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'National census readiness stands at 80 per cent by current statistics'

By Getrude Mbago

POPULATION and housing census preparations ahead of the nationwide exercise in four months time stand at nearly 80 per cent, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) director general Dr Albina CHuwa has declared.

Making preliminary remarks in a ceremony to unveil the census date and logo in Zanzibar yesterday, the chief government statistician said that an earlier pilot census conducted last year generated positive results.

NBS in collaboration with various stakeholders was implementing an awareness strategy focusing on intensively educating the population, setting the stage for the participation of all people in the census.

Next week, NBS is expected to receive 830 smartphones from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and 30 computers from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), further strengthening preparations and ensuring that the exercise is well conducted, she added.

It is this awareness effort that was emphasized

by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, leading top government officials in the ceremony, with substantial presence of collaborating agencies of the United Nations, and bilateral donors.

She appealed to ministerial agencies and regional authorities to do more in sensitization of members of the public for the Population and Housing Census, now set for August 23.

Unveiling the census date and logo in a televised ceremony, the president said the success of the exercise will depend on awareness levels created countrywide.

"Last year, we launched the census strategy and I am sure that it has produced positive outcomes," she stated, noting that after the logo and census date are unveiled, ensuring that everyone is counted and no one is left behind follows next.

The president paid tribute to development partners especially UN agencies and some countries like Britain, China and South Korea. Many other stakeholders have expressed commitment to extend support to ensure that

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Zanzibar yesterday presenting to Dr John Jingu, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), the official emblem of the upcoming national Population and Housing Census alongside special certificates. The presentation of the 'instruments' symbolised the passing on of the responsibility of beginning - in earnest - the countdown to Census Day across Tanzania August 23, 2022. Lef is Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi. Photo: State House

MPs debate bulk fuel importation

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament were yesterday divided on whether the government should allow individual traders to import petroleum products or continue with the current Bulk Procurement System (BPS) which some of them claim contributes to raising fuel prices.

BPS was introduced in January 2012 to obtain economies of scale in fuel importation and thus dampen sporadic price push, along with enhancing regulatory compliance on importing specifications and transparency in the fuel sub-sector. It was also expected to ease frequency of servicing fuel carrying ships at the port of Dar es Salaam.

Contributing to debate on budget estimates for the Prime Minister's Office for the 2022/2023

We have the best oil importation system which has been adopted by our neighbours such as Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Burundi, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

financial year, Geita MP Joseph Kasheku said the government must take actions to control rising fuel prices by subsidizing its importation.

"The government should look for an additional budget to offer subsidies to oil importers. We should look for loans or take funds allocated for other development projects such as water and roads to subsidize fuel importation," he said, urging the government to revise its decisions to adopt BPS to allow traders to import the products.

Gairo MP, Ahmed Shabiby said if the government re-allows traders to import fuel it will reduce retail prices, even alluding to corruption in BPS operations, while Malo legislator Rashid Shangazi advised the government to continue with the BPS system. It has a number of benefits to national security and reduced shipping costs, he emphasized.

"We have the best oil importation system which has been adopted by our neighbours such as Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Burundi, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)," the MP intoned.

"BPS helps the country to maintain reliable fuel supply. Through it, oil adulteration is no longer a problem," he stated, affirming that it

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Samia wins 2022 AfDB's Africa infrastructure prize

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has been named the 2022 winner of the Africa Road Builders-Babacar Ndiaye Trophy, in honour of the fifth president of African Development Bank, leading the lending institution from 1985-1995.

An AfDB statement said yesterday that the prize is awarded to leading figures in Africa, demonstrating intense commitment to the development of the transport infrastructure on the continent.

The selection committee for the award commended President Samia for her "personal leadership, huge investments and commitment" to extending roads and the railway network in Tanzania. "We send our warm congratulations to President Samia and the people of Tanzania," the committee intoned.

The committee noted the \$290m loan provided by the AfDB to support the revitalization of road, rail and air transport in Tanzania, along with the \$172.2m contract signed with the China Corporation Limited to supply 1,430 freight wagons for the Tanzania Railways Corporation standard gauge railway program.

The construction of an outer ring road in the city of Dodoma was cited for praise by AfDB, a project launched by the president on 11th February in the presence of AfDB Group president, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina.

The statement reminded bank stakeholders that the Tanzanian leader is at present the only female Head of State in Africa, coming into office last March, following the death of President John

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Inland container depots mandated for port cargo

● Inspection of vehicles upon arrival now cancelled



By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has allowed storage of cargo at Inland Container Depots (ICDs) to

decongest the port of Dar es Salaam as it is clogged with vehicles.

Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (pictured) made this

waiver in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a function to receive the biggest ever cargo ship to dock at the port, with 4,041 vehicles from Japan.

Using ICDs was curtailed following intensive checks in 2015 and 2016 where the facilities were said to be complicit in tax evasion, thus cargo and especially vehicles were using Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) storage spaces at the port since then.

Prof Mbarawa said that storage facilities at the port were full to the brim and caused congestion as ships line up for days owing to lack of storage space.

Vehicles and containers packed at the port should be shifted to ICDs to create space since the port is not a warehouse, he declared, noting that the government has spent over 1trn/- to expand port facilities and increase the number of cargo ships berthing on a regular basis.

He directed that the TPA marketing department work harder to market the port and increase cargo volumes directed to the facilities, while receiving the MV Frontier Ace cargo ship which anchored after a direct transit from Japan carrying vehicles. About three quarters of the vehicles are destined to nearby countries, officials said.

Eric Hamissi, the TPA director general said

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MPs debate bulk fuel importation

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has also reduced demurrage charges at Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) facilities, from \$30 to \$45 per tonne earlier to something like three dollars.

Through BPS the country maintains a fuel reserve catering for 36 days, he further noted, urging the government to enhance fuel storage facilities at the Tanzania International Petroleum Reserve Limited, earlier a refinery, to increase fuel reserve length to three or four months.

The current price hike for petroleum products arises from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and lacks any connection with the BPS system, the legislator hammered.

Msalala MP Iddy Kassim expressed concern on removing the BPS system as it is beneficial to the country. Allowing individual traders to import fuel would be costly to the nation and may affect the quality of imports, he insisted, pointing instead at the need to provide relief to consumers by controlling fuel prices.

Mbogwe MP Nicodemus Maganga said high living costs that Tanzanians are now experiencing arise from hiked fuel prices as in some rural areas a liter of petrol now sells at 3,000/- to 5,000/-, urging that the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority

(EWURA) revise its regulations to enable traders to open fuel stations in peripheral areas.

Ubungu MP, Prof Kitila Mkumbo advised the government to take actions to control rising fuel prices to avoid price hiking for essential commodities.

The Treasury and the parliamentary budget committee must revise the 2020/2021 fiscal proposals "to come up with a plan to rescue Tanzanians from high commodity prices," he urged, similarly advising the government to reduce taxes charged on fuel products, now rated at 300/- and 400/-, plus 792/- levy, to reduce oil prices and provide relief to the public.

The petroleum bulk procurement system was established to ensure supply at the most competitive prices by a competitive bidding process to take the advantage of economies of scale.



...to come up with a plan to rescue Tanzanians from high commodity prices

'National census readiness stands at 80 per cent by current statistics'

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the census drive is entirely a success, she affirmed.

Census exercise preparations had reached a good stage and the government is persuaded that it will well conducted, she stated further, commending supervising authorities implementing the settlement address exercise or postal code indication, tasking them to ensure that the task is completed by end of next month.

No one will be left behind during the census exercise, and this will enable the government to plan well for public needs and development requirements, she told the gathering.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi commended census coordinating committees for a successful pilot census in the Isles last year, registering a positive response. The Isles authorities are conducting more awareness exercise on the importance of the census for development, he stated, affirming that the majority of Zanzibaris are now aware of the exercise and will come out to be counted.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango said that correct statistics are vital for national environmental policy actions, enabling long-term economic growth by creating incentives for sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

A proper environmental policy thrust

also involves effective disincentives for pollution and environmental degradation, which permits gainful oversight on environment as a whole, he said.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa asserted that hiring census supervisors and large numbers of clerks will be transparent, with an opportunity for anyone eligible to seek cooptation in the exercise.

Partial employment opportunities adverts for census jobs will be placed on government websites, media outlets and administrative offices up to village government offices. Prospective applicants will be issued with forms free of charge, he said in assurance.

Various ministries along with public and private institutions had worked tirelessly to ensure that the census exercise is properly delivered, he added.



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Inland container depots mandated for port cargo

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the port was now implementing a directive by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to let in vehicles inspected in countries of origin. This measure was facilitating efficiency at the port as inspecting outside follows a global yardstick, he stated.

The port collected 704bn/- in February compared to 590bn/- during February 2021, he said, noting that the president questioned the rationale for inspecting imported vehicles on

arrival at the port.

This method causes unnecessary delays for ships that would otherwise offload, as offloading is instead congested with vehicles lined up for inspection, the president had stated, asking premier Majaliwa to find out if it is really necessary for vehicles to be inspected locally instead of the country of origin.

In April 2021, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) began inspecting vehicles at the port upon arrival, with owners paying \$150 as inspection fee.



CCM Secretary General Daniel Chongolo (R) has an audience with the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright, at the party's sub-headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of CCM

DHL donates patrol boat to boost Lake Tanganyika safety

By Guardian Reporter, Kigoma

GLOBAL express services provider—DHL Express Tanzania has donated a patrol boat to the fisheries department in Kigoma region to boost safety in Lake Tanganyika—the second largest of the lakes of eastern Africa.

Speaking at the event, DHL Express Tanzania managing director Paul Makolosi said the patrol vessel will boost the Fisheries sector in Kigoma and help boost sustainable fishing on Lake Tanganyika safeguarding fish sources for future in line with the UN Sustainable Goal number 14. "At the

heart of what we do is connecting people, and by connecting people, DHL plays an important role in improving lives. It is essential for us as a company, to assist where we can," he said.

DHL Express has been providing logistics support and services to the fishermen in Kigoma by providing high quality, durable, hygienic vacuum packaging for free and time definite shipping services that ensure the products get to their destination in good condition.

"We've made great strides in making logistics more accessible by expanding our retail footprint across the country

and injecting our global expertise ensures that we can provide world-class express services to our customers and connect Tanzania with the world," added Makolosi.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Mashimba Ndaki hailed DHL for choosing to invest and further donate the patrol boat to the fisheries department in Kigoma.

"This donation is a testament to the commitment that DHL has made to invest in Tanzania by supporting our fisheries sector and ensuring that we continue to protect the integrity and quality of the marine and additionally

ensuring orderly access to the marine living resources," he said.

In attendance at the event was Fatima Sullivan, DHL Express CEO Sub Sahara Africa who added that as catalyst for trade and investment with multiplier effects for the wider socio-economy.

The fisheries sector in Tanzania plays a significant role in social and economic development by contributing to the economic and social wellbeing of the country particularly in supply of animal protein, income generation, employment, tourism and food security.



Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (2nd-L) has a quick word with Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) chief captain Abdullah Mwinganno (3rd-L) yesterday shortly before cargo ship Frontier ACE docked at Dar es Salaam Port loaded with 4,041 vehicles. Left is TPA board chairman Ernest Mangu. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Samia wins 2022 AfDB's Africa infrastructure prize

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Magufuli, under whom she served as vice-president.

Acturoutes, an information platform

on infrastructure and roads in Africa, is linked with an NGO, Media for Infrastructure and Finance in Africa (MIFA), a network of African journalists specializing in road infrastructure,

who select annual winners.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari received the award last year, while the 2022 trophy will be awarded at the final conference of Africa Road

Builders, scheduled to take place alongside the next annual meetings of stakeholders of the continental lender in the Ghanaian capital of Accra next month, it added.



Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjöberg (L), and Union of Tanzania Press Clubs executive director Abubakar Karsan pictured in Mwanza city yesterday showing journalists documents they had just signed on a one-year MoU under which Sweden will continue to support the union. Photo: Richard Makore

MWAUWASA and LVBC to implement project to reduce L. Victoria pollution

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MWANZA Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (MWAUWASA) through Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) expects to implement the construction of sewage infrastructure projects to cost euros 5.3 million aimed at reducing pollution in the Lake Victoria.

The project is financed by Tanzania and German governments through the latter's development bank - KfW Bank and the European Union (EU) under LVBC coordination under joint LVBC- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programme.

This was revealed here recently at a meeting that brought together stakeholders from MWAUWASA, LVBC and a delegation from KfW Bank led by the manager overseeing projects in East Africa and the African Union (AU), Martina Maurer.

M W E A U W A S A managing Director Eng Leonard Msenyeye said the sponsorship had placed various priorities aimed at the preservation of the environment in towns around Lake Victoria of East African Community (EAC) member states.

"The project will enable the revamping and expansion of sewage infrastructures by 14.4 kms as well as asking 1,600 households, improvement in the pumping of sewage water and purchasing

of equipment including cesspit emptiers," said Eng. Msenyeye.

He said the sponsorship follows robust collaboration between the government of Tanzania and foreign countries.

He said the completion of the project will bring great benefits in environmental preservation especially in reducing Lake Victoria pollution.

For her part, the leader of the delegation who is also the Manager of KfW Bank for Africa, Martina Maurer said the project aims to reduce Lake Victoria pollution due to wanton flow of sewage.

She said her one-day visit to Mwanza Region aimed in seeing for herself the project's area and discuss the best way for its implementation.

"We expect to learn more on how you implement your projects especially those involving environmental preservation as well as to discuss about challenges facing the projects and how to find solutions thereon," said Maurer.

For his part, Acting MWAUWASA Technical Manager, Eng. Salim Lossindilo mentioned areas to benefit from the project as including Igogo, Kirumba, Mwaloni, Nyamanoro, Kitangiri and Pasiansi.

He further said he had wanted several areas of collaboration including the expansion of infrastructures for sewage water in areas around Mirongo River, saying about 100,000 residents are expected to be connected.

Completion of TASAF projects in Arusha Region due this June

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

IN less than eight weeks from now, all projects being undertaken by the Tanzania Social Action Fund in Arusha Region must be completed and handed to the relevant authorities.

That was among the directives issued by the deputy minister in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi while addressing TASAF officials in-charge of projects in Arusha, as well as district commissioners, municipal and area executive directors in the

region. "I will personally return here in June to inspect all buildings and other projects undertaken by TASAF," said Ndejemi, reminding the coordinators to ensure that everything is executed perfectly and with proper value for money invested.

Arusha region has received over 3bn/- for executing nearly 36 development projects through the Tanzania Social Action Funds.

The Karatu, Longido and Ngorongoro district commissioners have jointly assured that, all projects in their respective precincts will be

completed in time. Both the Manager in charge of TASAF projects, Paul Kijazi and the Fund's Disbursement Manager, Selemani Masala called for team working efforts in the projects' execution otherwise things will never move.

The assistant regional administrative secretary, Said Athumani who was Representing the Arusha regional commissioner, advised local coordinators of TASAF projects to keep records of all ongoing projects, plus the stages which each one has reached for proper follow-ups.

More than 3.5 million people in five regions of mainland Tanzania are benefiting from the fourth phase of the Tanzania Social Action Fund which was launched in Arusha last year.

Previously TASAF executive Director Ladislaus Mwamanga had stated here during the National Launch that this new fourth phase is being executed in District 33 Councils in Arusha, Njombe, Geita, Mwanza and Simiyu regions.

The development projects run within a span of one year from November 2021 to October 2022.

In the 4th Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) phase, the Government is disbursing 130 billion/- to undertake a total of 1500 poverty reduction projects in the five regions for the period between November 2021 and October 2022.

REG. NO. 107450

IPAY TANZANIA LIMITED NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Final General Meeting of the above-named Company will be held on the 09th day of May, 2022 at 10:00 hours at PKF Advisory Limited, Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Plot No.1088, Kibasila Street-Upanga, P.O Box 7323 Dar Es Salaam in Nyati Boardroom. Members or their proxies who wish to attend virtually will be provided with Zoom link, passcode and proxy template through their respective emails.

Agenda

1. To receive the winding up report from the liquidator;
2. To lay down accounts of the Winding up of the Company;
3. Any Other Business.

By Order of the Company liquidator

Florian Mutagwaba
Liquidator

Dated at Dar es Salaam this 06th day of April, 2022.

Circulation:

To all members and directors



UNICEF Tanzania

Request for Proposals Communication Services

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

UNICEF Tanzania is seeking the services of a qualified communications and media production company to help the office meet its growing need for production of quality communication materials about four of its programmes:

- U-Report
- GRREAT and RLabs partnership
- OKY Menstrual Health and Hygiene android application
- Youth 4 Children Innovation hub

The successful entity will provide visual documentation in digital original format, specifically video, photography and graphic design.

The purpose of this Request for Proposals ("RFP") is to invite Tanzanian based companies to submit proposals for the development of the required digital communication products (e.g. photography, video and design products) as fully detailed in the Terms of Reference/Statement of Work.

Complete information and details available at:
UNGM LINK <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/171841>

Deadline for submission: **18th April 2022**



UpEnergy Group, Tanzania is organizing one-day stakeholder consultation meeting on the project UpEnergy – Social and Climate Impact Programme. Details are mentioned below:

Venue: Ubungo Plaza Limited

P.O Box55612 Dar-Es-Salaam

Tanzania

Tel:(022) 2450806

Date: 22nd April 2022

Time: 10:30 am

This is a date change announcement with reference to the newspaper ad published on **17th April 2022**.

The original event was planned on 11th April 2022 which is now happening on 22nd April 2022.

Wanted: Task force to address gender violence, child labour

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SPECIAL SEATS MP, Nusrat Hanje has called on the government to form a special force to fight gender-based violence and child labour, among other social problems in the country.

In a supplementary question in the National Assembly yesterday, the lawmaker asked, "Why is it impossible for the government to form a special force to deal with these problems just as it has paramilitary forces who deal with specific matters like wildlife conservation?"

She also noted that the same spirit that the government has in establishing social clubs in schools to enable children protect themselves should be used in establishing the force.

In her response, the deputy minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Mwanaidi Ali Khamis said the ministry is well prepared through the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children (MTAKUWWA) to ensure that children and women are well protected from violence to region levels.

In the main question, the Special SEATS MP had wanted the government to explain efforts to ensure that children are not recruited for labour in the yet to be established camps along the Hoima-Tanga pipeline construction sites.

But the deputy minister explained that the ministry is working hand in hand with security councils at all levels in the country and has capacitated them with the knowledge as entailed in the national plan.

She added that the government always uses different forces in dealing with those who commit gender violence as well as child labour.

Tanzania has ratified relevant international conventions and put in place a range of policies to promote the welfare and protect the rights of children.

Several of these measures relate to the issues of work and labour. The country has ratified a range of international conventions. These include the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment Convention of 1973, which the country ratified in 1998, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention of 1999, which Tanzania ratified in 2001, and the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Tanzania ratified in 1991.

Domestically, Tanzania's Employment and labour relations act no.6 of 2004, prohibits employment of children under 14 years of age. The Ordinance states further that no child shall be employed in any situation that is injurious to health, dangerous, or other unsuitable.



Why is it impossible for the government to form a special force to deal with these problems just as it has paramilitary forces who deal with specific matters like wildlife conservation?



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa holds a meeting with Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa as well as Tanzania Ports Authority, Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS), Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tanzania Bureau of Standards senior executives in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO

City, town militias should not harass petty traders - minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTRY of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) has stated that city council or town militias are not allowed to harass petty street traders commonly known as 'machingas' in the country.

The deputy minister, Dr Festo Dugange made the statement in the House yesterday while responding to a question from Arusha MP, Mrisho Gambo (CCM).

The lawmaker had wanted to know why the petty traders in Arusha are no longer issued with identity cards and they are forced to pay fees to the city council.

"Why are the city forces confiscating items from the traders, some which are perishable and take them to their depot?" he asked, adding that in most cases they forcefully take money from the petty traders.

Dr Dugange in his response said the government has severally issued statement that in the process to

reorganise the petty traders, the 'askaris' should not be involved as they are not authorised. "Let me remind Arusha city authority to follow the government's directives and guidelines on the matter and refrain from using unnessarily power," he said.

On the issue of the identity cards, the deputy minister noted that there is need to provide public education to the petty traders for it is a voluntary matter.

He called on the authority to keep reminding those without the

documents on its importance.

In the main question, the Arusha MP had wanted to know the number of petty traders in Arusha, where they are located and how many have been issued with ID by the end of February, 2022.

In his response, the deputy minister said by the end of February, 2022, there were 5,426 petty traders in Arusha, stationed at different parts of the city.

He named some of the places as Samunge and Kilombero markets, Ulezi in Mianini area, Machame Luxury and Kilombero bus stand.

However, he said the government will continue coordinating registration and issuance of IDs in the city, adding that at least 1,178, being 22 per cent of petty traders have been given identity cards.



Pastory Mrosso (R. foreground), Technology Transfer director at the Arusha-based Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation and Rural Technology (CAMARTEC), briefs journalists yesterday on some of the machines manufactured at the centre. The journalists were on a tour forming part of a science and technology workshop organised by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech). Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Housing and Population Census in August to provide insight about people with disabilities

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Housing and Population Census in August, 2022 will provide clear insight including matters of people with disabilities, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

The deputy minister for Finance and Planning, Hamad Hassan Chande said the questionnaire to be used in the enumeration has ten specific questions on people with disabilities in the country.

He made the statement while

responding to a question from Special SEATS MP, Khadija Taya (CCM) who had wanted to know what the government was doing in order to establish the exact number of people with disabilities and their forms of disabilities in the coming census.

The deputy minister explained that the questions to be asked to all people include age, sex and form of disability among others in order to get the rightful information.

"It is our hope that through the census the government shall get

the right information and statistics on people with disabilities in different fields like administration, sex, marital status, education level, employment, among others as outlined in the questionnaires" said Masauni.

