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**National Pg 3**  
Torita invents tobacco dries method



**National Pg 4**  
Over 5,900 children drop out of school



**National Pg 6**  
VP to launch Isaka-Tabora section of SGR



**Ramaphosa lets Samia lead joint Africa delegates for Davos meet**

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to lead the African contingent at this year's World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting, taking place from January 16 to 20 in the Swiss resort city of Davos.

This role follows reported inability for South African President Cyril Ramaphosa not attending the forum to attend to the ongoing energy crisis in the African continent's perennial economic powerhouse, reports affirmed at the weekend.

A presidential spokesman said that at the moment the president was convening a meeting with leaders of political parties represented in Parliament, to sit with the national energy crisis committee and the board of the energy parastatal, Eskom.

Briefing sessions with key stakeholders will take place during the coming week, thus upsetting earlier arrangements where the African contingent at Davos would be led by President Ramaphosa and President Samia.

"The Davos crowd is returning to a familiar setting. But the lush green meadows that formed the backdrop of the first-ever "Spring Davos" last May have been replaced by snow-covered slopes, where snow boots and fur coats have made a comeback," a preliminary profiling of the global get together affirmed.

While the weather may have changed from last year, the main talking points remain the same, it said, citing the war in Ukraine and its massive economic fallout as once again expected to dominate the agenda of the annual event at the alpine resort venue.

The World Economic Forum  
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**DEAD END...**



Ongoing rains have rendered this Kona ya Mnyagara section of a strategic road in Tanganyika District, Rukwa Region, impassable. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Elephants: Mvomero's MP objects to inaction

By Guardian Correspondent, Zeeland.

Morogoro

MVOMERO legislator Jonas van Zeeland is stepping up his efforts on taking firm action on the presence of elephants in Lubungo area in the district that is also a constituency.

This development has taken place with reports of four dangerous elephants being killed in the past two three years, two in 2021 and two others a year earlier.

Vicky Kamata, the public relations director for the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), said in reaction to the reports that controlling destructive and fierce wildlife in Mvomero District is a task of several institutions each with a particular role.

Apart from TAWA, action on elephants must be carried out in collaboration with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and other stakeholders, like public security authorities.

She appealed to residents in the area to report sightings of destructive wildlife and also desist from inciting people to harm the animals, commenting on discussions between Water minister Jumaa Aweso and legislator van

The MP said the dangers that elephants pose to farms and water sources, and had reported the issue to the responsible authorities via parliamentary questions but no solution had been provided as the wildlife continue to terrorise villagers.

The situation affects the entire Mlali Ward where some villagers cannot engage in farming as elephants can intrude at any moment and cause destruction or harm, he said.

The TAWA director said that controlling fierce and destructive wildlife needs to adhere to the 2020-2024 national strategy in solving threats arising from intruding wildlife.

She made the remarks in an interview yesterday on controlling destructive wildlife, in the wake of ongoing consultations between various government departments to solve the problem.

The MP that reports submitted by the MP at his meeting with minister Aweso castigated TAWA personnel for not working hard enough to control the movements of destructive elephants in Mvomero district.

She was of the view that the work  
**TURN TO PAGE 2**

## Treasury: Natural resources saved Tanzania's economy

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has weathered the storm of global economic upheaval and imported inflation due to its abundant natural resources like oil and gas, gold mining and tourist attractions, a top policy planner has declared.

Lawrence Mafuru, the Treasury deputy permanent secretary in charge of policy issues, also cited nickel and coal as among the country's strategic resources, in a Dar es Salaam briefing for media editors yesterday.

He stated that the drop in tourist numbers during the Covid-19 travel restrictions was compensated by gold exports, and thus had a serious impact on foreign currency stability and protected the exchange rate of the shilling.

This situation shows how protecting the

nation during disasters was multifaceted, requiring appropriate utilisation of natural resources, and similar strategic efforts are needed to control inflationary pressure.

He singled out the liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, noting that if the country succeeds in executing the project, it will benefit immensely from gas exports, citing the case of Mozambique which is now selling gas abroad, a lucrative environment owing to oil price rises at the world market.

Efforts must be sustained for policy strategies that attract foreign investors into various sectors, he said, elaborating that the government was pursuing work on tax policies which investors find to be unfriendly.

Intense efforts are also being pursued to develop an enabling infrastructure (roads, electricity and water), a well ordered governance environment like handling tax issues, and financial sector regulation that is propitious to attract capital flows.

He was pessimistic about inflation since Tanzania will be experiencing inflationary pressures on account of rising prices in importing oil and machinery as most major economies globally are also affected by inflation.

He laid special emphasis on growth  
**TURN TO PAGE 2**

## PM puts on alert saboteurs of fertiliser subsidy rollout

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PUBLIC officials and businessmen who gang up to sabotage the subsidised fertiliser programme initiated by the government for smuggling it to neighbouring counties will have stern legal measures directed against them.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa issued this warning yesterday when addressing residents of Mbalizi town at the start of a two-day visit in Mbeya Region to inspect development projects.

He said the government has disbursed more than 150bn/- for the fertiliser subsidy effort to assist farmers reduce production costs and increase crop volumes, noting that the money allocated comes from taxpayers.

The ongoing practice by officials to smuggle the farm input to neighbouring countries is similar to sabotaging popular aspiration and hope, he said, asking the public to be on their guard to vehemently oppose the practice.

This way the fertiliser will be used within the country in line with government

expectations to strengthen the country's food security, he stated, referring to nearby Songwe Region where some government officials were arrested smuggling out of the country more than 2,000 tonnes of fertiliser.

"This is totally unacceptable," he declared, making note of the fact that he would be visiting the region after his Mbeya schedule and seek out more on how the racket was organised.

The government wants to ensure that the country produces enough food for consumption needs and the surplus exported for income generation, he stated, underlining that Mbeya Region is among strategic regions in food production.

Plenty of the fertiliser has been allocated to the region, the premier affirmed, reminding fertiliser distribution agents to make sure the delivery is right in quantity and timely in all areas they have been assigned. Farmers must be enabled to go in tandem with the farming season, he emphasised.

Anthony Mavunde, the Agriculture  
**TURN TO PAGE 2**



# PM puts on alert saboteurs of fertiliser subsidy rollout

**FROM PAGE 1**  
 deputy minister, said the ministry was liaising with the regional authorities where Regional Commissioner Juma Homera will supervise the distribution agents to extend the selling period.  
 The agents will sell the fertiliser even during the night so that all those in need of the commodity should get it on time, he said.  
 The ministry had directed all cooperative societies, plus the Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) and the Tanzania Fertiliser Company (TFC) to work together in distributing the fertiliser to farmers countrywide, he remarked.  
 Oran Njeza, Mbeya Rural MP, recently castigated some farmers obtaining subsidised fertiliser and

putting it on sale to stop the practice at once, reminding them that the fertiliser has been provided by the government to alleviate its cost to farmers. The price came down from more than 100,000/- per bag during the last season to 70,000/- this season.  
 Dr Tulia Ackson, MP for Mbeya Urban and Speaker of the National Assembly, raised concern that some distribution agents were selling only one type of fertiliser.  
 Seven public officials in Songwe Region were arrested when proceeding to smuggle out more than 2,000 tonnes of subsidised fertiliser across the border, raising fears on the conduct of the subsidised fertiliser programme as a whole.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses residents of Mbalizi on the outskirts of Mbeya city yesterday shortly after arriving there for an official tour of Mbeya and Songwe regions. Photo: PMO

# Elephants: Mvomero's MP objects to inaction

**FROM PAGE 1**  
 ought to be done in collaboration with various stakeholders, in view of the need to take up the control of destructive wildlife in line with the 2020-24 guidelines in the national strategy.  
 Mvomero district authorities had provided wildlife rangers to liaise with other wildlife conservation agents to control destructive wild animals, especially elephants, she said, noting that for the October 2020 to December 2022 various initiatives were conducted in that regard.  
 These include patrols in which

3,284 instances were recorded against 264 incidents involving sightings of destructive and fierce animals in Mvomero District, including Lubungo Ward and Mlali Division.  
 Similarly, exercises involving 4,151 people were carried out on the best way to block or dissuade elephants seen in the distance or already near village settlements and farms.  
 TAWA had constructed a control centre where the personnel dispose of four motorcycles and a work vehicle at SangaSanga Village to move rapidly to the scene of events when incidents are reported, the official added.

# Ramaphosa lets Samia lead joint Africa delegates for Davos meet

**FROM PAGE 1**  
 annual meeting is attended by global political and business leaders, celebrities and prominent social activists. It is taking place at a time when the world economy is under extreme stress, reeling from high inflation, an energy crisis and other supply disruptions caused by the war, and a resurgence of COVID-19 in China.  
 WEF founder Klaus Schwab said that economic, environmental, social and geopolitical crises are converging and conflating, creating an extremely versatile and uncertain future, at a media briefing. "The annual meeting at Davos shall try to make sure that leaders do not remain trapped in this crisis mindset," the prominent business strategist and former academic affirmed.  
 The five-day meeting, which convenes under the banner of

"Cooperation in a Fragmented World," will see over 50 heads of state and government take part. Among the expected guests are German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.  
 Some recently elected leaders, including South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Colombian President Gustavo Petro and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines are also expected.  
 As in 2022, the Russian House in Davos will remain closed after the WEF froze relations with Russia.  
 There will be no participation from Russia, as the country's politicians and business leaders remain shunned from the meeting. The WEF froze its ties with Russian entities last year after Moscow invaded Ukraine in late February.  
 Ukraine will, once again, be sending a high-level delegation.

However, organizers have refused to share further details for security reasons.  
 The 53rd edition of the Davos meeting takes place amid one of the steepest economic slowdowns of this century, with the head of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, warning that a third of the global economy could be hit by a recession this year.  
 The conflict in Ukraine and Western sanctions against Russia has led to an unprecedented energy crunch. While inflation in advanced economies such as the US and the Eurozone seems to have peaked, it remains uncomfortably high, forcing central banks to stay on course with aggressive rate hikes. That means higher borrowing costs in the face of a slowing economy, and it also risks worsening a global debt crisis in developing countries, including in Africa.  
 The World Bank has warned that

the current economic crisis could cause poverty to rise in sub-Saharan Africa, which is already home to about 60% of the world's extreme poor.  
 An annual risks survey published by the WEF on Wednesday put the global cost of living crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine as the top immediate risk, saying energy and food supply crunches are likely to persist for the next two years.  
 The meeting in Davos "will happen against the most complex geopolitical and geo-economic backdrop in decades," said WEF President Borge Brende. "There really is a lot at stake when it comes to the global economy to make sure that we avoid a global recession, how to avoid low growth, high inflation and high debt."  
 A record 56 finance ministers are coming to Davos this year, and so are 19 governors of central banks.

# Treasury: Natural resources saved Tanzania's economy

**FROM PAGE 1**  
 prospects in the tourism industry, saying that 'The Royal Tour' documentary premiered by President Samia Suluhu Hassan had contributed substantially to enhance prospects for promoting the tourism industry.  
 Tourism was a pillar in the

stability of foreign currency reserves, along with growth poles like agriculture, natural resources, natural gas and transportation, with the port of Dar es Salaam having the potential for major income earners owing to its pivotal location in relation to trade flows of nearby landlocked countries.

