reports incorporate both men and women in the society in regard to news sources," added Dr Reuben.

She said media outlets have the task of facilitating women to speak by telling them the intention of what they want to talk about as well the journalist's identity without leaving any questions.

The training that aims to discuss various issues is provided by TAMWA in collaboration with the Tanzania Chapter of Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA-TAN), Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC), Zanzibar Youth Forum, Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and MULIKA.



**"Journalists must learn to have agendas, we want to be journalists who are able to pose questions to people understanding their agendas, we should not ask our news sources about their opinions, you must know what you want from them as that is where you can build your own name,"**

# Smash leaves 4 dead and 37 injured

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

FOUR people have died and 37 others sustained injuries in a road accident that involved two vehicles in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

Tanga Regional Police Commander, Safia Jongo confirmed the accident on Wednesday night at Sindeni village.

RPC Jongo said a small Isuzu Journey bus rammed into a Toyota Hiace pickup and a group of pedestrians nearby causing the death of four and 37 others injured.

"The cause of the accident is attributed to the Isuzu Journey bus travelling from Tanga to Handeni that hit a group of pedestrians and another vehicle (Toyota Hiace) that had broken down, killing three on the spot while seven were seriously injured while others sustained bruises.

"Another person died at the hospital while receiving treatment at Handeni District Hospital," she added.

Doctor in charge at Handeni District Hospital, Dr Hudi Shehadi said they received 38 people who sustained injuries whereas one died as he was receiving treatment.

Mustafa Bakari, who witnessed the accident, said he and friends heard a loud bang along the road and on reaching the scene they found one person who sustained

injuries, but as they were helping him, they heard another loud bang and found they were hit by another vehicle.

Many of those who sustained injuries were residents of Sindeni Village who rushed to the scene after the first accident, but these were hit by another vehicle.



**Another person died at the hospital while receiving treatment at Handeni District Hospital**



# Recycling Day sees a rise in amounts of plastic waste ending up in the economy

By Guardian Reporter

AS the Global Recycling Day is celebrated today, more plastic waste is being diverted from landfills and into a circular economy that increases employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for African countries

Food and beverage packaging is an important part of modern life, helping to ensure food safety and reduce food waste, yet the world has a packaging problem that requires a comprehensive response.

As part of its responsibility to help address the challenge, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) together with the Coca-Cola Company, have set an ambitious goal to help collect a bottle or can for everyone it produces by 2030 and use 50 per cent recycled content in all

packaging and make 25 per cent of its packaging reusable by the same year while making all its packaging 100 per cent recyclable by 2025.

The initiative—'World Without Waste', relies on partnerships with customers, consumers communities, industry, and governments to succeed.

With many initiatives underway across CCBA's territories, a few recent highlights include the move to clear Sprite PET in six markets which makes it much easier to recycle and has greater value as a recyclable material.

Another milestone is the extension of the PETCO model, which is based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility, to three additional markets since its inception in South Africa and plans for further roll-out to a total of eight markets.



**"We use our industry leadership to be part of the solution to achieve positive change in the world and to build a more sustainable future for our planet"**

CCBA also started using returnable 2L PET in South Africa with the view to roll this out to other markets.

CCBA Group Head of Sustainability, Diana Sibanda said the company was developing increasingly sustainable ways to manufacture, distribute and sell its products.

"We use our industry leadership to be part of the solution to achieve positive change in the world and to build a more sustainable future for our planet," she said.

In Tanzania, CCBA in collabo-

ration with its recycling partner Sunda Chemical Fiber, has recycled more PET than it produced, achieving a recycling rate of 113 per cent over the past two years.

In Mozambique, CCBA subsidises a company that converts polyethylene terephthalate (PET) into plastic flake that is transported to South Africa for recycling. The company, AguaPET, uses the subsidy to buy PET from collectors.

CCBA also supports companies, such as Facebol, which operates a baling machine at the CCBA factory to convert PET

into bales which are also sent to South Africa for recycling, with the transport costs subsidised by CCBA.

The company supports collectors with personal protective equipment, compacting machines and 1-ton bags to store PET.

Through these partnerships, CCBA in Mozambique is already tracking ahead of its 2022 target on its way to the global 100% target.

In another innovation, 2L PET bottles donated by CCBA were converted into bio-sustainable building materials for the construction of a kitchen with a pantry and balcony at a school, as well as a community store, in Massaca, improving nutrition for 60 children and benefiting the community, who no longer have to travel to the city to buy essentials.

**ONE YEAR REMEMBRANCE MESSAGE**

The Board, Management and Staff of **Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL)** commemorate one year since the passing of the Late Fifth President of the United Republic of Tanzania **John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.**

May you keep resting in peace.

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- 3 Kuongeza bajeti kulikowezesha utoaji huduma kwa ufanisi na kutoa gawio kwa Serikali kiasi cha Tsh bilioni 5.9
- 4 Kuendelea kutoa msaada wa kiufundi kwa viwanda vipya 15 vya dawa na 24 vya vifaa tiba nchini
- 5 Kuidhinishwa kwa Muundo wa TMDA na ongezeko la Watumishi kufikia 293
- 6 Matumizi ya mifumo ya kieletroniki katika utoaji huduma za vibali ambapo sasa vinatolewa ndani ya saa 24
- 7 Kuendelea kushikilia ngazi ya Tatu ya WHO ya ubora wa mifumo ya udhibiti (Maturity Level 3)
- 8 Kusogeza huduma kwa wananchi kwa kujenga ofisi ya kanda ya kati
- 9 Kuanzishwa kwa Maabara za tumbaku na dawa za mitishamba mkoani Dodoma na Maabara ya vitendambishi jijini Dar es Salaam

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## Our natural resources remain in big need of close attention

**H**IGHLY regarded Tanzanian conservation expert Dr Felician Kilahama says what he means and means what he says when discussing how forests can contribute to development if properly cared for.

He also ought to be taken seriously when he quotes statistical and other details on the destruction to which Tanzanian forests are subjected - even when his pleas or recommendations prove all but cries in the wilderness which few people care to heed.

The former director of the Forestry and Beekeeping division in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry really knows his onions when it comes to speaking on the importance of conserving forests and other natural resources.

On one especially memorable occasion six years ago, the widely acclaimed and much-quoted conservation expert fed a seminar for senior media practitioners on seemingly well-known information so expertly phrased as to turn into revelations.

This included remarks that forest, woodland and wildlife resources are important natural assets commonly recognised owing to their crucial but often little appreciated contribution to social and economic development.

The contribution would be in the form of water supply, food security and ecotourism as well as health and other social services.

There would likewise be talk of the decisive link between the resources and environmental sustainability, soil and water conservation, agricultural production, livestock development as well as social or cultural values.

These natural resources are an endowment of fundamental importance and relevance in that their very existence earns both the government and the nation badly needed revenue.

One would thus be excused to wonder alongside conservation gurus like Dr Kilahama whether it was not as paradoxical as it was tragic seeing that there wasn't as much evidence of readiness or willingness to protect our forests and other natural resources as circumstances demand.

Surely, there has been an unrelent-

ing avalanche of declarations or pronouncements promising stern legal and other action against anyone encroaching upon resources known to have invaluable environmental values such as enhancement of water supply.

It would ordinarily or logically amount to suicide invading catchment forests and therefore threatening water supply and electricity generation potential such as by thoughtlessly developing human settlements or establishing industrial plants.

These resources, most of them renewable only at great cost, as natural food supply hubs for human beings and wildlife alike. And what is there to beat food security as a national priority - anywhere on the globe?

The message here is that Tanzanians need to move as a joint force with a common purpose in the face of the pillage of our natural resources that we have witnessed for decades running.

All manner of conservation experts have long identified the challenges we are bound to continue facing as we seek to address this plunder, one being that most of our people still rely on farming and livestock grazing systems that are far from sustainable and friendly to the environment.

There is the argument of illegal logging being associated with the ever-rising demand for charcoal often blamed on "poverty" and lack of better fuel options.

Nor do intermittent eruptions of wildfires and the half-hearted nature of tree-planting efforts help matters - as climate change continues to cause havoc.

Accordingly, it is crucial that we reflect a little longer and more seriously on the precarious situation the world is in.

We then ought to decide to inject more political will and public understanding into the implementation of drives calculated to protect the environment more effectively.

It is incumbent upon us to work for our own survival and development by heeding alerts by conservation and other experts about the danger ahead or dig our own graves by deciding that the warnings are hollow, time-worn or misdirected.

## Let us go on talking the talk on child marriages, poverty - and then walk it

**I**T continues to be the lot of millions of our people, in its various forms or shapes and levels of seriousness, as efforts to rid it from our midst similarly run on.

And there are times when, to great surprise or chagrin, it is an entrenched "cancer" standing as a target too eel-slippery to hit.

We have in mind the monster commonly known as poverty, as social, cultural and economic development analysts without number have long attested and will always testify.

This is why it proves especially painful when legally registered institutions or agencies entrusted with working on the plight of poor members of society betray that trust by benefiting from those agencies at the expense of those meant as the rightful beneficiaries.

According to one count, some years ago, the government had registered well over one hundred NGOs and community or faith-based organisations.

All these were officially meant to add value to the otherwise wretched lives of truly needy people.

But, surprise, surprise, there were strong indications that some of these were briefcase agencies serving as comforters of the targeted poor only in name.

There has been some positive change since, with some of the errant players toeing the line. But much more

focused screening and much more rigorous sprucing up would come in handy.

Only with such action would ensure that justice is done and seen to be done to the truly needy members of society and the people and agencies genuinely out to help them lead better lives.

All those responsible for making sure that the game is played transparently and in line with the laws, regulations and guidelines regulating it should play their role to satisfaction.

We draw joy from interventions made from time to time with respect to problems relating to the disbursement and use of Tanzania Social Action Trust Fund (Tasaf) finances meant for poor households but landing in the wrong hands.

Much the same applies with regard to overtly anti-social or outright criminal behaviour or practices such as gender-based violence and child marriages, both still prevalent in some parts of Tanzania despite years of efforts from various quarters to end them.

For instance, in the case of child marriage, it is confirmed that rates have dropped in recent years but remain unacceptably high - even as the drastic consequences of the practice are well-documented.

This points to the need for enhanced sensitisation of the public on these consequences, among them the fact that there is a big likelihood of girls married off too early experiencing untold violence and abuse.

Happy Maji Week!



## The biases in coverage of the war in Ukraine

By Jon Allsop

**I**N the days since Russia invaded Ukraine, writers at a number of major outlets have criticised Western media coverage of the war as racist.

They have often pointed to examples of journalists characterising the invasion as the sort of thing that happens in poor countries, but not in Europe: a CBS correspondent calling Kyiv a "relatively civilised" city; a reporter for Britain's ITV saying that Ukraine is not "a developing third world nation".

Also, an anchor on Al Jazeera describing refugees as "prosperous, middle-class people", not "people trying to get away from areas in North Africa".

In a BBC interview, a Ukrainian politician spoke of his "emotion" at seeing "European people with blue eyes and blond hair being killed". His interviewer did not try to set him straight.

In a statement, the Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association noted that such framing wrongly casts war outside of Europe and North America "as somehow normal and expected", thus dehumanising those who suffer under it.

So, too, did the comedians Trevor Noah and Michael Che. "It's a tough subject to make jokes about," the latter quipped on SNL, adding: "In my lifetime I've seen footage of attacks like this on other countries, but never a white one."

Critics have also argued that the volume of coverage of the war in Ukraine itself represents a double standard when contrasted with the relative lack of attention that Western media outlets pay to conflicts elsewhere in the world.

Magdalene Abraha, a writer with roots in Ethiopia's Tigray region, where a war has raged since 2020, told NPR that the wall-to-wall coverage of Ukraine has been "fantastic" but "it would be good to have this kind of attention to all crises relating to war, famine and natural disasters".

In a similar vein, some have noted that current references to "freedom fighters" and "refugees" read very differently to past coverage of "terrorists" and "migrants", especially in the Middle East and Africa.

"Many Western journalists, public figures and news consumers are failing to apply their skepticism evenly," New York-based Canadian freelance journalist Ishmael N. Daro wrote for The Nation.

He said much Ukraine coverage was "remarkably free of controversy regarding potentially millions of

refugees fleeing to safety in other countries, the right of civilians to engage in armed resistance, or the ethics of economic and cultural boycotts against states violating human rights".

Others have pushed back on the pushback, arguing, among other things, that Russia's war in Ukraine warrants more attention because it could easily escalate into a global conflict with a nuclear-armed superpower.

That's a big worry. But it doesn't explain why coverage focused on Ukrainian suffering - which has been rightly prominent, and often excellent - has dwarfed the attention the media collectively pay to human suffering in other warzones.

As Moky Makura of Africa No Filter, a group that works to dispel stereotypes about the continent, wrote for CNN recently: "The 'unthinkable things' that happen in places like Africa are typically reported in terms of issues, numbers and trends - rather than the people, the emotions and the lives destroyed."

And it certainly can't account for the coverage that has cast Europe as too civilised for war - an assertion that is not only racist about other parts of the world but also laughably ignorant.

Today's foreign correspondents may not have lived through World War II but many should be old enough to remember the Balkan wars, not to mention the many times since then that Western powers have invaded or otherwise intervened militarily in farther-away countries.

The double standards here are immediately important, shaping our empathy and understanding not only of the war in Ukraine but of those wars still ongoing elsewhere. And it strikes me that they are not the only example of bias that has crept into Western coverage of Russia's invasion.

If critics have paid valuable attention to how some in the media are framing this war differently relative to others, it is also worth examining how assumptions that always shape Western coverage of conflict are manifesting here again.

In the broadest sense, mainstream Western media have been pretty united in denouncing Russia's invasion.

It is a far cry, it would seem, from the bellicose punditry and credulous reporting that legitimised the US invasion of Iraq, for example. But old modes of war coverage can manifest in subtler ways, too.

One age-old criticism has been that US news networks, in particular, are overly reliant on "expert" pundits with professional and financial ties to the US national-security establishment and defence industry, and rarely give

a platform to longstanding anti-war activists.

That's happening again with the Ukraine war. (Just the other day, CBS News added H.R. McMaster, Trump's national security adviser, as a "foreign policy and national security contributor".)

These pundits are (mostly) not apologists for Putin's invasion - far from it - and they do have expertise relevant to the current moment.

Nor do they always agree. But they are not experts in the sense that media people often understand that word - authority figures who can help put an issue or debate in its proper context - as much as actors often steeped in a particular foreign-policy worldview.

The experts to whom news consumers are exposed influence what they think about the war, and US policy "options" with regard to it.

So does the language that they, and we, use. While it is part of our job to convene debates between insightful people, it is not our job to present asymmetrical policies as two

with a major nuclear power.

Since the Biden administration and politicians and analysts from across the political spectrum oppose a no-fly zone as liable to start World War III, this view has gotten plenty of media airtime, and the policy has been characterised in similar ways by some prominent news reporters.

But other journalists have too often banded about the term without adding much context. This is highly consequential. Polls have already shown that public support for a no-fly zone can recede dramatically when it is characterised as an "act of war" or similar.

Western media's overuse of antiseptic military jargon strikes me as itself descending from the wrongheaded notion that war is something that happens over there, far from everyday consequences for most citizens even when our governments are prosecuting them in our name.

As Vox's Zack Beauchamp wrote last week, calls for a no-fly zone, in particular, feel like "relics from prior wars waged under unquestioned American supremacy, unburdened by the prospect of great-power war and nuclear escalation".

Such thinking is complacent and we should be wary that it doesn't enter, even implicitly, into the ways we're framing the war in Ukraine.