He called on members of parliament to join hands with the government in encouraging people to fully participate in the census.

At the same time, the Special SEATS MP had also wanted to know the government's preparedness in

solving challenges facing people with disabilities.

But the deputy minister noted that after the census and knowing the real situation, the government will therefore have new plans and policies with specific issues to be included in the budget.

"The government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership is not ready to leave any one behind in the quest for national development" said the deputy minister.

'Africa possible centre for renewable energy'

By Special Correspondent

A United Nations climate report has brought attention to Africa's potential for renewable kinds of energy production.

The report said renewable energy projects could reduce the effects of global warming and support Africa's economic development.

The UN's most recent Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change report comes at a time when Africa's renewable energy business is already increasing.

Many African nations are increasing efforts to use more renewable energy such as solar and wind energy. They are moving away from dependence on fossil fuels, such as oil, coal and natural gas. Countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Morocco, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Africa are reportedly taking the lead in clean energy use.

However, Africa has received just two percent - \$60 billion - of the \$2.8 trillion invested in renewable energy worldwide in the last 20 years. It also accounts for only three percent of the world's current renewable energy capacity.

More renewable energy programs, such as Kenya's Lake Turkana Wind Power, launched in 2019, are needed. That project is estimated to make up 18 percent of the country's energy production.

The company's chief, Phylip Leferink, said large projects like these can be copied, but difficulties remain.

Solar power that is not connected to power lines is also providing Kenyans with energy. In Nakuru county, 167 kilometers northwest of Nairobi, James Kariuki signed up for M-Kopa solar power. It is a program requiring regular payments for solar electricity that is produced at his home.

Kariuki said the use of solar power has helped his family make "considerable savings." He said, "Hospital bills for my family have gone down and we now have internet and watch international sports in my home."

Since 2012, M-Kopa has provided services to over 225,000 homes in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania using

solar power not connected to power lines. Kenya has also been expanding its geothermal and bioenergy use for several years.

These projects are a step in the right direction, said report writer and energy expert Yamina Saheb.

Saheb said all of Africa could use solar electric energy and solar heat energy. And some countries could use wind energy.

Solar energy projects such as the Noor Ouarzazate solar complex in Morocco, Benban solar park in Egypt and South Africa's Redstone solar park have appeared across Africa.

The report said Africa has a world-leading potential for solar power projects. It said Africa has a solar electricity potential of up to 7900 gigawatts. Plans are also underway to explore geothermal energy in the East Africa's Great Rift Valley system. Other African nations, such as Angola, Sudan and Zambia, are investing in wind and hydropower from big dams.

A change to clean energy is also "economically attractive" in some situations, the IPCC report said. The UN estimates that Africa's increased use of renewable energy will create more than 12 million new jobs.

China remains the largest lender for Africa's renewable energy projects. Other major lenders include the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund.



Hospital bills for my family have gone down and we now have internet and watch international sports in my home



M-Mama director Doloresa Duncan (R) explains to President Samia Suluhu Hassan earlier this week on the M-Mama programme, which the president launched in Dodoma city earlier this week. This is essentially a technology-enabled public/private system meant to provide transportation for infants and pregnant women in emergencies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Over 1700 farmers in Kilolo District benefit from three projects on proper farming

By Getrude Mbago

MORE than 1700 farmers in Kilolo District, Iringa Region have benefited from three projects on proper farming which have boosted their harvests in the farms from 1.4 tonnes per hectare in 2019 to 4.4 tonnes per hectare in 2021.

Implemented by the Iringa-based Farm for the Future (FFF) commercial firm, the projects include the F20 Women for the future program; Farmers for the future program and the F20 goat milk for nutrition and profit program.

Speaking during the Farmers' Day held in Ilula town, Kilolo District on Wednesday, the firm's Founder, Chairperson and Project Manager, Osmund Ueland said they are proud to have achieved significant results over the past few years.

The projects benefit 16 villages of Masukanzi, Image 8, Uhominyi, Ikokoto, Mbugani, Igunga, Madizini, Mtua, Ilula sokoni, Matalawe, Malendi, Ikuvale, Vitono, Ikuka, Ng'osi and Ngelango.

He said FFF has continued to lift people out of poverty and improve nutrition through a wide range of community development initiatives. It has set a good example to local farmers, demonstrating that producing good yields is possible by following proper farming methods.

FFF has moved in a new direction of producing high-valued crops. This has successfully been implemented by building a 15m high rainwater dam and the construction of an irrigation system for maize seed is under preparation.

"The dam has been opened officially today and over 5000 fish have been

released into the dam and now it will not be just for fishing as well," he said.

He said the Farmers' Day is a platform for sharing knowledge and practical experiences on best agricultural practices focusing on a wide range of topics, including correct crop spacing, mechanization, conservation farming, crop protection, soil improvement and how to improve productivity overall.

Ueland said since the year 2019, FFF and partners have been celebrating this event by inviting local farmers, government leaders, and community leaders. Farmers' day event sets grounds for common cultures for the development of the community and FFF in general.

Martina Kimaro, the firm's Field Supporting officer under the F20 Women for the future program, a total of 10 young mothers have completed a 3 years training program on horticulture, business skills, women rights, poultry production, communication and strategy skills.

"Upon graduation the young mothers

had distributed their production yields among themselves as their starting capital and they will continue to do business on their own. 17 of the children of these young mothers in the program are now sponsored to go to a Montessori kindergarten school," she said.

According to her, these are girls who dropped out of school due to pregnancy and that FFF brought them together and stayed with them for three years, training them on various income generating activities.

"We have been organizing this event for four years consecutively now with a primary objective to share knowledge on good agronomic practices and share results of commercial and community empowerment activities. The event also provided a rare opportunity to the farmers to connect with our key partners particularly the fertilizer and seed producers," she said

She pointed out that FFF has significant knowledge and experience in modern farming practices which they constantly share with smallholder farmers as part of its unique community empowerment model.

Farmers hailed the firm for dedicating their time to support farmers and transforming their lives.

Juma Msigala, a farmer from Image village commended FFF for supporting them with training on best farming practices, something which has increased produce to majority of the farmers.

"FFF has been educating us, it has transformed our mindsets as we are now using quality seeds, fertilizer and how to take good care of farms from preparation, planting to harvesting," he said.



The dam has been opened officially today and over 5000 fish have been released into the dam and now it will not be just for irrigation but the dam will be for fishing as well

Call to support vulnerable children and their families

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

WELL-to-do people have been urged to extend their support for needy children and orphans as well as their in various parts of the country in order to realise their dreams like other community people.

The call was made during the commemoration of the death of the late Bishop Dr Samson Mushemba of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) North West Diocese, a three-day event from 7 to 9 April.

Josephat Mushemba, son of the bishop and founder of Mushemba Foundation (MF), said during his lifetime, the late bishop dedicated

himself to serve not only the worshipers, but also the needy people connecting them to opportunities for the long-lasting livelihoods.

"The society should also honour those people who dedicate their lives, who at a time or another, pass various obstacles, but fulfill their efforts to make sure the poor people are happy and carry their duties towards the country's economic development," Mushemba said.

He said the not for profit foundation started in 2008 with an aim of supporting vulnerable families to support them with daily needs but also enable them to improve their lives.

Dr Yusto Muchuruza, one of the participants said for 15 years, the late

Bishop, served NW and was serving needy communities.

The late Mushemba also established the Mushemba Trinity School, which is a saviour to children from vulnerable communities.

"This anniversary should inspire this generation to remember our fallen heroes, by emulating their footsteps in doing goods to others, you may wonder if they are easily forgotten, but popular artists and sports people are celebrated," said Dr Muchuruza.

Bishop Dr Mushemba, among many other things, is remembered as a humble man, leader of integrity and a man of principle, who refused to overstay when his leadership time expired.

100 young people from vulnerable communities receive special training about economic projects

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

A TOTAL of 100 young people from vulnerable communities in three wards of Ihanu, Luhunga and Mbabulo in Mufindi District, Iringa Region have started receiving special training on how to initiate economic projects and thus improve their incomes.

The group benefits from a four-year YAM project, which is designed to help young people including those dropped out of school due to various challenges such as pregnancies and disabled children, enabling them to take control of their lives through improved motivation, skills and opportunities.

Aman Vahaya, from RLABS-Tanzania said that the training will build their capacity and change mindsets in the field of entrepreneurship so as to enable them, initiate economic activities even with smaller capital.

"Rural areas are immense with many

opportunities and this is a place where young people should start putting their eyes, this training has informed the youth on the opportunities and how to utilize them and become successful," he said.

He noted; "In order for these young people to overcome this misconception they must first become self-aware and confident before starting the entrepreneurial activity they need to do and after they start then they can start the second process of applying for loans to improve the relevant entrepreneurial activity."

He added that these young people have great opportunities to work in their villages including raising pigs, poultry and other livestock including the cultivation of maize.

Commenting on the benefits of the training, project manager of Youth Agency Mufindi (YAM) Zilipa Mgeni said the aim of the training is to empower more than 770 youths including 150

orphans from the three wards which will all be connected to the 16 villages of the project.

He said the YAM project is implemented for four years from 2021/2024 and is funded by the government of Finland's Deaconess Institution in partnership with the Tanzanian government under Mufindi District Council and Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation (FCWC).

Mgeni said after the training provided to the beneficiaries they will be empowered to run the projects that they have chosen to do by empowering them to improve it further.

Mufindi District is one of three districts in Iringa region that have been challenged by youth and vulnerable children and through the government and various development partners have continued to empower these young people to set up economic projects that enable them to make progress.



Local Government Capacity Assessment and Capacity Development Planning for Tanzania Tools and Processes

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. About the Aga Khan Foundation

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is an Agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of private, non-denominational development agencies that share a mission to improve the living conditions and opportunities for marginalized communities across some target countries in Africa and Asia. AKF was established by His Highness the Aga Khan in Switzerland in 1967 and began working in East Africa in 1974. Globally, AKF seeks sustainable solutions to long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and ill-health, with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in mountainous, coastal, and other resource-poor areas. In East Africa, AKF responds to local and regional priorities by developing and implementing effective programming, measuring, and documenting results and sharing lessons with governments, donors, and development actors to influence policy and practice. AKF operates a multi-sectoral portfolio that includes programming in Education, Economic Inclusion, Civil Society, Health and Early Childhood Development.

2. Background

AKF have recently developed a new framework for education programming globally, the Education Improvement Programme (EIP). The EIP promotes an approach where AKF will partner with a global network of local government schools, national and local government, and civil society actors within education ecosystems to co-develop and test affordable and scalable evidence-based models about how best to create quality learning environments and improve holistic learning outcomes for the most marginalised children.

To achieve this, EIP proposes a three-pronged approach; prioritise, innovate, scale:

- **Prioritise** - In partnership with government, schools, teachers, and Civil Society, identify and prioritise the needs of the education ecosystem to improve quality learning outcomes and inclusive, secure learning environments for all.
- **Innovate** - EIP is a network of local incubation collaboratives between AKF, government schools, and civil society actors - co-generating new evidence-based education models that work to improve quality learning outcomes for all learners, especially in marginalised areas.
- **Scale** - Generate new evidence-based models about 'what works' in quality education to enable governments to scale approaches for millions of children and youth.

F4L, co-funded by Global Affairs Canada and AKF, will equip a new generation of learners, teachers, school leaders, families, communities, civil society organisations and government leaders with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to promote more gender-responsive and pluralist quality education systems for all in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Through F4L, AKDN will ensure equal opportunities to quality education for girls and boys through stronger education systems, more capable female and male education professionals, reduced gender and social barriers to education, and increased evidence generation for better policy and practice.

3. Consultant scope of work

Critical to the above approach is to develop deeper institutional partnerships with Local Government Authorities (LGA) in Tanzania. This partnership would include institutional capacity development informed by an inclusive capacity assessment and capacity development planning process. While AKF have extensive experience in conducting these with Civil Society Organisations (CSO), AKF recognises the need to contextualise the process and tools to meet the needs of LGA across the three countries. AKF is therefore seeking out national-level consultants to support this process.

In Tanzania, this consultancy will build on previous work done by AKF with respect to CSO. For this work, the consultant or organisation will be required to work in-person and/or remotely to implement a human centric approach (process clearly articulated in the application) to deliver high quality, relevant, and actionable results, processes, and tools for Tanzania. This consultancy is a co-creation process in which

The objective of this consultancy is to

- To review and conduct an initial contextualization of the Government Performance Index tool to effectively support participatory reflection and analysis of LGA performance in provision of gender responsive quality education services.
- In collaboration with the country level team in Tanzania, to facilitate the participatory LGA assessment using the contextualized (draft) GPI tool and development of the local government strengthening plans
- Build on feedback from the delivery process and experiences of the LGA to further adapt the GPI tool.

To achieve the above objectives, below are illustrative activities. The consultant will be expected to build on these as needed in order to ensure the assignment is completed to the expected standards. He/she is encouraged to consult regularly with AKF for any clarification or assistance to further inform the products from this assignment. The consultant will be expected to work closely with AKF Tanzania, but also align and collaborate with the consultants running the same process in Uganda and Kenya.

- Review the Government Performance Index (GPI), other AKF's CSO Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) tool in addition to other country level LGA capacity development tools to inform the contextualisation
- Produce recommendations report on the appropriate contextualization and customization as needed on the GPI highlighting areas of customization with respect to applicability to LGA for discussion with AKF.
- Prototype the tool in collaboration with AKF Tanzania and with the country level LGA.
- Iterate the GPI process and tools based on the learning and feedback from the prototype to finalise a high quality and designed product for Tanzania.
- Conduct the LGA assessment and support the LGA to develop and prioritise a one-year plan of action with resources to implement the interventions.
- Develop a comprehensive assessment report on the LGA assessment and plan of actions

4. Key deliverables

- Inception report comprising methodology, tools and timeframe for the consultancy
- Final contextualised and customized GPI tool and processes for Tanzania with feedback incorporated.
- Detailed LGA Assessment and plan of action report

5. Work Plan

A detailed work plan should be submitted keeping in mind the above listed activities and key deliverables. The envisaged timeframe of the consultancy is 20-25 days between April 2022 to May 2022.

6. Criteria for selection

All submissions will be assessed on the following criteria:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| • Technical proposal | 40% |
| • Technical experience | 30% |
| • Value for Money | 30% |

7. To Apply

Consultants or organisations interested in this opportunity with AKF should submit:

- Five-page (maximum) technical proposal including work plan
- CV of core team members
- Organisational experience
- Proposed budget (please indicate whether the proposed budget is inclusive of the relevant taxes)
 - Itemized consultancy fees/costs
 - Itemized administrative expenses

by 12 noon on Friday 22ND April 2022. E-mail these documents to akftzprocurement@akfea.org, cc gloria.ngatuni@akdn.org.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

AKF is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is Committed to Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Vulnerable Adults and Expects all Staff and Partners to Share this Commitment.

The Aga Khan Foundation is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (www.akdn.org)

Kikwete: District lands tribunal chairpersons must respect ethics

By Guardian Reporter

DISTRICT lands tribunals chairpersons have been challenged to abide by ethics by avoiding corruptive practices while giving judgements on cases regarding land conflicts.

He also called on disciplinary authorities to take disciplinary action against all officials who do not perform their duties or those putting the government in shame through corruptive practices.

Ridhiwan Kikwete, Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Deputy Minister made the challenge when he met with chairmen of District Land Tribunals and Assistant Registrars.

The chairmen gathered in Tanga for four-day task force and training seminar to discuss on how to improve work performance and provision of better services to the people in regard to land cases.

"Always remember that in order for the land tribunals to receive respect, it is your responsibility as public servants to do the right thing, to act professionally and guided by ethics. Remember that we are only people's servants," said Kikwete.

According to Kikwete, Districts Lands tribunals as organs for dispensing justice have the responsibility to ensure they provide quality services to the people, to avoid unnecessary complaints.

He said the issue of ethics is a very important one to abide by in the

performance of duties, especially during this time when the government has been insisting on ethics among public officials.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Allan Kijazi said the ministry will start putting in place a monitoring system on the work performance of the Chairmen of District Land tribunals aimed at improving their performance.

The Registrar of district land and housing tribunals, Stella Tullo said the training provided to tribunals' chairmen will build their capacity in dealing with land cases and she hoped that when they return to their duty stations they will have a good opportunity to hear land cases as well as making sure people receive excellent services.



Always remember that in order for the land tribunals to receive respect, it is your responsibility as public servants to do the right thing, to act professionally and guided by ethics. Remember that we are only people's servants



Tanga Regional Police Commander Safia Jongo (in black beret, arms raised) cuts the ribbon at Tanga city's Mwanzange Primary School yesterday to launch a zebra crossing project with a focus on primary and secondary schools in the region. The initiative is implemented by AMEND, a non-profit organisation. To her right (in cap and glasses) is Tanga city mayor Abdulrahman Shillow. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Mtwara cashew farmers contribute 2.4billion/- to region's education fund

By Guardian Correspondent, Newala

CASHEWNUT farmers in Mtwara Region have contributed 2.419bn/- to the region's education fund from deduction of 30/- per kilo of cashew nuts they sold through the warehouse receipt system.

Speaking yesterday at the apex Mtwara Region Education Week held in Newala, Mtwara Regional Commissioner Brig. Gen. Marco Gaguti said every local council in the region has an education Fund to which farmers contribute via direct deductions from the cashew nuts sold.

"Since I came to Mtwara I have tried to look for the authenticity of the fund, I did not see it, I tried to advise

my fellows that the money should at least leave a mark in a way of building schools for special talents for example," he added.

Gaguti admitted that the region was not doing well in education and gave the example of Form IV examination results last year in which 72 percent of candidates received Division IV and Zero, while an average pass of 75 was realised compared to the national average of 85 per cent.

"51 per cent of primary school leavers did not reach Form IV, the drop is very big... so we said we must do something to make sure our children get educated and for our teachers to teach by awarding those who perform well," said the RC.

Earlier Mtwara Regional

Administrative Secretary, Abdallah Malela cautioned teachers to avoid cheating in examinations in order to enhance pass marks so that they are awarded.

"Ask what befell to those who tried to do so in the past... we want to raise exam passes justly, our education should grow lawfully through rightful efforts and not through fraud," he stressed.

Newala District Commissioner, Rajabu Kundyia called on teachers to make more efforts in providing quality education to enable children do well in class to remove the region from darkness in so far as education is concerned.

The Vice Chairman of Masasi-Mtwara Cooperative Union (MAMCU) Hassan

Tawachi said the Union contributed 50m/- to facilitate the issuing of prizes during the region's Education Week event.

"MAMCU and TANECU contributed 50m/- each towards the education sector in the region, and these contributions are sustainable as we expect to contribute 100m/- from each cooperative union in the next season," he said.

In the event, a total of 120m/- in prizes was presented including cash, bicycles to students who performed well, 13 motorcycles for teachers whose students performed well and Noah vehicles to Mnari Primary School from Newala Town Council and Rahaleo secondary school from Mikindani Municipal Council.

Academics want to build capacity for 'One Health and Public Health'

By Wachira Kigotho

AFRICAN countries have been urged to adopt the One Health framework, a collaborative public health approach, amid concerns of pandemic outbreaks and for the emerging and re-emerging of highly infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and Ebola that adversely affect human health.

The call was made by a group of academics and public health experts during a discussion recently titled 'One Health and Public Health in Africa', which formed part of the public dialogue series. The One Health event was hosted by the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) and the University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa.

The AAP was co-created by Michigan State University and African thought leaders in 2016. It is a consortium of Michigan State University and 10 leading African universities, including UP, which collaborate to address continental and global challenges.

This article is published in partnership with the Alliance for African Partnership. University World News is solely responsible for the editorial content.

According to the World Health Organization, One Health is an approach to design and implement programmes, policies, legislation and research whereby multiple sectors in governments and private sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes.

Various professionals with a range of expertise and who are active in different sectors, such as public health, animal health, plant health and the environment, are expected to join forces to support One Health approaches.

Endorsing the One Health public health strategy for Africa, Dr Yewande Alimi, the coordinator of the antimicrobial resistance programme at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, or Africa CDC, said the continent is a hot spot of various zoonotic infectious diseases because of its forested tropical regions, rapid land-use changes and large wildlife

biodiversity.

Zoonotic diseases are caused by bacteria, viruses and other germs that spread between animals and people.

According to Alimi, 60% of existing human infectious diseases are zoonotic but, even much worse, 75% of the emerging infectious diseases that include various variants of severe acute respiratory syndrome, Ebola, HIV, Marburg, monkeypox and Lassa fever have an animal origin. "Three out of five human diseases that appear every year originate from animals," said Alimi.

To deal with these challenges, Professor John David Kabasa, the principal of the College of Veterinary medicine, Animal resources and Biosecurity at Makerere University in Uganda, said the One Health framework offers opportunities that are beyond the traditional thinking about public health.

He noted that interactions of people, domestic animals, wildlife and the environment in Africa have become increasingly complex, requiring new strategies to solve public health problems.

Citing the Ugandan experience, Kabasa said that, in the recent past, there had been zoonotic epidemics that included Ebola, yellow fever, Marburg and avian influenza. "The country also had outbreaks of brucellosis, rabies, trypanosomiasis [sleeping sickness] and anthrax," said Kabasa.

To Kabasa, these challenges had not been unique to Uganda but were widespread in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in countries within the Congo basin where, in recent decades, environmental changes and overlap between people, livestock and wildlife have increased rapidly.

In this regard, the Africa CDC in a briefing 'Framework for One Health Practice in National Public Health Institutes: Zoonotic disease prevention and control', noted increases in globalisation, urban density, ease of travel and animal movement have created new opportunities for the spread of old diseases and the emergence of new ones.