# BMH to conduct urinary tract stones screening

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) has called upon patients with colic pain in the loin and groin and those who experience symptoms like nausea, vomiting, chills, repeated UTI, and blood in urine to go for screening.  
 The call was made at the hospital's renal and urology department which is scheduled to start screening patients with urinary system stone next Monday as it prepares for a professorship surgical programme which will run from January 22 to 29 this year.  
 Head of urology department, Dr Remigius Rugakingira said that, two urology professors from General Hospital in Vienna-Austria, Prof Mesut Remzi and Prof Christian Seitz will jet in Dodoma to mentor, teach and give hands on endourology operations (Nephrectomies and Stone management).  
 Dr Rugakingira appealed to the public to turn up in large numbers, because scientifically many people experience kidney stones at least once in their lifetime.  
 He said if preventive measures are not taken at least half of them will experience a similar problem in seven years.  
 "The hospital is providing an opportunity for diagnosis and treatment using modern technologies," he said.  
 "Before mulling over treatment, kidney stone patient must undergo series of investigations including urine analysis, blood test with specific interest to renal functions, and diagnostic investigations such as Abdominal pelvic X-Ray, Ultrasound, and CT-Scan, mainly to find the anatomical nature of the

kidney, ureter and urinary bladder," he said.  
 The Urologist noted that, the series of diagnoses assist to identify whether there is kidney stone, where it is positioned, and its state (its hardness or softness), which will then help the surgeon to decide the model of treatments.  
 Accordingly, there are various interventions that may range from medical expulsive therapy (MET), lifestyle modification, and surgery.  
 The Benjamin Mkapa Hospital is an ultra-modern health centre, which uses high-tech in treating kidney stones among other treatment methods.  
 Explaining about ureteroscopy (URS) laser urinary stone management, Dr Rugakingira said, it is performed with the patient under general anaesthesia.  
 "During the procedure a ureteroscopy (a long and thin scope with a tiny fiber optic camera at the end that allows the surgeon to see beyond the bladder into the ureters) is inserted through the urethra and the bladder to the ureter (a tube that carries urine from the kidney to the bladder), after locating the stone we deploy laser fiber to hit the stone into small pieces, before they are extracted," he explained.  
 After the procedure, renter and urethra are catheterised, unlike open surgery, with URS it is expected that 24 hours will be enough for the patient to return home.  
 Inadequate water intake vs body use, genetic reasons, bed ridden patients, gout, excessive medication, resection of the bowel, and food intake, like Vitamin C, spinach, and meat are few of the many risk factors for kidney stones.



Fatma Somji, a representative of Who is Hussein? (a foundation), makes remarks in Dar es Salaam at the weekend after distributing exercise books her agency donated in collaboration with local NGO Women in Development Efforts Organisation (WAJIKI) to students of the city's Vingunguti Secondary School. With her are Wajiki director Janeth Mawinza (in reflector jacket) and the school's headmistress, Phoebe Kayumbo. Photo: Correspondent Halfan Chusi

# At least 67 killed in Nepal plane crash

**KATHMANDU**  
 THE Yeti Airlines ATR 72 plummeted into the steep gorge, smashed into pieces and burst into flames as it approached the central city of Pokhara on Sunday morning, in Nepal's worst aviation disaster since 1992.  
 The cause of the crash was not yet known but a video on social media -- verified by AFP partner ESN -- showed the twin-propeller aircraft banking suddenly and sharply to the left as it approached Pokhara airport. A loud explosion followed.  
 Nepal, which has a poor record

on air safety, observed a day of mourning on Monday for the victims.  
 Soldiers used ropes and stretchers to retrieve bodies from the 300-metre (1,000-foot) deep ravine late into the night, with recovery efforts continuing throughout yesterday.  
 Officials said 69 bodies had been recovered so far, with autopsies on 24 ongoing. The plane was carrying 68 passengers and four crew when it went down.  
 "We pray for a miracle. But, the hope of finding anyone alive is nil," senior local official Tek Bahadur KC

told AFP.  
 Debris from the airliner was strewn across the crash site, including the mangled remains of passenger seats and the plane's white-coloured fuselage.  
 Raj Dhungana, the uncle of one of the plane's passengers, 23-year-old Sangita Shahi, told AFP outside a hospital in Pokhara that his whole family "is in pain".  
 He described a "very talented" young woman who was a student in Kathmandu, and also ran a makeup studio and worked on an online business platform on the side.  
 "God has taken away such a nice

person," he said.  
 The passenger manifest included five Indians, four Russians, two South Koreans, and one person each from Argentina, Australia, France and Ireland. The rest were Nepalis.  
 "Incredibly sad news," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese tweeted. Indian premier Narendra Modi also expressed his condolences.  
 The ATR 72 was on a flight from the capital Kathmandu and hit the ground between Pokhara's brand-new international airport and the old domestic one shortly before 11:00 am (0515 GMT) on Sunday.

AGENCIES



Home Affairs minister Hamad Yussuf Masauni, who is also legislator for Kikwajuni in Zanzibar, on a routine tour of the constituency yesterday. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

## Education stakeholders in Singida municipality urged on environment, cleanliness for students

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

EDUCATION officers, head of schools and teachers in Singida municipal council have been insisted to strongly supervise individual and pupils' cleanliness as well as the environment so as to make the areas smart and free from diseases.

Jeshi Lupembe, the acting municipal executive director made the directive during the weekend here when speaking to the leaders at a meeting aimed to evaluate strategies to improve and supervise education in the municipality.

According to him, supervising the general hygiene in schools will not only protect children and the community from diseases but also increase the attractiveness of the environment in the schools.

"Teachers and responsible leaders should fulfill their obligations that promote issuance of quality education which include making the school environment clean and attractive so as to make children learn smoothly," he said.

He also emphasized heads of schools to supervise ethics to teachers and pupils as this is a basic thing that will help the country achieve its targets in improving the education sector and increase performance in classes and examinations.

In addition, Lupembe wanted heads of schools and teachers to supervise well funds issued by the government to cover operations of the facilities by making sure that they are directed to the intended areas and help children to learn in a comfortable environment.

"Teachers should also spend the after work time by engaging in other income generating activities

that will provide them extra funds to help them after retirement," he added.

The acting DED further said that the municipality in Singida Region has recorded a number of achievements which include registering a new primary school, constructing three secondary schools where one is a high school.

"We have constructed 50 new classrooms where the government issued 1bn/- for the job. We also constructed a health centre in Mtipa ward using internal revenues," he asserted.

Omar Maje, district education officer (primary) wanted the head of schools, ward education officers to change and stop practicing 'business as usual' work so as to bring transformation in the education sector.

Maje said that the government has initiated a new system to sign contracts with heads of schools so as to promote hard work and increase performance.

"We want to bring changes in the sector, we want to see our children learning and achieving their education dreams, so we will continue strengthening efforts to ensure that everyone plays his/her role effectively," he added.

Maje directed ward education officers to stay in their workplaces so as to supervise education activities and set a day per week to submit reports at the municipality.

*"Teachers and responsible leaders should fulfill their obligations that promote issuance of quality education which include making the school environment clean and attractive so as to make children learn smoothly"*

## Torita invents safer tobacco-drying method

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE Tobacco Research Institute of Tanzania (TORITA) has invented an alternative method to dry tobacco by using coal instead of wood fuel aimed at reducing environmental degradation from cutting down trees.

The new method for drying

tobacco involves the use of small bricks and crops husks that produce dried tobacco of high quality for both internal and foreign markets.

Addressing reporters at a training seminar here yesterday, senior Tobacco researcher Anthony Dunda said the method has been obtained after seeing that there is environmental destruction going


on by using wood fuel to dry the crop. He explained that tobacco is the second cash crop for the country, it contributes to 17 per cent to the GDP hence it is better for it to be appropriately managed.

TORITA acting human resources officer, Rascovia Project said challenges facing them include shortage of staff, as well they lack

office space and farms.

However, she said they have held talks with TARI and Agriculture Ministry officials to get a land plot but so far without success, adding that they are not despairing.

She said they are still stuck with the challenge and they continue to work hard to get office space and land for farms.



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- Awe na uzoefu wa kuanzia miaka 2 na kuendelea
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## Impacts of climate change likely to fuel human-wildlife conflicts

By Guardian Reporter

THE on-going impacts of climate change are likely to fuel human-wildlife conflicts as animals will be forced to enter human habitations in search of water and pastures.

Experts are worried over risks of losing the existing biodiversity because the negative impacts of climate change will contribute to disappearance of wild animals because they will not be able to withstand the changes.

In his presentation on climate change during two-day training to journalists on biodiversity conservation in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region recently, USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili, Landscape Planning and Biodiversity Specialist, Joseph Olila said if the situation is left uncontrolled, it will lead to increased conflicts between the wild animals and humans.

The training which includes 25 journalists from different media houses in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar was organised by the Journalist's Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) as part of the biodiversity conservation project supported by the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Initiative.

Olila added that there are some animals that cannot withstand climate change whereas some of them including frogs and chameleons cannot withstand heat, hence the need to preserve natural resources.

He said that to overcome the challenges, there are some important strategies that have to be implemented, including good land use plans to make sure there are animal passages to allow them to move from one place to another.

According to him, the nation must have strategies to support living organisms including wild animals for them to withstand climate change.

He said that there is no animal that is not important in the ecological system, and that once an animal is lost in the system, it poses

risk to their survival as they will lack some important ecological services, including food.

He gave an example of the bee which is a small creature but it is of great importance to the food crop production chain. He said that absence of bees may affect production of food crops and other plants, hence to ensure they do not disappear.

He said that due to climate change, animals move and come out of protected areas in search of pastures and water, a situation which endangers their lives and makes it easy for poachers to attack and kill them.

Olila insisted on the need for stakeholders to enhance preservation of natural resources due to its great contribution to the economy as well as the society. He said efforts should be directed to fight against poaching at protected areas.

JET Director, John Chikomo said the training aimed to furnish journalists with sufficient knowledge on corridor conservation issues particularly wildlife connectivity, marine and forest conservation, trafficking and poaching.

"We have equipped journalists with the right knowledge, skills, and attitude to be able to conduct investigative reporting on biodiversity conservation, combating wildlife crime, and climate change issues," he said.

Chikomo said journalists attained capacity and knowledge on corridor conservation to effectively investigate, report and analyse wildlife connectivity towards promotion of wildlife conservation and tourism issues.

He urged journalists to use their profession to ensure Tanzanians are aware of the importance of conserving natural resources as well as the effects of climate change.

"Environmental destruction which includes cutting down trees are among the factors contributing to climate change," he added.



Singida regional commissioner Peter Serukamba assists an Iramba District resident in carrying a bucket of tap water during yesterday's launch of one of the water projects meant to serve Kaselya, Zinziligi and Maluga villages. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

## Over 5,900 children in Coast Region dropped out of school last year - data

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

A TOTAL of 5964 primary and secondary school children in Coast Region are claimed to have dropped out of school due to various reasons including pregnancies.

This is according to statistics for between January and December 2022 where a total of 184 children dropped out of school due to pregnancy.

Regional education officer Sara Mluki revealed this over the weekend here when presenting a report before the members of parents' union council on the challenges facing the education sector.

She said that truancy was still a major challenge in the education sector, something which needs stronger efforts to address.

According to her, the number of dropouts is high in the region with lack of meals, long distance and poverty cited as among the major challenges pushing children out of school.

"The sector is still facing a number of challenges, many girls are walking long distances to reach schools every day, but also lack of meals in schools also affect attendance as pupils spend the whole day without eating and end up starving of hunger and not concentrating in their studies," she explained.

She stressed on the need to put much effort in the area of providing meals in schools so as to keep all children in school. "Embarking into serious school-meal programmes will also help children grow healthier

and eventually improve their performance in classes, this a big problem to most of our schools here," she said.

On registration of pupils, the official said that leaders and teachers have done a tremendous job where on the part of pre-primary school children, the registration has reached 104.1 percent and 99.4 percent while standard one pupils.

Elisante Msuya, secretary of the union said that the council was organised for the aim to conduct an election, train members on environment, education and children upbringing.

"We have also discussed and agreed to reach villages and parents educating them on the importance of education, emphasizing to them



to protect their children and invest in proper care so as to enable the group to grow well and achieve their development goals," he said.

He said that the union should work closely with the government to address challenges facing the education sector which include coming up with solutions to facilitate availability of food in schools.

Chairman of the union in Bagamoyo District, Abubakar Mlawa advised each council to set bylaws so as to fight parents who are not taking measures for children who do not attend school and those who fall pregnant.

Mlawa said that by doing so, will enable everyone to be responsible and play a required role to ensure that children are registered to school and complete their studies.

Selina Koka, member union said they expect to conduct a special tour in branches to educate parents on proper children care and development.