Panic is rarely helpful in news coverage, but it's vital that we be clear, careful and consistent in defining the global stakes here.

This also brings us back around, of course, to the racist double-standard problem; the two share common roots.

The biases that are often present in Western coverage of war and the biases that are making the coverage of this particular war different both ultimately reflect ingrained assumptions about global power dynamics that are both morally indefensible and factually untenable.

The war in Ukraine is a tragic opportunity for the Western press to interrogate and shed these assumptions - an act that, done properly, should not distract from the immense suffering of the Ukrainian people but help us see it even more clearly, in a universal context.

As the CJR contributor Maria Bustillos wisely put it only days ago: "I don't want to hear from pundits, I want to hear from Ukrainians and Poles and the people this is happening to. The reason there's more awareness of this crisis is that there's more contact with the people who are really in it, and that's how the media should be." Everywhere.





# H. E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN

The Management and Staff of ALAF Limited, a part of the SAFAL Group extend warm congratulations to Her Excellency Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan upon celebrating One Year in Office. We wish you greater success in leading our Nation.

# Before you land your dream job, volunteer and gain work experience



**Y**OU graduate from college with the very first thought of landing a job in an institution with a very attractive wage like any other normal graduate would look forward to after completing their studies. You scroll through several job sites countless times in a day and tirelessly apply for any job opportunity that pops up, you get shortlisted in two job applications amongst the several you applied for, and neither did

you secure any. You then come across a young man's job search journey on social media which is not only a story about his struggle and eventual success but also about how he was able to launch two companies after several years of employment upon graduating from college and you saw so much sense into it, practical results, career growth and even self-development from his very rare experience and unique initiative he applied

throughout his journey and had the dire need of heading down the same road. Sometimes the road less travelled has indeed plenty of treasure. As crucial as it is to remain positive about job seeking especially for a graduate who is fresh from college with no experience, it's also important for students to be in a position to learn from working in various institutions regardless of low pay or no pay at all. However, this requires

discipline and commitment that not a majority of college students can pull off. A young man's story on social media encouraged me to volunteer to work in a banking institution as a volunteering assistant accountant some years back and I was able to gain various career insights. It enabled me to add a valuable referees' list in my CV. Volunteering exposed me to professionals in my field of study who I relied upon in doing my daily duties in

the field who supervised me and who I built a professional relationship with that I use in my referees' list in my resume to date.

These professionals have an opinion about my skill set, ethical behaviors amongst others.

I learned that if you ever need people to vouch for your skills in your field of study, volunteering will provide you with experienced and people who have seen you in action can recommend you for a job even later when you are called for one. Don't be a plain paper graduate with no skills but instead volunteer to get recommendations and references that can separate you from the rest in the job market.

### It outlined work experience in my CV.

This was the most important strategy in my job search by then, especially when a job advert would leave me disappointed after looking at it twice due to the number of years of work experience in a relevant field one was required to have to apply.

I have come to the realization that it's way better to volunteer so as to have a current employer list in your CV which will add higher chances of success of securing the position than having a resume with no experience at all which always leaves recruiters doubting your ability to perform well enough for the advertised role.

### I built priceless networks

We have heard it before and I will say it once more, it's not only what



you know, it's also who you know. Volunteering enabled me to grow my network where I was in a position to find out about new positions and be at the forefront of people's minds if they learn of an opportunity.

I have come to learn that if you don't know many people in your field, then you are at a distinct disadvantage.

Go out there, volunteer, meet people and don't just know them by their names but also associate with them professionally.

People are investment, don't forget that.

### It kept me busy

Volunteering allowed me to be quite busy and that lifted my spirits. Volunteering prevents you from staying idle at home with nothing to do but instead allows you to go to work while you develop your skills and practise the basics of your field of study.

### It listed me on the top if a job was available in the institution

A job would even be created that wouldn't have existed in case there wasn't someone working tirelessly three months straight without pay as a thank you note to you.

Imagine you are volunteering at a company and suddenly an opportunity pops up, it sure won't go for someone else over you literally.

You have already proven your skills, your dedication and your passion hence will best fit the requirements for the role.

I have since come to learn that you ought to work hard, showcase your skills and always have in mind why you are there in the first place and watch yourself land an opportunity right there. All in all, volunteering opened up opportunities for me that I wouldn't know existed if I hadn't made that decision.

# Education cannot wait: Secure future of children in CAR conflict zones

## BANGUI

**N**INE-year-old Marguerite Doumkel sits among other children in a classroom in Paoua, a sub-prefecture of Ouham Pende, in the Central African Republic (CAR).

With a smile on her face, she writes down the lesson for the day in her book. "I like to study history and French," says Marguerite. Education for children in communities such as Paoua has on several occasions been disrupted by military unrest and armed groups interventions leaving hundreds of children like Marguerite out of school for months.

"When there are soldiers, we don't go to school. We stay at home. But I am happy I can continue my education now," Marguerite tells IPS.

According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) CAR 2022, at the end of the 2020 - 2021 school year (July 2021), 27% of schools were not functional, and 65% of children aged 3-17 were not attending school regularly (38% not enrolled at the beginning of the school year, 7% dropped out during the

year, and 20% not attending regularly).

In this grim picture, there is some hope. Marguerite and thousands of other children are able to return to school to continue their education thanks to the investments of Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the United Nations global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises.

Through its multi-year resilience programme, delivered by the Norwegian Refugee Council, Plan International, UNICEF, and UNHCR, ECW is funding interventions that ensure access to education in safe, inclusive, and protective learning environments for displaced and returnee children in CAR. ECW has been supporting communities in CAR for the past three years, reaching over 126,300 children - out of whom 41 per cent are girls.

"The children and adolescents in CAR are among the most vulnerable in this world. They have endured years of conflict, violence, human rights violations, extreme poverty, and repeated displacements," says Yasmine Sherif, the

Director of Education Cannot Wait. "Education is crucial to protect them and empower them to become the generation that will support a more peaceful and prosperous future for the country."

The programme improves learning environments with the rehabilitation and construction of classrooms and school infrastructure. It also provides training for teachers, learning materials for school children, birth certificates for children, dignity kits to improve access to education for girls, psycho-social support activities, and skills training for the youth in the beneficiary communities.

"I had no school supplies at the beginning of the school year, but with the distribution of learning materials by UNICEF in our school, I have books and a slate to write on," Marguerite tells IPS. "I have learned to write correctly, and I play teacher at home with my sister."

ECW funds have also been essential to respond to a critical time of school closure and disruption of education at national scale caused by Covid19 as well as post-electoral security crisis, says Noemi Robiati,



Children in Paoua, in the Central African Republic, celebrate being at school which is often interrupted by armed conflicts. They are beneficiaries of an Education Cannot Wait funded multi-year resilience programme, delivered by the Norwegian Refugee Council, Plan International, UNICEF, and UNHCR. Credit: UNICEF

Education Manager at UNICEF CAR

"ECW's support helped to scale up radio education, including through airing lessons on radio stations across the country and distributing radios with pre-registered lessons to households and schools. Education is a human right, and ECW funds have been critical to support such a fundamental right for the children of CAR," she says.

Education specialist at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Chanel Ntahuba says

that with ECW funding, NRC provides education for out-of-school children.

"We have been able to support students in school. We also support students who are out-of-school through the Accelerated Learning Programme for over-aged children, catch-up programmes for children who have missed a few weeks or months of the school year due to the conflict as well as through professional education that we call the Youth Education Package (YEP)," he adds.

Ntahuba tells IPS that the public budget allocated to education is low representing 1.6% of GDP and 13.3% of public expenses in 2019. Therefore, communities hire teachers to ensure that their children go to school.

These teachers, he says, are not paid by the government but through the contribution of the population. But, in situations where families struggle to make ends meet, they can't afford to pay the teachers regularly.

"This is why with ECW funding, we support the payment of the teachers who are supporting the Accelerated Learning Programme, Catch-up class as well as those in the youth class," he adds.

Ntahuba further notes that the program supports the training of teachers to improve the quality of teaching.

"We train teachers on the content of the teaching, also on how to prepare and present their lessons," he indicates.

Justine Banguereya, a teacher at Paoua, says apart from the training she received, the money the programme offers to teachers has greatly impacted her livelihood. It also removes the financial burden from parents who do not have the means to pay for their children's schooling.

"Today, I am paid up to 35,000 FCFA (about US\$60) by month as an incentive bonus. This program has helped us meet the challenges of the inability of parents and the state to take care of the schooling of Central African Republic children," Banguereya tells IPS.

She also mentions that

she has become a better teacher after attending the ECW funded training. "I can prepare a lesson plan for any subject, and I have also learned how to provide psychosocial support and other forms of support in school to vulnerable children, especially girls and those with disabilities."

Ntahuba says the financial assistance to teachers is one of the program's greatest achievements, "it is why teachers come to school every day."

ECW funds also support awareness campaigns to mobilize parents in sending their children to school. "Many parents do not send their children to school as they prefer to have them working on household tasks, gardening and farming, hence depriving them of an education," says Ntahuba.

This is particularly important to get more girls in the classrooms. "The education of girls is not prioritized as compared to the boys. Keeping the school operational and encouraging parents to send them to school is one of the ways girls can escape early marriage and teenage pregnancy," he explains.

He adds that the target of ECW

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# Tigo Pesa customers to get cash prizes worth over 325m/- in new promotion

By Guardian Reporter

**T**IGO Pesa has launched a new five weeks' promotion dubbed: 'Pesa Mwaa Mwii na Tigo Pesa' that will see Tigo Pesa customers' walkaway with cash prizes worth 325m/-.

The promotion, which builds on the success of Tigo Pesa 10 years anniversary promotion that was launched last year to encourage customers to adopt digital payment solutions in their day-to-day transactions. Tigo Pesa customers are eligible to enter the draw and win cash prizes through performing different transactions such as 'Lipa Kwa Simu' (pay via

mobile phone), Bill Payments, Government Payments, On-net peer to peer transactions and receiving money from another mobile network.

"Tigo Pesa over the years has contributed to the national financial inclusion agenda and through our innovative customer-centric products and services we have delivered robust financial services to more than 9 million customers. We have seen a growth countrywide on dependency in mobile financial services and Pesa Mwaa Mwii na Tigo Pesa promotion builds on our purpose to foster digital payments across the country with a wide variety of digital

solutions that empower users in an increasingly digital world", said the Chief Officer for Mobile Financial Service (MFS), Angelica Pasha.

"This Pesa Mwaa Mwii na Tigo Pesa promotion is exclusively for Tigo Pesa customers, where we will have a total of 111 winners, 20 winners winning 2m/- every week for 5 weeks, 10 winners to get the grand prize of 10m/- at the end of promotion and 1 overall winner getting 25m/-. Customers are encouraged to perform as many transactions as possible from the services mentioned above to stand a chance to become millionaires," Pasha

explained.

"Tigo Pesa has transformed the lives of millions of customers in Tanzania and with the increase in digital literacy and mobile phone penetration, we are transitioning to be a fully-financial services provider connecting customers in a digital financial world," remarked Pasha.

All a customer needs to do is to transact as many times as possible through the Tigo Pesa services (Lipa Kwa Simu, Bill Pay, Government Payments, On-net peer to peer, receiving from other mobile networks) available to stand a chance to win the cash prizes.



Tigo Chief Product Innovation and Strategy Officer David Umoh (R) shakes hands with Samsung East Africa Managing Director Tae Sun Lee shortly after launching a home internet service for Samsung Smart television users in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Telecom firm, Samsung rekindling the home internet experience in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

TIGO in partnership with Samsung Electronics Tanzania has announced the launch of home internet service for Smart TV users.

According to a statement issued yesterday, all smart Samsung TVs purchased at accredited shops across the country will be bundled with the home internet router (CPE, MIFI) and a monthly welcome pack Internet package.

"Tigo is determined to ensure that all its customers get to experience the true 4K content on the fastest 4G+ network by providing free internet of up to 285 GB for ninety days to any customer

buying selected models of Samsung Smart TVs," said David Umoh, Tigo Chief Product Innovation and Strategy Officer

Umoh said: "The launch of a Home Internet by Tigo service for Smart TV users in partnership with Samsung Electronics Tanzania is the first of its kind in the country, and it adds to a vast array of innovative products and services designed by Tigo to offer fast and reliable broadband experience to our customers across Tanzania."

"As the leading digital lifestyle telecommunications provider, we are always working towards the delivery of a bold digital world for our customers, we believe that every home deserves

to experience the benefit of a modern connected life which is the driving force behind the adoption of this service," said Umoh.

Samsung East Africa Managing Director, Tae Sun Lee said: "As Samsung we are adjusting our sails and we see it fit to only bring our partners on this journey that we have just restarted in Tanzania. The launch of this strategic partnership with Tigo further solidifies our commitment to bring the best technology to the people using Samsung 4K Smart TVs and Tigo. We hope this partnership can help bring a better experience to the customers"



### REQUEST FOR TENDER (Readvertised)

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following:

#### Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction of New Mine Clinic

##### Pre-qualification Criteria

Reference No.	Description	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1 NM30/2022/A	Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction of New Mine Clinic	i. Applicants that had successfully executed EPC Contracts on a turnkey basis from design stage to commissioning of projects over the past three (3) years shall be considered. ii. Applicant should be capable and prepared to undertake Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) project for Building New Clinic facility from Front End Engineering Design stage to successful completion of the facility as per Scope of works iii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided iv. Local compliance with valid CRB registration, Class 3 contractor v. Applicant should provide proof of statements - financial stability, engineering capabilities, organizational structure, experienced personnel, list of equipment's owned, expertise in relevant types of building construction facilities and familiarity with Tanzanian laws and Regulations

##### Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

**NB:** The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM

##### Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI March 21, 2022, 12:00 Noon