A small trader based at a section of Dar es Salaam's Ilala-Karume market where bags including suitcases and briefs are sold makes a belated attempt to put out a fire that reduced parts of the facility to ashes early yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

Shinyanga women urged to stop giving birth at homes

PREGNANT women in Shinyanga Region, especially those from rural areas have been called to stop the habit of giving birth at homes, the practice that is unsafe, instead they should go to health centres that are safe in order to avoid maternal deaths.

The call was made here on Wednesday by the Projects Manager from Investing in Children and

Strengthening their Societies (ICS) in Shinyanga Region, Sabrina Majikata at a seminar to discuss the national agenda for better family upbringing for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the region.

She said as for now the government has improved health services up to the villages and appealed to pregnant women to abandon the traditional

customs of giving birth at homes but should go to health centres.

"Giving birth at health centres has benefits, first the woman is in safe hands as well as being given education on maternal health and it is rarely dangerous for her to die," Sabrina said.

Meanwhile, she advised parents in the region to adopt family planning so

as to get time for children upkeep and breastfeed them appropriately.

She also called women to start attending clinic all times whenever they conceive in order to know the development of the baby in the womb up to the date of delivery baby.

Some of the seminar participants said the community still find it hard to abandon traditional practices, even

though some of them have started to change and go to health centres for delivery.

For his part the Coordinator of the 'Tuwalee Project' from Rafiki Organisation (SDO), Maria Maduhu said they have provided the training for children's better upbringing to several NGOs which they should in turn part the knowledge to parents.

Recently President Samia Sukuhi Hassan launched the Emergency Transportation to Health Facilities for Women and Newborns (M-Mama) that aims to reduce maternal deaths.

She said the system was started in 2013 on trial basis in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region, and Shinyanga Region that served 12,000 women and newborns that helped in reducing maternal deaths due to lack of reliable transport to health centres.

Two-thirds of Africans exposed to virus which causes COVID-19 - WHO

By Guardian Reporter

UP to 65 per cent of Africans have been infected by SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19, a World Health Organisation (WHO) analysis finds.

The study finds that true infections on the continent were 97 times larger than reported confirmed cases.

The analysis, which is available as a pre-print under peer review, synthesized 151 studies published on seroprevalence in Africa between January 2020 and December 2021. It found that exposure to SARS-CoV-2 skyrocketed from 3 percent (1.0-9.2 percent range) in June of 2020 to 65 percent (56.3-73 percent range) by September of 2021, or 800 million infections compared with 8.2 million cases reported at that time. The study showed that exposure to the virus rose sharply following the emergence of the Beta and the Delta variants.

The analysis revealed that the true number of infections could be as much as 97 times higher than the number of confirmed reported cases. This compares to the global average where true number of infections is 16 times higher than the number of confirmed reported cases.

However, seroprevalence varied widely within and across countries in Africa - higher in more dense urban areas than in less populated rural areas - and between age groups, with children aged 0-9 years having fewer infections compared with adults. Exposure to the virus also varied between countries and Africa's sub-regions: seroprevalence appears to be highest in Eastern, Western and Central African regions.

The new analysis suggests that more than two-thirds of all Africans have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Globally seroprevalence studies have found a significant under-counting of cases occurring across the globe with 45.2% of the world's population estimated to have been infected with the virus by September 2021. It is, however, difficult to compare figures for Africa with those of other regions, as many of the studies conducted cover different time periods.

The continent differentiates itself from other regions by its high number of asymptomatic cases, with 67 percent of cases having no symptoms.

"This analysis shows that current reported COVID-19 confirmed cases are only a fraction of the actual number of infections on the continent," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

"This under-counting is occurring world-wide and it's no surprise that the numbers are particularly large in Africa where there are so many cases with no symptoms."

Seroprevalence studies provide data on asymptomatic or under-reported infections that may have been missed by routine diagnostic testing, which in Africa has focused on travellers and people who came to hospitals with COVID-19 symptoms. While this new analysis provides insight into the evolution of the pandemic, routine testing remains a critical component of the COVID-19 pandemic in all countries.

"Testing enables us to track the virus in real-time, monitor its evolution and assess the emergence of new variants. Countries must ramp up testing, contact tracing and surveillance so we can stay a step ahead of COVID-19," said

Dr Moeti.

As of 6 April 2022, there were 11.5 million confirmed cases and more than 252 000 deaths reported on the continent. It is likely that numbers of actual exposure to the virus have increased even more since September 2021.

Africa has had milder COVID-19 cases compared with other parts of the world because there is a comparatively smaller proportion of people with risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases that are associated with more severe cases and deaths. Africa's youthful population is also a protective factor.

"Despite Africa's declining infections and high exposure to the virus, we cannot declare victory yet against COVID-19," Dr Moeti said. "The seroprevalence analysis shows just how much the virus continues to circulate, particularly with new highly transmissible variants. The risks of more lethal variants emerging which overwhelm immunity gained from past infections cannot be brushed aside. Vaccination remains a key weapon in the fight against COVID-19."

Multiple studies have shown that vaccination for those with prior infection is beneficial resulting in improved protection over infection-induced immunity alone. Africa has to date fully vaccinated 209 million people, or 16% of the population, administering 457 million of the 816 million vaccine doses received. WHO is working to support countries ramp-up vaccination.

Dr Moeti spoke during a virtual press conference today. She was joined by Professor Guéladio Cissé, Coordinating Lead Author, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of Basel, Switzerland, and Dr Irene Owusu Donkor, Postdoctoral fellow, African Postdoctoral Training Initiative and Research fellow, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana.

From the WHO Regional Office for Africa, Dr Joseph Okeibunor, Team Lead, Research Development and Innovations, Dr Thierno Balde, Regional COVID-19 Incident Manager, Dr Edinam Amavi, Vaccine Safety Officer, and Dr Brama Koné, Technical Officer, Climate Change and Health, were also on hand to answer questions.



Testing enables us to track the virus in real-time, monitor its evolution and assess the emergence of new variants. Countries must ramp up testing, contact tracing and surveillance so we can stay a step ahead of COVID-19

By Special Correspondent, Windhoek

THE export of 22 wild-caught elephants from Namibia to the United Arab Emirates in March has raised concerns over their welfare and stoked criticism of how Namibia manages its wildlife.

Fifty-seven elephants were sold at auction in 2021 to private buyers, and 37 have already been captured. Fifteen of those were moved to a private reserve in Namibia and will remain there. In early March, 22 were flown to two safari parks in the UAE.

Another 20 elephants are still to be captured. Their ultimate destination is not yet publicly known.

The Pro Elephant Network (PREN), a forum of individuals and organizations campaigning to stop the capture and exploitation of elephants, says those sent to the UAE were taken from a small, fragile population of Namibia's desert-adapted elephants.

"We were informed that the 22 elephants did not make up the entire

Export of elephants to UAE drags Namibia's wildlife policy into spotlight - network

herd, a few elephants were left behind [in Namibia]. This has very serious implications for the welfare and well-being of both the captured elephants and the elephants left behind," PREN coordinator Stefania Falcon told Mongabay.

"The Namibian government never provided the non-detriment finding, to prove that this capture has not had negative, non-reversible effects on this small population."

Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) says animal welfare groups opposed to the auction of the elephants do not have to live with the damage inflicted by some herds, as local communities do. In a statement last month, the ministry said elephants killed four people and caused 923 cases of crop damage between 2019 and 2021.

It said it expected to raise a total of 5.9 million Namibian dollars



Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority officials show Natural Resources and Tourism minister Ambassador Dr Pindi Chana (6th-R) international quality marks and symbols at the NCAA offices in Arusha city on Thursday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Dish out more funds on climate change resilience, organic farming, govt urged

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

ACTION Aid country director, Bavon Christopher has called on government to inject more funds towards initiatives to battle effects of climate change as well as improving performance of organic agriculture.

Christopher made the call on Thursday when speaking at the three-day special Dissemination Workshop for the 3rd Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Biennial Review (BR) Report Tanzania.

Supported by Action Aid Tanzania the workshop meant to review and

brainstorming how the country can successful attain the CAADP by 2025.

He suggested the need for the country to enhance investment finance agriculture, noting: "It's prudent for the government to ensure smallholder farmers are in better side to access capital loans and key inputs."

"Agricultural performance in Tanzania, as it is in many countries is greatly facing myriad challenge of climate change, among others, the situation which call for serious interventions," he observed.

With unfriendly conditions set by many financial institutions

in getting capital loans towards small scale farmers, he spoke over the skyrocketed prices for agromachinery, propelled to poor crop yield and productivity.

Action Aid International's project manager, scaling up public investment in agriculture (SOPIA) Constance Okeke said Tanzania was among the countries so far managed to make some efforts in attaining the set target of the CAADP.

Okeke said that among the key goals include poverty reduction through agriculture in all CAADP member countries by 2025, boosting intra- Africa trade in agriculture

commodities and services as well as enhancing mutual accountability for action and results.

"The CAADP agendas has also set key pillars for the member countries to attain food security and agriculture improvement," she said, noting that the pillars are sustainable land and water management, market access, food supply and hunger and agriculture research.

Agriculture Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) executive director Audax Rukonge stated that the country was still far away in creation of useful mechanism to finance the smallholder farmers.



Hans Obote, a facilitator with a community-based organisation known as WAJIKI, pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday addressing students of the city's Mbagala Kuu Secondary School on ways to combat sexual corruption. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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World Homeopathy Day builds key bridges of medical culture

HEALTH agencies around the world mark April 10 as World Homeopathy Day. One among spheres of public medicine that isn't easy to pass on to people in daily conversation is homeopathy, described as an alternative medicine approach that has gained considerable influence around the world, without ceasing to be controversial. Essentially it is an approach to medicine which tries to help the body to heal itself rather than simply healing it from the outside, and whose proponents follow often distinctly different curative approaches than the routine fashion. To them the body needs less of cure than facilitation to healing, chiefly by boosting its own innate healing capacities in a methodical way.

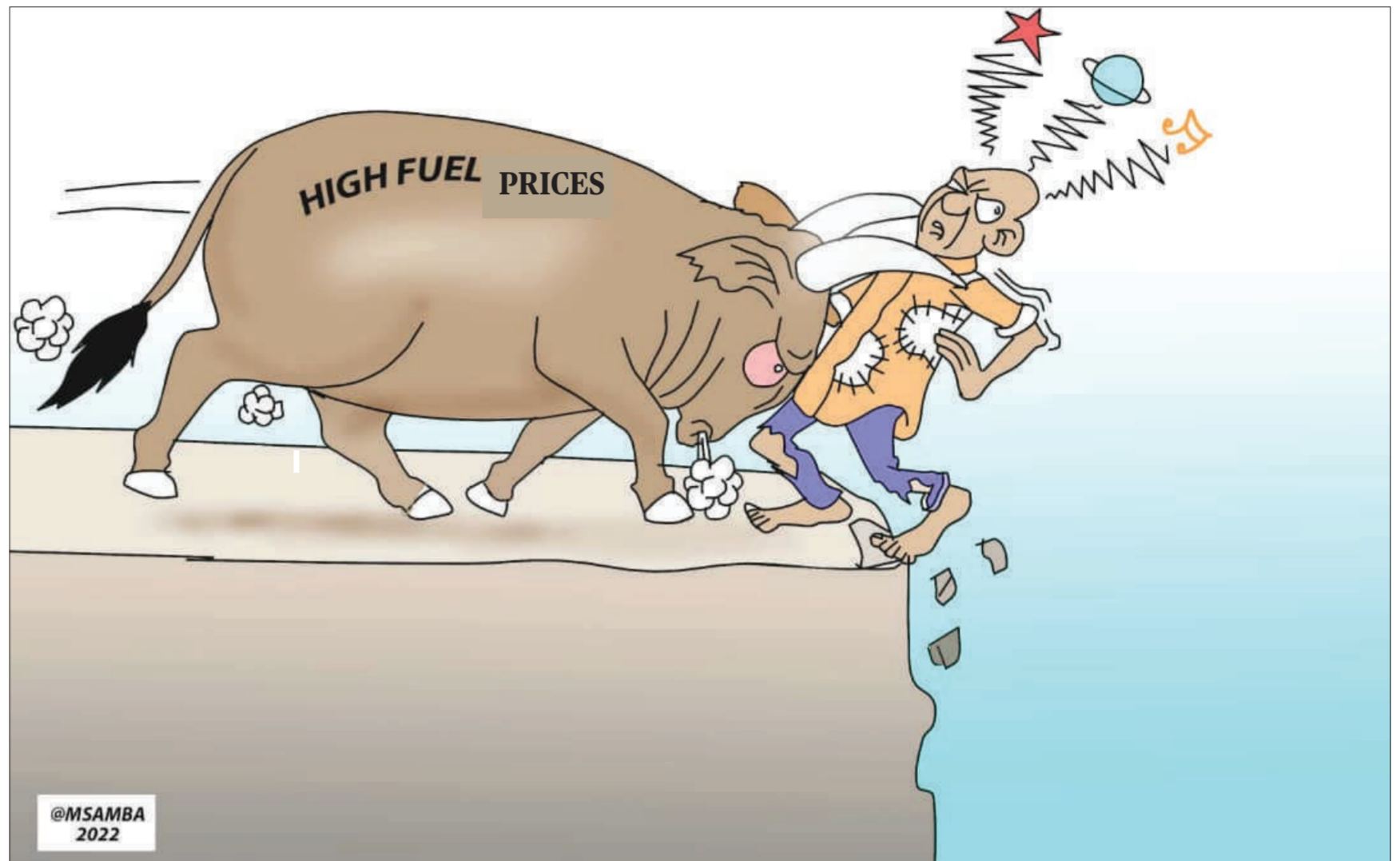
Even if we did not broadcast it in those terms, the frenetic effort to find plant-based solutions to the Covid-19 infection scare towards mid-2020 was an illustration of this approach, even if it did not relate to its actual clinical practice. Herbs can't be said to constitute an equivalence of drugs but in many instances trigger the body's capacity to make the relevant ingredients for a natural cure - and often for cases that are still early or manageable in a biomedical sense. When body functions are severely impaired only a hardnosed curative approach can be expected to work, but it is uncertain if alternative medicine says so.

At the local level, alternative medicine has several illustrative practices or public postures, often related to the ritual context to which it is generated. One is traditional

medicine, where official positions on such medication is strict or approved knowledge of curative herbs, without attaching ritual practices like a medium falling into a sort of dreaming mood, and tells how the disease came about, often in relation to witchcraft where the person stays, family environment, etc. It has been a persistent problem for decades.

The other sphere of alternative medicine is foreign, especially from the Far East, where practitioners have had different abilities to penetrate the local market. Usually they wish to actually advance medicine or medical formulas, habitually observable types being applications of drops of a water-like liquid. But the prescription at a front door service to a doctor inside is usually written in Chinese or Korean characters, in which case it is hard for anyone to actually say what it constitutes. It is hard to find surveys or newspaper articles on such experiences, and if there are televised or radio talk shows they are few and far between.

Ironically, the Covid-19 pandemic has been a testy moment for all sorts of medical formulas but it must be admitted that it is the Western formula that basically succeeded. What is called vaccination is in any case a peculiar kind of homeopathic treatment, in the sense of effectively building body defences with a methodically prepared proto-virus, inserted in the body for ineffectiveness. It generates negative reactions, thus when the more effective virus turn up, the body cells are in effect padlocked. Marking World Homeopathy Day is helpful for cultural bridges, not a new solution to disease.



Banditry, implications on the societal economy and prevention strategies

By Gbolahan Samuel Moronfolu

CONCEPTUALLY, banditry is a derivative of the term bandit, meaning an unlawful armed group terrorising people and confiscating their properties. It is synonymous with the establishment of gang groups who use small and light weapons to carry out attacks against people. In this regard, banditry could mean a set-up criminal activity deliberately designed and carried out for personal gains. Due to the complex nature of bandits' activities, Egwu (2016) described banditry as a practice of stealing cattle and animals from herders or raiding of cattle from their ranches. In the same vein, banditry is reflected in criminal escapades like cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug abuse, arson, rape and the brazen and gruesome massacre of people of agrarian communities with sophisticated weapons by suspected herdsmen and reprisal attacks from surviving victims, a development that has been brought to the front burner of national security (Uche & Iwuamadi, 2019).

However, where the term banditry is connected to rural community, it implies a group of rural outlawed involved in illicit activities such as raiding of villages, kidnappings and cattle rustling for primitive accumulation of wealth. Thus, bandits are gang groups terrorizing and dispossessing local people or travelers of their valuable items or properties such as merchandise, money, cattle, camel, and sheep, among others. They operate within and along rural borders with the assistance of their local collaborators including in some cases, state agents deployed to work for the safety and security of the people (Abdullahi, 2019).

Nigeria's current general insecurity challenge has been compromised by avoidable conflicts that have become a common issue in recent times. This has become more worrisome especially when the impoverished segments of the Nigerian masses are finding it increasingly hard to avoid starving to death. Resources that could have been used to modernize the agricultural sector, build industries and infrastructure to create employment, have been consumed by budget for a fight against insecurity and in the rehabilitation of displaced and injured citizens.

It will not be out of place to say that the current wave of general insecurity is fueled by poverty which has made



national security threat a more complex issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security (Achumba, Kebbi, Sokoto & Zamfara - and is fast spreading to states in the north-central region, particularly Niger State. Emerging evidence alludes to the increasing nexus between bandits and terrorists in Nigeria's northwest through recruitment tactics and the mutual deployment of logistics and arms, combined with the region's geographical advantage for carrying out attacks and a similar mastery of the political economy of 'kidnap for ransom', used to fund criminal enterprises. Estimates put the number of bandits at about 50,000, spread across scores of gangs ranging in size from 10 fighters to over a thousand.

Mass kidnappings and brutal raids on civilians in vulnerable villages by bandits are driving a humanitarian crisis. In September 2021, bandits placed a levy of twenty million naira (about US\$50,000) on five villages to avoid their attacks. At least 1,126 villagers were killed as a result of these tactics from January to June 2020. In early January 2022, at least 200 villagers were reportedly killed

by bandits in Zamfara state, in one of the region's worst recorded atrocities. While these attacks pose threats to food security in rural areas, failures to bring killers to justice also fuels feelings of impunity, according to reports by Amnesty International.

In what appears lately as a shifting geography of violence, attacks have been concentrated in villages and semi-urban areas of major towns and cities in Sokoto State. In less than a week, over 40 persons were kidnapped in December 2021 in Wurmo, a small local government area in the state. The vicious attack on villages is becoming overwhelming for the vulnerable residents and spreading like a wild fire'. On 6 December 2021, 23 persons died after bandits shot at a bus carrying travellers from Sokoto to Kaduna in an attack at Gidan Bawa village in Isa local government area of Sokoto State.

Insecurity in Nigeria has reached an alarming proportion showing its ugly head in various facets of our national life. Lives are lost on daily basis, population depleted, businesses in comatose, investments are nose-diving, multinationals closing shops and vacating the country, unemployment soaring and the populace in fears. Clearly, it poses a threat to governance and economic growth in troubled nations. Banditry in Nigeria can be largely attributed to ineffective law enforcement in Southern Nigeria and ungoverned spaces in Northern Nigeria.

According to Stewart (2019), the economic costs of insecurity are enormous. People who joined the fighting forces, who are killed or flee, can no longer work productively; schools, power stations, and roads that are destroyed reduced the productive

capacity of the economy. Further, displacement of people reduces the production of exports, thereby reducing foreign exchange earnings, import potentials and consequently further constraining output, leading to a decline in employment and earnings.

The menace remains a threat to governance and economic growth in Nigeria. Despite government's burgeoning recurrent expenditure on internal security both at the National and State levels, individuals in their various rights, work places and houses spend heavily to provide security for their personal lives and properties. Despite these efforts, the menace keeps exacerbating. Thus in almost all parts of the country, there exist some levels of insecurity.

We have seen instances of ethnic conflicts in some parts of the North, kidnapping in almost all parts of the country, but prominent in South-South and south-West, militancy and pipeline vandalism activities in the Niger delta, terrorism and religious extremism by Boko Haram in North East, agitations for self-determination by IPOB (Indigenous People of Biafra) and MASSOB (Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra) in South East, herdsmen disturbances in the North and Central, ritual killings in the South West and East and other political and economic disturbances. These disturbances and insecurities in its various forms affect economic growth. Moronfolu is a seasoned security consultant with many years of security and policing experience. FELLOW, Fourth Estate Professional Society (FFPS), he has also partaken in peace keeping operations within and outside the country and has flair for general security education.

We should always talk about cancer, it is a silent pandemic

WOES of people falling to cancer developments in the body and being diagnosed late, thus being incapable of being put to any effective treatment, are being raised every other month or so. One such occasion presented itself lately, where it was said that most cancer cases in Tanzania are diagnosed at advanced stages, leading to deaths that could have been prevented through early identification and treatment. It is hard to say where the fault lies, but basically the reason is that cancer is at first painless.

Cancer is like a snake that creeps into a house, where most of the usual precautions can't work as it doesn't need an open door to pass through. A top health ministry official said that 40,000 new cancer cases are reported annually and 30 per cent of the patients die on account of delays in diagnosis. He also made reference to 'misdiagnosis' that is conducted at first, treating minor ailments as if that was all there was to the potential cancer patient. At times medical practitioners go as far as the patient or the persons taking care of the patient wish to go, making a diagnosis and a prescription as if playing for time, etc.

Part of the reason is psychological, as in HIV diagnosis, that if a patient isn't ready to face that sort of reality, isn't intimating or visiting a medical facility specifically for that purpose, medical personnel aren't always inclined to force the pace.