 	
<b>TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MOTOR VEHICLES, PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NUMBER ICAP/TZ/01/2022-2023. SUPPLY AND DELIVERY MOTORVEHICLES - 4WD STANDARD DOUBLE CABIN - 5 UNITS.</b>	
Introduction	MSPH Tanzania LLC, known as ICAP, is a non-governmental organization operating in Tanzania since 2004, with funding mainly from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health is the recipient of a five-year PEPFAR-funded cooperative agreement beginning 29th September 2021 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support comprehensive community- and facility-based HIV and VMMC services in Mwanza region. MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP intends to procure assets for THIS project under PEPFAR/CDC awarded funding.
General	The vehicle shall be brand new, not more than 12 months from date of manufacture
Main Dimensions	Technical Specifications, Gross Weight 2,900 - 3,000 kg, Ground clearance 310 - 330 mm iii) Seating capacity not less than 5 seats.
Engine	Specification: 4WD Standard Double Cabin, Diesel engine, 4-cylinder, turbo charged water-cooled, displacement 2,300 - 2,800cc and developing not less than 90 HP
Transmission	4WD, with high and low range, 6 - 8 speed manual or automatic reverse gear inclusive
5. Steering	RHD, Power assisted, collapsible steering wheel column
Brake systems	Hydraulically operated, power assisted, ventilated disc front and rear, ABS. Hand/foot/electric or button operated mechanical parking brake acting on propeller shaft or rear wheels.
Front Suspension	Double wishbone with coil springs and stabilizer bar, or rigid axle with coil springs and telescopic shock absorbers or electric air suspension.
Rear Suspension	Rigid axle, four link type with coil OR leaf spring stabilizer bar and telescopic shock absorbers or electric air suspension.
Body	Rust protected, impact absorbing chassis and steel body structure, interior and all seat leather or cloth upholstery, soundproof and carpets all round, 4 doors, side impact protection beams, central door and power windows, front seats manually/automatic adjustable, second row transverse passenger seat, Driver and passenger air bags (SRS).
Accessories	Not less than 70 litres, 225/70 R17 or its equivalent, fitted with tubeless tyres and include but not limited to seat belts on all seats, front seat belt warning, electronically tuned radio AM/FM with DVD player or USB port, power sockets 12V, front and rear 12V DC accessory connector, front arm rest and head rests all seats, air conditioner, side, and rear steps, high mounted stop lamp, door lamps, sun visor with mirror and lights, spare tyre underneath with lock, jack, towing hooks, wheel spanner, fire extinguisher, operator's manual in English and a set of tools for minor repairs.
Bidders will be required to submit the following documentation.	Business introduction letter, Company profile, Valid business license, Tax identification number (tin), Valid tax clearance certificate, Value added tax registration certificate (if any), Certificate of incorporation (if any), Article of association (if any), Manufacture authorization, Memorandum of association (if any), Experience justification & a recommendation letter from reputable organization.
Note	The public tender opening will be made in the presence of all bidders or their official representatives, we encourage all bidders to attend through zoom call and Zoom Call link will be sent to all who applied in advance of the meeting. Bids not received and opened in public at the public bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances. The tender validity period is 14 days. Selection criteria will be lowest price, technically evaluated/ acceptable based on technical specifications and other criteria described above. MSPH Tanzania reserve the rights to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instructions. MSPH reserves the rights to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition, MSPH will be contacting all those that have submitted quotes to confirm contact person, address and to confirm if the bid was submitted for this solicitation. The evaluation of bids will be conducted as per MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP Procurement Guidelines.
Application procedure	Interested and eligible vendors should email their electronic quote via email to procurement department at <a href="mailto:TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu">TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu</a> The Internal Tender Committee (ITC), MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP at Columbia University, Jangid Plaza 7th Floor - Chaburuma Road, P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania, all quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings. The deadline for the submission is 10:00am East Africa Time on 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023.

## Catholic priest burned alive in Nigeria's hard-hit north

ABUJA

GUNMEN killed a Catholic priest and abducted five worshippers in two separate attacks in central and northwestern Nigeria over the weekend, police said.

Around 02:00 GMT in the village of Kafin-Koro (centre), in Niger State, armed individuals locally referred to as "bandits" set fire to the residence of a priest, who was burned to death, said Wasiu Biodun, spokesman for the police in the state.

They set fire to the house of Father Isaac Achi, after failing to gain access. "Unfortunately, the bandits set the house on fire, while the said Reverend Father was burnt alive," he said.

The assailants shot and wounded another priest as he tried to escape: "The lifeless body of Father Isaac was recovered while Father

Collins was rushed to hospital for treatment," the spokesman added.

In another attack a few hours later, "bandits" broke into a house in the village of Dan Tsauni (Kankara district, northwest), Katsina State, and abducted five worshippers preparing to attend Sunday mass in a nearby church.

"The terrorists seized five people in the house, shot a priest in hand and fled with the five hostages," state police spokesman Gambo Isa said, adding that the priest was taken to hospital for treatment.

Nigerian authorities are struggling to stem rising violence in the north and central regions where armed groups target rural communities, killing thousands and abducting people to ransom. Residents said that security forces are often outnumbered and outgunned and suspects are

seldom detained.

The attacks sometimes target religious figures such as clerics. In July last year, Rev. John Mark Chietnum was killed after he was kidnapped in the northwestern Kaduna state.

Sunday's incident sparked international condemnation. In a statement, Antonio Tajani, the Italian foreign minister, called the attack "cowardly and inhuman."

Niger state Gov. Abubakar Sani Bello said the killing signaled that no one was safe. "These terrorists have lost it and drastic action is needed to end this ongoing carnage," he said.

Nigeria's Christian Association has asked authorities to investigate and do more to protect civilians. "Enough of the attacks and wanton killings of innocent Nigerian citizens," said Bulus Yohana, the association's chairman.



Mountain guide Silvano Silva (R) poses for a photo at Mount Kilimanjaro's Stella Point at the weekend with a foreign tourist he was attached to. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

# Drug trafficking case against ex-Simba goalkeepers' coach is back to investigation stage

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

A drug trafficking case facing former Simba Sports Club goalkeeping coach Mwalami Sultan and others has been returned to the investigation stage after the prosecution side received more information about the case.

On January 2, the prosecution side told the Kisutu magistrate court that investigations were complete and that information had been sent to the High Court.

However, the State Attorney Caroline Matemtu claimed before resident Magistrate Richard Kabate that there is information

they have received which they are working on.

Matemu requested that the case be returned to the investigation process and that the process to take the case to the High Court be postponed until the investigation was complete.

Kabate postponed the case which was being held through video conference up to January 30 until the investigations were complete.

Mwalimu and 10 others were arrested in November last year by the Tanzania Drug Control Enforcement Authority (DCEA) for allegedly being in possession of

34.89kg of heroin and 50 biscuits made from marijuana.

The other suspects in the case includes owner of Cambiasso Sports Academy in Tuangoma, Kambi Zuberi seif, Said Matwiko a resident of Magole, Maulid Mzungu aka Mbonde (54) a resident of Kisemvule and John John aka Chipanda (40) a scout at Cambiasso Sports Academy

Others are Rajabu Dahabu (32) a resident of Tabata, Seleman Matola Said (24) a resident of Temeke Wailes, Hussein Pazi (24) a businessman and Ramadhani Chalamila (27) a resident of Kongowe.



Flaviana Matata Foundation founder Flaviana Matata (standing, in sunglasses) has a word with students of Dar es Salaam's Turiani Secondary School recently barred from continuing with classes for various reasons. FMF has been working closely with the government in creating conditions to support such youth. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Farmers in Lushoto District called upon to use subsidised fertiliser for bigger harvests

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

FARMERS in Lushoto District have been urged to effectively use the fertiliser they receive from the subsidy programme to maximize their produce.

The call was made by Lushoto district commissioner Kalist Lazaro when he addressed residents of Mwangoni and Dule Wards in Lushoto during a public rally.

Lazaro reminded the residents to use the agriculture inputs profitably to ensure that they guarantee their households food security.

The DC also inspected development projects within Mlalo district where he also visited hard

to reach areas such as Kifulio village in the district which received 40m/- for construction of classrooms.

During the visit, Lazaro also visited the newly opened Rashid Shangazi which is expected to start receiving form one student this year.

Lazaro inspected the school and directed that quick steps be taken to ensure that the remaining infrastructure was finalised for the school to start operating.

He also visited Dule ward and Mwangoni where he inspected construction of Majulai-Mlesa and a bridge which cost about 250m/- which is about to be finalised.

Speaking when addressing the councilors who are affected by the

projects to ensure they keep a close eye so that the project is finalised.

The DC inspected Sabasaba Bridge, which connects Mwangoni and Dule through Mwangoni ward.

Lazaro hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for setting aside funds to support the projects which has ensured that the projects are finalised on time.

He also commended the Mlalo legislator for how he has been representing the people of Mlalo through the delivery of various projects.

He also commended the people of the constituency on how keen they are on implementing development projects despite the challenges which they are facing.

## Education officials, teachers to work hard to improve examination results

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

TEACHERS and education officers at ward, district and regional level in Ruvuma Region have been called to work hard and professionally to make sure students' examination passes in both primary and secondary schools are increased.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by the Minister of State in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Angela Kairuki in a speech read on her behalf by Namtumbo District Commissioner Dr Francis Ningu at a meeting that met to assess activities in the education sector in Ruvuma Region aimed at making improvements thereon.

In the speech, Kairuki also assured the meeting participants that the government continues to implement various projects for the improvements, both short

and long term in the education sector including construction of classrooms for both primary and secondary schools.

The minister also called upon all teachers and education officers at all levels in the region to work together in making sure student's academic standard is enhanced in order to have good examination pass marks in Std IV, STD VII, Form II, Form IV and Form VI.

She noted that despite great achievements by the government towards the education sector, there are also reports regarding challenges that hinder the realisation of goals set by the government in the enhancement of education standards as there are pupils who do not know how to read, write and do simple arithmetic for STD I and II pupils.

She said in regard to the English subject, pupils finish STD VII without mastering the basics of the language despite its being

the language for instructions in secondary schools.

Kairuki added that every teacher in his/her area should see the importance of setting his/her own goals in the subjects they teach in order to make sure no students fail to gain the basic knowledge in their subjects.

She called upon education officials that from now on they should direct themselves more in the monitoring of teachers as well as solving the challenges they face.

Earlier, at the meeting attended by Ruvuma Region school heads, and education officials at all levels, Acting Permanent Secretary and Assistant Director in PO-RALG, Suzan Nusu said she was dismayed by the poor results in Std IV, VII and Forms II and IV examinations and cited one school, Semeni Primary School in Namtumbo District that saw the entire class being directed to repeat the classes.



Michenzani Mall  
3rd Floor, Office 306  
Michenzani - Zanzibar

### Advert

#### Prequalification of Suppliers and Services Providers for the Year 2023

##### 1 About NAD Zanzibar

The Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD) is a rights-based advocacy organization of persons with disabilities. Our vision is a society for all, where people with disabilities have the same opportunity as other people and can live according to their own wishes, abilities, and interests. We have our head office in Oslo - Norway and branches in Zambia, Uganda, and Zanzibar

In 2022, we started our direct operations in Zanzibar and were registered as a branch of foreign society by the Registrar of Societies under the Act no 6 of 1995. In addition to the current partnership with MECP-Zanzibar in the areas of Human Rights Advocacy (HRA) and Inclusive Education (IE), NAD - Zanzibar has initiated another project in the inclusive Economic Employment Program (EEP). NAD Zanzibar coordinates the KIJALUBA iSAVE Zanzibar Project which is implemented as a partnership between TAMWA and SHIJUWAZA

NAD - Zanzibar receives its funding from the NAD - Head Office - Oslo and is treated as a subgrantee of the Head Offices. The main donor to NAD is NORAD.

##### 2 Task

NAD - Zanzibar wishes to establish a prequalified list of suppliers and service providers who will be readily available to provide quality goods and services at reasonable prices on demand. The selected businesses will be the first to be called upon to provide their quotations during the procurement process. For the repetitive supplies and services, NAD - Zanzibar will get into a service agreement with the preferred businesses in the list to provide goods and services on certain agreeable terms.

NAD - Zanzibar wants to do business with trustworthy business entities that have a legal presence in the country and are fully compliant with all business regulations of the country.