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

216758702



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: SUPPLIES AND NON-CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. ELECTRICAL SERVICES                     | 44. CLEARING SERVICES  |
| 2. GENERATOR SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE       | 45. COURIER SERVICES   |
| 3. FUEL SUPPLY SERVICES                    | 46. CLEANING SERVICES  |
| 4. UPS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE  | 47. NOTE COUNTING MACHINE SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE   |
| 5. STORE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM                 | 48. AUTOMATED CASH DEPOSITOR MACHINE   |
| 6. MARKETING AND ADVERTISING AGENCY        | 49. MOBILE BANKING SERVICES ( APP & USSD)  |
| 7. PRINTING OF BANK FORMS                  | 50. NETWORK AND SYSTEM MONITORING TOOLS  |
| 8. AC SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE             | 51. PENETRATION TESTS & VULNERABILITY ASSESMENT SERVICES ON ICT INFRASTRUCTURE   |
| 9. BUILDING CONTRACTORS                    | 52. ATM MACHINES PREVENTIVE MAINTANANCE AND PARTS ACQUISITION  |
| 10. FUMIGATION SERVICES                    | 53. NETWORK, SERVER, COMPUTER AND HARDWARE PARTS SUPPLY  |
| 11. MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE | 54. VIRTUAL PLATFORM VMWARE LICENSES   |
| 12. PHYSICAL SECURITY SERVICES             | 55. LEASE OF ENDPOINTS (COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, LAPTOPS ETC)  |
| 13. SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS          | 56. BOATZ WEBSITE HOSTING & MANAGEMENT   |
| 14. LEASE OF COMPUTERS AND ICT EQUIPMENTS  | 57. CHEQUE VERIFIERS & CHEQUE SCANNERS   |
| 15. ASSORTED STATIONARIES                  | 58. CISCO SMARTNET SERVICES  |
| 16. FURNITURE SUPPLY                       | 59. INTERNET AND BRANCH CONNECTIVITY SERVICES  |
| 17. FIXTURE AND FITTING SERVICES           | 60. ORACLE PREMIER SUPPORT   |
| 18. LEGAL SERVICES                         | 61. DISASTER RECOVERY SITE (CO-HOSTING)  |
| 19. ALARM SYSTEM MAINTENANCE               | 62. ENVIRONMENT SERVICES (HUMIDITY, TEMPERATURE) AT DATA CENTRE  |
| 20. FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE          | 63. FOREX RATES DISPLAY  |
| 21. CIT SERVICES                           | 64. HELP DESK SYSTEM SOFTWARE SERVICE  |
| 22. INVESTIGATION SERVICES                 | 65. INTERNET BANKING SERVICES  |
| 23. SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE SERVICES          | 66. MICROSOFT APPLICATION LICENSING  |
| 24. AUCTIONEER AND DEBT COLLECTION         | 67. PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR VIRTUAL SERVERS, STAND ALONE SERVERS, UPS, CCTV AND END POINTS  |
| 25. COLLATERAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES         | 68. SECURITY RELATED LICENCES ( EG INTRUSION PROTECTION SYSTEM (IPS) LICENSE, ANTI-MALWARE PROTECTIONS (AMP) LICENSE AND URL FILTERING LICENSE |
| 26. WEBSITE HOSTING AND MAINTENANCE        | 69. SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLATION AT DATE CENTRE (ALARMS, FIRE SUPPRESSION, DOOR ACCESS, CAMERAS)   |
| 27. PAINTING WORKS                         | 70. SWIFT ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING SERVICES   |
| 28. EVENTS MANAGEMENT                      | 71. SWIFT ATTESTATION / SWIFT AUDIT  |
| 29. AUDIT SERVICES                         | 72. SWIFT GATEWAY/BUREAU/MESSENGER SERVICES  |
| 30. TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING             | 73. TISS TRANSFERS INTEGRATION VIA SWIFT BUREAU  |
| 31. CATERING SERVICES                      | 74. VOICE OVER IP (VOIP) SIP TRUNK SERVICES  |
| 32. LOGISTICS SERVICES                     | 75. VOICE OVER IP TELEPHONE SYSTEM SUPPORT & ACQUISITION SERVICE   |
| 33. SERVER MAINTENANCE                     | 76. EB APPLICATION FIREWALL (WAF) SERVICE  |
| 34. CAR TRACKING SERVICES                  | 77. SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND AUTOMATION SERVICES   |
| 35. BUILDING CONSULTANCY FIRMS             |  |
| 36. BUILDING BRANDING                      |  |
| 37. INSURANCE BROKER SERVICES              |  |
| 38. VALUATION SERVICES                     |  |
| 39. EXTERNAL LAWYERS                       |  |
| 40. TAX CONSULTANCY SERVICES               |  |
| 41. FIXED ASSET REGISTER                   |  |
| 42. EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION SERVICES         |  |
| 43. LAWYERS/LITIGATION SERVICES            |  |

Bank of Africa Tanzania Ltd is a Private Commercial Bank operating in Tanzania serving Corporate, SME and Retail customers. It began operations in Tanzania in June 2007 and currently has a network of twenty (20) branches covering ten (10) in Dar es Salaam and ten (10) regional branches in Arusha, Mwanza, Mbeya, Mtwara, Morogoro, Tunduma, Moshi, Kahama, Dodoma and Zanzibar.

- All Applicants who meet requirements and are capable to provide services must submit the following information:
  - Experience in similar assignments.
  - Experience in working with Financial Institutions
  - At least 2 (two) reference letters from past and current clientele with contact details
  - All business registration and other related documents that is, Company profile, a valid Business License, Memorandum of Articles and Associations/Partnership Deed and any specialized certification related to services applied for, Tax clearance.
  - Fees applicable and mode of payment.
- Selection shall be in accordance with the International Competitive Selection procedures set out in the Public Procurement Act 2011 and Public Procurement Regulations of 2013.
- Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted in physical sealed envelopes only and delivered to the address below by or before 3.00pm on Thursday 31st March, 2022, and be clearly marked e.g. APPLICATION FOR "SERVICE" ["Applicant to insert description of services provided only"]

All applications should be addressed to:

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
BANK OF AFRICA TANZANIA,  
OHIO STREET/KIVUKONI FRONT,  
P.O.BOX 3054, DAR ES SALAAM.

2167581



# GERMANY CONSIDERS PLAN TO LINK HYDROGEN PIPELINE WITH NORWAY

BERLIN

**T**HE proposed project is in response to Russia's threat that it may shutter its main Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany.

Germany and Norway are considering options to build a hydrogen pipeline to reduce their reliance on Russia for energy supplies in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, reported Bloomberg News.

The move is said to be in response to a recent threat from Russia stating that it could consider closing the main Russia-Germany gas pipeline, if the Western governments cut energy supplies from the country.

As part of the plan, Germany and Norway will undertake a feasibility study on the proposed pipeline project, the countries said, following a meeting between German Economy Minister Robert Habeck, and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store.

The pipeline will be designed to transport green hydrogen from Norway to Germany.

Germany and Norway were cited by the publication as saying, in a joint statement: "Over the coming months and years, it will be extremely important to speed up the development of alternative energy sources for Europe as substitutes for Russian gas and oil, and to develop the necessary infrastructure for this."

Germany Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledged to increase the gas and coal storage facilities in the country to reduce its potential supply disruptions from Russia.

The government is also supporting efforts to build new liquefied natural gas (LNG) ter-



Hydrogen plant

minals, purchasing LNG, and accelerating plans to expand renewables capacity.

In a separate announcement, Germany-based electric utility company E.ON has ceased purchasing new gas from European trading companies of Russia's Gazprom, reported Reuters.

E.ON CEO Leonhard Birnbaum was cited by the news agency as saying, in the company's annual press conference: "In view of the war in Ukraine, we have stopped procuring new amounts from these companies."

Although the firm is not under long-term supply contracts directly with the Russian

gas producers, it has been purchasing a small amount in its portfolio from Gazprom trading companies.

The German company, via its pension fund, owns a 15.5% stake in the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, which is majority owned by Gazprom.

## Saudi Arabia Railway awards \$260 million 5-year contract to CAF

RIYADH

CONSTRUCCIONES y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles (CAF) has secured a \$260m (€200m) service contract from railway operator Saudi Arabia Railway (SAR).

The scope of the five-year contract includes the maintenance of the state-owned railway operator's train fleet, including technical support and other related services.

CAF, in collaboration with SAR, will conduct maintenance work on the trains supplied by the company in the country over recent years.

These units are presently operating on the North-South line that links the capital city of Riyadh to Qurayyat on the Jordanian border.

They also operate on the East-West line that links Riyadh to Dammam, spanning over 1,700km.

Besides, the units link other major areas of the country, including Hail, Al-Qassim, and Al-Hofuf.

Additionally, an agreement has been signed to set up a joint engineering department. Called the 'Engineering Excellence Centre', it will be aimed at training employees of the Saudi operator.

The training will be intended to help staff develop operating skills to conduct maintenance work on the units.

It will also help adapt the Saudi firm's facilities for the revamp of the units' main systems. This includes fitting out certain areas to modernise engines and pneumatic components, adapting the workshops for bogie and axle maintenance, as well as changing rolling gear.

Furthermore, SAR's 'DIGITAL HUB CENTRE' will be deployed under the contract as a benchmark centre in the Gulf for digitalisation of trains.

The project is based on CAF's LeadMind digital train platform to support the creation of a new generation of connected trains.

In a statement, CAF said: "This new contract will see CAF continue to work towards and collaborate in the development of the region's railway capacities, committed to supporting the country's strategic transport plan: Vision 2030."

# UK and Turkey agree on clean transport deal worth £1.7 bn

LONDON

THE UK government's biggest ever sustainable, civil infrastructure deal will help finance a new high speed electric railway line in Turkey.

Deal announced at UK-Türkiye Green Finance Conference designed to help Turkey finance major climate-friendly projects and meet its COP26 commitments

UK government's biggest ever sustainable, civil infrastructure deal will help finance a new high speed electric railway line in Turkey to decarbonise travel, with major contracts awarded to British and Turkish businesses.

The EUR2.1 billion green financing will be guaranteed by UK Export Finance (UKEF), through its Buyer Credit Scheme, with Credit Suisse and Standard Chartered structuring and coordinating banks arranging the transaction.

This is the first UK-supported rail transaction in Turkey for over 160 years, and forms part of Turkey's plan to transform high speed rail in the country.

The new 503km electric-powered railway line will connect Ankara, Turkey's capital, to the huge port-side city of Izmir. When complete, the new line will provide a faster, lower carbon alternative to current air and road routes between the two cities, helping to fulfil Turkey's climate change commitments made at COP26.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said "Turkey is a vital trading partner for the UK. Our shared global outlook on free trade and the environment is the driving

force behind economic growth in our two nations."

It is fitting that UK Export Finance's biggest ever civil infrastructure deal is strongly sustainable. This is a proud moment for the UK railway industry, using its industrial roots to reduce emissions in heavily polluted cities.

Treasury and Finance Minister for Türkiye Dr. Nureddin Nebati, said "referring to the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement signed between the UK and Türkiye in 1999; we have successfully achieved the closing of the landmark financing of Ankara Izmir High Speed Railway Project under the green loan structure."

"We have given utmost importance to the environmental and social procedures during this project and as the Ministry of Treasury and Finance we are closely following the improvements of such issues. We also desire to be among the active and important players of the rapidly growing green finance market," he added.

"We are very glad for the cooperation and strong longstanding relations with UK government and we hope to further strengthen our collaboration."

Turkey is one of the UK's most important independent trading partners. The bilateral trading relationship was worth £17.5 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2021, increasing by £1.4 billion from the same period in 2020.

The deal will secure major contracts for UK companies of all sizes to supply to the project, with several nine-figure deals for UK companies close to being agreed. Engineering and construction giants ERG International Group is us-

ing its close ties with the UK supply chain to support the project. UK companies are expected to supply British-made railway lines, turnouts, point machines, fasteners, material and equipment for signalling, telecommunication and electrification systems, as well as vital insurance and freight services.

The financing was led by Credit Suisse and Standard Chartered Bank with support from UK Export Finance and meets internationally recognised sustainability standards and is aligned with the Green Loan Principles. Re-insurance is also being provided by international export credit agencies such as SACE in Italy, SERV in Switzerland and OeKB in Austria, reducing the risk to the UK taxpayer.

Yoshi Ichikawa, Head of Structured Export Finance for Europe, Standard Chartered Bank said: "We're proud to further strengthen our relationship with the Turkish government, providing a loan structured with a clear focus on international social and environmental standards, and working closely with Credit Suisse and UKEF. This support is another in the line of Standard Chartered's financing in Türkiye to help the government deliver its railway infrastructure plan."

"ERG is honored with the achievement and its historic milestone. ERG look forward strengthening ties with UKEF and the Turkish Government in the construction sector and adding value to the economies by making advance engineering and technological solutions available. Like in all our previous projects over the last 50 years, ERG is committed to create sustainable economic added value," said Murat Dedeoglu, ERG International UK, Group CEO.

ERG's Turkish and UK based Environmental & Social teams will bring many years of international experience to this important project, in order to ensure that IFC, Equator Principles, and national standards are at all times met. We would like to thank all our partners and stakeholders in the UK, Europe and Turkey to make this dream project come true, which will positively change and enhance the lives of millions of travellers and people living along the alignment.



The hospital raises Shs2.7m from the existing 54 housing units monthly.

# Masaka hospital staff ordered to renew tenancy agreements or lose housing

KAMPALA

HEALTH workers at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital risk being evicted from staff quarters if they fail to renew their tenancy agreements by end of this month, Daily Monitor has established.

All tenancy agreements are expiring on June 30.

A February 24 internal memo, a copy of which Daily Monitor has seen, states that staff who want to retain their housing units have to reapply before March 31.

"Those who will not have applied by then will be assumed to no longer interested in hospital accommodation and such units will be allocated to other interested staff members," the memo reads in part.

According to the hospital management, all staff who will not have cleared their outstanding rent arrears by March 31 will not be considered for reallocation of staff houses.

Dr Nathan Onyachi, the director of Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, said the tenancy agreement for all

staff is clear that every after three years, the term of occupation expires and they have to reapply for the housing.

"All those who signed the tenancy agreement are aware that their term of occupancy is about to expire and we don't expect them to complain," he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Daily Monitor has learnt that many staff have defaulted on payment for more than five months.

Dr Onyachi said priority for accommodation will be given to staff working in maternity, accident and emergency as well as operating theatre departments.

Dr Onyachi said they have also received information that some non-staff occupied the houses without following the proper procedures.

"We are going to begin with those ones because for anyone to reapply for the house, you will have to first show your tenancy agreement," he added.

He said the hospital faces a challenge of health workers who refuse to pay their utility bills which at times leads

to disconnection of water and electricity.

Currently, Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, who preferred anonymity, said most staff rent houses outside the hospital and trek between three to eight kilometres to work which affects their daily productivity.

"The senior staff are the ones sleeping in those units, for us we commute from home daily, we ask government to expeditiously release funds to complete the new staff quarters," she said.

Some of the staff quarters were commissioned in 2014 and those under construction will replace the ones that were constructed in 1946.

Each of the staff accommodated within the hospital is supposed to pay a month-

ly rental fee of Shs50,000, meaning the hospital raises Shs2.7m from the existing 54 housing units monthly.

The Standing Orders of Public Service Section H-B on tenancy states that occupancy of any government housing shall be governed by a tenancy agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the tenancy. The tenancy agreement shall be drawn in consultation with the Government Valuer.

A public officer or any other tenant occupying any government house shall, unless otherwise stated, pay rent. The rent payable shall be determined by the Responsible Permanent Secretary in case of Pool Housing and Responsible Officer in case of Institutional Housing in consultation with the Government Valuer.

In case the houses are not occupied, government standing orders dictate that the responsible officer rent it out to another public officer in another sector. The rent payable in this case shall be collected in advance on a quarterly basis.

# A MILLION HOMES AT RISK OF FLOODING BY 2030, NEW MODELLING SHOWS

MELBOURNE

**M**ORE than a million properties are at risk of flooding across 30 priority local government areas around Australia, new modelling shows.

And climate-change-fuelled riverine flooding could cause \$170 billion in property value losses by 2050, or \$45,000 per exposed property, research from risk analysis provider Climate Valuation found.

Questions will be asked about whether some homes should be relocated or rebuilt.

The highest-risk areas include Brisbane, the Gold Coast, greater Shepparton and Ballina where insurance coverage for thousands of homes is likely to be unavailable or unaffordable as early as 2030.

The warning comes as communities across south-east Queensland, northern NSW and Sydney clean up from floods that have left close to 5000 homes uninhabitable.

More than 47,000 homes in the Brisbane council area will be at high risk of flooding within eight years, with almost 50,000 more at moderate risk.

Including those homes at high, moderate or low risk of flooding totals more than 211,000 homes - or 30.6 per cent of all properties in the council area.

For the Gold Coast, about 140,000 properties face some flood risk, of which about 23,000 are high-risk, while Shepparton has about 21,000 homes at high risk, equating to 56 per cent of the area. Ballina has more than 8000 homes at high risk.

Climate Valuation chief executive Karl Mallon said the risk could affect the value of the most exposed properties, a small but growing minority.

Banks are required to check for

climate change risk by the bank regulator, and could become hesitant to grant home loans to buyers in high-risk zones, he said.

"That's why we think things will change relatively quickly now, and we can expect some corrections in the property market," Mr Mallon said.

He hoped banks would see the benefits of providing loans for flood mitigation renovations, which would make homes safer, more insurable, a better credit risk and more valuable.