The person will be diagnoses with

malaria or other ailment, which looks routine and curable, until some other disturbances start, and the patient is prepared to go deeper into the problem. It isn't easy for many people to live with shocking information of being HIV positive, or having a well developed cancer in any of their organs, though cancer noticeably lacks a sense of shame.

With nearly everything that needs to be said on how cancer is progressing in the society having been noted and propagated for all to hear, medical practitioners were lately perched on a technical matter, focused on research and training, on how to build a bridge towards quality care for blood cancer patients. There are some advanced treatments that have started being administered or tried in the past year especially for sickle cell disease, a kind of blood cancer that tortures individuals from infancy, and in many cases cuts short their life span. Varied cures have been developed, with genetic correction research coming up in various countries. The big issue is behaviour generated cancers, from living styles, chiefly.

It is in this sphere where most of the advice is regularly administered, the trouble being that the body is tailored for one thing mentally and another thing, physically. Mentally it prefers sweet things and comfort, and living on that basis infuses dignity into life. The physical consequences come much later, where no treatment is practicable at once; the body is already tuned to harming itself, almost deliberately

Worrying insights from UN's first-ever assessment of water security in Africa

UNNITD NATIONS

When it comes to water security - a reliable, good supply of safe water - just 29 African countries have made some progress over the past three to five years. Twenty-five have made none.

This data comes out of the UN's first-ever assessment of water security in Africa. Published by the UN University's Canada-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health, the assessment used 10 indicators to quantify water security in Africa's 54 countries. Such an assessment had been done before in the Asia-Pacific region, but never for Africa.

The UN's concept of water security encompasses various needs and conditions. These include: water for drinking, economic activity, ecosystems, governance, financing, and political stability. Water security, therefore, is not just about how much natural water a country has but also how well the resource is managed.

The assessment is limited by very poor data on some issues - such as access to drinking water or sanitation. It nevertheless offers some preliminary, but obvious, conclusions.

Overall levels of water security in Africa are low. Not a single country, let alone a sub-region, is at the highest "model" stage of water security. The top five countries - Egypt, Botswana, Mauritius, Gabon, and Tunisia - are at best at a "modest" (just above average) stage of water security.

Without water security, people are exposed to environmental and health risks, increased susceptibility to water-related disasters and lack water for economic and social use.

The assessment team hopes that as this quantitative tool develops, it will help generate targeted policy recommendations and inform decision-making and

public-private investments toward achieving water security in Africa.

Key findings

The assessment introduced five stages of water security: Emerging (a score of 0 - 45), slight (45 - 60), modest (60 - 75), effective (75 - 90), and model (90 - 100).

Except for Egypt, all countries scored below 70. Only 13 of 54 countries were found to have a "modest" level of water security. Somalia, Chad and Niger appear to be the three least water-secure countries in Africa.

Over a third of the 54 countries had "emerging" level water security, representing a large gap to be closed to reach an acceptable level. These countries are home to half a billion people.

The situation doesn't appear to be improving very quickly. Between 2015 and 2020, the continent as a whole progressed only by 1.1% based on the indicators.

Examining the indicators

Here is an overview of how countries fared on each indicator.

Access to drinking water

Access to "at least basic" drinking water services ranged from 37% of the population in the Central African Republic to 99% in Egypt. Regionally it ranged from 62% in central Africa to 92% in north Africa. Africa's average basic drinking water service is 71%. This leaves behind about 29% of the total population, or more than 353 million people.

"At least basic" means access to improved water sources - such as piped water, protected hand-dug wells and springs. These either need to be "safely managed" (accessible on premises, available when needed, and free from contamination) or can be collected in a trip of 30 minutes or less.



Not a single country, let alone a sub-region, is at the highest "model" stage of water security. The top five countries - Egypt, Botswana, Mauritius, Gabon, and Tunisia - are at best at a "modest" (just above average) stage of water security. Credit: Charles Mpaka/IPS

Access to sanitation

Access to sanitation - meaning access to, and use of, sanitation facilities and services - was broadly similar at the regional level. There's an average of 60% access to limited sanitation. This means at least 40% of the total population (483 million people) are left behind.

A few countries - Seychelles and most countries in north Africa - have reached, or nearly reached, 100%. The most challenged countries are Chad and Ethiopia.

Access to hygiene facilities

This indicator refers to access to practices like hand washing. The greatest access was found in north Africa (67%), the least access was in west Africa. Liberia was the lowest in the region with less than 10% access.

Chad and the Central African Republic suffer from the highest number of deaths

from diarrhoea, an indicator of ineffective hygiene practices.

Per capita water availability

The amount of water available per person was highest in central Africa, with the Republic of Congo considered Africa's most water-rich country. At the other end of the spectrum, half of the countries in north Africa appeared to be absolutely water scarce.

Water availability has recently declined in west, central and southern Africa. This was most notable in Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Somalia, Mozambique and Malawi.

Water use efficiency

This indicator assesses the economic and social value. The score is a sum of efficiencies - a measure of how well a country uses the water it has in its economy.

On this basis, water use efficiency appears to be lowest in north Africa (with Somalia

lowest at the national level) and highest in central Africa (with Angola highest at a national level).

Water storage infrastructure

Water storage in large dams, measured in volume (m3) per capita, is deemed best in the southern Africa, worst in east Africa.

South Africa, with over 25% of all large dams in Africa, is outscored by Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia, likely due to just one mega reservoir in those countries.

Half of all countries score very low, reflecting the continent's low level of water storage development. Only Ethiopia and Namibia have increased their storage over recent years.

Wastewater treatment

Scores are highest in north African countries, lowest in east and west Africa, where 12 countries in each region treat less than 5% of wastewater. No

country treats more than 75%. Only Tunisia, Egypt and Lesotho treat over 50% of wastewater.

Water governance

Governance takes into account the various users and uses of water with the aim of promoting positive social, economic, and environmental impacts. This includes the transboundary level.

Water governance appears to be most advanced in north and southern Africa and least advanced in central Africa.

Nationally, Ghana reported reaching 86% of integrated water resource management implementation in just two years - a significant improvement.

Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, and Comoros are the lowest-performing countries.

Disaster risk

Disaster risk is a measure of the potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets, which could occur to an

ecosystem, or a community in a specific period of time.

North Africa appears to be the least risky sub-region (it has less exposure or high ability to adapt), with Egypt the least risky country. West Africa was the riskiest.

Some 49 of 54 African countries have seen increased disaster risk scores over five recent years.

Water dependency on neighbouring nations and water resources variability

Egypt stands out as Africa's most water-dependent country. It relies on the Nile river which flows through 10 countries - Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, and Sudan - before reaching Egypt. And the southern Africa sub-region has a wide disparity in the available water per year.

Preparing for the future

Our paper calls for a pioneering effort to create global standards for water security measurement data and assessment.

Some critical components of water security simply cannot be assessed without good data. For example, it's not possible to estimate the percentage of the African population that will have access to safely managed drinking water services or safely managed sanitation by 2030, a key UN Sustainable Development Goal.

Our water security assessment tool is a work in progress, guided by a goal of an influential and nationally-owned tool used by all African countries and that it helps generate targeted policy recommendations and inform decision-making and public-private investments in Africa. The Conversation

Grace Oluwasanya, Research Lead, Water, Climate and Gender, United Nations University and Duminda Perera, Senior Researcher, Hydrology and Water Resources, United Nations University

ACCRA, Ghana

How would the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu have reacted to the Russian invasion of Ukraine? Differently than you might think.

The invasion of Ukraine is a mass human tragedy. It is killing Ukrainians, exposing families to violent atrocities, and has driven a refugee crisis of over 4 million people and counting. The war in Ukraine has also reawakened our fear of global war - even nuclear war - and the importance we place on global peace.

Watching this conflict has us remembering many of the wise words of Mpho's father, Bishop Tutu, who once said "I am not without hope. When we, humans, walk together in pursuit of a righteous cause, we become an irresistible force."

The war in Ukraine has also driven global food shortages, particularly in Africa. And it has sparked an energy crisis, and a reckoning with our global addiction to oil.

Seeing this war unfold, Archbishop Tutu would have been horrified. He would have condemned it.

How a massive climate project can help win peace for Ukraine - and help African job, food crises

But he also would have been unequivocal: this is a crisis of peace, but also a climate crisis, and a once-in-a-generation moment to rally humanity around solutions that could improve our climate, economic and food futures. He would have believed what we believe:

There can be no true global peace, ever, without global action to avert climate change. And this moment is the time we must begin to link these crises inextricably.

Perhaps ironically, as if challenging the human project, the invasion of Ukraine occurred simultaneously with the most urgent and stark, clarion call in history by the United Nations for universal action to mitigate the impact of global warming. Four days after Russian troops began their thrust into Ukrainian sovereign territory, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a detailed report entitled Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation & Vulnerability, on February 28.

The report, and its followup just this week are unequivocal in their dire assessment that humanity is in serious trouble. Indeed, in comments accompanying the release of the report, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, described it as an "atlas of human suffering." Guterres was clear in pointing the finger of blame: "The facts are undeniable," he said. "This abdication of leadership is criminal. The world's biggest polluters are

guilty of arson on our only home." And amongst those are Russia and the West.

Putin's purge of Ukraine has triggered the biggest refugee crisis on European land since WWII. The scenes along the Ukrainian border are heart-breaking. Scenes of traumatised and separated families seeking refuge. But also, stories of discrimination experienced by innocent African and Asian students also seeking shelter from the war. But if current climate trends continue, the IPCC expects a billion people living in vulnerable coastal communities across the globe to be at risk from rising sea levels in the next few decades, due to "submergence and loss". The report is, literally, awash with examples of where this is already happening on every continent.

In other words, what we're seeing in Poland and worldwide is fast becoming the daily norm worldwide, and could ultimately dwarf the humanitarian crisis Russia's invasion of Ukraine has unleashed. Seeing the scenes of suffering and bravery from Lviv and Poland, we say that with humility. But what we see on the border of Poland and Ukraine today is soon to be the rule, not the exception, everyday of our lives if temperatures continue to rise.

Our only hope - and a response that would immediately aid Ukraine - is a collective uprising of humanity, fuelled by the same passionate determination

evident in the Ukrainian people as they seek to protect their land. It is time to divert essential resources and energy away from war and the military industrial complex, to be urgently reinvested in a Marshall Plan that seeks to protect our common home and save humanity from existential threat.

First, nations seeking to end-run or make do by continuing to access Russian oil and fossil fuels must cease and find other alternatives. Nations are putting funds in escrow to buy oil as payment for a day when a better behaved Russia can accept their fee. This day clearly will not come, and these purchases undermine the last best hope for democracy in Ukraine - cutting off Russia's greenhouse gas economy.

This is what's best for peace. It's also ultimately in the best interests of the global community and the planet.

Second, and closest to home for us: The IPCC Report highlights the importance of policymakers focusing on "climate resilient development," which they argue helps build strength in every society to cope with climate change. We have such a solution - one that only needs awareness, funds and hope.

The Great Green Wall is an epic African initiative whose aim is to cross the continent from Senegal to the Republic of Djibouti to combat desertification, restore degraded lands, protect biodiversity, and offer food

and habitat security. We write today with deep concern for the global community, but also as champions of a project that could immediately address the food crisis, economic crisis and climate crisis facing Africa and the southern Hemisphere of the globe.

We have also decided, in memory of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu - inspired by the IPCC Report and in opposition to all war - to create the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest in Ghana and Burkina Faso as part of Africa's Great Green Wall. This is a project for peace - one that would seek to turn global discord into optimism and action. Some of the last utterances of Archbishop Tutu's remarkable life were in support of Africa's Great Green Wall. In 2020 he said:

... one way to use our power wisely is for civil society across the globe to champion, in solidarity with Africa, the Great Green Wall. Supporting Africa in growing new lungs for the Earth. Lungs that become, with every tree planted, a ribbon of hope, inspiring interfaith harmony, and peacebuilding across the Sahel and throughout the continent.

In creating the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest, we also wish to highlight and support the four great legacy pillars of his life: the ending of all forms of apartheid and hate; the empowerment of women and gender equality; environmental integrity; and peace

founded on justice for all.

These are the pillars that will uplift Africa. They are also the pillars that will move us from this conflict in Ukraine towards a solutions-focused humanity that seeks to weave peace from war; opportunity from climate emergency. The Great Green Wall is one of several solutions worldwide that can address the worst impacts of climate change - from the "Green New Deal" in the United States to the preservation and restoration of Amazon rainforest and ecosystems. It is also the least controversial, most immediately scalable and perhaps most powerful symbol of the future we hope to build together.

It's popularly said and written that "the only way out is through." The war in Ukraine is a conflict that clarifies the need to raise up solutions like the Great Green Wall - and the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest. The world's most vulnerable people, indeed, all sentient beings and the Earth itself, need compassion, not conflict.

Help us to grow the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest, and let's join today to move forward in his memory.

Ukrainian President's plea: Expel Russia or be prepared to close down the UN

UNITED NATIONS

A legendary quote attributed to Joseph Stalin most likely applies to the United Nations too. "How many divisions does the Pope have?" asked the Soviet leader, interrupting a speech by Winston Churchill in a bygone era.

If you don't have an army of your own, or a military force behind your edicts or your resolutions, so the argument goes, you are fighting a losing battle—even as the United Nations remains helpless in the face of thousands of civilian deaths and the destruction of densely populated cities by Russian armed forces in Ukraine since February 24.

When he addressed the UN Security Council via video-conferencing on April 5, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine did not pull his punches when he told delegates the purposes of the UN Charter, especially Article I – to maintain international peace and security – are being blatantly violated by Vladimir Putin's Russia.

"What is the point of all other Articles (in the UN charter)? Are you ready to close the United Nations? Do you think that the time for international law is gone?" If not, "you need to act immediately," he told delegates.

To support peace in Ukraine, he argued, the Security Council must either remove the Russian Federation from the UN, both as an aggressor and a source of war, so it cannot block decisions made about its own war, or the Council can "dissolve yourselves altogether" if there is nothing it can do other than engage in conversation.

"Ukraine needs peace. Europe needs peace. The world needs peace," he insisted.

But what Zelenskyy did not realize was a longstanding political reality: Russia, along with the US, UK, France and China (P5), are "permanent members" armed with veto powers.

And they are "permanent" for life, either their life as a member state or the life of the United Nations—whichever comes first.

Meanwhile, the US led a successful campaign to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) with a resolution which garnered two-thirds majority in the General Assembly on April 7. The voting read: 93 Yes, 24 Noes and 58 Abstentions.

Which triggers the question: can Russia be suspended from its



A view of the Security Council Chamber as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (on screen) addresses the Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine on 5 April 2022. Credit: UN Photo/Loyo Felipe

membership in the 193-member UN General Assembly (GA)?

Thomas G. Weiss, Distinguished Fellow, Global Governance at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, told IPS: "The GA suspended apartheid South Africa for 20 years, from 1974 to post-elections in 1994. Russia qualifies as a comparable pariah with its unprovoked and illegal war in Ukraine. It would be an important new precedent to say "nyet" to recolonization."

The precedent in the HRC is Libya, which the HRC voted to suspend and then the GA by consensus voted to suspend that regime, said Weiss, Presidential Professor of Political Science and Director Emeritus, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY)

In an oped piece for IPS, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, a former President of the Security Council and UN Under-Secretary-General, pointed out that the General Assembly effectively suspended three UN member states on three different occasions: Cambodia in 1997, Yugoslavia in 1992 and South Africa in 1974.

He said the suspension or expulsion of Russia is "almost impossible" according to the UN Charter. "To that, I would add that it is a deadlock but not a dead-end."

Some UN watchers, he wrote, are of the opinion that there are still ways to limit Russia's presence in the U.N. beyond the Security Council, as has

been just decided by the UNGA to suspend its membership in the UN Human Rights Council.

Louis Charbonneau, United Nations director at Human Rights Watch, told IPS: "Given the evidence of war crimes and serious human rights violations committed by Russian forces in Bucha and elsewhere in Ukraine, it's essential that the UN and International Criminal Court move swiftly with their investigations to gather and preserve evidence."

He said the victims and their families need justice. Suspension of Russia from the UN Human Rights Council, a body it's clearly unfit to be a member of, is an important step to holding Russian authorities accountable for their actions."

After the vote to suspend Russia from the HRC, Charbonneau said: "The General Assembly has sent a crystal-clear message to Russia's leadership that a government whose military is routinely committing horrific rights violations has no business on the UN Human Rights Council".

He said gruesome images from Bucha have shocked people around the world. Victims and their families deserve to see those responsible held to account. Investigators from the UN and International Criminal Court should set the wheels of justice in motion by moving swiftly to gather and preserve evidence of war crimes.

In his address to the Security Council, the Ukrainian President also said the

"UN Charter must be immediately restored and the system reformed so that the veto power does not represent the right to die, and so there is fair representation in the Council of all world regions."

If tyranny in places from Syria to Somalia had received a response, it would have ceased to exist, and an "honest peace" would have prevailed.

A war against Ukrainian citizens would not have been launched. Instead, the world watched, and turned its eyes away from the occupation of Crimea, the war against Georgia, the taking of Transnistria from the Republic of Moldova and the preparations of Russian troops for another war near the border.

"The Russian military and those who gave them orders must be brought to justice and charged with war crimes in Ukraine, before a tribunal similar to the one created in Nuremberg," he declared.

Asked whether Russia could be kicked off the Security Council, US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said: "Look, the Security Council was created as a product of the creation of the UN after World War II. They are a member of the Security Council. That's a fact. We can't change that fact, but we certainly can isolate them in the Security Council. We can make their presence in that body very uncomfortable. And we have done that," she added.

In an interview last week, she was asked: Given the restraints on the

United Nations because they sit on the Security Council, because they still have the support of China—and given all that, does the world need to have some sort of alternative body? That enforces the rule of law, that enforces the kind of values that, frankly, humanity demands?

"The UN is the body that we have, and we have to work to improve the UN and to continue to use this body to put pressure on the Russians. And while they do have the veto power, they can't veto our voices.

"They cannot veto the Ukrainian president coming in front of the Security Council and condemning them. They cannot veto you, and others who are reporting the truth to the world. And they are uncomfortable".

"And as for the Chinese, they're uncomfortable in this position that they find themselves in defending what the Russians are doing. So, we're going to keep the pressure on. We're going to keep applying that pressure until Russia comes to understand that they cannot continue this unconscionable war against the Ukrainian people," she declared.

Meanwhile, at a press conference on 6 April, one of the questions raised was about Pope Francis pointing out that the Ukraine war was a reflection of the impotence of the United Nations.

"Also, President Zelenskyy said something similar –that the United Nations, the way it is, should be completely reformed, even the Security Council. So, any comments from the Secretary General?"

Responding to the questions, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said the UN and its Charter are resilient.

"We have faced crises in the past. It is a fact for all to see that, I think, the security aspect of it, which is really guided by the Security Council, is divided, and that is not the responsibility of the Secretary General. It is a reflection of the situation between the Member States and some of the most powerful Member States of this organization who sit on the Security Council".

"But I think you have to look that the UN is more than just the Security Council. Right? The UN is the 1,200 or more colleagues that we have in Ukraine. It is the peacekeepers who are on the front lines in the Congo, in the DRC. It is all the humanitarian workers we have in the Sahel. And I think that part of the UN is working and is working as if... is working efficiently and trying to do whatever it can to alleviate the suffering of people around the world," he declared.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Multiple land use area becomes improved conservation approach in Manyara Ranch

By Guardian Reporter

MESTLED between Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Park, the Manyara Ranch Conservancy is located in a crucial migration route between the two parks.

The unique conservancy is located in Esilalei Ward of Makuyuni Division, Monduli District, Arusha Region and it's surrounded by Esilalei, Oltukai, Makuyuni, Naitolia, Mswakini Chini, and Mswakini Juu.

Previously owned by the Tanzanian government was established by African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) in 2001 to address the threats of degradation and habitat fragmentation.

While national parks are invaluable to the preservation of wildlife, if the lands between national parks aren't conserved, then animals were at risk of becoming isolated to the parks they inhabit. It means that the wildlife couldn't migrate between parks if the migration corridors suffer from encroachment, over-grazing, and poaching.

When the Kwakuchinja corridor that connects Tarangire to Lake Manyara National Park was at risk of being closed, AWF came in to save the corridor.

AWF established the Tanzania Land Conservation Trust (TLCT), which acquired the land from the Tanzania government and formed the 35000-acre Manyara Ranch Conservancy. Since its acquisition the conservancy has successfully maintained the corridor



Breed of improved cattle in Manyara Ranch drinking water in a man-made dam in the project

so that animals can safely and effectively migrate. Although there are always challenges, especially with poaching, AWF and Manyara Ranch are making great strides in conservation.

This is due to the fact that AWF has spent million shillings annually to manage the ranch's conservation and anti-poaching operations.

Its establishment has started to show successes that have changed the area including the entire wildlife corridor and peoples' affairs too. Beautiful scenery of this unique conservancy and natural vegetation is what keeps the wildlife long while others make it their permanent home due to their secure pasture, water and adequate security.

When arriving at the park, it possible to see large herds of buffalo, elephants, zebras, giraffes, tree-climbing lions, leopards, antelopes, foxes, and wolves while the herd cattle are present in the conservancy, contrary to the past when they were nowhere to be seen.

Manyara Conservancy is the first project in Tanzania to combine habitat conservation with tourism, in aid of increasing the welfare of local communities, which is similar to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area—a multiple land use area, with wildlife coexist-

ing with semi-nomadic Maasai pastoralists practicing traditional livestock grazing, it includes the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest caldera. Ngorongoro Crater is officially recognized as a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the 'Seven official wonders of Africa'.

With its headquarters in US, AWF is an international conservation NGO formed in 1961, that works to ensure that the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever.

AWF's ranch manager, Fidelis Olekashe says after starting conservation operations since 2014, no wildlife poached in the area.