##### 3 Scope of Work

NAD - Zanzibar invites the business entities for the following goods and services to apply for the prequalification positions for the period of 2023 - 2024.

S/N	SERVICE CATEGORY	LOCATION
1	Stationeries and office supplies	Unguja and Pemba
2	Catering Services / Restaurant	Unguja and Pemba
3	Printing (books, periodicals, posters, etc.)	Unguja and Dar-es-salaam
4	Large Format Printing	Unguja, Pemba and Da-es-salaam
5	A travel agency - Air Tickets, Boat Tickets, and Buses	Unguja, Pemba and Dar-es-salaam
6	Freight/Currier services	Unguja, Pemba and Dar-es-salaam
7	Tours/car hire/taxis	Unguja and Pemba
8	Vehicle Fuel	Unguja and Pemba
9	Vehicle maintenance and repair	Unguja
10	Electric equipment repair (Unguja)	Unguja
11	Meeting and Conference Halls	Unguja and Pemba
12	Drinking water and office refreshments	Unguja
13	Premises maintenance (water, electricity, painting, etc.)	Unguja
14	Vehicle insurance	Unguja
15	Internet service Unguja and Pemba	Unguja
16	Computers, Printers, Projectors, Mobile phones, Tablets, and other IT equipment	Unguja and Dar-es-salaam
17	Premises Cleaning Services	Unguja
18	Other Supplies/Services that of interest (Please specify)	Unguja, Pemba and Dar-es-salaam

##### 4 Application

Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications including contact details on or before the close of business Friday, 27th January 2023 to the Procurement Committee of NAD - Zanzibar.

The application should specify the business entity details such as VAT registration, TIN No., Brief company profile, copy of Certificate of Incorporation, specified category of service/product dealt in, list of previous customers and referees, banker's details, and functional bank numbers, and declaration of conflict of interest.

The application should be physically sent to: NAD - Zanzibar Offices

**Michenzani Mall**  
**3rd Floor, Office 306**  
**Michenzani - Zanzibar.**  
**For clarification call +255 776 883 668**

## Mine in Kahama signs pact to improve employees' welfare

By Guardian Reporter

BARRICK Bulyanhulu gold mine in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region has signed a collective bargain agreement with its employees aimed at improving their welfare.

The signing of the ceremony with Barrick gold mine located in Msalala council and the Tanzania Mines, Energy, Construction and Allied Workers Union (TAMICO) was held over the weekend.

Kahama District Commissioner, Festo Kiswaga witnessed the signing ceremony in which the side of the mine was represented by the general manager Cheick Sangare and workers were represented by TAMICO Secretary General Paternus Rwechungura.

Speaking at the event, Rwechungura said that the agreement has come after long discussions between the management of the mine and TAMICO.

He said that the agreement is aimed at improving the interests of Barrick employees by giving them their entitlements and benefits after retirement and incentive funds for the education of their children.

Rwechungura, said that he is pleased to see that the management of the mine has seen the importance of this agreement which will significantly increase work morale, due to promoting good relations at work.

The general manager of the mine, Cheick Sangare, said that the signing of the agreement is a vivid example that the mine is going to work on the agreement, in accordance with the law while asking the workers to fulfill their responsibilities.

"We have agreed with both parties to advance interests, something that we will consider and from you employees, we expect to see that you double your efforts and creativity in work so that we all get mutual benefits in production," said

Sangare.

DC Kiswaga, has hailed the management for consenting to sign the agreement which will also increase workers remuneration which in turn will increase the government's income through the salary tax charged by the revenue authority (TRA).

Kiswaga used the opportunity as well to urge the workers to double their efforts in the production in order to increase the output of the mine by selling a lot of gold in the world market.

The event was also witnessed by the Assistant Labor Commissioner, Andrew Mwalwisi from the Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Youth, Employment and the disabled, who despite commending the achievement of the agreement, has urged all employers in the country to consider paying the new wage rates including the minimum wage as announced by the government.

He said that the minimum wage has increased but there has been a tendency of some employers in private and public companies in the country to ignore the legal requirement to pay the levels directed by the government.



**We have agreed with both parties to advance interests, something that we will consider and from you employees, we expect to see that you double your efforts and creativity in work so that we all get mutual benefits in production**

## Mpango to lay foundation stone for Isaka-Tabora section of SGR

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango is today expected to lay the foundation stone for construction of the Isaka-Tabora section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR).

Dr Mpango will also lay the foundation stone for the Tinde water project, Shinyanga District worth 29bn/- as well as a project for expansion of Shinyanga region hospital.

Acting Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Dr Yahaya Lawanda told journalists yesterday that the fourth phase of the SGR-Isaka-Tabora section has already started, calling upon citizens not to sabotage the project so that it is completed within schedule.

Dr Lawanda who is the Simiyu Regional Commissioner urged residents to wisely grab the various opportunities available at the project which include provision of food services. He said such activities are likely to help them improve their income.

"May I call upon you to grab the available opportunities in this construction project, officials from the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) have promised to give you priority whenever job opportunities occur," he said.

TRC Director General, Masanja Kadogosa said construction of the Standard gauge railway is progressing at all stages from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza. He said contractors are continuing with the job whereas all the sections will be completed in 2026.

He mentioned the sections as the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro, Morogoro-Makutupola, Makutupola-Tabora and the Tabora-Isaka-Mwanza which will all cost the government 16.7trn/-.

He said construction of the SGR section from Isaka to Tabora (165 kilometres) includes 130 kilometres of main roads and 35 kilometres of alternative roads.

An expert from the Turkish firm Yapi Merkezi, Eng Fahad Ismail said the Tanzania Electric Supply

Company Limited (TANESCO) has installed a 220 kilowatts power transmission line whereas electricity will be passed through special systems to only allow 25 kilowatts to be used to run the train once the construction work is completed.

Isaka Ward Councillor Pazi Majuto said they have conducted meetings with the villagers to sensitize them to grab the available job opportunities. He said there will also be a number of unskilled jobs to be offered to the villagers.

Construction of the SGR will link Tanzania with the land-locked neighbouring countries and is one of the major government's flagship projects entailed in the Third Five-Year National Development Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26 (FYDP III).

It will help the country to make optimal use of her strategic geographical location to become a leading regional trade and logistic hub.

Tanzania is accessible through the Indian Ocean, which gives it trade links to Asia and sits in between six landlocked countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia and Malawi) and rely on it as the most efficient point for passage of goods.

The East African nation is also a natural and effective transportation gateway into Eastern, Southern and Central Africa due to its membership in the SADC Free Trade Area and EAC Common Market as well as its rail and road networks.



**It will help the country to make optimal use of her strategic geographical location to become a leading regional trade and logistic hub**



Barrick's Bulyanhulu Gold Mine workers in a group photo at the mine's premises in Kahama District at the weekend with Tanzania Mines, Energy, Construction, Allied Workers Union (TAMICO) secretary general Paternus Rwechungura, Kahama district commissioner Festo Kiswaga and assistant Labour commissioner (in the Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability wing of the Prime Minister's Office) Andrew Mwalwisi. This was shortly after the signing of a collective bargain agreement involving the mine and its employees. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ensure improved packaging of your medicines, traditional healers told

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

THE Chief Government Chemist, Dr Fidelice Mafumiko has asked traditional healers and midwives to ensure proper packaging of their medicines.

Dr Mafumiko made the call yesterday when speaking at a training on safe and effective methods for preparation, processing and sample taking of traditional and alternative medicines.

The training offered to traditional healers and midwives in Kongwa District was by the Union of

Traditional Healers and Midwives in Tanzania (UWAWATA).

He asked them to ensure their medicines are properly packaged and stored instead of using traditional preservation methods that are of good quality and can lead to the products' failure to penetrate into markets.

"I am asking you to improve your products by making them safer while creating an environment that will be attractive to your customers," he said.

Dr Mafumiko warned some traditional healers from ordering their customers to rape their

siblings such as grandmother, children and people with disabilities. He said there are some who have been asking their customers to bring body parts of people with albinism, against country laws.

He said that they should use their knowledge fairly without causing any harm to the people.

Assistant Director (Traditional and Alternative Medicine) from the Ministry of Health, Dr Paul Mheme asked traditional healers and midwives to refrain from acts that are likely to harm their customers.

General Secretary of the Union of Traditional Healers and Midwives in Tanzania (UWAWATA), Lucas Mlipo asked for cooperation from coordinators of traditional and alternative medicine at regional and district levels.

He however urged them to make sure they are officially registered and provided with government licenses.

He asked the government through the chief government chemist to reduce the cost of drug testing per sample, saying the current charges are too high for some of them to afford.



Muheza district commissioner Halima Bulembo (R) pictured at the weekend presenting a tablet for official use to Majengo ward education officer Peris Kilima. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Protect water sources for sustainable supply of clean water, minister urges ZAWA leaders

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTER of state in the First Vice-President's Office, Harusi Said Suleiman has directed leaders of the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) to supervise protection of environment and water sources so as to facilitate sustainable supply of clean and safe water.

He made the directive yesterday when laying the foundation stone for the water project at Dimani area so as to improve and strengthen the water supply system in Zanzibar.

The minister said that massive deforestation and other human

activities conducted in water sources are damaging the environment and threatening the disappearance of natural water sources.

"The government will not tolerate to continue seeing trees falling down damaging the natural vegetation, leaders in all areas should supervise to ensure that the environment and water sources are protected," he said.

Suleiman also wanted ZAWA leaders to ensure that they pay compensation to residents whose properties were destroyed to pave the way for the implementation of

the project.

Dr Salha Mohammed Kassim, Director General of the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) said the project will involve construction of two major tanks where one will have the capacity to store 2.5 million litres of water and the other one will carry 4 million litres benefiting 40,000 residents in the areas of Bwele, Dimani and Fumba.

"We expect that once completed, the project is going to bring huge relief to residents in the areas addressing complete water shortage challenges," she said.

Joseph Kilangi, permanent

secretary, Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals said the project is part of the implementation of the priorities in the CCM election manifesto where the government has been instructed to construct the water tanks in various areas in Zanzibar so as to address water woes.

"The aim is to completely address water shortage challenges by 2025/27."

He wanted residents to protect water infrastructures so as to enable them to last long to benefit more people.

The \$5 million project is being implemented by AFCON Construction Company and has now reached 85 percent and is expected to be launched in March, this year.

# Govt spent 6bn/- to upgrade Mirembe national hospital

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has spent a total of 6bn/- to facilitate a project for the general upgrading of the Dodoma-based Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital (MNMHH), the ministry of Health has said.

Dr Godwin Mollel, Deputy Minister for Health revealed the figure here during his visit to inspect the progress of the ongoing construction of varied infrastructures at the country's famous mental health facility.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan had approved more than 6bn/- to support improvement of the infrastructure and medical equipment at the hospital, adding that he was far impressed to see that the project was at an advantageous stage for completion.

"Make sure you take good care and make sober use of these infrastructures and medical equipment in order to improve, but also provide better services to the public," he challenged the MNMHH's staff.

Dr Mollel also asked all health workers and experts at the historical hospital to apply use of polite and professional language in the course of their daily service delivery.

Together with that, he directed the Medical Store Department (MSD) to ensure it sends orthopedics surgery equipment to the hospital within a period exceeding two months, so that the citizens can start benefiting from the service that they previously followed for a long distance.

"MSD make sure you bring the surgical equipment within two months, you also need to give permission within 24 hours to all health care centres across the country to be able to procure medicines in case the needed medicine are not available at MSD, so as to eliminate preventable inconvenience to the people," he stressed.

Dr Mollel moreover advised the management of the hospital to start mulling on how best to add other health services at the facility, with specific targets to serve for the patients with other health complications apart from those who suffer from mental health problems.

Likewise, the deputy minister

ordered the hospital to be given an ambulance due to the sensitivity of its services, so as to stand a professional side to save the lives of the patients, who require urgent ambulance services.

"I am directing leaders of all hospitals in the country to stop the 'unprofessional' practice of preventing referral patients from any other centre regardless of whether the patient's care is exempt or not, this will help to lessen challenges for patients including preventable deaths," he said.