"It would be great if banks saw the benefit of that and extended a loan to cover flood protection," he said.

As extreme weather becomes more common, mitigation measures are in focus.

Homeowners can check local council flood maps to see their risk, which modellers calculate by looking at the topology of the landscape and survey data even for homes that are not next to rivers.

Mr Mallon encouraged people to check even for low flood risk, as some hard-hit homes in Lismore were considered low risk.

Even in a flood-prone area, some homes are more resilient than others, such as those with an upstairs living area and downstairs made from breeze block walls that will handle water better than a lower level made of a pine frame and plasterboard, he said.

Another solution is replacing a front fence with a brick wall and flood gate that may offer protection against one metre of water, or flood-proof doors and windows.

He called for government mitigation such as changes to building codes but said there are some communities where homes should be moved.

Risk Frontiers general manager



Flooded City

Andrew Gissing said many places around the country could experience a natural disaster for the first time, whether flood, bushfire, cyclone or earthquake.

"Because of the growth of the population in that risk area, and also because we do have extreme events and obviously climate change will worsen those extremes into the future, we will have these extreme events which are bigger than what we've experienced," he said.

But he said it was possible to foresee the potential impacts, adding that local government flood

mapping had shown the properties flooded in Lismore were flood prone. More than a million properties in 30 key areas are at risk of flood, according to the modelling.

He said mitigation measures such as increasing the height of levees in the Lismore CBD would reduce more frequent damage but not eliminate damage in extreme events, and backed a controversial plan to raise the wall of Warragamba Dam in Sydney.

For individuals, he highlighted flood-resilient building materials such as tiles, concrete and solid tim-

bers instead of carpets or particleboard.

Mr Gissing said moving high-risk communities could be considered in consultation with the community but could add to housing stress by reducing the supply of homes in an area already dealing with a natural disaster.

Herron Todd White Melbourne managing director Tony Kelly said valuers provide advice to lenders that properties are in an area at risk of floods or fires, but banks make the decision about whether and how much to lend.

# Pakistan pressing ahead with the Russian-built gas pipeline

KARACHI

PAKISTAN plans to finalise a Russian-built gas pipeline despite international pressure to isolate Moscow economically, as the US ally searches for alternatives to ease a domestic energy crunch.

Finance minister Shaukat Tarin told the Financial Times that a deal with Russia to build the multibillion-dollar Pakistan Stream pipeline "is almost done". Also known as the "North-South" project, it will transport liquefied natural gas from the southern port city of Karachi to Pakistan's north.

"We need a gas pipeline to transport LNG from south to north. That'll become almost essential for us in the next two or three years," he said. "Either there's an alternative for us or we'll go ahead with this deal... This is the best alternative as of now, and this was obviously done before Ukraine."

Pakistan, a western ally during the cold war and during the post-2001 "war on terror", has refused to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine despite public pressure from the EU, UK and others. Prime Minister Imran Khan said he "regretted" the conflict but wanted to remain neutral.

Islamabad has drifted closer to Moscow in recent years, partly as authorities look for ways to shore up energy securi-

ty and believe jeopardising ties with Russia would be too costly. While Pakistan produces gas, in recent years it has also started importing from the Gulf as energy demands rise.

The EU, too, needs Russia's energy sector, sourcing about 40 per cent of its gas from the country. The bloc has announced plans to cut imports by two-thirds this year.

But Pakistan's relationship with Russia risks straining links with the west. Khan visited Moscow on the same day Russia invaded Ukraine last month. It was the first visit by a Pakistani prime minister in more than 20 years.

The EU, UK, Australia and others "urged" Pakistan to condemn Russia in a UN General Assembly vote. Pakistan abstained from the vote, with Khan attacking the western countries at a campaign rally for treating Pakistanis like "slaves".

Tarin said he hoped Russian officials would soon visit the country to finalise the deal for the Pakistan Stream pipeline following Khan's Moscow visit. The pipeline, to be built by a collection of Russian companies, is estimated to cost more than \$2bn.

Well before the latest surge in oil and gas prices, Pakistan was struggling with a widening current account deficit and double-digit inflation exacer-



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan visited President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on the same day that Russia invaded Ukraine

bated by rising global commodity prices. Pakistan last month resumed a contentious \$6bn IMF programme to stabilise the country's balance of payments and shore up government revenues.

But Tarin said the conflict presented a new "crisis" that would push up the cost of imports including energy and wheat, which Pakistan previously sourced from both Russia and Ukraine. Higher prices following the US ban on Russian oil and gas imports would affect Pakistan "very negatively" unless Washington unlocked alternate energy sources, he said. Energy makes up about a quarter of Pakistan's import bill.

He added that a nuclear deal between the US and Iran would allow Islamabad to revive a plan to build a pipeline delivering gas directly from Iran to neighbouring Pakistan, which is suspended because of international sanctions. "If there's a deal... this is the cheapest [option]. It's next door," he said. "It'll be very good for us."

Tarin said it was "only fair that people should respect" Pakistan's "neutral" stance. The west "have been our allies for a very long time. We're listening to them, but we told them, 'Listen, we don't believe in taking sides. We're with you as much as China and others,'" he added.

## Silicon Valley powers to its biggest year ever for commercial property deals

SAN JOSE

SILICON Valley's commercial property market powered to its biggest year ever in 2021, fueled by the highest dollar volume ever recorded for office building purchases, a new CBRE report shows.

Tech titans, investors and real estate developers scrambled to plunk down a head-spinning \$8.71 billion to grab office buildings and research and development (R&D) properties last year, reported CBRE, a commercial real estate firm.

"2021's sales volume of \$8.71 billion is the highest" on record, using research and databases compiled by CBRE and Real Capital Analytics that stretch back to 2002, said Sara Johnston, a spokesperson for CBRE.

The boom in Silicon Valley office space and research and development properties represented a dramatic turnaround from 2020, a dreary year during which investors scaled back activity amid economic uncertainties spawned by the coronavirus.

In 2020, coronavirus-linked business shutdowns, massive layoffs and other major shocks battered the economy and the commercial property market.

"Pent-up demand amid a recovering market resulted in 132 properties containing 15.1 million sq. ft. changing hands," CBRE stated as part of a report the real estate firm provided to this news organization.

The 2021 total of \$8.71 billion was 81.1% higher than the 2020 sales volume of \$4.81 billion. And the 2020 sales volume represented a 21.8% decline from the \$6.15 billion in office and research building purchases in 2019.

The \$8.71 billion is also 36% above the average purchase volume of \$6.39 billion for the most recent five years from 2017 through 2021.

Purchasing activity boomed for Silicon Valley office buildings in 2021, although at a slightly slower pace than research and development spaces.

In 2021, buyers paid \$4.83 billion for office buildings, which was 63.2% higher than the \$2.96 billion they paid for office structures in Silicon Valley in 2020. The 2020 figure for offices was 9.5% below the 2019 figure of \$3.27 billion.

Buyers paid \$3.88 billion in 2021 for Silicon Valley research and development buildings, which was 109.7% - more than double - the \$1.85 billion that buyers paid for such structures in 2020, and the 2020 building purchase volume was 35.8% below the \$2.88 billion that was paid in 2019.

CBRE experts believe the transaction volume for office and research buildings is likely to remain robust.

"The inflow of capital to Silicon Valley's office and research and development investment market should continue to grow," CBRE said.

That's because demand appears likely to persist for office buildings and research spaces.

"Tech and life sciences companies should ramp up their hiring, require more space and welcome back their workforces to their offices," CBRE said.

The largest commercial property deal in 2021 in Santa Clara County was the \$780 million purchase of three office buildings in December in a section of north San Jose's Coleman Highline tech campus complex. A London-based investment firm bought the buildings, which are leased to tech titan Yahoo.

The second-largest acquisition by value for 2021 was the \$630 million purchase in March last year of two office buildings, a movie theater, and a parking garage in Mountain View. Facebook leases the office buildings.

To be sure, plenty of economic uncertainties loom, such as inflation and rising interest rates, which could choke off real estate activity.

However, signs have emerged that suggest 2022 could be a robust year for the purchases of office building and research properties, CBRE stated.

"Through the first two months of 2022," CBRE said, "seven significant office and R&D sales have already been completed."

## CONSTRUCTION

## Flooding fails to hit Ironbridge property market

LONDON

HOMES in the Ironbridge Gorge are soaring in value as the UK housing market sees demand continue for locations with great views at a more affordable price.

The price boom in the World Heritage site is in contrast to prices near other famous landmarks around the UK where values are falling.

Research by GetAgent.co.uk has found that overall the price of buying a home near one of the UK's most famous landmarks has dropped by six per cent in the past year, despite a pandemic market boom pushing the average UK house price up by 10.8 per cent during the same time.

This property price decline, equivalent to almost £40,000, is based on the current average asking price for homes within the same postcode as famous landmarks against the same time last year.

Despite the overall drop, homes near some famous landmarks have experienced impressive price growth.

The influence of the pandemic is undeniable in this sense, with the Lake District in Lancashire topping the table with a 22 per cent increase – £71,132 – in the past year alone.

The Ironbridge Gorge is in second place nationally. The town has been hit by flooding three years running and is awaiting better defences from the River Severn.

But that hasn't put potential house buyers off. They are attracted by the iconic gorge, its link with Britain's industrial revolution and the fact it is so close to the M54 and M6 motorways.

While the rise reflects how attractive the area is, Ironbridge Gorge ward Councillor Carolyn Healy struck a note of caution for those young people and low wage earners who are looking for a local place to live.

"It is a beautiful and wonderful place to live," said Councillor Healy who moved to the area 11 years ago and doesn't regret it one bit. "There is a very strong and vibrant community with lots of great businesses, attractions, and restaurants."

But she suspects that there are a lot of second home and holiday let purchases among that, which is a "perfectly legitimate" thing.

"It means that there can be a detriment because rising prices are a double-edged sword for people who find that properties are too expensive for them."

"We need to look at this in terms of affordability for people who grew up here and want to find a place to stay, to keep that great community going."

While rising prices show "what a wonderful place it is, the downside is that it can be hard if you have grown up in the Gorge and you want to stay," said councillor Healy.

She is the cabinet member for climate change, green spaces, natural and historic environment and cultural services with the ruling Labour group on Telford & Wrekin Council.

While there is little appetite or room for new housing in the Gorge, according to the councillor, the "challenge is how to get the right balance."

"We probably have to do something about having some affordable housing for the next generation," said Councillor Healy. The reduction in demand for city living during the pandemic, particularly across the London market, is a trend that is also apparent when it comes to famous landmark property prices, with the Tower of London seeing the largest annual decline in the average asking price at 15 per cent.

However, London's much-reported declining property market has started to show signs of a bounce back in more recent months, with Buckingham Palace placed third on the table after asking prices increased by 13 per cent in the past year.

# DIEBEDO FRANCIS KERE BECOMES FIRST AFRICAN TO WIN PRITZKER ARCHITECTURE PRIZE

NEW YORK

THE Pritzker Prize, architecture's most prestigious award, was awarded Tuesday to Burkina Faso-born architect Diebedo Francis Kere – the first African to win the honor in its more than 40-year history.

Kere, 56, was hailed for his "pioneering" designs that are "sustainable to the earth and its inhabitants – in lands of extreme scarcity," Tom Pritzker, chairman of the Hyatt Foundation that sponsors the award, said in a statement.

Kere, a dual citizen of Burkina Faso and Germany, is the 51st recipient of the illustrious prize since it was first awarded in 1979.

He is renowned for building schools, health facilities, housing, civic buildings and public spaces across Africa, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo, Kenya, Mozambique, Togo and Sudan.

"He is equally architect and servant, improving upon the lives and experiences of countless citizens in a region of the world that is at times forgotten," said Pritzker.

Kere won plaudits for his 2001 project for a primary school in Gando village, in Burkina Faso, where he was born.

Unlike traditional school buildings which used concrete, Kere's innovative design combined local clay, fortified with cement to form bricks that helped retain cooler air inside.

A wide raised tin roof protects the building from rains while helping the air circulate, meaning natural ventilation without any need for air conditioning.

Kere engaged the local commu-



Diebedo Francis

nity during the design and building phase, and the number of students at the school increased from 120 to 700, the Hyatt Foundation said in its release.

The success of the project saw the creation of an extension, a library and teachers' housing in later years.

"Natural climate"

Kere "empowers and transforms communities through the process of architecture," designing buildings "where resources are fragile and fellowship is vital," the statement add.

"Through his commitment to social justice and engagement, and intelligent use of local materials to connect and respond

to the natural climate, he works in marginalized countries laden with constraints and adversity," the organizers said.

Kere was also one of the architects behind Geneva's International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum.

In 2017, he became the first African architect to design the Serpentine pavilion in London's Hyde Park, a prestigious assignment given to a world-famous architect every year.

Kere has also held solo museum shows in Munich and Philadelphia.

In 2014, Diebedo Francis Kere poses next to his installation at

the Royal Academy of Arts in London for the 'Sensing Spaces: Architecture Reimagined' exhibition

In the release, Kere said he was "hoping to change the paradigm, push people to dream and undergo risk."

"It is not because you are rich that you should waste material. It is not because you are poor that you should not try to create quality," he said.

"Everyone deserves quality, everyone deserves luxury, and everyone deserves comfort. We are interlinked and concerns in climate, democracy and scarcity are concerns for us all."

## Australia report finds housing biggest concern for regions amid Covid-19 pandemic migration

SYDNEY

WITH a federal budget fast approaching and calls for the Coalition to reduce the cost of living, housing will be a hot topic, particularly when it comes to rural and regional areas.

In parts of the country, people are struggling to make ends meet and housing is out of reach.

At the same time, the rate of population growth in the regions has tripled during the pandemic, according to independent advisory body Infrastructure Australia, which has been looking at where the biggest infrastructure needs are outside the big four cities.

Its latest report has found the migration of people from cities has placed extra pressure on rural and regional infrastructure, with 55 per cent of regions citing housing, followed by water security, and mobile and digital connectivity as their top three issues.

Infrastructure Australia's policy and research chief, Peter Colacino, said housing was an impediment to retaining skilled and essential workers like nurses and firemen.

He pointed to the New South Wales Illawarra region – the state's third-largest community – where demand for housing is expected to grow by 58,000 properties by 2041, representing a tripling in the population.

"That's in a community with already elevated property prices, which is presenting both rental stress and challenges for people entering home ownership," Mr Colacino said.



Housing will be a hot topic as the budget approaches. (AAP: Mick Tsikas)

"Social housing waiting lists [in the Illawarra] are five to 10 years on average."

"And for some property types – properties that might service a larger family or people with specialist needs – the waiting lists are over 10 years."

In Tasmania, one in three renting households are struggling to meet rental costs, the report found, while in the Northern Territory more than half of all houses in remote communities are overcrowded.

Garry lives in his van because he can't find a rental. Instead of driving home

from work, Garry Wallis sets up his van in a suburban car park and settles in for the night.

"The NT has 10,852 social houses and a waiting list of 3,500 applications, so very large demand for additional remote housing," Mr Colacino said.

But Mr Colacino argued state and local governments had the biggest role to play by incorporating medium density housing in future planning, speeding up development approval times and releasing more land to build on.

"We need a greater diversity

of housing mix," he said. "Not everybody wants to live in high rise, not everybody wants to live in single detached dwelling."

"Medium density housing supports more property on less land and property of a different mix of styles that supports community needs."

Other shortcomings experienced in the 48 areas included in the report were access to education and public transport.

It is hoped the research will help governments and communities find ways to plan for growth and prosperity in the regions.