"To us, this is a successful story. The strong protection we've put in place in this area is the secret to the existence of many wildlife, as animals believe they are safe and cannot be invaded by poachers," Olekashe said, adding that there are currently all kinds of animals including those not found in other national parks.

She said that in order to improve the conservation of the area their institute has introduced Maasai Steppe Landscape Strategy (MSLS) with the aim of helping pastoralists living along the farm to increase their income by having a small number of productive livestock that will not affect conservation.

Through AWF, the project has provided breeders with modern animal husbandry and sold them to improved breeder bulls that produce a lot of milk and are not prone to diseases.

"These modern cattle and sheep breeds will make the herdsman raise a few productive herds, even if he decides to sell, she/he will make a lot of money."

For example a modern cow weighs up to 600 kg while the average cow weighs about 250 kg," Olekashe said, adding: "Modern sheep weigh up to 65 kg and normal sheep weigh 24 kg."

She said that improved rams are sold to farmers who need it for 2,500/- per kilogram of live animal and sheep sells for 80,000/- each.

The AWF has a total of 900 cattle and 500 sheep grazing in the conservancy mixed with wildlife and that they expect to have 3,000 head of cattle so that more people can benefit from these modern livestock.

According to her, AWF don't only provide rams, they also provide technical advice and treatment services for livestock in the area to prevent diseases that may affect wildlife.

"In the case of farmers who cannot afford to buy seed males get the seed by sending their cows less than five heifers to be bred

by improved bulls and this procedure is performed annually and includes 220 vaccines from the villages of Esilalei and Oltukai. We also provides free of charge immunizations services to protect livestock from epidemics," she stated.

Citing examples, said that on June 8, 2021, MRC received a dose of 30,000 vaccines to prevent Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) from the Monduli District livestock department through funding from the World Food Program (FAO).

"We used them to vaccinate their sheep on the farm and to distribute the rest to pastoralists near the farm where 24,500 sheep and goats were vaccinated."

AWF wildlife and veterinarian Lemaly Kibiriti also said: "There is a lot of interaction between wildlife and livestock so vaccination is very important to prevent the spread of diseases from wildlife to livestock."

Kibiriti said that the proximity of the AWF institution and the people around the conservancy has helped control outbreaks of disease in the area.

In addressing water scarcity in the area during droughts, the official said that AWF has built dams and a 95,000-liter water well that is used by wildlife as well as project livestock.

AWF has spent 3bn/- to build a modern primary school within MRC to provide quality education to the children of the people living along the farm and the

Currently, the school has 890 students from standard One to Seven most of whom come from six villages near the project and that the operation of the school is under government control.

The AWF management spends \$ 300,000 (750m/-) annually on the operation of wildlife conservation activities within the farm.

With MRC having tourism activities, the Board of Trustees of this project hopes to enter into an agreement with the investors so that the area with the most tourist attractions begins to generate revenue.

Chairperson of the Farm Management Committee, Lelya Medoti said that since the AWF's entry into the conservation project, they have benefited greatly from the villagers being provided with quality cattle.

Medoti also said that another benefit they get from the wildlife sanctuary is that the villagers get employment, building a modern primary school where their children study close to home.

He further said that to ensure that the wildlife farm is protected from poachers; they have set up joint protection to ensure that every villager is a protector against poachers.

"Every villager who is a security guard when he sees a poacher immediately informs the AWF leadership so that he can be arrested," he says.

'Absorb the carbon, halt climate change'

By Special Correspondent

EXTRACTING carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by planting forests and developing controversial high-tech industries will be essential to meet global goals to curb climate change, a pivotal UN panel has declared.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said in a new report that the world could, in theory, halve emissions by 2030 via that method, with radical reductions in greenhouse gases being insufficient to achieve the Paris Agreement targets to limit global warming.

The world will need carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies ranging from planting trees that soak up carbon to grow, to costly and energy-intensive technologies to suck carbon dioxide directly from the air, the panel indicated.

"The deployment of CDR measures to counterbalance hard-to-abate residual emissions is unavoidable if net zero carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions are to be achieved," the IPCC says in its report on solutions to global warming, where 278 scientists participated.

CDR measures are an essential element in scenarios to limit warming to the Paris pact goals of well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, while pursuing efforts to limit the rise to 1.5C, the panel noted, pointing out that temperatures are already up about 1.1C, stoking more heatwaves, downpours, powerful storms and rising sea levels.

The IPCC warned that all options for CDR measures have drawbacks, including natural solutions such as planting more trees and managing soils and the oceans to soak up carbon.

Poorly managed, forest planting can take land from crops needed to feed an expanding world population, it affirmed.

Trees take years to grow and are also vulnerable to loggers, land clearance, pests, disease and a hotter climate that may threaten forests like the Amazon with more droughts and wildfires, it stated.

Masahiro Sugiyama, an IPCC contributor at the University of Tokyo said that as CDR



measures involve new risks, getting such measures ready requires proper governance and clear innovation policies.

Nairobi-based Susan Chomba, of the World Resources Institute think-tank, who was not among the IPCC contributors, said there still exist massive opportunities overall to protect and expand forests in Africa without harming food production.

"What I'm worried about is planting the wrong trees in the wrong places," she said.

Plantations of fast-growing eucalyptus trees introduced from Australia, for example, can drain wetlands with their high demand for water and threaten the habitats of African plants and animals, the analyst noted.

The IPCC highlighted key technological fixes as BECCS (bioenergy from carbon capture and storage), used by power plants and factories to capture carbon emissions from burning or processing wood and other crops, taking the gas out of circulation.

DACCS - direct air carbon dioxide capture and storage - meanwhile sucks carbon directly from the air.

But there is opposition by many environmentalists to such nascent technologies, who fear they will distract from the need for deep cuts in emissions, and will not work.

"We need to minimise our reliance on commercially unproven technologies, such as BECCS," said Daniel Quiggin, a senior research fellow at the Chatham House think-tank in

London.

He urged governments to focus on cutting demand for energy, in line with calls by European nations after Russia invaded Ukraine - by turning down thermostats, insulating homes better, and driving and flying less.

Other experts argued climate change is so severe that all technologies need to be studied.

"We really need everything," said Jessica Strefler, a senior scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, who was not involved in the IPCC report.

"We need demand reductions, we need efficiency, we need emission reductions - and then we can offset the last 5-10%" through measures like forests or technological fixes, she said.

The first large-scale BECCS plant opened in Decatur, Illinois in 2016, run by Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. It makes ethanol and syrups from corn, while capturing emissions from the process and burying them underground.

At the IPCC's meeting, when governments voiced scepticism about CDR, researchers pointed out that some had already set mid-century goals of "net zero" emissions rather than "zero emissions", noting "net" implies a need for carbon offsets.

DACCS plants have also started up in recent years but face drawbacks of high costs and intensive energy use.

In Iceland, Swiss firm Climevents, for instance, opened a plant last year using industrial fans and filters to

extract carbon from the air and bury it deep underground, where it turns to stone in a chemical reaction. DACCS is complicated because carbon dioxide makes up just 0.04% of the atmosphere.

Climevents, whose clients include Microsoft, Stripe, BCG, Shopify and Swiss Re, is stepping up towards capacity of 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) a year at its Iceland plant, roughly equivalent to the annual emissions of about 300 Americans.

"If we want to significantly impact and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, we need to pull all our resources together, from drastic CO2 emission reductions to carbon removal scale-up," Climevents said by email when asked about the IPCC.

The technology is costly - Stripe is paying Climevents \$775 a tonne for extracting CO2 from the air. By contrast, forest carbon has historically rarely reached \$10 a tonne.

In a review of the main CDR technologies, the IPCC said limiting warming to 2C could mean a cumulative 328 billion tonnes of CO2 removal by BECCS between 2020 and 2100, 252 billion tonnes via forestry and 29 billion tonnes by DACCS.

Annual global emissions of greenhouse gases in 2019 were the equivalent of 59 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.

More broadly, Robert Watson, a former IPCC chair, said there would be hard and unpopular choices involved in an abrupt shift from fossil fuels.

Many people oppose wind turbines as eyesores, for instance. "Sometimes you have to say to people: 'Damn it, wake up!'", he said.

"Do you want a few windmills to look at or ... climate change where food will be more expensive, you will have more adverse health effects (and) we'll get more floods and more droughts?"

BUSINESS

Airbus first quarter plane deliveries up 13 per cent amidst output boost plans

PARIS

European planemaker Airbus delivered between 140 and 142 aircraft in the first quarter, up almost 13 percent from the same period last year, industry sources said on Wednesday.

Airbus declined comment ahead of monthly orders and deliveries data.

The figures imply March deliveries of some 62 jets, at least some of which came from long-term storage, the sources said.

Airbus is in the midst of planned production increases of single-aisle jets, but faces growing concern over manufacturing supply chains.

Jefferies analyst Chloe Lemarie this week estimated total quarterly deliveries of 139 aircraft but said "production challenges" and demand were under scrutiny.

According to an Airbus court filing connected to a legal dispute with Qatar Airways, as of March the planemaker was producing 50 narrowbodies a month, including 27 A321neos.

It plans to increase this to 61 a month by end-2022 of which 33 will be A321neos, the filing said, adding that the planemaker ultimately aims to

raise production above 70 a month by 2025.

"This is clearly a challenging target, and the pressure on suppliers to keep pace is high," it said.

Airbus has so far publicly committed to raising output to 65 a month by the summer of 2023, without giving interim steps.

It has said it is asking suppliers to be ready for output of 70 a month by the first quarter of 2024, if a decision to raise output again is taken, while exploring rates up to 75 by 2025.

Chief Executive Guillaume Faury said in February Airbus was on a trajectory to reach 65 a month by summer next year. Higher rates beyond 2023 were "still in the assessment phase".

Analysts say production of the larger wide-body A350, which competes in the weaker long-haul market, remains uncertain though Airbus this week reiterated its guidance.

Bloomberg News reported this week that Airbus may delay a planned increase in A350 production because of Russian sanctions and the dispute with Qatar Airways, which is refusing to take A350s in a row over damage to the surface of the jets.



African startups raised \$1.8 bln in first quarter-2022

ABIDJAN

In the first quarter of 2022, African startups raised US\$1.8 billion, 2.5 times the amount raised over the same period in 2021. The figure is reported in a recent newsletter by the Big Deal.

According to the newsletter, it is just a matter of days before they pass the mark of US\$2 billion raised. Indeed, in the first seven weeks of 2022, as of February 18, African startups had already secured over US\$1 billion with 130 deals.

In the first quarter, three mega-deals worth US\$100 million or more were disclosed. These include Tunisian startup InstaDeep's US\$100 million (raised in late January), Nigerian fintech Flutterwave's US\$250 million (raised in late February), and mobility fintech Moove Africa's US\$105 million (raised in mid-March).

During the period, US\$1.5 billion, or 83% of the funds raised were secured by Nigerian, Kenyan, South African, and Egyptian startups. Nigeria leads the 'Big Four' with US\$600 million. It is followed by Kenya (US\$482 million), South Africa (US\$228 million), and Egypt (US\$202 million).

Year on year, Egypt has been the best-performing country. The volume of funds raised by its startups rose 4.9 folds between the two periods. Kenya came next, followed by Nigeria. On the other hand, the least performing country was South Africa.

Based on developments in the African startup ecosystem, The Big Deal expects the overall volume of funds secured by startups on the continent to reach US\$7.3 billion by the end of December 2022, provided the dynamic that started at the beginning of the year continues.

Zanzibar earns 25bn/- from clove exports in two months

By Guardian Reporter

Clove farmers in Zanzibar walked away smiling this year's season, after pocketing a total of 25bn/- during the first two months of January and February, nearly five times the amount earned during the whole year ending February 2021.

The increase was attributed by both higher global price and bumper crop harvests during the year ending February 2022. Zanzibar cloves are considered to be the best type of clove in the world.

Provisional data published in the Bank of Tanzania (BOT) economic report for March shows during two months of this year, cloves production was 1,600 tonnes, 20 percent of the quantity harvested during the year ending February amounting 8,000 tonnes.

According to the report during the year ended in February 2021, the total cloves production was only 400 kilos.

Various reports have revealed that the clove market is projected to register a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 3.5 percent during the forecast period, 2022-2027.

The rise in demand for herbal and natural products and medicines boosted the growth of the cloves market due to the medicinal benefits of cloves, especially in developing economies.

Clove cultivation still remains the backbone of Zanzibar economy for both national and individual level, generating both incomes to farmers and taxes to the government.

The report also shows the commodity price in the average world market price increased to \$7,439 per tonne in 2021 from \$5,266 per tonne in 2021.

In January this year, the commodity price was \$7,488 per tonne while in February it increased further to



Farmers sort out harvested cloves for drying. PHOTO/FILE

7,570.2 per tonne.

The report shows during the year ending February this year, Zanzibar has so far earned \$59.7 million (137bn/-) from cloves exports, higher than \$2.3 million (5.2bn/-) earned during the year ended in February 2021.

In December last year, Zanzibar government expressed its commitment to throw its weight behind massive production of cloves seedlings to meet target of producing 10,000 tonnes of cloves by

2025.

According to the report, Zanzibar was estimated to have clove tree population of over five million between 1950/51 and 1959/60 respectively.

However, the number declined by 44 percent to 2.85 million reaching 1980/81 and 1989/90 respectively.

Between 1990/91 and 1999/2000, the archipelago of Zanzibar faced a 60 percent decline in clove tree population to 2.055 million,

according to Zanzibar State Trade Corporation, which is responsible for managing the crop value chain.

Cloves mostly used in the confectionary, food processing and preservation and that in the western households it is used in various meat dishes, sauces and pickles, in desserts and in beverages.

Cloves were once worth more than gold and the native spice has been a mainstay of Zanzibar's economy

for the last 150 years.

In 2013, the clove was still its single major cash crop with 90 percent produced on the island of Pemba, according to Unesco.

In 2019, major suppliers of cloves in the world and their shares were Indonesia - 74 percent, Madagascar - 13 percent, Tanzania - 5 percent, and Comoros - 4 percent. Smaller amounts were from Sri Lanka, Kenya, and China with combined four percent.

Saudi Arabia-based company eyes \$9 billion investment in Tanzania

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

SAUDI Arabia based Manafeth Najd for Trade is exploring opportunities to invest \$9 billion in Tanzania in sectors including energy, infrastructure, real estate and health.

The company's Managing Director Managing Director Mushtaq Ahmed Nadaf told The Guardian at the weekend that the company seeks to open a local subsidiary and invest in Tanzania's booming LPG gas sector and hospitality industry in Dodoma and Zanzibar.

Nadaf noted that the country's investment climate has greatly improved in recent years which give it a more competitive advantage over its competitors.

"Tanzania is strategically placed and has a more competitive advantage so we are looking at some investment opportunities. We are still in the stages of creating the company but this does not stop us from exploring the available investments," he said.

He noted that his company has already initiated discussions with the relevant authorities adding that the company would consider producing for both local and export markets.

"We are planning to produce LPG gas for consumption both locally and export the excess to regional and foreign markets including Kenya, DR Congo, India, China, Japan and European markets," he said.

He noted that the company will be establishing high-breed energy projects that will boost the country's renewable energy sector.

"Our focus is to ensure investing in the country's renewable energy, as part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), we intend to supply solar to poor households," he stressed.

Meanwhile, the company also looks forward to investing in the country's education and health sector with plans to establish a university and health care center in Dodoma.

"Our plan is to establish joint-ventures to facilitate Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and create more jobs for communities," he added.



Manafeth Najd for Trade Managing Director Managing Director Mushtaq Ahmed Nadaf stresses a point during an interview at the weekend. Photo by Miraji Msala

12.5bn/- set to enhance wellbeing of youths

By Sabato Kusika

A total of \$5.1 million (12.5bn/-) will be spent on programmes meant to improve and enhance the well-being and development of adolescents in the areas of health, education, participation, inclusion and economic empowerment.

The initiative, called the Safeguard Youth People Programme (SYP), was officially launched last week by the Deputy Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, labour, employment, youth and people with disabilities, Patrobas Katambi.

The Deputy Minister said that youth are a large group compared to other social groups as shown in the national workforce report for 2020/21.

According to the report number of young people between the ages of 15 to 35 is estimated at 18.3 million people.

Economically active youth population 14.6 million, which indicates that the level of their participation in economic and social activities for nation building is 80 percent, "said Katambi.

Despite their majority, he said, young people still face many barriers including unemployment, inequality in accessing health services including reproductive health services, sexual violence, skills and many related issues.

Katambi said the government has taken various measures to address



the barriers including the implementation of the life skills program including self-awareness, assertiveness, goal setting and decision-making.

"The SYP aims to educate young people between the ages of 10 and 24 who are the largest group in adolescence as they are the ones facing the most global challenges," said Fatina

Kiluvia, the youth programme officer at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Fatina clarified that they will start in a few regions of Kigoma, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Zanzibar and Pemba before continuing with others later.

"In the end, we want to see young people involved in the formulation

of all the policies and strategies of the country that concerns them, increasing the capacity and motivation to create youth-friendly policies," he said.

In addition, she said they expect increased youth participation in their local development committees, increase awareness of reproductive health education and increase skills

for their development.

SYP aims to see young people jumping all the way to the end of their dreams, to understand the opportunities available in the area so that participants and if it is loans are given, they have the right to decide on safe motherhood and protection.

Adolescents, more than 57 million in the country expect to benefit because they are the main victims of youth problems, they are the ones who suffer from child marriage, teenage pregnancy, according to UNFPA officer.

UNFPA resident representative Mark Bryan Schreiner said in 2013, Switzerland supported the UNFPA Regional Office for Africa by launching the SYP in eight countries Zimbabwe, Eswatin, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Botswana and Lesotho.

"Apart from those southern African countries, the Resident Representative mentions others whose program has reached Rwanda, Mozambique and is now officially launched in Tanzania," he said.

Swiss Ambassador to Tanzania Didier Chassot said through the SYP, the embassy relies on active participation in ensuring that young people find common ground in all decisions that affect them.

"For example, imagine what would be like if all young people in the country were to be healthy, productive and empowered and also free from sexually transmitted diseases," said Chassot.

Container and LNG ships the "pick of the bunch" for new building orders

BEIJING

THE container and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) shipping segments continue to dominate new building orders and filling up slots.

In its latest weekly report, shipbroker Allied Ship broking noted that the sentiment of the new building market continued to follow its upward trend with the containership sector holding the dominant role in terms of fresh projects, with its lucrative returns still providing ample ground to entice further investment as most perceive these markets as holding longer than initially perceived.

This positive market regime is also reflected in the current containership prices which are at holding at five year highs.

The same price trajectory is observed in the gas carrier sector for which three fresh projects came to light this week, giving an extra vivid tone to the already existing positive momentum.

In addition, the even bigger boost in the shipbuilding market was also given by the dry bulk sector and more specifically in the smaller segments, with the order for 10 Ultramax vessels at a Chinese yard at firm price levels.

The absence of the placement of new orders for some time combined with the encouraging secondhand values and the positive freight market momentum are all bullish factors that have contributed to the dynamic reemergence of this sector in the shipbuilding market", Allied said.

In a separate weekly note, shipbroker Banchemo Costa noted that "in the Container segment MSC placed an order for a total of 28 Panamax container units abt 8,000 teu with value of the investment to be around \$3.4 billion.

All vessels are going to be LNG dual fuel and 14 to be built at New Times, 8 at Qingdao Beihai and other 6 at Hyundai with deliveries expected to be in 2024-2025 Furthermore, MPC Containers agreed with Hanjin to build 2 x 5,500 teu with delivery during 1st half 2025 at \$72.2 mln each.

Vessels will be chartered for 7 years to ZIM. Drybulk For dry bulk, Bocimar will build 2 additional Newcastlemax (abt 210k dwt) at Qingdao Beihai (total of eight vessels) with deliveries during 2024.

Also in China Dalian received an order for 10 x ultramax abt 65k dwt from CITIC Financial Leasing, price to be around \$31.5 mln each. Greek owner Metrostar Management agreed with Hyundai Vinashin to build two plus optional one LR2 (abt 115k dwt) per unit price was \$56.8 mln.

LNG In the gas business, China Merchant Energy agreed with Dalian to build 2+2 optional LNG carriers abt 175k cbm. Vessels to be delivered during 2025", the shipbroker said.

Meanwhile, in the S&P market, Allied commented that "on the dry bulk side, the market continued its positive trend with buying appetite expanding to many segments of the dry bulk sector and going beyond a central focus on the handysize segment, as witnessed during the previous week.

Renewables just can't end energy crisis for Europe

By Irina Slav

BERLIN. Germany is preparing for gas rationing. France's power grid operator is asking consumers to use less electricity.

In the UK, protests are breaking out over the latest electricity price hike that plunged millions of households into what one local think tank called fuel stress. Europe has a serious energy problem.

The problem dates back years and points to a persistent complacency on the part of European governments that whatever happens, there will always be gas from Russia.

After all, even during the Cold War Russia pumped billions of cubic meters of gas to European countries. Now, things are different, and it's not just because of the war in Ukraine.

Europe has been enthusiastically trying to reduce its dependence on all fossil fuels, not just Russian gas, for a few years now.

The EU recently boasted that in 2022 renewable energy sources accounted for 37.5 percent of gross electricity consumption, with wind and hydro constituting two-thirds of the total renewable energy output.

Why, then, one wonders, would Germany have to brace for gas rationing and France ask its citizens to consume less electricity? Now that has a bit to do with the war in Ukraine.

The war seems to have whipped EU governments - and Downing Street - into a frenzy seeking to distance themselves from Russia in every possible way, up to and including cutting Russian gas imports.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's demand for payment in rubles for the gas Russia supplies seems

to have only increased the desire of European governments to ditch the gas, and the three Baltic states already announced they'd stopped buying Russian gas from April 1.