Meanwhile, the Director of Administration and Human Resources at the Ministry of Health, Deodatha Makani said that as the hospital is heading to become an institution, it was prudent to the involved health workers to embrace a fresh working spirit, with seed and standards.

Mirembe Hospital was opened in 1927 with a total of 29 patients, who were transferred from Lutindi rehabilitation centre. The hospital has a total of 340 beds serving patients with physical and mental illnesses.

The number of patients has been increasing over the years. It has so far served at least 53,946 patients by 2020.

**"I am directing leaders of all hospitals in the country to stop the 'unprofessional' practice of preventing referral patients from any other centre regardless of whether the patient's care is exempt or not, this will help to lessen challenges for patients including preventable deaths"**



Babati Town Council chairman John Noya (2nd-L) and district executive director Anna Mbogo (2nd-R) on an inspection tour at the weekend of houses unroofed by strong winds at Kwankwari and Bashnet in Nar ward. Two Buma Hospital buildings were among those hit. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Government to spend 1.5trn/- for building pre-school and primary school classrooms

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) dealing with education Dr Charles Msonde has said the government expects to spend 1.5trn/- for building of pre-school and primary schools classrooms aimed at boosting the education sector through Boost Project.

Dr Msonde made the disclosure when addressing school heads,

ward, district and regional education officers in Manyara Region.

He said the money has been provided by the World Bank (WB) for the improvements of pre-school classrooms.

Dr Msonde said this year they would not like to hear a student in pre class not understanding anything or a Std I student advancing to Std II without knowing how to read, write and simple arithmetic.

He said up to December last

year, enrolment of pre-school and primary school pupils had reached 75 per cent.

"We must mobilise street to street, house to house to make sure the enrolment is finalised by January 31," he said.

In regard to meals for students, Dr Msonde said this was not a voluntary issue, but that of necessity as it helps improve pupils' understanding of the subjects being taught.

Meanwhile, he appealed to teachers, parents and guardians to

make sure their children remain safe while at home, school and on the routes to school.

He said child abuse should be vehemently fought and extra efforts should be taken to protect the children.

At the meeting, Mbulu district council chairman, Joseph Mandoo said it would be better for both the council and government to pass bylaws to compel parents to contribute towards students' meals.

Children's upbringing and development programme (PJT-MMMAM) launched December 13 2021 explains about a friendly environment in regard to policy and how it has contributed the increase in preschool enrolment to reach 500,000 in one year.

## Farmers advised to disclose avocado thieves from farms

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

THE government in Njombe Region has called upon farmers to disclose people stealing avocados from farms so that stern legal measures are taken against them.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by Njombe Regional Administrative Secretary Emmanuel George on behalf of Njombe Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka at a meeting with farmers.

George said in efforts to fight avocado thieves in farms, the situation that was becoming increasingly alarming in the region, farmers should work together with the government in giving information that will enable the culprits to be caught.

He said avocado thieves have been visiting people's farms, especially during the night and sell their stolen fruits to middlemen.

He noted that farmers have been using great efforts and expenses to plant and take care of their avocado farms but at the end of the day they reap nothing due to thieves.

He said as a first step the government has been interrogating all those who are found selling avocado to buyers to make sure that the fruits are theirs legally.

"Right now, if you sell avocado you will be confronted with questions to know where you get the fruits and if they are yours and the location of your farm," said George.

The Director of Njombe Southern

Highlands Association (NSHDA), Frank Msigwa said in addition to efforts to look for foreign markets of the crop, one challenge that has emerged is that all firms that entered into contracts with the association do not get the avocado as per contract agreements.

George Fute, Clementina Mwepelwa and Abel Mwinuka, avocado farmers in Njombe Region said lack of timely and correct information on avocado prices has contributed to farmers being defrauded of their crop during sale.

"Firstly, avocado buyers should be patient, they should wait until the fruits are ripe and should also be faithful by buying the fruit at a good price," said Clementina.

**"Right now, if you sell avocado you will be confronted with questions to know where you get the fruits and if they are yours and the location of your farm"**



Technicians with Yapi Merkezi, an international contracting company specialising in rail engineering, design, manufacture and construction, pictured yesterday at work along the 165-km Isaka-Tabora stretch of the standard gauge railway project. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## Bank provides 1.4m/- worth of delivery kits to Kahama hospital

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

KAHAMA Municipal Hospital in Shinyanga Region has received delivery kits and soap for pregnant women valued at 1.4m/- from Access Microfinance Tanzania as part of its efforts against maternal deaths.

Handing over the items at the weekend to the hospital doctor in charge, Dr Deo Nyaga, the bank's commercial manager Isaya Mwenisongole said they have provided the items in support of efforts by the government to improve the mother and child health.

He said the bank has the tradition in helping the community from part of the bank's profits, hence they have decided to use the money to purchase the items to be handed over to every pregnant woman visiting the hospital for delivery.

Receiving the assistance, the hospital's doctor in charge Dr Deo Nyaga thanked the bank for the assistance saying they will help pregnant women visiting the hospital to give birth.

He added that maternity wards at the hospital are in need of many things compared to other wards and called upon other stakeholders to also assist in the fight against maternal deaths as well as to mobilise pregnant women to visit the hospital for delivery instead of traditional midwives.

Dr Nyaga said about 40 to 60 women give birth through caesarean operations at the hospital each week while those giving birth in the normal way number more than 200 in one month, hence their requirements are huge.

Cecilia Jerusalem, a mother who gave birth in a normal way at the hospital said she was received and provided excellent service at the hospital and thanked for the assistance provided including soap as it will help her wash her and her infant's clothing.

## Public servants' housing reinforces civil service esteem, professionalism

**T**HINGS are changing between the two sides of the Union as cooperation in various sectors is being strengthened, with reports of a memorandum of understanding being in its final stages to link the Zanzibar and Mainland low cost housing schemes. The National Housing Corporation (NHC) has some track record in that sphere already, and authorities in Zanzibar are eager to follow that same path. Comparing notes and training a range of experts is a helpful starting point as is envisaged under the projected inter agency compact.

On both sides the key idea is the construction of low cost houses that can be purchased by people with average incomes, with this prospective being at the core of proceedings in meetings between officials of the two ministries. As a matter of fact that housing issue is not what it was in the 1960s where such construction was actually aimed at the lowest ranks of the public service, while higher officials had proper housing allocations. This faded in later decades, with rented rooms replacing low cost housing; it remains that way.

Chances that real low cost housing comes up depend on vast changes in the country's capital markets on the one hand and land markets on the other. The urban population is now a lot more significant to total population than it was in the early years, for instance Dar es Salaam became a city in 1961 with 127,000 inhabitants by usable estimates of the period, while the country was somewhere near six million people. The city is now holding nearly six million people (including the period after the latest census) in a 62m population.

Thus the sectoral and public amenities function of what is known as low cost housing will reflect these changes, that it seeks to widen housing opportunities of a breadth of salaried people to live within the city environment in spacious self-contained units. Communal housing has plenty of privations by mixing people of all sorts of attitudes who don't belong to a cadre where authority emanates. Thus self-contained units where occupancy leads to ownership is an aspiration that each new young family holds, without any doubt.

Assurance of a self-contained unit the moment one is employed in the government and hopefully in other spheres of economy is a cardinal requirement of restoring the dignity of the public service. The quality of housing is a significant mark in social identification and respect of a profession, or a participant in such profession, where the means of transport come later, and salary level comes last. When public servants live in rented hovels they can scarcely be mindful of their professional ethics but are more sensitive to gain - to get out.

Zanzibar and the Mainland don't face the same realities on a day to day basis but they are comparable, where Zanzibar budget to population level is relatively low. Yet in some ways Zanzibar has often showed the way in taking up dynamic activity and seeing it through, with its post-revolution public servants' quarter project more ambitious than what was being done in the Mainland at the time. There is greater convergence in governance at the moment and this has paved the way for the NHC-ZHC comparison of notes, MoU thrust.

## DART fares rise not a surprise, while people await decongesting the buses

**F**ORMAL notice of raising fares for the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) bus network by 100/- to 750/- at the weekend were not surprising, in the wake of a rise by a similar margin for commuter buses approved by the regulator (LATRA) in the wake of fuel price pressures starting mid last year. As with commuter buses, fares for school children remain at 200/- per trip. Credit can be given to LATRA for holding back the city rapid bus management which sought for fares slightly above 1,000/- per trip, a punishing demand.

Looking at the figures and the bus network ambitions, and how it evaluates its services, it appears there are gaps of appreciation as to what DART is doing and what city residents expect. To be sure, the proper vocation of the rapid bus transit network has never been clear, and with improved city infrastructure, the network is redesigning itself while it is unclear what options the public actually retains. One 'done' thing is to take the key bus route to Kimara from two city centre points, or rather three, and confine them to the rapid bus system, namely to Kivukoni, Gerezani and Kinondoni, and others will follow, soon.

One curious aspect of expanding the network is to look for new routes when the current ones are under-served, for instance one sees nearly empty DART buses on routes like Mwenge-Shekilango which isn't a strategic route in any sense. It is largely served by commuter buses to Makumbusho from Gerezani, Post Office and Mabibo, while people on the Kimara/Mbezi route to the city have serious problems getting into buses. Even in descending they face unacceptable hassle, which DART is now treating as fully normal.

At the start, opinion was divided as to whether DART would help

decongest the city of private vehicles as the pollution per capita is higher with saloon cars than with public transport. Then a well backed campaign for the opposite effect took root, of how much pollution was caused by commuter buses and how wide-bodied rapid transit buses would solve the problem. This view of things settled down, and the movers of the project during the third phase government actively toyed with abolishing commuter buses for rapid buses.

At the time that the network started its services, the fares were being projected at 1,200/- per trip and orders to this effect continually delayed until a change of government was at hand. Fares were cut by half, Kimara bus services terminated, and Ubungu bus stop moved towards Mwenge, or say on the outskirts of Sinza suburb. The next ambitious destination is Mbagala, a teeming multipoint suburb where the hassle is unsurmountable for years. Yet even with Kimaramany would wish it was an accompanying service to commuter buses, but as a public transport service it can't stand the competition and would definitely fail.

While at the time it was started the rapid bus network cut vehicle congestion on the roads, a revamped network makes things different now. What is perhaps relevant is to allow other wide-bodied to use the rapid bus transit route and on the same terms so that people suffer, like what is being done in the meter-gauge railway services at the moment. This all the same isn't what DART is planning and officialdom is at peace with what there is now. It is up to elected representatives for the Kimara-Mbezi zone, as well as political parties now that they have the field, to seek to change these things; monopoly always incurs suffering.

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By Onyango K'Onyango

**P**RESIDENT William Ruto's Cabinet is under immense pressure to fulfill six-month targets set during last week's retreat in Nanyuki, with focus on five pillars the Head of State has set as his key deliverables in his first term.

Dr Ruto mandated the ministers to set targets, in clusters of ministries in different sectors, based on five key pillars: agriculture; universal health coverage; a digital superhighway economy; access to affordable credit; as well as manufacturing and value addition.

"The President insisted on ministries not behaving as silos, operating under the bottom-up agenda, and ensure that every section sees what they man as part of a value chain basis, not one and end in itself product or service," a senior government official who attended the retreat said.

Since his inauguration, Dr Ruto has set the ball rolling in these five key pillars, including the launch of the Sh50 billion Hustler Fund, granting financial autonomy to the police away from the Ministry of Interior, reintroduction of subsidised fertiliser, rollout of plans to digitise 5,000 government services in six months, as well as plans to put 370,000 acres of Galana Kulalu under crop production in the next six months.

Now, journalists exclusively obtained deliverables set for the different ministries in the retreat where President Ruto is said to have attended all meetings, demanded punctuality in the sessions that started as early as 7:30 am and ended at 9pm.

For ICT CS Eliud Owalo, whose homecoming the President attended is tasked with ensuring the success of the digitisation of government services by June this year, setting up of 25,000 Wi-Fi hotspots, and the daunting task of the revival of loss-making Postal Corporation of Kenya (Posta) Kenya and the giant punching way below its weight, the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation.