## Housing affordability 'is the worst it's ever been,' analysts say

WASHINGTON

HOMEBUYERS are facing the worst affordability conditions, according to two analysts who expect the housing market will get harder to break into this year.

"Affordability from a home price/down payment perspective is the worst it's ever been, meaning extreme barriers to entry," according to a BofA Global Research note by BofA Securities U.S. Economist Alexander Lin and BofA Securities U.S. and Global Economist Jeseo Park.

Still, "consumers remain steadfast in their interest to buy, but are uncertain," the analysts wrote.

Three big themes emerged in the report. Higher mortgage rates are here to stay. It's still better to own than rent if you can afford the down payment. And, supply chain problems continue to fuel constraints on inventory.

"The pickup in mortgage rates this year has been fast and furious," the analysts wrote, noting the 30-year fixed mortgage rate averaged 4.22% in March — up from the December average of 3.26%, citing Wall Street Journal data. "The massive rates move this year suggests that the affordability index will see another significant move lower."

Higher rates will also hurt inventory because existing homeowners — who make up about 40% of home sales — may be reluctant to sell because they feel the so-called "lock-in" effect.

"There is greater disincentive to move and replace their current mortgage that likely has a lower fixed rate," the analysts wrote, "lowering housing turnover."

"No painless decision between buying or renting"

As home prices have skyrocketed, so have rents, the analysts noted, which increased almost 15% year over year in January, per Zillow.

"Given housing costs are rising broadly, the question many households face is which is less painful: to buy or to rent?" the analysts wrote.

By the slimmest of margins, it's better to buy than rent — and here's the major caveat — if you can afford the "historically high down payment."

"The ratio is less than one, suggesting it is better to buy than rent [but] this ratio does not account for property taxes or other expenses tied to homeownership," the report said.

Homeowners spend \$15,405 annually on top of their mortgage for costs associated with homeowners insurance, property taxes, maintenance and repairs, improvements, and utilities, according to research by Clever Real Estate. Nearly two-thirds of millennials who regretted their home purchase last year cited maintenance cost as a top factor, according to a study by Bankrate.

The rent/buy calculation is also local, the analysts noted. For instance, renting in San Francisco or San Jose is "the far lesser of two evils" with mortgage payment there taking up 45% of the median family income versus only above-25% for median rents. In Miami, it's flipped. It's still more affordable to buy — relatively — than to rent.

"Unfortunately for Americans, there really is no painless decision between buying or renting," the analysts wrote.

Even before the Russia-Ukraine crisis, the housing market was constrained with supply chain issues.

"One of the biggest challenges in the housing market has been dwindling supply, which has reached new record lows," the analysts wrote.

Even before the pandemic, builders were constrained by finding new lots, labor, and lumber. The subsequent pandemic-related supply chain woes have only extended build timelines, and "the Russia-Ukraine conflict threatens to add further hiccups, with materials prices being pushed higher," the analysts wrote.

"Given these extraordinary supply challenges, we expect home prices to stay hot at a 10% [year-over-year] clip in 2022 despite existing home sales pulling back."

“

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## WORLD

## WHO says global rise in COVID cases is 'tip of the iceberg'

FIGURES showing a global rise in COVID-19 cases could herald a much bigger problem as some countries also report a drop in testing rates, the WHO said on Tuesday, warning nations to remain vigilant against the virus.

After more than a month of decline, COVID cases started to increase around the world last week, the WHO said, with lockdowns in Asia and China's Jilin province battling to contain an outbreak.

A combination of factors was causing the increases, including the highly transmissible Omicron variant and its BA.2 sublineage, and the lifting of public health and social measures, the WHO said.

"These increases are occurring despite reductions in testing in some countries, which means the cases we're seeing are just the tip of the iceberg," WHO's head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters.

Low vaccination rates in some countries, driven partly by a "huge amount of misinformation" also explained the rise, WHO officials said.

New infections jumped by 8 percent globally compared to the previous week, with 11 million new cases and just over 43,000 new deaths reported from March 7-13. It is the first rise since the

end of January.

The biggest jump was in the WHO's Western Pacific region, which includes South Korea and China, where cases rose by 25 percent and deaths by 27 percent.

Africa also saw a 12 percent rise in new cases and 14 percent rise in deaths, and Europe a 2 percent rise in cases but no jump in deaths. Other regions reported declining cases, including the eastern Mediterranean region, although this area saw a 38 percent rise in deaths linked to a previous spike in infections.

A number of experts have raised concerns that Europe faces another coronavirus wave, with case rising since the beginning of March in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

The WHO's Maria Van Kerkhove said at the briefing that BA.2 appears to be the most transmissible variant so far.

However, there are no signs that it causes more severe disease, and no evidence that any other new variants are driving the rise in cases.

The picture in Europe is also not universal. Denmark, for example, saw a brief peak in cases in the first half of February, driven by BA.2, which



A picture taken on May 8, 2021 shows a sign of the World Health Organization at the entrance of their headquarters in Geneva amid the COVID-19 outbreak. AFP

quickly subsided.

But experts have begun to warn that the United States could soon see a similar wave to that seen in Europe, potentially driven by BA.2, the lifting of restrictions and potential waning immunity from vaccines given several months ago.

"I agree with the easing of restrictions, because you can't think of it as an emergency after two years," said

Antonella Viola, professor of immunology at Italy's University of Padua.

"We just have to avoid thinking that COVID is no longer there. And therefore maintain the strictly necessary measures, which are essentially the continuous monitoring and tracking of cases, and the maintenance of the obligation to wear a mask in closed or very crowded places."

## Japan quake revives concerns over PM's drive to restart nuke plants

## TOKYO

A POWERFUL quake that hit northeast of Japan late on Wednesday has revived public concerns over the country's nuclear energy, in a challenge to those who have argued for plants left idle after the 2011 Fukushima disaster to be restarted.

The 7.4 quake struck shortly before midnight, throwing a swathe of northeastern Japan into darkness, severing key transportation links and killing four. As of Thursday morning, tens of thousands of Japanese households remained without power.

No abnormalities were reported at any nuclear plants, although authorities had earlier said a fire alarm had been triggered at a turbine building at the Fukushima Daiichi plant that was crippled in 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

On the 11th anniversary of that earthquake, which killed nearly 16,000 people, some ruling party lawmakers urged the government to hasten the restart of nuclear power plants still shuttered because of safety concerns.

Public trust, however, has yet



The Pacific Ocean looks over nuclear reactor units of No 3 (left) and 4 at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, northeastern Japan on Feb 27, 2021. (HIRO KOMAE / FILE PHOTO / AP)

to be fully restored, posing challenges to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's drive to restart Japan's idle plants.

An annual poll by Asahi Newspaper in February showed 47 percent of respondents opposed

resuming Japan's nuclear reactors, while 38 percent supported, though that gap has narrowed over the past few years.

Tatsujiro Suzuki, a former vice chairman of the Cabinet Office's Atomic Energy Commission, said

poor communication with the public remained a problem for Japan compared with efforts by the United States and France.

"There is no good communication channels between the industry, regulators and the local

public," Suzuki, a professor at Nagasaki University, told Reuters, calling for a legal scheme to provide mutual communication tools.

In the aftermath of 2011, Japan has set stricter safety standards and tightened regulation with an independent overseer of the nuclear energy industry. Tsunami barrier and tide-proof doors are now mandatory, as is protection for backup generators to prevent any reactor core cooling.

Power from nuclear plants slid to almost zero by 2014 in the wake of the Fukushima disaster, but now stands at about 3 percent of total energy production. The government wants to expand that to 20-22 percent by 2030.

Only six reactors are operating now, compared with 54 before the Fukushima disaster. Many others are still going through a relicensing process under stricter safety standards.

"Nuclear power plants are not necessarily a stable energy source anymore. If an earthquake happens, there's a risk it has to be shut down," Suzuki said.

Agencies

## Security Council renews mandate of UN Mission in South Sudan

## UNITED NATIONS

THE Security Council on Tuesday adopted a resolution to renew the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for a year, till March 15, 2023.

Resolution 2625 decides to maintain the overall force levels of UNMISS with a troop ceiling of 17,000 personnel and a police ceiling of 2,101 personnel. It expresses the Security Council's readiness to consider adjustments to UNMISS

force levels and capacity-building tasks to match security conditions on the ground.

The resolution decides that UNMISS's mandate is designed to advance a three-year strategic vision to prevent a return to civil war in South Sudan, to build durable peace at the local and national levels, and to support inclusive and accountable governance and free, fair, and peaceful elections in accordance with the 2018 Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution

of the Conflict in South Sudan.

The four core elements of the mandate remain largely unchanged, namely protecting civilians; creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance; supporting the peace process; and monitoring, investigating and reporting on violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights.

It demands that all parties to the conflict and other armed ac-

tors immediately end the fighting throughout South Sudan and engage in political dialogue.

It reminds South Sudanese authorities of their primary responsibility to protect civilians, and further demands South Sudan's leaders implement the permanent cease-fire declared in the Revitalised Agreement and all previous cease-fire and cessation of hostilities agreements.

The resolution expresses the Security Council's deep concern

about the delays in implementing the Revitalised Agreement, calls on the parties to fully implement the agreement and establish its institutions without delay. It stresses that free and fair elections will be critical for a transition toward a stable, inclusive, democratic, and self-reliant state, and in this regard, underscores that elections will need to be preceded by an inclusive, transparent constitution-drafting process.

Xinhua

## US military complex to benefit from Russia-Ukraine conflict - ex analyst

## GENEVA

A former Pentagon analyst said the U.S. military complex stands to benefit from the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as it ramps up defense spending for what could be a protracted affair in Europe.

"The American Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex (MICC) will benefit from this war (the Russia-Ukraine conflict) because it is setting the stage for a second Cold War that will increase tensions over the long term," said Franklin C. Spinney, a former Pentagon analyst.

An increase in tensions over the long term "is needed to fund the bow wave of future defense spending that is already programmed in the Pentagon's computers ..." Spinney said in a recent interview with Xinhua, warning that militarization bodes ill for the U.S. economy.

The MICC refers to the network of multisectoral individuals and institutions promoting militarization, arms sales and political power. Then U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower made its creeping influence public in his 1961 farewell speech.

The MICC is partly responsible for and actively benefiting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, according to Spinney, who served for nearly 30 years as an analyst at the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation.

He faulted the MICC's post-Cold War business strategy and its supporting lobbying activities for expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) after the end of the Cold War.

For Spinney, thanks to the lobbying activities by special interest groups towards expansion, NATO has not only outlived its purpose to contain the Soviet Union but enjoyed five expansions since the demise of the latter.

Spinney believed that the conflict and the ensuing fear would be permanently politicized to justify more weapon sales.

The Pentagon has been rushing new weapon programs and their engineering and manufacturing, said Spinney. Since contracts will spread to hundreds of congressional districts, weapon production becomes virtually unstoppable.

Moreover, because manufacturers routinely over-promise performance and understate costs, the demands for more military spending beget further demands for even greater spending, Spinney said.

According to Spinney, the peculiar characteristics of the MICC reduce the U.S. foreign policy elite into an endless search for new enemies abroad, which is why the United States violated its promise not to expand NATO and has no empathy for the legitimate security concerns of others, especially Russia.

"The way we have handled the end of the Cold War with NATO expansion conducted by a succession of U.S. presidents, establishing the Committee to Expand NATO headed by a Lockheed vice president, encouraging the color revolutions, particularly in Georgia and Ukraine, demonizing our adversaries, have combined to inflame tensions," he said.

Spinney referred to the humiliation the United States inflicted on Russia since the demise of the Soviet Union, amplified by the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, and the U.S. withdrawals from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002 and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019, all of which are perceived as critical threats by Russia.

Spinney believed the domestic politics shaped by the MICC commands the U.S. foreign policy. The MICC shapes domestic political agendas by engineering electoral district dependency on the arms industry.

He is convinced that the politico-economic addiction to defense spending makes the U.S. economy less competitive through anti-competitive contracting that incentivizes parasitic rent-seeking behaviors and corruption as well as poor engineering.

Spinney also said he sees the MICC as the result of processes that reward dysfunctional practices, like lying, cheating, bureaucratic gamesmanship, unfair appraisal practices, and corrupt personnel practices, including the infamous "revolving doors," as well as an utter absence of congressional oversight and sound accounting practices in accordance with the U.S. Constitution.

As a way forward, Spinney urged the United States to strive for peace instead of perpetually preparing for war. He also recommended that foreign policy strategists learn a little empathy and acknowledge the legitimate concerns of other nations, warning that a domestic politics addicted to weapon purchases foment insecurity.

He summed up the political problem in America's defense addiction by quoting American writer and social crusader Upton Sinclair: "It's difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends upon his not understanding it."



**Spinney believed the domestic politics shaped by the MICC commands the U.S. foreign policy. The MICC shapes domestic political agendas by engineering electoral district dependency on the arms**

## China to carry out phase-4 lunar exploration missions before 2030

BUILDING on the glorious aerospace achievements made in the recent years, China still has a number of big moves to make in space in the coming years.

The fourth phase of the country's lunar exploration program has been approved at the end of 2021 and entered implementation stage, said Wu Weiren, chief designer of China's lunar exploration program.

The fourth phase of the program will be carried out in three steps, namely the Chang'e-6, -7, and -8 missions before 2030, according to Wu, who's also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a member of the Standing

Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body.

The major goal of the phase-4 lunar program is to carry out scientific exploration at the lunar south pole in pursuit of building a basic structure of a lunar research station in the region, Wu introduced.

Speaking on the sidelines of the fifth session of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC, he explained that China selects the lunar south pole as the location of the lunar research station because polar day/night phenomenon takes place in the north and south poles of the

moon, just like it does on Earth. He said there may be more than 180 consecutive days of light on the moon's south pole, which would ensure lasting scientific exploration activities.

Besides, scientists are also expecting to find traces of ice in the south pole of the moon. A special craft will fly from the landing site to a nearby crater for investigation and sampling, Wu said.

Landing in the lunar south pole would be challenging as the landing area there is only 1/10 of the size of that in the mid- and low-latitudes, Wu noted.

Chang'e-6 will attempt to retrieve

samples from lunar pole regions and return them to earth, and Chang'e-7 will land on the lunar south pole to conduct scientific explorations and look for traces of ice. Chang'e-8, working in collaboration with Chang'e-7, will scout how to exploit lunar resources, carry out wide-range, full-scale and long-term observation of Earth, and verify key technologies to be applied in the construction of the lunar research station.

It is reported that Chang'e-6 and Chang'e-7 are expected to be launched around 2025.

Following Tianwen-1, China's first mission to Mars conducted last year,

the country will keep launching relevant missions such as Tianwen-2, Tianwen-3 and Tianwen-4, Wu disclosed.

Besides, the country will launch an asteroid probe during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) and strive to make breakthroughs in key technologies such as near-Earth asteroid sampling, Mars sample-return, and Jupiter exploration, the academician said.

According to him, China will also carry out feasibility studies on solar system margin exploration and other major projects.

People's Daily



**The major goal of the phase-4 lunar program is to carry out scientific exploration at the lunar south pole in pursuit of building a basic structure of a lunar research station in the region**



## Western coverage of Ukraine exposes deep-seated racist bias, double standards

BEIJING

THE sharp difference in Western media coverage of the Ukraine situation and other conflicts has laid bare their deep-rooted racist bias and double standards. Their emphasis on the Ukrainians' race and disregard for tragedies in other parts of the world have drawn criticism particularly from the Middle East.

RACIST BIAS

In their reports, numerous Western journalists have focused on the look, skin color, race and religion of Ukrainian evacuees, and made a comparison between them and refugees from the Middle East and North Africa.