For now, they are using gas from storage. For later, there's either LNG arriving at the Klaipeda terminal in Lithuania or an interconnector with Poland.

Lithuania is calling on the rest of the EU to follow its example. Interestingly, the Baltics do not appear to have replaced their gas dependence with wind and solar dependence.

The same is true for the rest of the European Union, too. Earlier this year, Bloomberg reported that renewables across the EU were "crowding out" natural gas. The report cited a study by environmentalist think tank Ember, whose lead author said

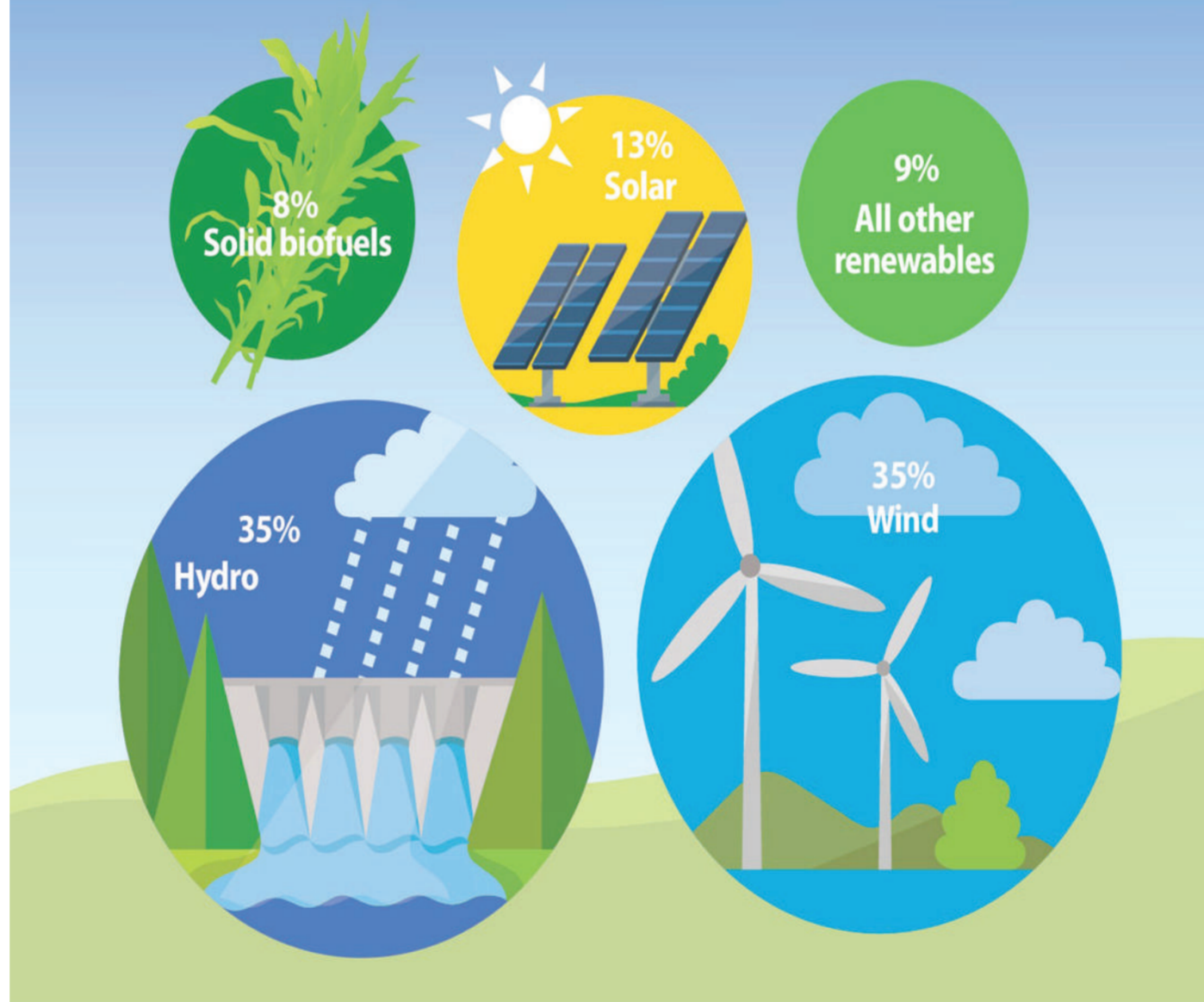
"These are moments and paradigm shifts when governments and businesses start taking this much more seriously. The alternatives are available, they are cheaper, and they are likely to get even cheaper and more competitive. Renewables are now an opportunity, not a cost," Charles Moore explained.

So why the struggle for gas now? Why not really step up the construction of new wind parks and solar farms, and show Putin what Europeans are made of? This is one of the most awkward questions of current times, its answer necessarily includes references to the price of copper, steel, polysilicon, and pretty much every metal and mineral commodity.

In addition to that, building these facilities takes time, more time than, for instance, switching to LNG (if you have import terminals)

Renewable sources generating electricity in the EU, 2019

(in % of total electricity from renewable sources)



ec.europa.eu/eurostat

These are moments and paradigm shifts when governments and businesses start taking this much more seriously.

or coal. Indeed, in a recently released plan to reduce the consumption of Russian gas - and oil and coal, too - the European Commission bet heavily not on wind and solar but on more gas and coal.

According to a breakdown of the plan, published by German Die Welt, the EU

will seek to replace 50 billion cubic meters of annual Russian gas consumption with LNG from other sources and another 10 billion cubic meters with pipeline gas from other sources.

That's a total of 60 billion cubic meters out of the annual consumption of 155 billion cubic meters of Russian gas. Another 20 billion cubic meters, according to the plan, could be replaced by using more coal, per Industry and Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton.

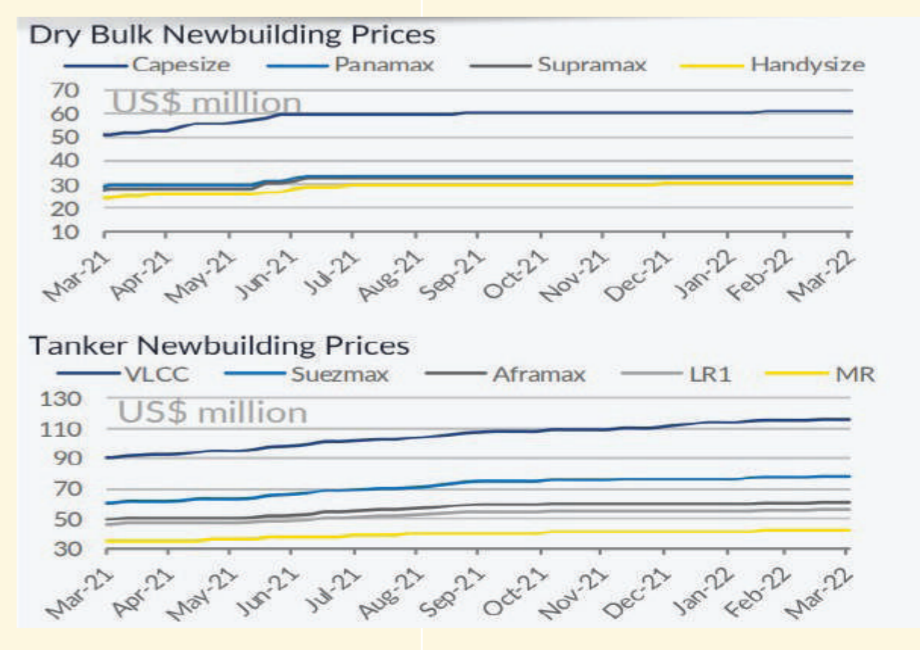
This is the same Europe that has been calling for and working towards the end of coal. It is the same Europe that planned to shut down

all of its coal power plants before 2030 in order to meet the Paris Agreement emission reduction targets.

This same Europe is also betting on replacing natural gas with fuel oil to replace another 10 billion cubic meters of Russian gas.

In total, the European Commission seems to be planning to replace more than half of its Russian gas consumption with other fossil fuels.

In comparison, wind and solar power are expected to contribute some 22.5 billion cubic meters in replaced Russian gas, with 10 billion cubic meters from wind and 12.5 billion cubic meters from solar.



Another 200,000 Americans likely filed new claims

WASHINGTON

US first-time unemployment claims are expected to come in around 200,000 yet again, with the rate of new layoffs and firings staying relatively low compared to pre-pandemic averages.

The Labor Department is set to release its latest weekly jobless claims report Thursday at 8:30 a.m. ET. Here are the main metrics expected from the print, compared to consensus estimates compiled by Bloomberg:

If the figures come in as expected, the latest data would reflect a fourth straight week that new jobless claims were under 220,000 – or the approximate average rate that new claims were coming in per week throughout 2019.

As recently as mid-March, new jobless claims dropped to their lowest since September 1969 at just 188,000.

Continuing claims are also expected to dip marginally in the latest data, setting a new multi-decade low of 1.302 million. During the prior week, continuing claims dipped to their lowest level since December 1969.

The latest weekly jobless claims data comes on the heels of another solid monthly jobs report from the Labor Department, which showed a significant rise in hirings and a drop in the jobless rate to a near 50-year low.

Non-farm payrolls grew by 431,000 in March, while the unemployment rate improved by a greater-than-expected margin to 3.6 percent.

And as of last month, the US labor market was just about 1.6 million payrolls short of its pre-pandemic levels.

"No wonder inflation is out of control, the labor market is at full em-

ployment where the costs go up astronomically for companies to bring new workers in to run the factories and work the cash registers across the country," Chris Rupkey, chief economist at FWBONDS, wrote in a note earlier this week.

"The cost of living crisis is aided and abetted by the worst labor shortage that America has ever faced. Waiting for more workers to join the labor force and 'participate' in order to bring down wages and inflation is a pipe dream."

The strong labor market has also em-

boldened the Federal Reserve to press ahead with more monetary policy tightening, including more aggressive interest rate hikes and balance sheet reduction process starting in the near-term.

Earlier this week, Federal Reserve Governor Lael Brainard said it was "of paramount importance" to get inflation down, further reinforcing the central bank was committed to focusing monetary policy efforts on bringing down prices rather than optimizing for further employment growth in an already tight labor market.

"The labor market appears to be moving past the pandemic, rapidly closing in on a complete recovery," Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote in a note. "Even as the labor market is tight, suggesting optimism about economic conditions, a four-decade high in prices is tempering expectations."

"Even as consumer balance sheets are healthy and virus concerns are fading, there are downside risks that could weigh on household and economic activity more broadly going forward," she added.

LONDON

Shell to write down as much as \$5bn on Russia exit

SHELL Plc said its withdrawal from Russia will result in \$4 billion to \$5 billion of impairments, while also warning investors that extreme energy price volatility in the first quarter could hit cash flow.

The statement from the London-based giant shows that, despite a surge in oil and gas prices, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upended the supermajors' plans

and left them scrambling to adapt to historic shifts in energy markets.

The impairment surpasses Shell's \$3.4 billion worth of assets in ventures and downstream operations in Russia.

But it pales in comparison to the \$25 billion its peer BP Plc could write down from its much larger involvement in Russia.

While western energy companies leaving Russia are likely to take massive financial hits, they are attempting to minimize the reputational damage of investing in Moscow-backed projects following the war on Ukraine.

It also allows them to address mounting questions about how their Russian oil and gas operations fit in

with plans to turn greener.

For the first quarter, Shell also warned of around \$7 billion of cash outflow from its operations due to "the unprecedented volatility in commodity prices prevailing up to the end of the quarter," according to a statement Thursday.

There could also be further "material" impact on cash flow as high energy

prices led to increased margin calls -- additional funds that need to be deposited with brokers and exchanges to cover part of the value of commodities contracts. As prices rise, margin calls have become a major drain on traders' cash reserves across the industry, with one lobby group holding talks with the European Central Bank in a plea for help.

The company's shares fell 1.5 percent to 2,100.50 pence as of 8:35 a.m. in London. The stock has gained 29 percent this year, among the best performers in the Stoxx Europe 600 Oil & Gas Index.

Shell said its first-quarter trading results from both oil and gas are likely to be higher than in the preceding period.

That comes after an already strong set of earnings for gas in the final three months of last year, but a weak performance from the oil trading business.

Despite the writedown and working capital movements, RBC analyst Biraj Borkhataria saw Thursday's statement as positive "given stronger LNG and oil-products trading, as well as a

better result from chemicals than we had forecasted." Earnings from the chemicals unit are expected to be in line with the fourth-quarter with higher utilization offsetting rising feedstock and utility costs, Shell said.

From the first quarter, which is scheduled to be announced May 5, Shell will break out the profitability of its renewables and energy solutions business which until now was reported together with its gas unit.



Shell engineer in red uniform with yellow hard hat in China

Billionaire Warren Buffett earns 11.4 pct stake in HP

CALIFORNIA

IN many respects, HP (HPQ) has earned the stamp of approval from billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway revealed it owned 121 million shares of HP in a new filing Wednesday evening. The investment – valued at \$4.2 billion – gives Berkshire Hathaway a roughly 11.4 percent stake in HP.

"Berkshire Hathaway is one of the world's most respected investors and we welcome them as an investor in HP Inc," an HP spokesperson told Yahoo Finance via email.

HP has been humming right along under CEO Enrique Lores as his operational turnaround continues to bear fruit.

The company squashed analyst profit forecasts for its first fiscal quarter (reported in late February), powered by strong sales of commercial computers and printers. HP said commercial computer and printer sales rose 26 percent and 9 percent, respectively, from the prior year.

The strength in commercial computers and printers offset a more muted performance for consumer products. HP said consumer PC sales fell 1 percent, while consumer printing sales dropped 23

percent. Operating profit margins expanded 70 basis points in HP's personal systems segment, but declined 160 basis points in the printing business.

HP – a prolific purchaser of its own stock under Lores – repurchased another \$1.8 billion of its stock in the quarter.

The company offered up an upbeat outlook despite ongoing supply-chain constraints and a slowing PC market.

For the second fiscal quarter, HP sees EPS in a range of \$1.02 to \$1.08. Analysts had estimated \$1.02 a share. The company lifted its full year EPS outlook to \$4.18 to \$4.38 a share from \$4.07 to \$4.27 previously. Wall Street was modeling for \$4.17 a share.

While HP has rolled right along during the pandemic – in part also fueled by aggressive cost management that has bolstered profits – Lores has begun to put his stamp on the company's future through acquisitions.

The company said in late March it would buy workplace collaboration solutions provider Poly for \$3.3 billion. That comes on the heels of a 2021 acquisition of gaming peripheral maker HyperX for \$425 million.




UZALO
MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM

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WORLD

Talks on US-Iran deal stall again

HONG KONG

NEGOTIATIONS to restore the 2015 Iran nuclear deal have stalled anew in Vienna...

Experts say the stumbling block in the way of a breakthrough is the political opposition...

Since April 2021, eight rounds of talks have been held in the Austrian capital...

The efforts came after the US, under former President Donald Trump, abandoned the JCPOA...

The US said on March 31 that a few outstanding issues remain in the nuclear talks...

"The principal reason for the delay is the complications induced by the turbulent dynamics of the United States' domestic politics..."

humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan, have bolstered the crudely hawkish sentiments...

On March 14, 49 US Republican senators told the Biden Administration that they will not support the revival of the JCPOA with Tehran...

On March 30, the US Treasury Department announced sanctions on an Iran-based procurement agent...

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh slammed the newly-imposed sanctions...

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on March 31 that his country has not withdrawn from the negotiation table...

Asif Shuja, an Iran expert and senior research fellow at the Middle East Institute of National University of Singapore, noted that the draft text of a potential agreement...



Photo taken on Dec 3, 2021 shows a meeting of the Joint Commission on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in Vienna, Austria. The meeting was about talks on the nuclear issue of Iran. XINHUA

"The acceptance of the present draft or a modified one would be contingent upon favorable geopolitical conditions. The Ukraine-Russia conflict is the latest entrant to the list of those existing geopolitical conditions..."

He said newly introduced sanctions on Russia provide Iran an opportunity to "fight back" against the US sanctions together with Russia.

Shuja also noted that "the potential entry of Iranian oil in the market by lifting of sanctions provides the US a way of solving the immediate energy problems of Europe..."

Arhama Siddiq, a research fellow at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, said the Ukraine-Russia conflict "does play a prominent role" as Russia is one of the signatories to the deal...

"Iran needs the revival of this deal as well given the situation of its economy," Siddiq said.

In March, a Russian demand forced world powers to halt the nuclear deal negotiations, but Moscow later said it had written guarantees from the US that its trade with Iran would not be affected by Ukraine-related sanctions...

Mohammad Salami, an associate researcher at International Institute for Global Strategic Analysis, a think tank based in Islamabad, believes that despite the challenges, the negotiations will lead to a deal on the JCPOA.

Biden is looking for some achievements that can be leveraged in favor of his party in the US midterm elections, Salami said, also noting that the Ukraine crisis has come at a time when the Democrats' congressional election prospects are "dire".

Iqbal from AMU said the weakening of the US dollar, due to American sanctions against Russia, will aid the "multipolarization of the world order" and strengthen Iran's regional alliances with Russia, China, and other West Asian countries.

"This may force the US to overcome the power exercised by hostile anti-Iran domestic lobbies and come to the negotiating table," said Iqbal.

Amid tougher climate disclosures, campaigners scour for laggards

LONDON

A push by Britain to toughen up corporate environmental disclosures will cast a spotlight on climate change dawdlers as campaigners increasingly turn to the courts to force a speedier transition to a low-carbon economy.

Almost 2,000 climate change-related lawsuits have been launched around the world to date, the bulk in the last seven years, London's Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment showed.

While the vast majority have been aimed at public authorities, a rising number are being lodged against companies on grounds that include allegations of breaching a duty of care to prevent climate change or misleading consumers about efforts to address global warming and shifts in weather patterns.

"Vulnerable companies will be those which are meaningful contributors to climate change, or are failing to manage the risks posed by climate change to their businesses, or those presenting a green facade to consumers which is not backed up by the facts," says Isabella Hervey-Bathurst, co-manager of the Schroder ISF Global Climate Leaders fund.

Britain on Wednesday became the first G20 country to make it mandatory for more than 1,300 companies to disclose climate-related risks and opportunities, in line with the global Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

Standards and frameworks such as TCFD are designed to encourage companies to be more transparent as the world strives to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial norms by mid-century.

If directors are open about how they are managing the ever-changing risks of transitioning to a more climate-friendly future, they are likely to protect themselves from adverse allegations. But those that fail to engage or seek to mislead risk becoming the target of litigation, experts say.

Thomas T aylor, a sustainable finance expert at Aviva Investors, said mandatory disclosure addresses transparency, an area which litigation has focused on to date. "However, it is likely (to) also drive other forms of litigation, focusing on inadequate or incomplete disclosures or using the information in the disclosures made to inform litigation against perceived laggards."

Full disclosure

UN climate scientists warned this week there was little time left to cap global warming in line with the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Environmental law charity ClientEarth, which is involved in around 168 active cases, says transparency through frameworks such as TCFD would help - but the quality and breadth of corporate disclosures is crucial.

"Plans need to be clearly disclosed and companies need to be accountable for them, including whether they are genuinely Paris-aligned," notes Maria Petzsch, a ClientEarth climate lawyer. "Failing to do so will leave boards and their directors open to litigation."

In March, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed mandatory rules for US companies, while in the European Union thousands of companies are captured by the bloc's new Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.

At a global level, minimum sustainability disclosures are being consulted on but for most countries, disclosures remain voluntary and vary widely in quality and breadth.

In an effort to simplify a complex risk analysis, experts are urging governments to standardize basics, such as climate models, as leading investors warn they are prepared to challenge directors over how they account for climate risks.

"There is a large amount of uncertainty inherent in climate risk, and therefore risk reporting," notes Iggy Bassi, founder and CEO of climate technology company Cervest.

"In the absence of that (standardization) - and in litigious societies - we can expect to see a lot of lawyers springing into action."

Climate liabilities

The geographic spread of lawsuits has broadened since the earliest challenges of the 1980s, with courtrooms from Argentina to Japan and Australia now grappling with cases.

Among the biggest targets so far are energy companies, responsible for the bulk of man-made emissions through the use of coal, oil and gas, with Shell, TotalEnergies, Enea and RWE all facing litigation in recent years.

As Shell appeals a landmark Dutch court ruling that ordered it to slash emissions by 45 percent by 2030, it also faces an ambitious challenge to hold its directors personally liable for alleged failures in tackling climate change.

In what one lawyer called a "key moment" for climate change litigation, ClientEarth - also a Shell shareholder - last month announced plans to sue Shell's 13 directors for alleged failures to adopt a strategy that truly aligns with the Paris Agreement.

Shell has said the challenges of energy supply cannot be solved by litigation and points to the need for effective, government-led policies. Agencies

Indonesia president seeks to end talk he is angling for a new term

JAKARTA

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo has sought to rein in speculation that he intends to stay in office beyond his legally mandated two terms, ordering ministers this week to cease calls for an extension or postponement of elections due in 2024.

The proposal to extend his term, either via a constitutional amendment or an election delay, had recently appeared to gain momentum in the world's third-largest democracy after several influential political

figures publicly backed it.

This week, the president, better known as Jokowi, ordered his cabinet to stop bringing up the idea and instead focus on addressing economic hardships being faced by the public.

"Don't let there be anyone who talks about delaying (the election), or an extension (of the presidential term). Enough," he told a plenary cabinet meeting on Tuesday, in remarks that were released a day later on the state secretariat's YouTube channel.