The ministry, at the centre of the digital superhighway economy dream, has also been tasked with actualising the dream of the Kenya Open University by May this year, which will offer a total of 128 courses, as well as the setting up of 120,000km of digital superhighway within a year.

In line with his agenda of going slow on the capital intensive development projects, President Ruto has directed Kipchumba Murkomen-led Transport ministry to freeze all the big infrastructural projects which are yet to commence while on the other hand, audit the billions of pending bills, and come up with modalities of payments by June this year.

The Kenya Kwanza administration

## Long, sleepless nights for William Ruto ministers over tough new work targets

plans to revive all stalled projects using a proposed Infrastructure Bond and budgetary provisions while at the same time starting the gravelling of village roads.

The Ruto-led government is also focused on reducing cost of construction by creating Materials Resources department that will be sourcing materials at cheaper rates and Mechanical department to oversee the construction itself.

For Prof Kithure Kindiki, who leads the Interior and National Administration docket, President Ruto has ordered that, within the next six months, he puts measures in place to "improve staff welfare, including career progression and remuneration".

Already, the President has set up a 23-member team led by former Chief Justice David Maraga to review terms of service for police officers and prison wardens.

"The Interior ministry is also tasked to introduce Governance, Justice, Law and Order Sector programme to who listically reform the police, correctional services, national government administration, civil registration services and immigration," the six-month target agreed in the Nanyuki retreat states.

For Prof Njuguna Ndung'u's Treasury, their biggest target in the next six months is the bid to reduce the budget deficit by Sh300 billion for 2023-2024 fiscal year.

At the helm of the ministry that set policies to ensure access to affordable credit as well as to raise the ambitious tax revenue targets, Prof Ndung'u, who has served as Central Bank of Kenya governor, is tasked with the heavy responsibility of ensuring sound fiscal policies to steer growth and increase revenues.

For newcomer Health CS Susan Nakhumicha, her biggest headache is the six-month target to enroll 17 million Kenyans to the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) as well as roll out a health information technology plan to ensure hospitals can share data easily.

For the ministries of Cooperatives and Agriculture led by Simon Chelugui and Mithika Linturi, respectively, President Ruto has directed them to, within a year, double the milk processed at the Kenya Cooperative Creameries from 1.5 million litres daily.

The President also wants talks with 26 cooperatives finalised to ensure they grow maize to avert the shortages faced and bring unga prices down, with an equally ambitious target of modernising all ginners to protect cotton growing and revive Kenya's fledgling clothes industry.

The Ministry of Energy, led by

'comeback kid' Davis Chirchir, has been tasked to provide electricity to 250 schools and markets by June and provide all schools with liquefied petroleum gas by the end of the year.

The government will also be expected to stop buying electricity from an expensive thermal (diesel) power plant that has been selling to Kenya Power at a significantly higher price than others. The ministry has been tasked to ensure power lines like Turkwel-Kitale are completed and the Menengai Geothermal plant to start feeding the national grid.

According to details obtained by the Sunday Nation, the former Kandara MP Alice Wahome-led Water ministry has been tasked with ensuring the beginning of works on the multibillion Karemenu Dam in Gatundu this month, and that of Murang'a's Northern Water Collector Tunnel next month, as the government aims to have construction of 95 dams started in the next six to 18 months as well as having sunk 150 boreholes and 800 pans.

Similarly, Ms Wahome has been tasked with ensuring the review of laws to allow the private sector to help in the building of dams, as well as ensuring the success of the multibillion-shilling Galana Kulalu project, also in partnership with the private sector.

Environment CS Soipan Tuyua has been tasked with planting 1.5 billion trees annually, with Dr Ruto targeting 15 billion in 10 years.

Tuyua, a two-term Narok Woman Representative before her recent appointment, is also required to begin discussions to ensure use of five per cent of National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) is dedicated to environmental issues.

"The first phase will include planting trees on 350,000 acres. It will cost Sh8 million to fence, plant and tend trees on 50-acre piece of land," the six-month target states.

On his affordable housing agenda, President Ruto has put on the spotlight the Zachariah Njeru-led Ministry of Lands and Housing to commission 66 housing projects in partnership with private developers as well as complete all the more than 180 fresh produce markets which have stalled for 10 years and start registering government's immovable assets and issuing title deeds to all institutions of government.

Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Dr Alfred Mutua is expected to come up with a formula to raise diaspora remittance from the current Sh360 billion to Sh1 trillion in five years even as his Labour counterpart Florence Bore

is required to develop a law to prescribe penalties for rogue agents at the centre of the exploitation of Kenyan workers in other countries, especially the Gulf States.

Bore, the former Kericho Woman Representative, has also been directed to increase foreign employment of Kenyans and drafting employment agreements.

"The President was clear that he wants to see even more results after having 'our budget' (Kenya Kwanza budget from July this year). After that, it is either you shape up or ship out," said a CS who requested not to be named.

The President told the parliamentary leadership to accede to the ministries' request in the supplementary Budget coming for consideration when the House resumes next month and whip members to support it.

"The President said once your request has been granted and budget provided, then it will be time for results, no more excuses, as for every public money spent, results must be seen," he said.

The Parliamentary Budget Office has already warned that slashing the 2022/23 financial year budget by Sh300 billion as proposed by President Ruto could have major economic implications.

Dr Ruto's administration is largely relying on increasing agricultural production to arrest the high cost of living, something which the Azimio team is opposing.

"We remind this administration that fertiliser prices going down is not the sole solution to the food production deficit. Our production is being killed by climate change and inadequate rains and water. Without a firm commitment to addressing climate change, soon there will be no mama mbogas because there will be no mboga," said National Assembly Minority leader Opiyo Wandayi.

Prof XN Iraki, an Economics scholar, has termed the measures by President Ruto to turn around the economy as 'bold' but says that over-promises might backfire on him.

"They are simply bold. Since the economy was the main front in the 2022 polls, he must demonstrate his commitment to that. The risk is if he over-promises. But if he delivers on these projects and promises while weaning us from the grip of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) like President Mwai Kibaki, he can start creating an economic legacy," said Prof Iraki of the University of Nairobi.

Like in the economic sector, Dr Ruto's big plan has been put under the microscope, on whether or not the proposals were a key revolutionary moment, or the beginning of a regression.



By Timo Shihepo and Sam Sole for amaBhungane

## Canadian company exploring for oil in Namibia in credibility battle



**R**ECONAFRICA, a start-up oil exploration company with interests in Namibia and Botswana, is fighting for survival as its auditors resign, a cash crunch looms and a New York court battle with disgruntled investors comes to a head.

Descending upon Namibia's environmentally sensitive Kavango East region in 2015 was the easy part for junior Canadian oil and gas company ReconAfrica.

After all, the company was valued at R141-million in 2015. But after it acquired a Namibian oil and gas licence, ReconAfrica's value rose to R25-billion in 2021 when it began its exploration activities, official government documents show.

ReconAfrica owns 90% of the Namibia oil exploration project, while state-owned National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Namcor) owns 10%.

The licence area overlaps with the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area and sits upstream from the Okavango Delta - a unique and ecologically sensitive water course.

Controversially, initial company statements suggested a key part of ReconAfrica's proposal included the search for "unconventional resources" which generally includes shale and other rock formations that require hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") to extract oil and gas deposits.

Fracking injects fluids at high-pressure into a well to crack open deep underground rock formations, allowing previously trapped oil and gas to flow up to the surface.

As a result, fracking is associated with significant environmental and health concerns, including water contamination.

ReconAfrica's share tumbled last year after National Geographic and short-sellers Viceroy Research separately published detailed articles questioning the lack of public consultation and whether ReconAfrica was overselling the viability of the project.

Documents obtained by amaBhungane suggest ReconAfrica has already spent an astonishing R445-million, raised from investors, to drill three test wells.

ReconAfrica also told amaBhungane that the company spent another R133-million on donations, which have been dubbed a "PR contribution" by critics.

Yet despite such lavish spending, the results have been disappointing: the three wells drilled at vast expense have not turned up evidence of a commercially viable oil or gas field.

With mounting debts and C\$77-million (R986-million) left in cash from investors, ReconAfrica management must instead prove to investors, the government and environmentalists that it is not selling a dirty dummy.

The allegation at the core of the New York class ac-

tion suit is that investors were knowingly misled about the company's Namibian prospects to boost the price. To make matters worse, ReconAfrica has been accused of paying for articles, and YouTube endorsements, to drive up the price of its shares.

ReconAfrica management has denied any wrongdoing. "ReconAfrica will continue to remain compliant and apply business best practices in all areas of operation," ReconAfrica spokesperson Ndapewoshali Shapwanale told amaBhungane in November.

She added that "ReconAfrica has not applied for, does not have the intention to, nor been granted or given, permits to allow fracking".

**Class action**  
ReconAfrica's latest credibility challenge flows from three class actions filed by shareholders in Brooklyn, New York. One was withdrawn but the two remain-

ing cases were consolidated into one in April 2022.

The investors allege ReconAfrica issued misleading statements that convinced them to buy shares between February 2019 and September 2021 - shares that have since tanked in value.

The company disputes the allegations, and last month asked the court to dismiss the case, arguing that the charges are all speculative and fail to meet the legal standard.

The investors disagree. "This is a straightforward securities fraud case. Defendants concealed material information from the public about the data from their first two oil and gas test wells, and about their plans to frack in Namibia, while selling millions of dollars of ReconAfrica stock to unsuspecting investors," lawyers for the aggrieved investors wrote in papers filed last month.

After acquiring the Namibian exploration licence, ReconAfrica's share price

increased from \$0.08 (R1.39) in 2015 to a record high of more than \$10 (R174) in 2021 despite finding no oil.

The ReconAfrica deal involves many countries and many currencies. To make it easier to follow, we have added the rand value at Wednesday's exchange rate for US dollars and Canadian dollars.

The major increase, from a price of about \$2.76 (R48) to \$3.54 (R62), occurred after ReconAfrica announced the results of the first test well in April 2021, claiming to have discovered a "working conventional petroleum system", in other words a body of crude oil.

But the company's shares began falling as more results were published.

The major share price plunge occurred after Viceroy Research published its report on 24 June 2021, a month after ReconAfrica drilled its second well. The Viceroy report on ReconAfrica was devastating, noting:

"[ReconAfrica's] mining assets are not highly speculative; they are borderline imaginary. Despite a C\$2bn market cap, [ReconAfrica] has a near-zero chance of finding any asset of value in their exploration site, and an even lower chance to capitalise on any find."

Viceroy is controversial. The short-seller bets against stocks that are targets of its research and then profits if the share price takes a dive based on its published reports. South Africa's Reserve Bank governor Lesetja Kganyago has called Viceroy "a hit squad", but it has made some accurate calls, such as its report on Steinhoff, which flagged irregularities just hours after chief executive Markus Jooste resigned.

In its motion to dismiss, ReconAfrica points out that short-sellers are highly conflicted: "Viceroy's research is ... suspect, to put it mildly."

But the report had two powerful legs: raising serious doubts about Recon's reliance on fracking and voicing highly negative expert views about the results of ReconAfrica's first exploratory well.

It quoted Namibia's Petroleum Commissioner, Maggy Shino, confirming in a recorded interview: "There is no way we will license [ReconAfrica] or any other company to carry out fracking or unconventional hydrocarbon exploration in Namibia."

Shino later made a U-turn, claiming "there is no truth in that report". In response, Viceroy released audio clips from the interviews, including her statements about fracking.

"Hi there, I will get back to you," she said when amaBhungane sent questions to her this month, but since then she has failed to respond.

Taking fracking off the table is potentially devastating for ReconAfrica. Fracking was developed to extract oil and gas from terrain that was previously considered impossible to mine. If the company cannot frack, it could mean that it has over-sold the value of its finds.

## Small women farmers bear brunt of climate-linked events but see little protection from economic crises

By Onke Ngcuka

**C**OUNTRIES have been meeting for 27 years to try to agree on minimising the impacts of climate change, but rural women farmers say these efforts have led to no easing of the extreme climate events that are devastating their lives. They say they are on their own, and have to simply continue to try to farm to sustain their families.

The men migrate to the city and leave the women behind to feed the family, say some of the Southern African Developing Community (SADC) rural farmers when they describe how they earn a livelihood. It is an echo of the patterns of the past, but for many a changed climate has made the current scenario a very different challenge, with great uncertainty about what they face in the future.