The unspoken implication is that the former are superior to the latter and have less reason to suffer from any plight.

"To put it bluntly, these are not refugees from Syria, these are refugees from Ukraine ... They're Christian, they're white, they're very similar (to us)," said Kelly Cobiella, an NBC News correspondent based in London, on video.

On BFM TV, France's most-watched cable news channel, journalist Philippe Corbe said: "We're not talking here about Syrians ... We're talking about Europeans leaving in cars that look like ours to save their lives."

Since the onset of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, remarks of a racist nature have been circulating on Western media, irritating people from around the world, especially those who have fled their homes due to color revolutions or wars waged by the West.

Mohammed al-Jubouri, a professor of the media college at Al-Iraqia University in Baghdad, said that the West has been playing dumb over the refugee issues of Iraq, Syria and Yemen, as well as Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory, as if people in those places were inherently inferior and unworthy of respect.

RACE SUPERIORITY

The reason why a military conflict is taking place on a so-called "civilized" continent has shocked most Western journalists and partly lies in the penetration of West-centrism across their industry, but the theory is plainly grounded upon race superiority.

When reporting from Kiev in late February, Charlie D'Agata, a senior foreign correspondent with CBS

News, said: "This isn't a place, with all due respect, like Iraq or Afghanistan, that has seen conflict raging for decades," but "a relatively civilized, relatively European" city. "They seem so like us. That is what makes it so shocking," wrote Daniel Hannan in Britain's

The Telegraph. "War is no longer something visited upon impoverished and remote populations. It can happen to anyone." "We are in the 21st century, we are in a European city and we have cruise missiles fired as if we were in Iraq or Afghanistan, can you imagine," a commentator said on BFM TV.

The truth is apparent how Western governments and Western media view the conflict in Ukraine, a country they have abandoned, in comparison to the wars they waged in particular against West Asian countries, said a recent opinion article published in Iran's Tehran Times.

"The idea that a conflict inside 'civilized' Europe is so alarming because wars only happen in countries that are 'uncivilized' is such disturbing double standards and hypocritical analyses," it said.

"All the wars outside Europe, the vast majority of which in West Asia and Africa, occurred as a result of Western imperialism, plots and military adventurism."

Speaking of the racist reports, Amiya Mohan, a veteran Indian journalist and analyst, regards race supremacy as "the root cause," saying many Western media outlets "are unable to hide their bias," which is "really sad and disappointing."

Earlier this month, the Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association based in New York issued a statement on relevant reporting, condemning the "racist implications that any population or country is 'uncivilized' or bears economic factors that make it worthy of conflict."

"This type of commentary reflects the pervasive mentality in Western journalism of normalizing tragedy in parts of the world such as the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Latin America," it continued.

Calling those racist reports "abhorrent," Cavince Adhere, a Kenyan international relations scholar, noted that many African countries have been subject to the West's stereotypical and negative reporting, which only made local people "tired and weary of misreporting, disinformation and stereotype journalism from some Western media outlets."

# Aide: Zelensky and Putin may hold talks in coming days

KYIV/WASHINGTON/ANKARA/UNITED NATIONS

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky may hold talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in the coming days, the Ukrainian government-run Ukrinform news agency reported on Wednesday, citing Ukrainian Presidential Advisor Mykhailo Podolyak.

"Obviously, the only way to end this war is direct talks between the two presidents, and this is what we are working on in the current talks," Podolyak, also a member of the Ukrainian delegation to the peace talks with Russia, was quoted as saying.

Work is underway to prepare the documents that could be signed during the meeting of the two leaders, the official said.

The Ukrainian side has high hopes that ceasefire will be achieved in the near future, he added.

The fourth round of negotiations between Ukrainian and Russian delegations started on Monday via video link and continued into Wednesday.

More diplomatic efforts

Turkey and Poland agreed to step up diplomatic efforts to end the Ukrainian crisis, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday.

"We mainly discussed the developments in Ukraine and Russia, as well as our bilateral relations. As two NATO allies, we had a detailed exchange of views. In this process, we will continue our consultation and cooperation with Poland," Erdogan said at a joint press conference with his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Duda visited Turkey on Wednesday to discuss with the Turkish president ways to defuse the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Erdogan welcomed the Polish president in Ankara as part of Turkey's mediation efforts to secure a ceasefire in Ukraine.

"We continue our attempts to achieve a ceasefire," Erdogan said, adding that Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu will continue "shuttle diplomacy" visiting Ukraine on Thursday after his talks with his Russian counterpart in Moscow on



A man walks past a digital broadcast screen airing news of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in Mumbai on Feb 24, 2022. AFP

Wednesday.

US urged to 'do more'

President Zelensky on Wednesday asked the United States to "do more" to help Ukraine defend itself against the ongoing military operation by Russia.

In a speech delivered via videoconference to the US Congress, he also asked the US to champion the establishment of a no-fly zone over Ukraine, or, alternatively, to provide fighter jets to his country, requests that have both been rejected by the US administration thus far.

Zelensky also urged Washington to double down on sanctions against Russia, including asking all American companies to end their business associations with Russia and punishing all Russian politicians "who remain in their offices and do not cut ties with those who are against Ukraine."

Electricity network integration

Ukraine has integrated its electricity transmission network into the

European energy system, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Wednesday.

"Ukraine has become a member of the European Energy Union. The unification of Ukrainian and European energy systems has been completed," Zelensky tweeted.

Ukraine, which was importing electricity from Russia and Belarus, last year set a target to integrate its energy system into the European network of electricity transmission system operators by 2023.

According to media reports, 15 nuclear units at four Ukrainian nuclear power plants generate about 55 percent of Ukraine's electricity needs. Thermal power plants produce 29 percent of Ukraine's electricity, while the rest is powered by other sources or imported from abroad.

Conflict's toll on food security

The chief economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Maximo Torero, on Wednesday warned of the possible heavy toll of the Ukraine conflict on world food security.

To assess the potential impact on international food prices caused by a conflict-induced reduction in cereal and vegetable oil exports from Ukraine and Russia, simulations have been carried out, he said.

On the basis of their already elevated baseline values, wheat price would increase by 8.7 percent in a moderate-shock scenario and by 21.5 percent in a severe-shock scenario, he told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York.

For maize, the increase would be 8.2 percent in the moderate case and 19.5 percent in the severe scenario. For other coarse grains, prices would rise by 7 to 19.9 percent, and for oilseeds by 10.5 to 17.9 percent, he said.

Globally, in terms of impacts on food security, in the moderate scenario, the number of undernourished people would increase by 7.6 million people, while this level would rise to 13.1 million people in the severe-shock setting, said Torero.

## FAO chief economist warns of Ukraine conflict's possible heavy toll on food security

UNITED NATIONS

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Moreover, additional upward pressure on fertilizer prices has stemmed from disruptions and high transportation costs following the imposition of export restrictions and due to sharp increases in bulk and container freight rates caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

International food prices had already reached an all-time high even before the conflict in Ukraine. The FAO Food Price Index averaged 140.7 points in February, up 3.9 percent from January, and 20.7 percent above its level a year earlier.

In 2021, Russia and Ukraine ranked amongst the top global exporters of wheat, maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds, and sunflower oil. For its part, Russia also stood as the world's top exporter of nitrogen fertilizers and the second-largest supplier of both potassic and phosphorous fertilizers, he said.

Overall, almost 50 nations are dependent on Russia and Ukraine for over 30 percent of their wheat import needs. Of these, 26 countries depend on the two countries for over 50 percent of their wheat import needs, he said. Wheat is a staple food for over 35 percent of the world's population.

The crisis represents a challenge on food security for many countries, especially for low-income, food import-dependent countries and vulnerable populations, said Torero.

In the wheat and meslin sector, Russia was the top global wheat exporter, shipping a total of 32.9 million tons of wheat and meslin, or the equivalent of 18 percent of global shipments in 2021. Ukraine was the fifth-largest wheat exporter in 2021, exporting 20 million tons of wheat and meslin and with a 10 percent global market share, he said.

## China's military expenditure maintains reasonable, steady growth - spokesperson

WU Qian, spokesperson of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and People's Armed Police Force delegation to the 5th session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) met press on March 9, responding to hotspot issues such as China's national defense budget, anti-pandemic cooperation and the situation in the Taiwan Straits.

The Chinese government upholds the guidelines of coordinated development of national defense and economy, and appropriately determines the scale of defense spending in light of actual defense needs and economic development level, said Wu, adding that China's defense expenditure has increased at a reasonable and steady rate in recent years to promote defense capabilities in step with the nation's economic strength.

According to Wu, China has allocated a defense budget of 1.47 trillion yuan (\$233.5 billion) for 2022 (including the 1.45 trillion yuan from the central level), with an increase of 7.1 percent from the previous year's executed amount.

The increased military expenditure will be used in accelerating the modernization of weapons and equipment under the development arrangement in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), cultivating military personnel for the new era, deepening the national defense and military reform, and improving the troops' welfare, Wu said.

China actively participates in the UN's military expenditure transparency regime, and has been submitting its annual military expenditure report to the UN since 2008. Wu said it is groundless for some external forces to hype up the so-called "hidden military spending." China's defense expenditure is kept at a low level compared with major military powers like the U.S., Wu said, noting that this is reflected through the low level of percentage the figure has in GDP and in public expenditure, as well as per capita.

Wu said China's increased defense budget is necessary both to cope with



Wu Qian, spokesperson of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and People's Armed Police Force delegation to the 5th session of the 13th National People's Congress

complex security challenges and to fulfill its duties as a major country. History has proved and will continue to prove that the Chinese military is always a staunch force in safeguarding the national interests of China and maintaining world peace. The reasonable and steady growth of China's national defense spending is justified and consistent with the trend of the times, he stressed.

The Chinese military has provided anti-pandemic materials and COVID-19 vaccines to the militaries of a number of countries since the outbreak of COVID-19. Wu said the Chinese military, while supporting regional pandemic control at home and ensuring sound pandemic control for itself, has actively joined international anti-pandemic cooperation

and contributed its strength to international society. It demonstrated the sense of responsibility of the Chinese military, Wu added.

Wu said, to implement Chinese President Xi Jinping's important declaration on making China's COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, the Chinese military has so far provided vaccines to the militaries of more than 30 countries, including Pakistan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Equatorial Guinea, Tunisia, Lebanon, Hungary, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Bolivia. It has also carried out anti-pandemic cooperation with the militaries of over 50 countries, in the form of providing anti-pandemic supplies, sending military medical expert teams, and holding experience-sharing video meetings. By fulfilling its international obligations

and providing public security products during the pandemic, the Chinese military's pragmatic measures have been highly recognized and widely welcomed by the international community.

There is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory, Wu said, noting that compatriots from both sides of the Taiwan Straits are blood relatives with a shared future.

The military upholds the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country two systems," and will make the best efforts sincerely to pursue the prospect of peaceful reunification, but will never tolerate "Taiwan independence" separatist forces to make secessionist activities, Wu said.

Military drills conducted by

the PLA are aimed at "Taiwan independence" secessionist moves or interference by external force, and by no means at Taiwan compatriots, Wu stressed.

The Taiwan question is China's internal affair and brooks no external interference in any form. Wu said the political agenda by the U.S. and Japan of using the "Taiwan card" to contain China will not succeed.

"The more the U.S. and Japan make waves on the Taiwan question, the tougher actions we will take to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wu warned.

The Chinese military will never tolerate "Taiwan independence" separatist acts and the interference of external forces, he said.

People's Daily

## Dar Paralympic athletes shine in National Championships

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH

MCHEKADONA

DAR ES SALAAM'S Paralympic athletes have shined at the National Championships which took place over the weekend at Uhuru Stadium in the city.

The National Paralympic Championships, which were taking place in the country after many decades of absence, attracted more than 100 athletes from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

The championships were sponsored by Toyota Tanzania, Gold Star Paint, and National Sports Council (NSC).

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) vice-president Vincent Kaduma said he is delighted with the level of competition shown by the athletes.

He said the championships also saw students from Pugu Secondary School and Jangwani Secondary School compete, pupils from Salvation Army Primary School also attended the showdown.

The TPC official said Shukuru Khalfan was the winner in the men's 1500 meters category by clocking 5.25.22.

Naaman Hekima also from Dar es Salaam took the runner-up position, posting 5.25.27, while Manyara's athlete Nasri Juma was third af-

ter registering 5.49.01.

Khalfan went on to win the men's 800 meters category clocking 2.37.66 while Ruvuma's Goodluck Ligaluka who posted 2.45.15, settled for the second spot.

He said Abuu Bakari from Iringa was the winner in the men's 400 meters race, as he clocked 1.09.09.

Dar es Salaam-based athletes George Joseph and Felishan Robert ended as runner-up and second-runner up respectively in the race, posting 1.15.65 and 1.30.04.

Morogoro's John Pius, the only competitor in the men's 200 meters race for the visually impaired category, was the event's winner by clocking 33.34.

Dar es Salaam athletes dominated the top three spots in the women's 200m category.

Jackeline Kajaluo was the race winner after posting 33.99, Hawa Husein took runner-up place, recording 43.64, while Marriam Kipepe notched 48.22 to settle for third place.

Kaduma stated Dar es Salaam's Paul Nzala was the winner in the men's 200 meters race after notching 24.60.

Hamis Chole from Ruvuma posted 26.64 to emerge runner up and Pazy Mwinyi

was third as he posted 27.65. Kaduma further said Nzala notched 11.19 to emerge first in the men's 100 meters race.

Abuu Zahoro from Iringa was runner up, he clocked 11.96, Dar es Salaam's Pazy Mwinyimkuu ended third posting 12.94.

Sarafina Bedon of Dar es Salaam was the winner in the women's 100m event, posting 13.62, Happy Simon also from Dar es Salaam notched 14.28 to take the second position.

Dar es Salaam's Kennedy Godfrey was the winner in the men's 100 meters wheelchair race, posting 20.55 whereas Swahibu Rajabu also from Dar es Salaam was second with 23.26 and Morogoro's Ezra Mwambasi took the third spot notching 23.84.

Kaduma said Dar es Salaam's Juma Kidevu was the winner in the men's shot put, as he posted M6CM 30, his counterparts, Samson Ponza and Ernest Nyabala, posted M6CM 15 and M5CM 60 to settle for second and third positions respectively.

Dar es Salaam's Paralympic athletes grabbed the top three spots in women's shot put.

Grace Range, Bernadeta Kinyelo, and Zainabu Lukan-ga were the top three competitors, recording M4CM07,

M4CM01, and M3CM82 respectively.

Ernest Nyabale of Dar es Salaam was the winner in men's javelin, notching M16CM75, followed by Ally Abdallah from Zanzibar in the second spot with M16CM20. Dar es Salaam's Ignatius Mtweve, who recorded M15CM30, took third place.

Dar es Salaam athletes dominated women's javelin, as Sikujua Bwembwe was champion having posted M8CM65, followed by Grace Range who notched M8CM35 and Umyy Kurusum in third place with M7CM35.

The TPC official stated: "The National Paralympic Championships were very good, entertaining and competitive, we are happy with the response which we got from the athletes."

"Many attended as competitors while others were spectators, we also thank sponsors Toyota Tanzania, Gold Star Paint, and National Sports Council (NSC).

"We are moreover very thankful to managements of Pugu Secondary School, Jangwani Secondary School, and Salvation Army Primary School for allowing their students to attend the championships," he said.



Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) president, Gulam Rashid (L), hands over travel documents to coach, Bahati Mgunda (2nd R), at the committee's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Mgunda and Paralympic athlete Sauda Njopeka are travelling to South Africa today for a five-day camp and qualification tournament for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Looking on are TOC secretary-general, Filbert Bayi (2nd L), and Sauda. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

## Paralympic athlete out to excel in Commonwealth Games' qualifying tournament

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

TANZANIA Paralympic athlete Sauda Njopeka, who left for South Africa yesterday to compete in Commonwealth Games' qualifying showdown, has promised to perform well.