The idea of extending his term



has fueled concerns about a threat to hard-won democratic reforms, with critics slamming what they say

are his ambiguous responses to the proposal.

The president has consistently said he would abide by the constitution without addressing what he might do if the law was amended to allow him to seek a third term.

Supporters of the idea say Jokowi needs more time to oversee economic recovery and implement his agenda, which has been disrupted by the pandemic.

Indonesia's constitution mandates that a president can serve a maximum of two, five-year terms, but discussion by legislators about

separate constitutional amendments has raised concern that changes to term limits could also be on the table.

First elected in 2014, Jokowi retains a high approval rating, but a recent poll by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC) shows that more than 70 percent of Indonesians reject the extension plan.

The president's comments marked "a partial step toward reining in the postponement campaign," said political risk analyst Kevin O'Rourke in his Reformasi Weekly Review.

'Virus cases falling in Americas, but risk of rebound remains'

MADRID / BERLIN / BUENOS AIRES

COVID-19 infections and deaths have dropped across most countries and territories in the Americas over the past few weeks but the risk of further surges cannot be ignored as restrictions are relaxed and 240 million people remain unvaccinated, the Pan American Health Organization said on Wednesday.

"Many countries and territories in the Americas have scaled back public health measures, and some have done so prematurely," PAHO director Carissa Etienne said, noting that case counts have risen recently in places that rely on tourism, especially in parts of North America and the Caribbean where vaccination coverage is low.

The region continues to record more than 620,000 new cases every week, she said at a press conference.

ference.

Etienne also noted that the number of deaths have risen in some countries, but adjustments in data may account for part of those increases as some countries are reclassifying past deaths as COVID-19 related.

More than 685 million people have completed their vaccination schedules in the region, but "despite all our efforts, 240 million people in the Americas have yet to get a single shot of COVID-19 vaccine," Etienne said.

The PAHO director underscored that countries must continue to monitor the virus to "stay prepared for what is coming."

"This means making tests easily accessible for everyone everywhere, to prevent new outbreaks and to prepare our health systems if cases surge."

Argentina



A boy receives the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against COVID-19, at the Clinicas hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil. AFP

The epidemiological situation in Argentina against COVID-19 is "very favorable" at the moment, Minister of Health Carla Vizzotti said Wednesday.

"We are in a very favorable epidemiological situation, with a sustained decline in the number of cases and deaths," the official

told local media, according to the state news agency Telam.

"Currently, we have less than 500 people hospitalized in intensive care units," she added.

Vizzotti highlighted the importance and progress of the country's immunization campaign against COVID-19. "We have ap-

plied two doses to over 80 percent of people and more than 17 million booster shots," she said.

Canada

Canada's Ontario province said Wednesday it will start offering a fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccines to people aged 60 and over as well as to all adults in indigenous households from Thursday.

An official Canadian panel recommended a second vaccine booster for some Canadians on Tuesday, as coronavirus infections rose in many parts of the country.

Canadian health officials say the highly transmissible BA.2 sub-variant of the Omicron coronavirus and waning vaccine immunity may be contributing to an increase in coronavirus transmission.

Agencies

"THESE 'low-carbon' cherry tomatoes sell well and taste nice," said Sun Liming, a resident of Xiaoxinmatou village, Baodi district, north China's Tianjin municipality, while handing a plate of scrambled eggs and tomatoes to his parents.

The "low-carbon" tomatoes Sun talked about from smart greenhouses of a local company engaged in the production and sale of agricultural and sideline products.

"We have grown vegetables for decades, and never thought that vegetables can be related to 'low-carbon' one day. A few years ago, electrical devices were introduced to all the greenhouses in our village, and we thought that's the most advanced technological products we would ever use to grow vegetables. As it turns out,

Smart agricultural technologies make vegetables 'greener'

we were wrong. We have even better ones now," said Wang Yishun, who is in charge of the smart greenhouses of the company.

The "better ones" mentioned by Wang are actually the equipment and devices installed by the State Grid Tianjin Electric Power Company's branch in Baodi district for local greenhouses in a bid to save energy and reduce carbon emissions through intelligent transformation.

The smart nitrogen fixation devices installed in the greenhouses can ionize nitrogen and oxygen in air through artificial simulation of the process of nitrogen fixation during natural lighting activities, and dissolve them in

water to directly create nitrate nitrogen that crops need. Besides, the soil-based solar energy storage system can effectively increase the earth temperature in the greenhouses, thus enabling efficient production throughout the year.

"For instance, if we grow one more crop of cucumbers and tomatoes every winter, their annual output can be increased by around 20 percent. In addition, the solar energy storage system has cut our costs significantly," Wang added.

Wang introduced to People's Daily the secret weapon for reducing carbon emissions in the production of vegetables: a small device that looks

like a double door refrigerator in the corner of the greenhouses.

"The production and transportation of nitrogen fertilizers can produce a great amount of carbon dioxide. Now that we have this device, we buy more than 60 percent less nitrogen fertilizers for each mu (about 666.67 square meters) of tomatoes, for instance, than before. The device not only reduces our production costs, but is helpful in cutting carbon emissions," Wang told People's Daily.

According to Wang, the company lately designed a special label to distinguish its "low-carbon" vegetables from the other agricultural products in the market. By scanning the QR

code on the label, consumers can get clear information about how the production of these vegetables achieved carbon emission reduction.

As greenhouse vegetable growers have made continuous progress in reducing carbon emissions, increasing output, and launching a traceability system to reassure consumers about the quality of their products, their "low-carbon" vegetables have gradually become popular choices in the local market.

So far, the State Grid Tianjin Electric Power Company's branch in Baodi district has installed eight sets of nitrogen fixation devices for local greenhouse vegetable growers, help-

ing realize low-carbon production of vegetables in greenhouses covering an area of 5,500 square meters.

Moreover, the company also provides customized smart agricultural equipment for local vegetable producers according to their needs.

Many innovative equipment and devices introduced for intelligent transformation, such as ultrasonic algae removal device, intelligent multispectral insect killer lamp, and water-saving micro-jet irrigation device, have helped local greenhouse vegetable producing companies save energy, increase efficiency, and realize eco-friendly production.

People's Daily

Who is protracting the Russia-Ukraine conflict?

THE Ukraine crisis is putting even bigger pressure on the already-sluggish world economy. However, a former official of the U.S. Department of Defense disclosed that many in the lobbying firms, the defense industry, and the Capitol are opening champagne bottles for celebration.

Statistics indicated that the stock price of Lockheed Martin rose more than 13 percent between Feb. 24 and March 28, and the figures were respectively 13.4 percent and nine percent for Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics.

Such a big rise came just after Russia and Ukraine started the war. Who is making a fortune out of it and who is willing to see the war protracted? The answers are clear.

Philip Zimbardo, a retired professor of Stanford University, says in his book *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil* that wars are prepared and "cooked" by some people, without whom wars cannot be launched.

There happens to be a "beast" in U.S. politics that is obsessed with "cooking" wars - the military-industrial complex. It is a huge interest group consisting of military departments, weapon manufacturers, legislators, defense research institutes and think tanks. It is constantly attempting to destabilize American diplomacy to reap gigantic profits from the wars, conflicts, and arms races it provokes.

According to an article recently published by Spanish news site *Rebelion*, it is critical for the U.S. and its media, as well as the military-industrial complex that to a large extent dominates the country, to have some fabricated enemies that are able to be manipulated.

Provoking a conflict between Russia and Ukraine and seeking private gains from it, the U.S. military-industrial complex is just counting its chickens before they are hatched. It forces U.S. foreign policies to challenge Russia through interest groups, and sells security anxiety by exaggerating Russia's "military threat," so as to exacerbate the necessity for European countries to increase defense expenditure and enhance military deterrence.

According to a report by the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. has provided more than \$2.7 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since 2014. It also agreed to offer lethal weapons for Ukraine in 2017. Statistics recently released by the U.S. Department of State showed that in just the past year, the U.S. provided more than \$1 billion in security assistance to Ukraine.

Since the Russia-Ukraine conflict began, the U.S. military-industrial complex has been taking the war as a huge market and advertising place. As a result, Germany, Finland, Poland and some other European countries all declared to raise their defense budgets, and to acquire enormous weaponry from the U.S. The U.S. defense industry benefits the most

from these purchases.

More than 60 years ago, former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower had warned the U.S. public to be vigilant about the military-industrial complex's detrimental effects on the U.S. However, this "beast" remains uncontrollable by these days. It is manipulating U.S. domestic politics, diplomacy and military policies even more unscrupulously.

Over the last two decades, defense contractors spent \$2.5 billion on lobbying according to U.S.-based nonprofit organization *OpenSecrets*. The "revolving door" is also contributing to the development of the defense industry. From 2014 to 2019, over 1,000 senior officials and purchasers from the U.S. Department of Defense, including former U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis, had jumped to military enterprises that benefited enormously from these individuals' relationships.

The military-industrial complex reveals why the U.S. is addicted to wars and why the country always ranks first in the world in terms of military spending. In the fiscal year 2022, the U.S. is expected to spend \$782 billion on defense-related projects, \$42 billion more from a year ago, and \$52 billion higher than non-defense projects. Recently, the U.S. proposed a \$813 billion budget for 2023.

Statistics showed that at least 1/3 of the U.S. military spending flows to arms dealers. According to a recent report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the global transfers of major arms saw a slight drop of 4.6 percent between 2012-16 and 2017-21, while the United States boosted its exports by 14 percent, increasing its global share from 32 percent to 39 percent.

It is reasonable to say that wherever there is a war, there are U.S. weapons and traces of the U.S. military-industrial complex. Massive revenues would keep on flowing to military enterprises as long as wars continue.

The U.S. has long taken itself as a "beacon of democracy" and been hyping the false narratives of democracy versus authoritarianism in recent years. However, the stark contrast between the insufficient COVID-19 response fund in the country and the bloody wealth amassed by U.S. military enterprises, as well as the misdeeds done by the U.S. provoking wars and conflicts all over the world, have long tarnished the image of the U.S. as a democratic and pro-human rights country.

Blackmailed by the military-industrial complex and other interest groups, the U.S. has already been corroded by the thirst for money. It is bringing only turbulences to and jeopardizing the world and its own citizens.

People's Daily

US Senate confirms first African American woman for Supreme Court

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court in a 53-47 vote on Thursday.

Only three Republicans joined Democrats and independents in supporting Jackson to be the first African American woman on the highest court.

At age 51, Jackson has sat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit - often referred to as the nation's second most powerful court - since June 2021.

U.S. President Joe Biden announced in late February the nomination of Jackson to succeed liberal Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, who is about to retire this summer. Jackson will not be sworn in until after Breyer leaves the post.

Biden and Jackson watched the Senate vote, which fell largely along party lines, from the Roosevelt Room at the White House on Thursday afternoon.

"Judge Jackson's confirmation was a historic moment for our nation," Biden tweeted with a photo of him taking a selfie with the judge.

"We've taken another step toward making our highest court reflect the diversity of America," he said. "She will be an incredible Justice, and I was honored to share this moment with her."

"The White House has scheduled an event for Friday to celebrate the confirmation. While Senate Democrats have praised Jackson's qualifications, as well as the historic nature of her nomination, most Republicans have cast doubt on her past rulings.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who voted against the nomination, voiced concern about what he saw as a "long and disturbing record of using judicial activism to go soft on crime."

It was one of Biden's major campaign promises to fill a potential Supreme Court vacancy with an African American woman. Since the Supreme Court was established in the United States in 1789, 115 justices have served on the bench. Of them, 108 were white men. The justices have life tenure and can serve until they die, resign, retire, or are impeached and removed from office.

Born in Washington, D.C. but raised in Miami, Florida, Jackson received her law degree from Harvard University and graduated cum laude in 1996.

Xinhua

UNGA adopts resolution to suspend Russia from HRC

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on Thursday that allows the assembly to suspend the Russian Federation's membership in the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council.

The draft resolution, "Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council," obtained 93 "yes" votes and 24 "no" votes from the 193-member General Assembly. A total of 58 countries abstained. Eighteen countries did not participate in the voting.

China voted against the move pushed by the United States.

A two-thirds majority of voting members - abstentions do not count - can suspend a country from the 47-member council. Libya was suspended in 2011 because of violence against protesters by forces loyal to then-leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The resolution expresses "grave concern at the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine," particularly at reports of rights abuses by Russia.

As a member of the Geneva-based council, Russia was in its second year of a three-year term.

The General Assembly has adopted another two resolutions related to Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine since it began on Feb. 24.

After Ukraine accused Russian troops of "killing hundreds of civilians" across the streets of the Kiev suburb of Bucha, the United States announced it would seek Russia's suspension. Russia has denied attacking civilians in Ukraine.

Speaking of the draft, Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, told the assembly before the voting that the draft resolution was not drafted "in an open and transparent manner," nor did it follow the tradition of holding consultations within the whole membership to heed



An emergency special session of the UN General Assembly on Ukraine is held at the UN headquarters in New York, Feb. 28, 2022. File photo

the broadest opinions.

"Under such circumstances, such a hasty move at the General Assembly, which forces countries to choose sides, will aggravate the division among member states and intensify the contradictions between the parties concerned. It is like adding fuel to the fire, which is not conducive to the de-escalation of conflicts, and even less so to advancing the peace talks," he said.

Zhang pointed out that dealing with the membership of the Human Rights Council in such a way "would set a new and dangerous precedent," further intensify the confrontations in the field of human rights, bring a greater impact on the UN governance system, and produce serious consequences.

"Therefore, China will have to vote against this draft resolution," he stressed.

"China calls on all parties to work to-

gether in the same direction, so as to create opportunities for peace and prospects for negotiation. China will continue to hold an objective and impartial position and play its responsible and constructive role in this regard," he said.

Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ukraine's UN ambassador, urged countries to support the resolution before the vote.

After the vote, the Russian Foreign Ministry said it has made a decision on the early termination of its membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"The Russian side considers the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on April 7 in New York to suspend the membership of the Russian Federation in the UN Human Rights Council as an unlawful and politically motivated step in order to defiantly punish a sovereign UN member state that pursues an independent domestic and foreign policy," the ministry said in a statement.

Russia's deputy permanent representative to the UN, Gennady Kuzmin, called the General Assembly's decision "an illegitimate and politically mo-

tivated" step that is clearly intended to punish a sovereign member state of the UN, even going as far as calling it "open blackmail of sovereign states."

In addition, he claimed that the council is monopolized by one group of states that use it for short-term interests, and that "such actions violate the mandate entrusted by the international community on the Human Rights Council and overall undermine trust in this body."

After the vote was completed, Kuzmin said Russia had already made the decision to end its membership with the Human Rights Council earlier in the day.

Rwandan president criticises 'coverup' over 1994 genocide

KIGALI

RWANDAN President Paul Kagame slammed countries covering up acts of the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, as Rwandans marked the 28th anniversary of the massacres.

Kagame made the remarks at Kigali Genocide Memorial, final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the genocide, in the capital city Kigali. Kagame said that some of the genocide perpetrators and accomplices roam freely in different countries.

"The very reasons that we suffered and endured, is the reason, they cannot give us peace, they want to cover up their responsibility, silence when the millions of people in Rwanda needed them to speak out, speak up and come to their help," Kagame said.

He reminded the audience that the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) restrained itself from revenging against the genocide perpetrators.

Kagame also told off those questioning Rwanda's justice system the basis of which some countries are reluctant to extradite genocide suspects to Kigali.

"We are a small country but we are big on justice and some of those are big and powerful countries but they are very small on justice," he said.

"They have no lessons to teach anyone because they are part of this history that saw over a million of our people perish. They are the cause and Rwandans just executed, killed their fellow Rwandans," said Kagame.

More than 1,000 Rwanda genocide suspects are still at large in regional countries and overseas, according to Rwanda's Genocide Fugitives Tracking Unit.

The Rwandan leader also criticized "powering coun-



Rwandan President Paul Kagame (L) and first lady Jeannette Kagame lay a wreath at the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda, on Thursday. Rwandan President Paul Kagame slammed countries covering up acts of the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, as Rwandans marked the 28th anniversary of the massacres. Xinhua

tries" for blocking channels to voices of truth in the face of falsehood about Rwanda and the genocide.

Earlier, the president along with the first lady Jeannette Kagame as well as other dignitaries laid wreaths at the memorial, before lighting the flame of remembrance to mark the start of the genocide mourning week.

Some Rwandans said they still felt emotional while recalling the massacres, which marked the darkest page of the country's history. "My thoughts are with our beloved ones, 1 million victims of genocide against Tutsi. Our sorrow cannot be cured.

I remember the anxiety, fear, humiliation, and suffering. But our heartache is lessened by the choice we made to raise our kids in a Rwanda free of discrimination," said Diane Gashumba, Rwanda's Ambassador to Sweden.

"It is really painful experience recalling that dark past. I was just a kid when the genocide happened and it left a dent on my life.

The memories of the massacres are still fresh like it happened yesterday in my hometown in Nyamata, a survivor who identified herself only as Jeannette told Xinhua.

Naphtal Ahishakiye, the executive secretary of the umbrella

body of genocide survivors' organizations (IBUKA), said genocide denial remains a concern requiring international collaboration.

"There is need for collaboration to stop genocide denial through relevant legislation. Besides, all genocide fugitives need to be prosecuted," Ahishakiye said. This year's genocide commemoration is observed under the theme "Remember, Unite and Renew."

Throughout the mourning week, the Rwandan flag will be flying at half-mast in honor of the victims. Rwandans gathered in their respective villages to commemorate genocide where a wide range of discussions on

national unity, reconciliation and prevention of genocide ideology and revisionism were held.

After national mourning week, genocide commemoration activities will continue until July 4 to mark the 100-day calamity, during which over one million people, mainly Tutsi and moderate Hutus were killed.

Perpetrators included extremists from Hutu ethnic group and Interahamwe, the youth wing of the then ruling party. Defense and police forces also participated and this challenged efforts of the Tutsi who, in some areas, had tried to resist traditional weapons of the killers. Xinhua

Bongo Flava artist Ben Pol determined to vouch for environmental protection

By Correspondent Sabata Kasika

TANZANIA'S new generation music 'Bongo Flava' musician, Benard Paul Mnyang'anga 'Ben Pol', has said he is proud of his hard work and dedication to the protection of the environment.

The artist is serving as a United Nations (UN) hero of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He said he has been a respected ambassador for environmental conservation in Tanzania and is now an ambassador for an organization namely Justdiggit to ensure the country remains green.

The Justdiggit is a grassroots organization that fights global warming by re-greening Africa.

The singer said this at the launch of a program to improve and enhance the well-being and development of young people and adolescents in the areas of health, education, participation, and economic empowerment known as the Safeguard Youth People Program (SYP).

The SYP is being funded by the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania through the Swiss Development Cooperation in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tanzania.

"In addition to the music that I do, I am an ambassador for the environment protection and I continue to compose various songs to promote environmental protection in the country so that Tanzania remains green," Ben Pol revealed.

'Ben Pol' said his role is to raise public awareness about revitalizing the green environment by promoting tree planting and addressing climate change.

He moreover said he is among people who like to visit wildlife parks, especially the Serengeti to do tourism, claiming that the tourist site has many interesting places.

"You can be in the Serengeti and also visit Manyara, a different landscape with more wildlife compared to other parks, so I enjoy visiting the Serengeti National Park," he said.



New generation music 'Bongo Flava' artist, Benard Michael Paul Mnyang'anga 'Ben Pol' (R), entertains attendees at the launch of a Safeguard Youth People Program (SYP) which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATA KASIKA

Eastern Africa Roll Ball Championships postponed to June

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS season's Eastern Africa Roll Ball Championships which were slated for this month in Dar es Salaam have been postponed to June, Tanzania Roll Ball Association (TRBA) announced.

Noel Kiunsi, the TRBA Chairman, disclosed the championships have been postponed due to a request from member nations who said they are not prepared for the showdown.

He said many nations cited the COVID-19 crisis as the cause of their failure to prepare for it.

The championships were slated for three days from April 6-9 and invitations were extended to 12 countries.

The countries which received invitations are South Sudan, Zambia, Kenya, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Burundi.

Egypt, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Rwanda, and the hosts Tanzania complete the invitees' list.

According to Kiunsi the TRBA has also written the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to compete at the championships which will be held for the fifth time.

"The championships which were slated for this month have been postponed to June this year, this came about be-

cause many of our member nations said they have not prepared well," he said.

The TRBA further advised each country to come along with a national flag and an anthem for official use.

Each country should cover its internal transport costs, however, the hosts can coordinate the service's availability and logistics, Kiunsi revealed.

Roll Ball is a game played between two teams and is a unique combination of roller skates, basketball, handball, and throwball.

It is played on roller shoes with each team consisting of 12 players, six on the field and six in reserve.

The main objective of the game is to score maximum goals within a stipulated time.

The main feature of Roll Ball is that the ball is held in either one or both hands, when passing to the other players, with the ball repeatedly bounced on the ground.

The court size can vary from 28 to 40 meters in length and 15 to 20 meters in width.

The court includes a center-line dividing offensive and defensive areas. The penalty line is drawn either 4.5m or 3.5m away from the goal.

Second half tactical change was key to our victory - Nabi

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach Nasreddine Nabi states a halftime team talk changed the direction of the team to victory in an NBC Premier League match against Azam FC that took place at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

The Premier League leader cruised to a 2-1 victory over Azam FC to maintain its hold on the first spot in the top flight.

Azam FC and Yanga went to halftime with the scoreboard reading 1-1 after the former had scored through Zambian forward Rodgers Kola.

Yanga equalized with a goal netted by fullback Djuma Shabaan by penalty thus adding flavour to the game which was full of free-flowing football and attacks on both sides.

The coach noted: "I congratulate my players for playing hard and finally we got the win, it was a match that had a speed of its kind in all zones of the pitch."