Rural women farmers in the region, at the forefront of the climate crisis, are among the most affected by it. Not only do they live in one of the most climate-vulnerable regions on Earth, at the southern tip of the African continent, but they also have first-hand experience of how a changed climate affects the crops in their fields.

The African continent, including the SADC region, is warming at an alarming rate. While the world hopes to keep the increase of global average temperatures below 1.5°C as per the UN Paris Agreement signed in 2015, this is an average that includes oceans which are cooler than land masses. In this scenario, many parts of Africa would have increases of more than 3°C.

For women in agriculture in the region, who have already endured five extreme climate events in the form of cyclones in Mozambique, the slow steps to reduce average global temperature increases is too little, too late.

Flaida Macheze (48) from Mozambique's capital, Maputo and a member of the National Peasants Union said that she and her colleagues suffer more than three climate crisis events each year.

"We've learnt to adapt [because] we must produce (food)," said Macheze.



"We know that even if we go to COP, [if] we bring our declaration and demands forward [because we] we need compensation, we won't get those funds. So what we do is we build our own alternatives."

Macheze was speaking soon after the conclusion of the global climate talks, the 27th Congress of the Parties (COP27), in Egypt late last year where world leaders had gathered to decide the best way forward in tackling the climate crisis. The meeting fell short again in making progress on limiting, or doing away with, fossil fuel use - the single-biggest contributor to the climate crisis.

COP27 saw countries finally concede - after nearly three decades - to setting up a loss and damage fund for developing countries who have faced the loss of livelihoods and huge damage to infrastructure from climate events. Macheze is sceptical, especially since, five years down the line, developed nations have not begun to meet their climate financing goals of providing \$100-billion per year to developing countries by 2025.

Farmers like Macheze say life on the land is hard. "It doesn't rain when you expect rain, and we have dry seasons when we shouldn't. You plant but don't reap. And sometimes, you're left without seeds. We know our government does not distribute seeds [when they have been lost due to climate events]."

To survive, rural farmers like Macheze have come to rely on seed banks and redistribution of indigenous seeds, alongside the support of women farmer organisations. She said that during one of the cyclones in Maputo, a huge plot of land was flooded, with sweet potato, cassava and maize submerged in water. The redistribution of seeds from other women was a saving grace, enabling her to start over.

Africa contributes only about 4% of global emissions, yet it is the hardest hit by the effects of the climate crisis.

Statistics show that more than 60% of Africa's population are smallholder farmers, with women contributing 60% to 80% of labour in food production for households and for sale. Despite this contribution, they remain on the sidelines of economic crisis protection, devel-

opment and climate financing.

"Even though they say that men are providers, it's not true; it's not linear. The women produce to feed their families. So when they are not able to reap, these women can end up in prostitution, just [to provide] food for their families," said Macheze. She said women who had to stand in long lines just to receive a litre of cooking oil in the aftermath of climate disasters, often ended up offering sexual favours to aid administrators to feed themselves and their families.

### 'Marginalised and sidelined'

Although there has been a huge increase in the international focus on women's rights, and their rights to livelihoods, this has not changed the lot of women in rural areas who now bear the brunt of the most urgent issue of our time. They are frequently shut out of access to funds, to credit and to the means to secure land and financial backing from institutions that can help to shield them from the climate crisis.

Yolanda Mulhuini, the executive director of Grupo para o Desenvolvimento da Mulher e

Rapariga (Group for the Development of Women and Girls) and a member of the African Women's Development and Communication Network, said that rural women have long been marginalised and sidelined in key decision-making spaces.

The Mozambican social activist noted that representatives from rural areas are often left out of decision-making because it is assumed that they do not have the relevant knowledge to participate, even though they make a sizeable contribution to food production.

A United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation study of land ownership among women in some of the SADC countries and East Africa, found that women are rarely land owners, and when they do own land, it is smaller and less fertile than that owned by men. Thandiwe Chidavarume, a board member of Women and Land in Harare, Zimbabwe, told Daily Maverick she advocates for women's land rights and trains them in how to make effective use of the land.

"Unfortunately, the work that we are doing is impacted heavily by climate change. Every year in Zimbabwe, we have been experiencing droughts; or the late onset of rainfall," said Chidavarume.

"For 27 years, we have watched the responsible ministers and heads of states meeting to discuss the problem of climate change; but we haven't seen anything that is yielding results. We continue to see an increase in the impact of climate change."

Zimbabwean Memory Kachambwa, executive director of the African Women's Development and Communication Network (Femnet), noted that even though African women spend about 60% of their time on agricultural activities, they continue to be underrepresented in agenda-setting spaces that affect their livelihoods. The inclusion of women in tackling the climate crisis was crucial, she said.

# Zimbabwe farmers turn to drought-resistant grains with maize faltering in drier regions



HARARE

FARMER Gilbert Butau appreciates his maize, but in recent years, he said, he has had to accept reality: Climate change is making it harder to grow enough maize for his family.

"In the past, if I planted 10 kilograms of maize seed, I would get at least 2 tonnes, but now we get 150 kilogrammes from the same amount of seed.

The rain is now erratic – it is getting less every year," said Gilbert Butau, who farms on several hectares of land in Mudzi, a hot, dry district in northeastern Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has had to import maize, a staple food, for the past several years as the country struggles to produce enough to feed its population of 15 million people.

Experts blame more frequent droughts and erratic rainfall, which has led to poor harvests and chronic food insecurity. Over the past decade, the government has tried to wean Zimbabweans off maize in arid parts of the country, encouraging them instead to grow traditional small grains like sorghum and millet, which are more drought-resistant.

But making the switch has not been easy. Producing small grains is more labor-intensive, and most Zimbabweans still prefer the taste of corn to sorghum or millet. Europeans introduced maize to Africa in the 16th century, and Africans quickly took to it because it was easy to grow. It could also be eaten on the cob before being harvested.

Small-grain crops, on the other hand, attract pests, mainly birds, which means someone has to guard the fields against them. They also require more processing, including threshing, the act of separating the grain from the plant.

Done on the ground, this often gets sand in the grain, making it unattractive to eat. Now, diesel-powered threshers are making the chore less labor-intensive, making it more manageable to produce clean grain. Subsistence farmer Zvanyadza Karima, also from Mudzi, owns one. He uses it to thresh his grain – and his neighbors' – for a fee.

"Using the thresher, we do not deal with bits of stone or sticks or sand; it is now clean," he said. He added that guarding the fields against the voracious quelea birds that can quickly destroy a

whole field is now a shared community activity.

More farmers are turning to drought-tolerant small grains. But convincing Zimbabweans to make the switch is challenging. Most people favor ground white cornmeal to prepare a thick porridge, a staple dish eaten all over the country. Gilbert Butau's wife, Faina Butau, is originally from a predominantly maize-growing area.

She said that developing a taste for the small grains was more challenging for her than it was for her six children. "When I moved here after getting married, it was difficult for me, but I am now used to them and prefer sorghum and millet to maize," she said. But Nomuhle Moyo, 26, said she's sticking to maize because the one time he tried sorghum and millet, she didn't like the taste. And the high price of sorghum and millet compared to maize is discouraging.

A kilogram of cornmeal retails at about \$0.70 while sorghum and millet sell at \$2.40 and \$3.90 respectively. As a staple food item, the government controls the price of corn, keeping it more affordable. Many Zimbabweans also hold a common belief that maize is nutritionally superior to traditional grains, but UNICEF nutritionist Mara Nyawo dispelled this myth.

"They are higher in fiber, and the B vitamin, are good for immunity, and reduce the risk of chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure," she said, adding that small grains also reduce the risk of obesity, a growing issue in Zimbabwe.

The government has been working to persuade more farmers in drought-prone areas to grow small grains with incentives. This year, an agricultural program that targets some 3 million households is changing the contents of its free seed packs.

"Because of climate change, farmers in those [vulnerable] areas will get traditional grains that do very well in those areas," explained Stancilae Tapererwa, a senior Agriculture Ministry official. The ministry of Agriculture also encourages the uptake of small grains with a program that encourages farmers to sell their small grains and buy maize at Grain Marketing Board depots across the country, according to Vangelis Haritatos, the ministry's deputy minister.

## Davos 2023: Natural disasters, extreme weather second-most severe global risk in short term, says WEF report

By Kiran Pandey

FAILURE to mitigate climate change' as well as 'failure of climate change adaptation' are the two most severe risks facing the world in the next decade, followed by 'natural disasters and extreme weather events' and 'Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse'.

'Natural disasters and extreme weather events' is also the second-most severe risk that the world needs to be prepared for in the next two years, according to the Global Risks Report 2023 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) January 12, 2023.

Over the next 10 years or by 2033, the interconnections between biodiversity loss, pollution, natural resource consumption, climate change and socioeconomic drivers will make for a dangerous mix, alerted WEF in its flagship annual report.

In the meantime, the current global pandemic and war in Europe has been held responsible for the energy, inflation and food crises. In fact, 'cost of living' ranks as the top most serious global risk in the short term (over the next two

years).

The WEF report has been released ahead of the organisation's flagship annual meeting. This year, it is titled as Cooperation in a Fragmented World and will be held from January 16-20, 2023 at the Swiss resort of Davos.

### What is 'Global risk'?

'Global risk' is defined as the possibility of the occurrence of an event or condition which, if it occurs, would negatively impact a significant proportion of global gross domestic product, population or natural resources, according to the WEF.

The findings by the WEF are concerning since the impact of natural disasters or extreme weather events disproportionately affects low- and middle-income countries. Such events figure among the top five risks in 25 countries, especially developing coastal countries across Latin America, Africa and South-East Asia including India.

In 10 countries, natural disasters and extreme weather events were perceived to be the top most severe risk in the short term or in the next two years, according to the WEF

report.

India recorded extreme weather events on 291 of the 334 days between January 1 and November 30, 2022 according to India's Atlas On Weather Disasters prepared by the Centre for Science and Environment and Down To Earth (CSE/DTE).

This means that the country witnessed an extreme weather event of some sort in one or more of its regions for more than 87 per cent of the time over these 11 months.

These extreme events have a link with human-caused greenhouse gas emissions and the climate crisis as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said in its sixth assessment report. The IPCC assessment, titled Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis dedicated a chapter to weather extremes for the first time.

"Human-caused greenhouse gas emissions have led to an increased frequency and / or intensity of some weather and climate extremes since pre-industrial times," the IPCC assessment had said in 2021.

Climate action, biodiversity loss The world has struggled to make



The Swiss resort of Davos

the required progress on climate change despite 30 years of global climate advocacy and diplomacy, the WEF report flagged.

This has been reflected in the WEF Global Risks Report itself for a decade now. 'Failure on climate action to address climate change' has continued to figure among the top risks in the report since 2011.

Today, atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have all reached record highs. Emission trajectories make it very unlikely that global ambitions to limit warming to 1.5°C will be achieved.

'Failure to mitigate climate change' ranks among one of the most severe threats in the short term too. It is also a significant global risk that the world is least prepared for.

Seventy per cent of the respondents in the WEF report said existing measures to prevent or prepare for climate change have been "ineffective" or "highly ineffective".

Biodiversity within and between ecosystems is already declining faster than at any other point during human history. But unlike other climate-

related risks, 'Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse' has not been perceived to be of concern over the short term. It has been ranked as the fourth most severe risk in the long term or over the next ten years (by 2033).

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted at 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is thus a significant breakthrough as far as global action on biodiversity is concerned.

Growing demands on public- and private-sector resources from these socio-economic short term crises attributed to geopolitical tensions, will likely reduce the speed and scale of mitigation efforts over the next two years.

These have, in some cases, also reversed progress on climate change mitigation, at least over the short term. For example, the European Union spent at least 50 billion euros on new and expanded fossil-fuel infrastructure and supplies. Some countries including Austria, Italy, the Netherlands and France restarted coal power stations.