Commonwealth Games are scheduled for July 28-August 8 in Birmingham, England.

Sauda is accompanied by her coach Bahati Mgunda and the two are expected to return home early next week.

She said the South Africa event is an opportunity for her and she will make sure that she earns qualifications for the Commonwealth Games.

"This is a lifetime opportunity to me, I will work hard so that I qualify for the Commonwealth Games, it won't be easy but I am ready for the challenge as I aim to represent my country at this year's edition of Commonwealth Games," she said.

Coach Mgunda said he is confident that Sauda will perform well at the qualifying event.

"I'm sure my athlete will do well at the South Africa event, the other good thing is that the knowledge which she and I will gain will be of great help to the country," he said.

While in South Africa, they will be at Stellenbosch University.

Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) coordinates local Paralympic athletes' participation in the Commonwealth Games qualifiers.

TOC handed over air tickets and other necessities to Mgunda and Sauda at the committee's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Henry Tandau, TOC vice-president, said while in South Africa, Mgunda will attend various courses which are aimed at promoting Para sports in Tanzania.

The TOC official said Sauda will attend Commonwealth Games' qualifying events as Para sports are not among sporting codes that are under the open category.

Tanzania will be represented by athletes from athletics, boxing, judo, and swimming in Commonwealth Games.

He said Sauda will compete at events that will be used as a qualification for the Commonwealth Games.

Sauda is an athlete featuring in the discus and shot put, her classification is T57 and her best attempt in the two events is 4.5 meters.

Tandau said the two attend qualifying tournament under the support of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) through its arm GAPS

The TOC leader said under the GAPS support Paralympic athletes and coaches will attend high-performance courses, competition, and classification at Birmingham University and another South African university.

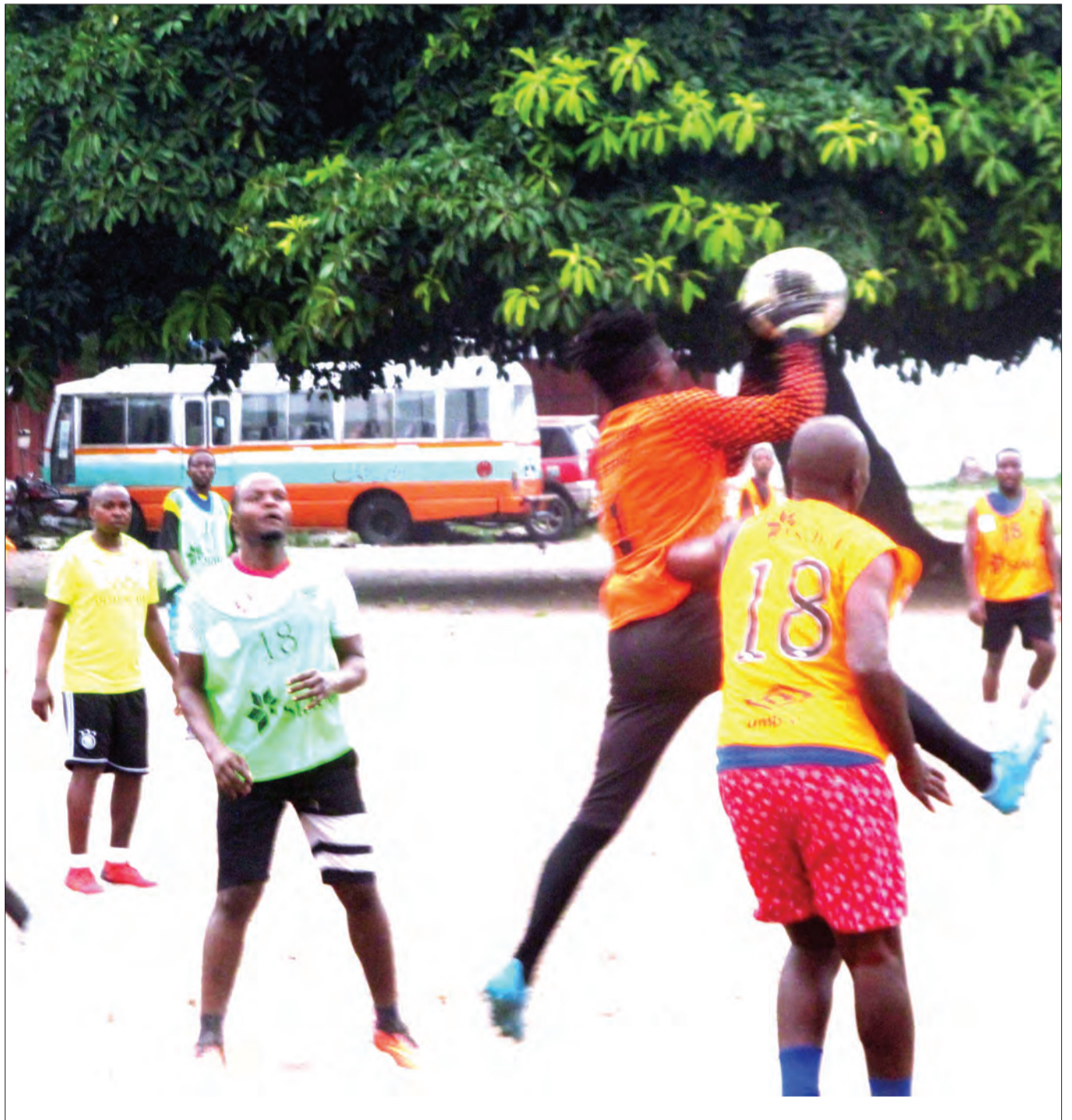
He described the high-performance courses as of benefit to the country.

"We managed to secure the funding from GAPS which is the arm of CGF, they will benefit a lot, the country will also benefit from such knowledge, it will have a multiplier effect to Para sports in the country."

"I'm asking you to make use of the knowledge which you will get in South Africa to develop Para sports in the country."

"Tanzania has many people with disabilities who are involved in sporting activities, but there are few qualified coaches."

"Getting GAPS support is a privilege to the country as all 72 members of Commonwealth applied for the support but 15 countries including Tanzania succeeded," he said.



Dar es Salaam's Morning Star Football Club's players take part in a recent training at Mango Garden ground in Kinondoni. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

## All set for introductory course to swimming for persons with disabilities

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH

MCHEKADONA

THE introductory course to swimming for persons with disabilities gets underway at Nordic School at Masaki, Dar es Salaam from tomorrow to Sunday.

Tanzania Paralympic Swimming Association (TPSA) secretary-general Ramadhan Namkoveka said so far 30 people have registered for the two-day course.

He said TPSA is organizing the course in conjunction with Chardon Hope

of Dar es Salaam and it will involve coaches, either parents or guardians of children with disabilities, physiotherapists, and others.

The TPSA official said the course will include building more knowledge on developmental disabilities and others and practical sessions on implementing aquatic therapy interventions.

Namkoveka said course instructors will be occupational therapist Fred Musyoka from Kenya and Tanzanian Godfrey Kimathy.

"All is ready for the in-



Tanzania Paralympic Swimming Association (TPSA) secretary-general, Ramadhan Namkoveka.

troductory course to swimming for persons with disabilities, it will be held at Nordic School at Masaki, Dar es Salaam, not Shaban Robert School as we previously announced, it will be beneficial to many people in the country," he said.

He also hailed course sponsors Tarmal Industries Ltd, Chowpartty, Precision Air, Oysterbay Pharmacy, MEDIGENS Company Limited, Flames, Collasium, and Asilimia Company. TPSA was registered

in 2021 and it has intensified its mission and vision of seeing that the country has many qualified people who can unearth swimming talents among people with disabilities.

Last year the association in conjunction with Tanzania Paralympic Committee organized a course that attracted 14 coaches, three of whom were from Zanzibar.

The training was organized to equip the coaches with knowledge on identifying, nurturing, and training athletes.

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"All is ready for the introductory course to swimming for persons with disabilities, it will be held at Nordic School at Masaki, Dar es Salaam, not Shaban Robert School as we previously announced, it will be beneficial to many people in the country," he said.

## PSG fans' frustrations run a lot deeper than Messi and the Champions League

BY JULIEN LAURENS, CORRESPONDENT

For the first time since he joined the club last August, Lionel Messi got to know properly the Paris Saint-Germain ultras. On Sunday, against Bordeaux at the Parc des Princes, he was booed throughout the game. It didn't matter that PSG won 3-0; Messi would have rather avoided their wrath, but it happened, and it kind of shook the football world.

Here was the world's best player, arguably the best of all time, being heckled by fans who had previously flooded the streets of the French capital to greet him.

It remains unclear if the Argentine superstar knew what was coming, or if he'd been warned that things would get ugly and he'd be whistled by his own fans. But he quickly found out. He didn't look too fazed by it, while his entourage don't sound too upset about it either. But for the wider sporting audience, the fact that PSG fans booed one of the greatest players of all time every time he touched the ball was seemingly too much to take.

First, let's remind everyone first that it's far from the first time he's experienced it. In the past, while on international duty with Argentina, his difficult relationship at times with the fans has led to some vocal frustration. But he would have certainly be surprised by the intensity of the protest and the fact that the boos lasted the whole game.

The reaction from the Collectif Ultras Paris (CUP), which is the supporters' group containing the PSG ultras, was significant. For the CUP, their anger mirrored the humiliation of losing to Real Madrid last week and yet another early exit from the Champions League.

It's no secret that Europe's top club competition is the top goal for the club, but the latest Remontada against them clearly hurt a lot. (In the past 10 tournaments, PSG have only made it past the quarterfinal stage on two occasions, losing in the final in 2019-20 and the 2020-21 semifinal.)

These fans are passionate to a fault; equally, they were unhappy with the club before the defeat in Madrid. They feel that the direction the club is taking at the moment is one more focused on marketing than the on-pitch performances, more concerned with selling shirts or recruiting "bankable" players than winning big games or building a strong and balanced squad. They protested earlier in the season against the club's hierarchy because they feel PSG are losing their identity. They also highlighted that part in the very strong statement from Friday.

In the ultras culture, you mark your discontent with banners, boos, insults or demonstrations. Sometimes, they take it too far, though what we saw on Sunday is nothing new.

Remember the 2007-08 season, when PSG fought against relegation until the last day of the season and had a huge game in Sochaux? Earlier in that campaign, the Ultras invaded the training ground after a particular string of bad results and threatened the players and the staff. It was scary to witness as the players were prevented from leaving the training ground and their cars were damaged.

In 2017, after the ill-fated "Remontada" against Messi in Barcelona, the Ultras stormed the Bourget airport, proceeding to block the players' cars and hurl verbal abuse at them. Thiago Motta even knocked over a supporter standing in his way.

In 2019 after another Champions League collapse, this time against Manchester United, the Ultras forced their way into the Parc des Princes to

attend a training session and booed and insulted the players.

PSG have a long history of tension in their relationships with the Ultras, who were banned from attending home games between 2010 and 2014 after some scenes of rare violence which led to the death of two fans in 2006 and 2010 around the Parc des Princes, one of many incidents home and away around this time as well.

Ultimately, the loss at the Bernabeu, in which they blew a commanding 2-0 lead midway through the second half, was the final straw. They wanted to protest and let their unhappiness be known, and apart from Kylian Mbappe and Keylor Navas, no PSG players were spared. Neymar was insulted, though it's nothing new for the Brazil forward.

When asked about the whole situation, defender Presnel Kimpembe said "we understand the disappointment of the fans, their anger and their screams. Neymar and Messi being booed? We are all at fault. We are a team in the good and bad moments. It is all of us. It is time to all show character."

The boos were not targeting individuals, but the entire club. It could have been Pelé, Emmanuel Macron or Michael Jordan playing – they would have been jeered too. And it could have been worse. In the past, there had been incidents when the ultras turned up at the training ground and physically threatened the players.

Most of the supporters who protested on Sunday were in Madrid on Wednesday. Some drove all the way from Paris to the Spanish capital to see the defeat in person, and they believe they have the right to show that they feel let down.

They've been accused by some to have a short memory when it comes to Messi. Why? Because he won a Champions League back in 2015? Because he is one of the greatest? He sunk like the others at the Bernabeu, and they felt it was also his fault – to the fans, he deserved it just like any other player. Messi had better get used to it, though, because it looks like the Ultras will continue their protest for a few more home games yet, as this tension isn't going away.

So what will happen going forward, and how can this be fixed?

In their statement on Friday, the Ultras asked for Nasser Al-Khelaifi to leave his position as president. "We know what we owe him, but it is clear that he is the right man for the job anymore. The club needs a complete reorganisation on every level and the daily presence of a president," it reads. They are protesting as much against the marketing-first direction – and against sporting director Leonardo, who was targeted with banners in the stands – of the club as much as the Real Madrid defeat.

For the squad itself, the players will have to work hard and redouble their efforts to rekindle the bond with fans.

The best they can do this season is continue cruising to the Ligue 1 title – PSG are 15 points clear of second-place Marseille with 10 games remaining – given that they were also knocked out of the Coupe de France in the last-16 by Nice at the end of January. (Interestingly, one who doesn't get much of their frustration is manager Mauricio Pochettino: the fans never felt he really settled in Paris or that he really wanted to be there, especially with the constant links to Manchester United this season. But they also acknowledge that this is a hard dressing room/club to manage.)

Things should get better over time. They always do with this club, at least until the Champions League knock-out stages come around again.

## After win at Arsenal, Liverpool have vital Premier League momentum over Man City

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

MOMENTUM is a vital ingredient for any team chasing a league title and Liverpool are overflowing with it right now. Manchester City don't have it and that's why, after Liverpool's 2-0 victory at Arsenal on Wednesday, Pep Guardiola's Premier League champions will be worrying that they may be about to finish second in what had seemed, not too long ago, like a one-horse race.

Second-half goals by Diogo Jota and Roberto Firmino at the Emirates secured Liverpool's ninth straight league win and moved them to just one point behind leaders City, who they face at the Etihad on April 10. Over their last nine games, City have dropped seven points and, as a consequence, they have opened the door for Liverpool to win the title for the second time in three seasons.

"We've obviously had a good period," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "It's what we need. We're one point [behind Man City], but it's still the same. We have to win football matches. We then face City, then all the others."

City haven't been playing badly. Their 3-2 defeat at home to Tottenham Hotspur on Feb. 19 was their first league loss since October, but City and Liverpool have been so close to each other over the past four years that every dropped point matters. Monday's 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace was an unexpected stumble by City,



Liverpool have the Big Mo in the chase to the title -- as in momentum, not just Salah. (agencies)

but Liverpool still had to beat Arsenal to capitalise on it.

Facing Mikel Arteta's resurgent team at the Emirates was undoubtedly a tougher challenge for Klopp's players, with the Gunners climbing into fourth on the back of five straight league wins and unbeaten run in the Premier League stretching back to Jan 1. But although Arsenal were bright and adventurous in the first-half, there was always a sense that Liverpool were the team more likely to step up a gear or two after the break and so it proved.

Had Alisson not produced a crucial save to deny Martin Odegaard from close range on 51 minutes, the end result may have been different, but Liverpool goalkeeper is as big a part of this team as Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk and he proved it with that decisive intervention, which ensured the team's 12th clean sheet in its 18 league games.

Within four minutes of Alisson rising to the challenge, Klopp's side were ahead when Jota raced onto Thiago Alcantara's pass before beating keeper Aaron Ramsdale with a left-foot strike at the near post for

his seventh goal against Arsenal in seven games for Liverpool.