"Azam is the team that gave us the biggest test, but we were the ones who got the win at the end of the day."

"In the first half, my players played with selfishness that everyone wanted to show his ability and forgot to play more as a team."

"I told them they had to change to win the match and thankfully they understood and we finally won."

Yanga's winning goal was scored by goal-getter Fiston Mayele in the second half which took Yanga to 51 points in 19 matches in the league log.

Nabi moreover did not hesitate to pour praise on the squad's striker Crispin Ngushi due to his prowess saying that in the coming years Tanzania will have a dangerous striker in him.

"Ngushi, Tanzanians are waiting to see great wonders from him, he is a strong and vicious striker who will come to surprise many."



Yanga forward, Fiston Mayele (L), jubilates with a teammate, Said Ntibazonkiza, once the attacker registered a goal during this season's NBC Premier League match against Azam FC which took place at Dar es Salaam's Azam Complex recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

"With the talent he has and the great shape of the striker these words will in coming years be remembered."

Azam FC head coach Abdihakim Moalin said his players were committed throughout the tough game, but several mistakes they made punished them, and lost three points at home. The American national of Somali origin said it was clear

that luck was not on Azam FC's side in the game.

The tactician stated they played very carefully and had several chances to score, but failed to make the most of them and found themselves on the other side of luck.

The tactician pointed out: "It's hard to play with an experienced team like Yanga, but with my players showing they were

ready to fight and they fought, despite losing 2-1."

"We came close to scoring the second goal after our opponents equalized via penalty, but luck was not on our side because every step we took failed to succeed unlike our opponents who played and used the chances they got," Moalin whose team remains with 28 points from 19 games added.

East Africa Junior Athletics Championships set for May

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE East and Central Africa (EAAR) Junior Athletics Championships which were expected to be held in Tanzania this month have been pushed back to May.

The track and field championships were to take place yesterday and today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer Stephen Rogath said EAAR

has communicated to all member associations that the championships whose budget was 80m/- have been pushed back.

The showpiece was expected to draw more than 500 junior athletes from the East Africa region.

He said EAAR disclosed many nations have not prepared well for the championships.

"The East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships have been postponed to May this year at the same venue... the or-

ganizers EAAR have said many nations are not fully prepared for the championships," the official revealed.

"It is the hope of AT as the host nation's athletics body that by May all nations will be ready for the championships," he said.

He said AT is viewing the postponement as a blessing in disguise as it will use it to look for partners and sponsors for the championships.

He appealed to stakeholders, the corporate world, and other well-

wishers to help AT successfully hosting the championships.

In the previous interview, he said AT has so far entered a partnership with a local media house, Azam Media Group, to broadcast the championships.

He said the AT technical panel will soon unveil coaches and athletes who will camp ahead of the championships.

Rogath said the current AT leadership has put more emphasis on developing youth athletics as it is the

only sure way of having a new crop of athletes.

"We want athletics to grow in the country, we have put many measures which will see our young athletes graduate to the senior team after going through all developmental structures."

"We are lately working closely with schools and centers which train athletics," he said.

The last time the country hosted the East Africa Junior Athletics Championships was in 2017.



Junior runners participate in the recent East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Chelsea could get 'hammered' at Madrid - Tuchel

LONDON

CHELSEA manager Thomas Tuchel has warned his players that the Champions League quarterfinal tie against Real Madrid could be over if they play as badly as they did in their 3-1 defeat at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

Madrid striker Karim Benzema scored two headers in three first-half minutes before adding a third goal after half-time when he pounced on a mistake by Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy and defender Antonio Rudiger, to give the LaLiga giants a big advantage heading into the second leg at the Bernabeu on April 12.

Chelsea have now conceded seven goals in their last two matches and Tuchel said the reigning European champions cannot continue their poor form.

"If we keep playing like this we will lose at Southampton [in the Premier League on Saturday] and then we will get hammered at the Bernabeu," he told BT Sport after the game.

Tuchel was then asked at his postmatch news conference if the tie was still alive and he replied: "Today, is this [tie] alive with this performance? No, not at the moment."

"We have to find ourselves again, I don't know where we have been since the international break. Tonight was a repetition of the second half against Brentford in a quarterfinal against Real Madrid. Five days, seven goals conceded. I don't think there is a deeper reason or it. It's alarming."

"With everything the game demands, you cannot expect a result from this kind of performance. We were so far off our level, tactically, individually, in shape, in challenges. We tried to play in a new formation and killed the game off with a big mistake."

"It's never on one player or players, it's on all of us, including myself. Individually we lost shape and sharpness. Since the international break, we have obviously not looked the same and I don't really have an explanation. We came from a long winning streak where we were really competitive, but the first half was by far not good enough."

Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen added it was "not normal" for them to concede seven goals in two games.

"It's not just about this game, we did it as well at the weekend," he said. "We have to fix it, and we have to do it quick."

Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti praised Benzema for his stunning performance and said the France international is "better every day, like wine."

The second leg will take place next Tuesday as both teams look to book a place in the Champions League semifinals.

(Agencies)

Maradona's daughter claims wrong jersey is up for auction

BUENOS AIRES

DIEGO Maradona's eldest daughter claims that the Argentina shirt expected to sell for several million dollars when it is sold at auction this month is not the one her late father wore when he scored the infamous "Hand of God" goal against England.

Dalma Maradona said the shirt due to go under the hammer was actually the one worn by her father during the goalless first half of the 1986 World Cup quarterfinal.

Steve Hodge, the former England player who says Maradona swapped shirts with him at the end of the game in Mexico City, is selling the shirt, which is set to fetch more than £4 million (\$5.2 million).

Auctioneers Sotheby's strongly refuted Dalma Maradona's claims on Thursday, saying an external company had provided a "conclusive photomatch" that proved it was authentic.

Sotheby's also noted that Maradona himself had previously acknowledged swapping his shirt with Hodge in the player's tunnel after their 1986 World Cup classic.

However Dalma Maradona maintains the jersey her father wore in the second half -- when he also scored one of the greatest goals in World Cup history -- was in the hands of another owner, but declined to name them.

"It's not that one. I don't want to say who has it because it's crazy. He (Diego Maradona) said it. He said, 'How am I going to give him the shirt of my life?'" she told reporters.

"This former player thinks he has my dad's second-half jersey, but it's a mix-up. He has the one from the first half."

"We wanted to clarify that so that people who want to buy it know the truth," Dalma said in separate comments to Channel 13 television.

- Extensive diligence -

A Sotheby's spokeswoman told AFP: "There was indeed a different shirt worn by Maradona in the first half, but there are clear differences between that and what was worn during the goals."

"And so, prior to putting this shirt for sale, we did extensive diligence and scientific research on the item to make sure it was the shirt worn by Maradona in the second half for the two goals."

The photomatching process had involved matching the shirt -- to both goals examining unique details on various elements of the item, including the patch, stripes, and numbering."

AFP

UEFA adopts new regulations to replace financial fair play

Nyon, Switzerland

UEFA on Thursday approved new licensing and "sustainability" regulations to replace its existing Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules, allowing European clubs to make bigger losses than before while bringing in caps on spending on wages and transfers.

As expected, European football's governing body decided to overhaul the FFP rules that were introduced in 2010 in order to reduce spiralling club debts across the continent.

FFP's limitations had been exposed by the emergence of state-held superpowers like Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain, while huge losses incurred by the coronavirus pandemic left poorer clubs with little room for manoeuvre.

"The biggest innovation will be the introduction of a squad cost rule to bring better cost control in relation to player wages

and transfer costs," UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin announced following a meeting of the body's executive committee.

UEFA will now allow clubs to report losses of 60 million euros (\$65.5m) over three years rather than 30 million euros previously, and the permitted figure will even reach 90 million euros for a club "in good financial health".

However, that relaxation of the rules is combined with the new ceilings on wage spending.

There was never any possibility of bringing in a specific salary cap like in North American sports because UEFA has 55 member countries and must contend with European Union and national labour and competition laws.

Yet under UEFA's new regulations clubs will be forced to limit spending on player and staff wages, transfers and agents fees to 70 percent of total



UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin announced the new financial regulations at a press conference on Thursday (AFP)

revenues by 2025/26.

The ceiling will drop as current contracts expire: 90 percent of club income in 2023/24, followed by 80 percent the season after and then 70 percent.

"Before the pandemic, the average ratio was under 70 percent," said Andrea Traverso, UEFA's director of financial sustainability.

Then the health crisis led to losses over two seasons of about seven billion

euros, causing that ratio to rise.

- Financial and sporting penalties -

Ceferin said breaches of the new rules "will result in predefined financial penalties and sporting measures".

The size of the fines will depend on the extent to which clubs have crossed the threshold, with that money then redistributed among the well-behaved

-- in line with the idea of a "luxury tax" championed in the past by Ceferin.

Serious or repeated breaches will lead to sporting punishments, with Traverso saying these could range from bans on using certain players and limits on squad sizes, to points deductions in the new-look Champions League group phase to be introduced from 2024.

He added that discussions are ongoing about the possibility of teams being demoted from one European competition to another, for example from the Champions League to the Europa League.

The fate of FFP in its existing guise was sealed when Manchester City successfully appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in 2020 to have a two-year ban from European competition overturned.

Abu Dhabi-owned City had been accused of deliberately inflating the value of income from Emirati

sponsors Etisalat and Etihad Airways to meet FFP regulations.

State-owned clubs such as City and Qatar-backed PSG may still find themselves in a position to spend far more than their rivals, despite the new 70 percent rule.

Meanwhile, traditional giants like Barcelona and Juventus -- two of the main backers of the failed European Super League project -- could see their ambitions still restricted by the need to reduce debts.

The new regulations come in at a time when elite-level football is dominated by a smaller and more select group of clubs than ever, but Traverso said improving competitive balance required more than just financial measures.

Now that UEFA has announced its new budgetary rules after months of consultations, he said the body was "going to open a new chapter and move on to other measures".

AFP

Champions League talking points: Is Benzema the MVP?

LONDON

THE first legs of the Champions League quarterfinals featured contrasting fortunes for the Madrid clubs, wins for Premier League title chasers Manchester City and Liverpool, a chastening loss for defending champions Chelsea and a shock for Bayern Munich.

Rob Dawson, Bill Connelly and Derek Rae give their views on the big questions from the midweek action.

*Is anyone more important to his team than Karim Benzema?

Dawson: No. Benzema is in the form of his life, and there isn't a team left in the Champions League who would fancy their chances of stopping him when he's playing like this. Real Madrid are still a team full of top players, but when you've got a striker who looks like scoring from every half-chance, it takes the team to a different level. His two headers in the first half of Wednesday's 3-1 win at Chelsea were works of art. He's the best player left in the competition.

Connelly: I could spin that around and say that Chelsea's Romelu Lukaku is even more important at this point -- as in, any chance Chelsea has of coming back in this tie likely hinges desperately on him finding the goal-scoring form that has evaded him for large portions of this season. But yes, Benzema's Champions League form this season (11 goals in eight matches and two hat tricks in three knockout matches) has been otherworldly. While Liverpool and Manchester City in particular are the favorites because of overall team strength, Real Madrid's No. 9 gives them a fighting chance against anyone.

Rae: There is no individual more important to his team than Benzema among the sides left in the competition. On the few occasions when he has been missing for Los Blancos, there just isn't a comparable replacement. The range of goals he has scored this season has been quite staggering, and the first of his finishes at Stamford Bridge will live long in the memory: an art piece that



Karim Benzema

leaves us wondering how he got that much power on the header. Robert Lewandowski comes close on this question but I think Bayern could still find a way without him in a one-off game. I'm not sure the same applies to Real Madrid.

*What else caught your attention from the quarterfinal first legs?

Connelly: Liverpool just has so, so many ways to attack you. Diogo Jota saved them against Watford over the weekend, and he didn't even start Tuesday's 3-1 win at Benfica. Neither did Roberto Firmino. Or Jordan Henderson! Instead, Luis Diaz and Naby Keita combined for a goal, an assist, eight shots worth 1.6 xG and completed passes worth 0.7 xA, and Liverpool handily won a Champions League quarterfinal match away from home. Yes, Benfica is the weakest team remaining in the field, but the depth of Liverpool's attacking options is absurd.

Rae: You have to go back a while for the last time Bayern looked as frazzled in the Champions League as they did in their 1-0 defeat at Villarreal. Perhaps the last such off-key performance was as far back as 2019, against Liverpool. Frankly, no one really gets pass marks, maybe with the exception of Kingsley Coman. One wonders if coach Julian Nagelsmann made the wrong decision in risking Alphonso Davies from the start after such a long injury layoff.

It was all very frantic and the damage inflicted by Villarreal could have been even greater. That's one crumb of comfort Bayern can cling to. Another is that they have 90 minutes, or perhaps even 120, in front of their own fans to turn the tables.

Dawson: Pep Guardiola deserves a lot of credit for the way he managed the game in Manchester City's 1-0 win against Atletico Madrid. It was a surprise that he left both Phil Foden and Jack Grealish on the bench, but when they both came on midway through the second half it looked like a planned move and if it was, it worked a treat. Foden, in particular, changed the game with the ball in tight spaces and Guardiola said afterward the 21-year-old had been able to take advantage of some tired Atletico legs.

The City coach has taken a lot of criticism in the past for getting it wrong in the Champions League, so it's only fair that he gets credit when he gets it right.

*Would Atletico benefit from a more attacking style of play?

Rae: The funny thing about watching Atletico regularly this season is that they have been searching for a new identity and have regularly shown us their wilder side. That hasn't always paid dividends though, and so it's understandable that in Manchester -- against a very accomplished team -- coach Diego Simeone reverted to the approach most fans around the world associate with him and Atleti. In this case, playing the way they did, gives the defending Spanish champions a chance. It wasn't pretty but, it was never going to be.

Dawson: I don't think so. Someone has created a way of playing that has been very successful, so why would he consider suddenly becoming more expansive? Atletico's good attacking players -- Joao Felix and Antoine Griezmann -- take advantage of the situations they create, that's a big part of Simeone's plan that is just as important as the way his team defend. Ultimately, Atletico under Simeone have won a lot of matches (59.2% of them over more than a decade with him at the helm) and you can't do that without scoring goals, so he must be doing something right.

Connelly: What Simeone did in the first leg at Manchester City, the most possession-hungry of all possession teams, made perfect sense. Atleti deployed a literal 5-5-0 for much of the first half and rendered City completely aimless in possession, and you could make the case that they should have kept that up for the entire match. Alas, they have to score now in the return leg, and it will be interesting to see what Simeone feels comfortable doing and when he does it. They score plenty of goals in LaLiga, obviously; only Real Madrid and Barcelona have scored more this season.

*What makes Unai Emery such a good coach in knockout rounds?

Dawson: It's not that he's a good coach in the knockout rounds -- he's just a good coach, full stop. Some Arsenal fans will probably disagree, but you

can't argue with his CV. When a good coach finds a squad that fits his style and also buys into what he's trying to do, anything is possible and that's what's happening at Villarreal now. Juventus and Bayern Munich have better players, but when you have a tactically astute coach, the gap in quality can close very quickly.

Connelly: His teams are just so dang sound. They create better looks for themselves than they give you, and they're really good at forcing you to play left-handed. Bayern's Lewandowski averages 39.7 touches per 90 minutes in the Bundesliga and 34.0 in the Champions League, but he had only 29 against Villarreal and managed only two shots (and only one of particular quality). Villarreal forced others like Coman or Davies to create something from the perimeter, and they couldn't do it. They still might in the second leg, of course, but Villarreal brilliantly forces you away from Plan A.

Rae: Emery is the type of coach who's almost happier preparing a match plan that involves letting the opposition have more of the ball. The trick is keeping the opposition off balance and forcing them into select areas of the pitch. Sometimes it's about shifting just one player and the excellent Giovanni Lo Celso was the key figure, going from an attacker on the right in a 4-3-3 with the ball, to a wide midfielder in a 4-4-2 without it. Emery deserves more respect than he sometimes gets.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

UEFA adopts new regulations to replace financial fair play

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Gymkhana Club to host squash open tournament next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Squash Racquets Association (TSRA) has said it will host this year's National Open Championships at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) next month.

Marwa Busigara, the TSRA official, said in an interview the tournament will be held during the last weekend of May and invitations have been extended to all parts of the country including Zanzibar.

The leader revealed: "After the success of our last tournament at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), we will now host the other event at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC)."

"We expect more than 40 players will compete, we aim to see that the game is played in all parts of the country," he said.

Busigara was the champion at the AICC Squash Open, he beat Musa Juma 3-0 in the final.

The tournament's third place went to Rajab Simai who beat Abdallah Ali 3-0.

More than 60 players competed at the AICC tournament.

Busigara said at the DGC event there will be awards that will be handed over to top winners.

The official appealed to sponsors, companies, and stakeholders to support them.

Last year the National Squash Racquets Association noted it has lined up several activities which will help to relaunch the game in the country.

The association said the events aimed at welcoming players back to the game and helping to attract a new generation of players to the courts.

Squash is a racket and ball sport played by either two or four players on a four-walled court with a small, hollow rubber ball.

The players alternate in striking the ball with their rackets onto the playable surfaces of the four walls of the court.

The objective of the game is to hit the ball in such a way that the opponent is not able to play a valid return.

There are about 20 million people who play squash regularly worldwide in over 185 countries.

The governing body of Squash, the World Squash Federation (WSF), is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The sport though is not part of the Olympic Games, despite several applications.

Supporters continue to lobby for its incorporation into a future Olympic program.

The Professional Squash Association (PSA) organizes the pro tour. The sport is infrequently called 'squash rackets', to distinguish itself from the related sport of rackets.

TTA announces women's squad for Billie Jean Cup tournament



Tanzania's national junior tennis team's player, Caroline Mwangata, battles it out in a recent ITF/CAT East Africa Tennis Zonal Championship played in Kenya. PHOTO: COURTESY OF JUNIOR TENNIS INITIATIVE (JTI) TANZANIA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) has unveiled five female players who will represent the country at the coming Billie Jean Cup tournament which is slated for later this year.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TTA president Denis Makoi said the five were selected after performing well at various local and international events.

He mentioned the five as Edna John, Barbara Molell, Naitoti Singo, Aurelian Mushi, and Victoria Ndosi.

Makoi could not issue the dates of the tournament and the country which will host it.

According to the leader, TTA is waiting for communication from the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

The Billie Jean King Cup tournament is equivalent to the Davis Cup competition which is played by male players only.

It will be the first time that the country is competing in such a big tennis event.

Recently TTA mentioned

six male players who will represent the country at the Davis Cup tournament.

They are Frank Manaki, Yusuf Lawrence, Omary Sulle,

Abuu Risasi, Rashid Swalehe, and Dismas Felix.

Before the selection of the two teams, TTA conducted a clinic which was done by

United States of America (USA)-based coach Michael Ray Pallares.

So far International Tennis Federation has not

communicated with TTA on the dates of the Davis Cup tournament.

In the previous interview, Makoi said TTA plans to discuss with Pallares the possibility of the coach hosting many clinics and coaching courses regularly.

Pallares is one of the USA's top tennis professional coaches and he donated tennis equipment to domestic coaches and players.

The coaches were also handed internationally recognized certificates.

The Billie Jean King Cup is the premier international team competition in women's tennis, launched as the Federation Cup in 1963 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Tennis Federation.

The name was changed to the Fed Cup in 1995 and changed again in September 2020 in honour of former World No. 1 Billie Jean King.

The Billie Jean King Cup is the world's largest annual women's international team sports competition in terms of the number of nations that compete. The current Chairperson is Katrina Adams.

The Czech Republic dominated the Fed Cup in the 2010s, winning six of ten competitions in the decade.

The men's equivalent of the Billie Jean King Cup is the Davis Cup, and the Czech Republic, Australia, Russia, and the United States are the only countries to have held both Cups at the same time.

After the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, the International Tennis Federation suspended Russia and Belarus from Billie Jean King Cup competitions.



Tanzania's prominent chess player, Hemed Mlawa, showcases his prowess in the 2018 FIDE World Chess Olympiad played in Batumi, Georgia.

Tanzania set to field five chess players in 2022 Chess Olympiad

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will be represented by five chess players at the coming Olympiad which will take place from late July to early August this year in Chennai, India.

The five performers were selected at the National Championship which took place at the Don Bosco venue in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The championships were played in an eight rounds Swiss pairing format with a time control of 90 minutes 30 seconds.

The India Olympiad will be held from July 26 to August 8 in Chennai, with more than 40 players set to participate in the championships.

One of the National Championship organizers, Kara Luis, said the championship was very successful.

The organizer mentioned the players who performed well in the finals as Hemed Mlawa who got 5.5 points.

Albert Njau that got 5 points, Emmanuel Mwaishumbe that notched 4.5 points, Veer Gandhi got 4.5 points and Cleophas Charles who got 4 points were also impressive.

Luis said the ladies' event winners were Mahi Shah, Fammie Vida Joseph, and Zahabia Ebrahim.

He, however, could not mention the delegation which will represent the country at the Olympiad, saying the details will be made public soon.

Luis revealed: "At the coming Olympiad in India which will be held from July 26 to August 10, Tanzania will be represented by five players."

"The five were selected at the National Championships which was held last week at Don Bosco," he said.

Olympiad is organized by World Chess Federation (FIDE), it is the biennial chess tournament where teams from all over the world compete.

It comprises open and women's tournaments as well as several events designed to promote the sport.

India was awarded the right to host the Olympiad by FIDE after Russia was stripped of its rights after it invaded Ukraine.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LIE YOUR EX TOLD YOU?



SHE SAID I'M HER 'WORLD' BUT AFTER SOME TIME SHE STARTED HER OWN SOLAR SYSTEM AND I WAS HER FOURTH PLANET.