It was Jota's final touch of the game, with Firmino replacing the Portugal forward before the restart, and it turned out to be a key change by Klopp with the Brazil international making it 2-0 seven minutes later. The goal was made by Andy Robertson, who dispossessed Bukayo Saka on the left before breaking the touchline and pulling back for Firmino to flick past Ramsdale. At 2-0, it was game over – Liverpool were firmly in control and Arsenal's recent revival was over.

"I don't think the result reflects the performance, but in the box they had the decisive moments," Arteta said. "They put the ball in the net twice. [The top two] have set other standards again this season. To cope with that, I have to congratulate the team, but we're here to win football matches and today we didn't do it."

Tottenham, Manchester United and West Ham United are Arsenal's rivals for fourth and the Gunners have been more consistent than any of them, so they cannot allow confidence to be damaged by losing to a

Liverpool team that may just be the best in the world at this moment in time. Liverpool look unstoppable, and they could yet do the quadruple, and City know that too.

They have taken their foot off the pedal, possibly because it was all getting too easy for them, but City are now in a title race again because Liverpool have the Big Mo and it could now carry them to historic success. They have won their last nine league games – if they win their next nine, Liverpool will be champions.

But although Arsenal ended up doing what they tend to do against the big teams – lose – the result should not be viewed as evidence that Arteta's team have the same old shortcomings. And yes, they have taken just three points from a possible 21 against the so-called Big Six this season.

The reality of this Arsenal team is that it now has an identity and a clear pathway in front of it. They are a young side and lack the nous of a team as experienced as Liverpool, but in Saka, Odegaard, Gabriel Martinelli and Emile Smith Rowe, they have bright stars who will only get better.

Ramsdale was at fault for the first goal against Liverpool and should have done better with the second, but nonetheless, he has made Arsenal better since replacing Bernd Leno earlier this season, while Ben White has become a reliable performer at centre-half.

There is no doubt that Arsenal are miles behind Liverpool, but their race is all about fourth spot and qualifying for the Champions League. If that happens, they then have a platform upon which to build towards competing with Liverpool and City in the years ahead.

## Chelsea churning out results while in football limbo

BY JAMES OLLEY, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

THIS performance wouldn't feature in an accompanying brochure, but Chelsea's 2-1 win over Lille on Wednesday gave potential new owners a timely reminder of the winning machine they are lining up to buy.

The Blues weren't particularly impressive at Stade Pierre Mauroy and appeared set for a difficult evening when Burak Yilmaz converted a 38th-minute penalty, but Christian Pulisic's clinical finish just before the break and a second-half effort from Cesar Azpilicueta eased them into the Champions League quarterfinals.

The draw takes place in Nyon on Friday, hours before the deadline set by New York-based merchant bank Raine Group for interested parties to table their formal offers to buy the world and European champions, valued by owner Roman Abramovich at £3 billion.

They are still buying a team competing in Europe courtesy of the sort of display that underlines their pedigree at this level: Finding a way to achieve their aim despite an underwhelming 90 minutes because they still mustered enough quality in the final third to dispatch their industrious but limited hosts.

Preparations have not been easy. Chelsea's last visit to this ground in October 2019 – also a 2-1 win but then in the group stage under Thomas Tuchel's predecessor Frank Lampard – was overshadowed by a row emanating from pictures showing midfielder Ross Barkley eating a kebab and chips and arguing with a taxi driver in Liverpool a few days earlier. Catering and travel are still issues on the agenda but with much greater urgency these days, given the restrictions imposed upon them as



Chelsea goal-scorers Cesar Azpilicueta and Christian Pulisic celebrate the Blues' win on Wednesday. (Agencies)

part of the licence granted by the UK government to continue operating in the wake of Abramovich being sanctioned for alleged links to Russia president Vladimir Putin.

The club's travel plans for Lille were finalised prior to last Thursday's government intervention but Tuchel had barely taken his seat in his post-match press conference before being presented with the latest difficulty, UEFA indicating a probability that Chelsea will not be able to sell tickets for the quarterfinal they had just reached as a result of Abramovich being sanctioned by the European Union on Tuesday.

"Thanks for ruining my evening," Tuchel replied upon hearing the news, moments after celebrating with the travelling support housed in the top tier of the goal they were attacking in the second half, a moment of unity he nor they may experience for some time.

The likeable and erudite German continues to navigate a devilishly difficult path expertly in his role as part-

coach, part ambassador.

New owners often want to install their own head coach but it is hard to imagine a coach negotiating this spell better than Tuchel, particularly given results have remained positive since Abramovich first hinted at a separation the day before Chelsea faced Liverpool in last month's Carabao Cup Final.

The Blues lost that game – by the finest of margins in a penalty shootout – but have since beaten Luton Town, Burnley, Norwich City, Newcastle United and now Lille in a run which strikes at the heart of the culture fostered at the club over many years, something which long pre-dates Tuchel's arrival.

"We are all competitors and I always experienced from day one once I was part of the family, a very competitive spirit and a very competitive club," said Tuchel.

"Chelsea is so clear what it demands from every employee and from every player: play your role, play to the limit, live up to it and take your responsibility."

"This is what Chelsea is about and that sharpens your mentality and brings out the best in you because it is normal to do it on a daily basis. Because this mentality is installed over years and years, over the decades, that's why it is possible that we can stay focused."

"It plays a big part in why we can produce results as we do in the moment now when things are uncertain and unstable around us – because it is already there."

Few expected them to beat Manchester City in last season's Champions League final and they were even more surprise winners of the competition in 2012 when changing managers halfway through the season.

Yet they kept winning. The source of Abramovich's wealth has generated a debate about the purity of Chelsea's success in the last two decades but nobody can deny the efficiency with which they have delivered silverware: Their haul of 21 trophies since Abramovich bought the club in 2003 is unsurpassed in England.

There was, nevertheless, a degree of passivity on show here. Tuchel took the unusual step of adopting a 3-5-2 system to accommodate an additional central midfielder, presumably to shore up central areas and help stifle Lille.

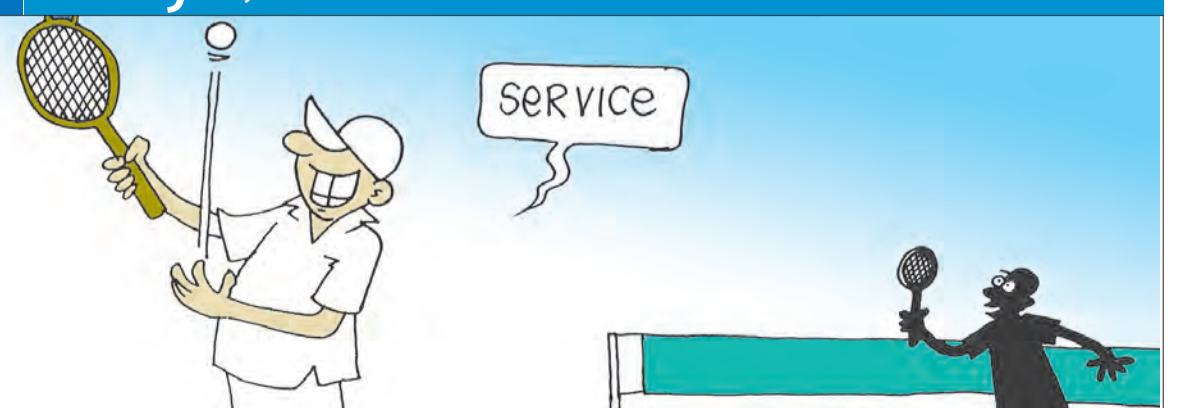
In the end, it seemed only to contribute to a pedestrian display in which they barely threatened before Jorginho, a £50 million signing, threaded a pass for Pulisic, a £57.6m signing, to combine for a moment of class Lille simply could not match.

"Champions of Europe, we know what we are," sang the away fans, suddenly audible for the first time all night as Pulisic ended any hope of an upset.



When asked about the whole situation, defender Presnel Kimpembe said "we understand the disappointment of the fans, their anger and their screams. Neymar and Messi being booed? We are all at fault. We are a team in the good and bad moments. It is all of us. It is time to all show character."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

After win at Arsenal, Liverpool have vital Premier League momentum over Man City

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Stephen Curry

## Curry injures left foot in Warriors blowout loss to Celtics in NBA

SAN FRANCISCO

STEPHEN Curry went down with a left foot injury late in the first half and Golden State coach Steve Kerr didn't like Marcus Smart's lunging move at the reigning NBA scoring champ.

Smart got an earful from Kerr, then they chatted again after the Boston Celtics beat the Warriors 110-88 on Wednesday night. "I thought it was a dangerous play. I thought Marcus dove into Steph's knee," Kerr said.

"That's what I was upset about. Lot of respect for Marcus, he's a hell of a player, gamer, competitor. I coached him in the World Cup a few summers ago. We talked after the game, we're good. I thought it was a dangerous play, just let him know."

Curry was injured with 4:19 remaining in the second quarter along the sideline while scrambling for a loose ball as Smart made a diving lunge on the play and landed on the reigning scoring champion's leg.

Curry grimaced in pain and got up but hobbled along before exiting on the next dead ball moments later.

That came when Smart made another aggressive play, receiving a Flagrant 1 foul 4:09 before halftime when he leapt and caught his leg on Klay Thompson's shooting arm.

Kerr said Curry, who had three points on 1-for-4 shooting, was having an MRI exam. Rookie Moses Moody also injured his right shoulder.

Warriors forward Juan Toscano-Anderson said Smart wanted the ball but might have been able to use more caution.

"I don't think it was a dirty play," Toscano-Anderson said. "... We all know that's Marcus Smart, though, that's how he plays, he's gritty."

Draymond Green was whistled for a technical for arguing a foul called on

Thompson against Smart at the 1:48 mark, with Green throwing his arms up in the air in disgust and yelling.

Jayson Tatum had 26 points and 12 rebounds to lead Boston, while Jalen Brown scored 14 of his 26 points in the first half. Smart wound up with 20 points on 8-of-12 shooting and eight assists.

The Warriors couldn't keep up in their fourth straight home defeat to the Celtics and sixth of seven matchups in the Bay Area.

Boston's stingy, top-rated defense held Golden State to a cold 29.3% in the first half and 37.2% overall as the Warriors were limited to 19 assists. Jordan Poole was 1 of 8 but recovered to score a team-high 29 points.

This was a tough blow for Curry two days after he dazzled for 47 points on his 34th birthday in a 126-112 win against the Wizards on Monday.

Green came off the bench for a second straight game as he regains his strength from a back injury, his minutes increased from 20 to 22.

Second-year center James Wiseman returned from his assignment with the G League Santa Cruz Warriors and will continue to build up his conditioning. He started all three games and averaged 17.3 points – going 22 of 42 for 52.4% – 9.7 rebounds and 1.67 blocks over 20.7 minutes.

He hasn't played since April 10 last year while recovering from right knee surgery.

"The main thing is he's healthy and he's moving well and that's the biggest thing," Kerr said.

"That was our biggest concern going in. Can he build the momentum, sustain it and continue to work on his conditioning, timing and so far, so good. Happy to see him out there."

AP

## Simba SC sets sight on ASEC Mimosas clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DESPITE Tanzania's football champions Simba SC leading Group D of the CAF Confederation Cup with seven points after beating Morocco's RS Berkane 1-0, the former's head coach Pablo Franco has focused his energy on a tough away game against Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas, scheduled for Sunday.

The continental tournament's duel is set to be played at the Stade de l'Amitié in Benin.

ASEC Mimosas will host the fixture at the venue due to reconstructions of their home turf, Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan, which will also host the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.

Franco congratulated his players especially after seeing to it the squad is leading the group and successfully beating RS Berkane before heading to the game against ASEC Mimosas.

The Spanish coach noted: "We made sure we didn't give RS Berkane a chance on transition balls by pressing them high and defending on a low block."

"We made them miss alternative ways to create half-spaces and chances and made us safer, also their weakness, especially on the left-back, helped us use it and we succeeded."

"We have to play for goals in every game. We know ASEC Mimosas tie will not be easy, given the differences in points is only one, so we have to play very carefully and seriously."

"We understand they come from a win against US Gendarmarie Nationale which is a huge boost for them but Simba is ready to play them and emerge with something back home," he added.

In the absence of Zambian midfielder Clatous Chama in the continental



Simba's head coach, Pablo Franco Martin. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

showpiece clash, according to the rules, Franco has decided to use the likes of Pape Ousmane Sakho, who scored against Berkane, Bernard Morrison, and Rally Bwalya in the number 10 which needs a footballer with creativity at different occasions.

Franco pointed out: "Every coach loves the presence of all his key players in the squad, but that can be taken away at times."

The tactician revealed in four games Simba has tried to play at the top level with the absence of key characters in the squad because the outfit is made up of the best players who can play in the position and make sure the outfit garners positive results.

Another quality Simba possesses is the good record the squad has in away matches.

Simba is the only team in Group D to post a 1-1 draw in an away tie against US Gendarmarie on February 20.

The Msimbazi Street side is the only team to concede fewer goals away (three), unlike others.

Simba posted a 1-1 draw with US Gendarmarie, thereafter conceded a 2-0 defeat to RS Berkane on February 27.

Simba commanded a 3-1 win over ASEC Mimosas in the two teams' first match played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium Dar es Salaam on February 13.

Mimosas is the Premier League defending champion in Ivory Coast. The squad is currently sitting third in the league log with 23 points from nine matches, with four games in hand.

The side is trailing league leader FC San Pedro, which is leading with 27 points from 13 games.

ASEC Mimosas, the 1998 CAF Champions League's champion, did not play in CAF tournaments last season.

## Yanga official opens up on reasons for offering players short-term contracts

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA management has revealed that it is registering players on short-term contracts because of the country's football systems and lack of assurance from the majority of the players to perform for a long time.

The outfit now has a large number of players whose contracts are set to expire at the end of this season.

The Jangwani Street squad is as well expected to release some of its performers while other players' contracts are set to be extended.

Many Tanzanian clubs have been content with giving their players short-term contracts including those running for six months, one year as well as two years.

Yanga has made it clear why it opts for the decision although the outfit did not specify the number of players with such contracts.

Yanga registration committee's vice-chairman, Hersi Said, insisted that one of the main reasons is the type of scouting that is done to find the players, and a large percentage of footballers are registered without



Yanga's registration committee vice-chairman, Hersi Said.

having been known in detail.

"It is very difficult to scout a player in this country from the beginning to their maturity due to the nature of their acquisition systems so even if the level has dropped you cannot know due to statistics being in his favour," the leader revealed.

Said opened up that is the reason why they offer players short-term contracts for the benefit of the team and the concerned players.

"Then these teams do not have the money to make long-term registration if you

follow the player from the grassroots and know his behaviour, you can give him a long-term contract."

"Education has to be offered to people because some people just complain that a good player is given a short-term contract because they do not know," Said noted. The Guardian knows the Yanga players whose contracts expire at the end of this season.

They are Bakari Mwamnyeto, Farid Mussa, Zawadi Mauya, Yassin Mustafa, Kibwana Shomari, Deus Kaseke,

Yacouba Songne and Said Ntibazonkiza.

Regarding footballers whose contracts are on the verge of conclusion, he elaborated that no good player will be released.

The official maintained the club will extend their contracts due to the needs of head coach Nasreddine Nabi.

This season, it has been different, Simba has hardly made any movement to register Yanga's players and vice versa due to the quality of the footballers the clubs have.

### Flexibles by David Chikoko

DO YOU KNOW THAT CHANGE CHANGES?



HOW?