**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

## Mtwara RC prases Exim Bank's efforts in connecting Tanzania-Comoros businesses

By Guardian Reporter, Mtwara

MTWARA regional commissioner Colonel Ahmed Abbas has called upon business people in the region to take advantage of commercial opportunities between the region and neighbouring countries including Comoro while congratulating Exim Bank Tanzania for being at the forefront of achieving financial services between Tanzania and Comoros.

Speaking yesterday during a short inauguration ceremony for the new Exim Bank branch in Mtwara Region yesterday, Colonel Abbas said despite business opportunities the demand for food products including beans, meat, care and sesame in Comoros, the challenge remains financial services between the two countries.

"I am so pleased to hear that as we are launching Exim's new and most modern branch here in Mtwara, the bank has more than five branches in Comoros and is the leading bank in Comoros. The bank's efforts give me the strength to persuade more business persons in Mtwara to make good use of Tanzania - Comoro business opportunities because the financial services are now there...we are very grateful to Exim Bank," he said.

According to Colonel Abbas, the launch of

the branch has come at the right time when the region is expecting the visit of senior leaders from Comoros who will be accompanied by a big number of business people from the country who are expected to visit the region to discuss business opportunities between the two sides.

Exim Bank's head of branch network, Agnes Kaganda said the decision to further improve the branch aims to support the government's efforts to develop the economy of the region through major investments in the expansion of port services and agriculture sector, a step that stimulates the growth of domestic and international trade, especially between Tanzania and Comoros.

"After seeing the government's efforts and the respect for our customers in Mtwara, we thought it would be better to open a branch in the region. This branch is also in line with the major innovations in modern banking services involving the use of advanced technology in the provision of financial services," she said.

"The products had further increased the speed of banking transactions and increased business volumes," she said.

Speaking on behalf of other customers of the bank in the Mtwara region, Henry Shimo, in addition to congratulating the bank



Mtwara regional commissioner Colonel Ahmed Abbas (2nd R) cuts the ribbon to officiate the launch of an Exim Bank branch in Mtwara municipal. The others include Mtwara DC Dunstan Kyobya (R) and Exim Bank's head of branch network, Agnes Kaganda (3rd R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

for the good services, he urged the bank to look into the possibility of coming up with cheaper interest loans so

that it can attract more customers in the region.

The event was attended by various

stakeholders of the bank in the region, including government officials and customers of the bank.

## Invasive rats are changing fish behaviour on coral reefs - study

By Sally Keith and Rachel Gunn

CORAL reefs are degrading rapidly to the extent that their marine inhabitants must either adapt or die. For many animals, including reef fish, behaviour is one of the first responses to changes in environmental conditions.

Behavioural changes may be critical for predicting the future survival of many animal species. This is encouraging marine scientists to study how, why or when these changes happen.

Much of the existing research into the impact of environmental change on reef fish species tends to focus on increasing sea temperatures and ocean acidification. But some coral reef ecosystems are also threatened by one, more surprising source. An invasive species - the black rat - has overrun many islands in the Chagos Archipelago, a remote group of small islands in

the Indian Ocean. The rats are altering the functioning of surrounding marine ecosystems.

Recent research that we co-authored alongside colleagues from Lakehead University in Canada revealed that these rats are affecting the territorial behaviour of fish by reducing the flow of nutrients from bird droppings into the ocean.

We focused on the jewel damselfish, a small fish that aggressively defends patches of edible algae it cultivates through a process known as "farming". Our research surveyed coral reefs both around islands with high seabird densities and without rats, and islands with low seabird densities and many rats. Jewel damselfish in the seas surrounding rat-infested islands were less aggressive and defended larger territories than those surrounding rat-free islands.

### Invasive rats

The rats, many of which ar-

rived on the Chagos Archipelago on ships in the 18th century, prey on small seabirds and their eggs. This has decimated seabird populations on these islands. Seabird densities are up to 760 times smaller on rat-infested islands than on islands without rats.

But seabirds are a key component of the nutrient cycle. They feed in the ocean and return to the islands to roost and breed where they deposit large quantities of droppings. Their droppings, which are rich in nutrients, are then washed into the sea and onto nearby coral reefs.

By supplementing coral reefs with additional natural nutrients, seabirds are able to fertilise these ecosystems. Rat predation has disrupted this cycle and removed the nutrients provided by seabirds to coral ecosystems.

### Aggressive economics

We found that algae in jewel

damselfish territories next to rat-free islands were richer in nutrients than in territories next to rat-infested islands. However, the total amount of algae within the territories was unaffected.

This means that the quality, but not the quantity, of the food resources available to the jewel damselfish is higher in the waters surrounding rat-free islands. The fish in these territories get "more for their money" when foraging. The quality of nutrients means that fish are able to find all the food they need in smaller territories than fish around rat-infested islands.

But this carries behavioural consequences. We found that jewel damselfish in reefs surrounding rat-free islands were five times more likely to be more aggressive and 70 times more likely to hold smaller territories than those next to rat-infested islands.

The additional nutrients

from seabird droppings in seas around islands with large seabird populations raise the quality of jewel damselfish territories and make them worth defending. The quality of nutrients in these locations means that the nutritional benefits of defending a territory are higher than the energy costs expended by aggressively defending them.

This is not the case for jewel damselfish in seas around rat-infested islands. The disruption to the nutrient cycle here results in lower quality territories that are less worth defending.

### Small fish, big impact

By disrupting the nutrient cycle, invasive rats have directly reduced the aggressive tendencies of damselfish. But this behavioural change may alter the wider coral ecosystem.

The social organisation of blue tangs, a fish native to coral

reefs in the Indo-Pacific, can be influenced by the territoriality of farming damselfish. Tangs tend to form schools in areas of the reef with high densities of territorial damselfish. This is likely because it allows "safety in numbers" when accessing defended algae and increases competition for algal food resources. But research has found that where damselfish densities are low, tangs rarely form schools.

Algal productivity (grams of biomass per square metre) can also be affected by territorial damselfish. Algae within farming damselfish territories can, for example, be up to 3.4 times more productive than algae growing outside of the territories.

Territorial damselfish can also impact the density of coral within an area and therefore the structure of a reef. In Kenya, research has shown that the density of juvenile coral is lower inside farming damselfish

territories than that in non-defended areas. Invasive rats may therefore affect coral replenishment and the functioning of the wider ecosystem.

By establishing the link between fish behaviour and the seabird nutrient cycle, our study highlights the potential for rat eradication to restore territorial fish behaviour. Measures to eradicate invasive rats from tropical islands have slowly been introduced across the Indian Ocean over the past 16 years. Evidence suggests that these measures have contributed to the return of seabird nutrients to tropical islands and coral reefs.

Animal behaviour is an important but understudied aspect of biological research into ecological responses to environmental change and should be a focal point for future studies.

Sally Keith is the senior lecturer, Lancaster University

## German, French ministers call for African permanent seats on UNSC

ADDIS ABABA

THE foreign ministers of France and Germany have voiced support for Africa to receive two permanent seats on the powerful United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said she and French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna added their support to an African push for permanent seats on the Security Council.

Baerbock spoke after she and Colonna met with African Union Chairperson Moussa Faki at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa.

"As European partners and I, as a German foreign minister, we see that the world in 2023 is not the same than that after World War Two, and therefore we are supporting two permanent seats for the African continent," Baerbock said.

African leaders have for years called for a permanent seat on the powerful U.N. body.

Outgoing African Union Chairman Macky Sall, also the president of Senegal, reiterated that demand at the September U.N. General Assembly.

He said Africa should also have a seat in the G-20 group of the world's largest economies.

U.S. President Joe Biden backed both efforts at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington last month.

Currently, the Security Council has five permanent members - Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States. Other countries are elected to the Council for two-year terms by the U.N. General Assembly.

Having permanent seats on the Security Council would for the first time give African countries veto power over U.N. resolutions.

Meanwhile, Baerbock said Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine underscored the importance of relations between the European Union and the African Union.

"As Russia is attacking the European peace order this needs more support from our friends," Baerbock said. "We need you and we need Africa in defending our European peace order."

Baerbock on Thursday made a visit to a World Food Program warehouse storing donated Ukrainian grain and condemned Moscow for using food as a weapon of war.

World Food Program Country Director for Ethiopia, Claude Jibidar, talks to German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and her French counterpart Catherine Colonna during their visit to the WFP warehouse in Adama, Ethiopia, Jan. 12, 2023.

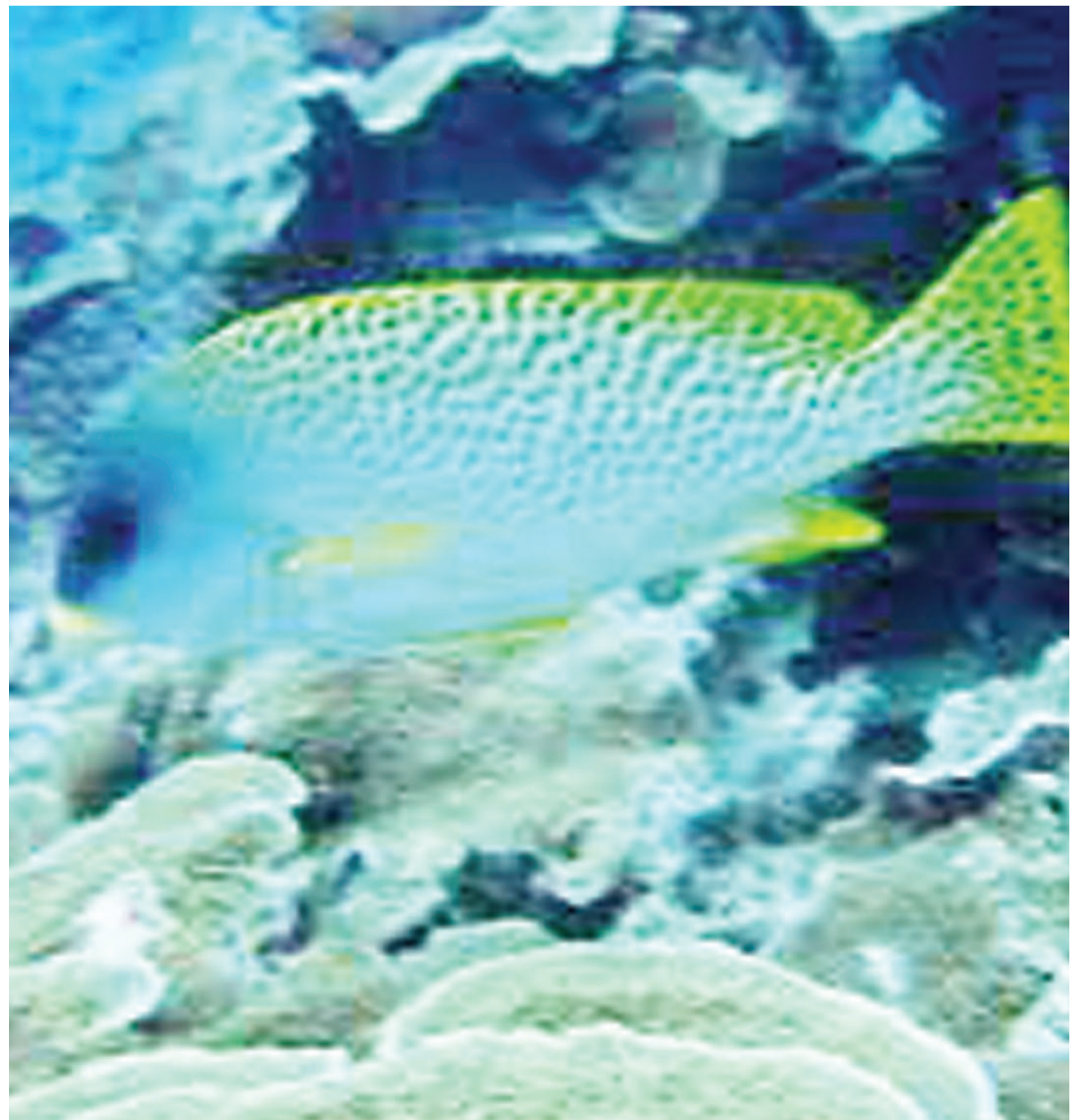
World Food Program Country Director for Ethiopia, Claude Jibidar, talks to German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and her French counterpart Catherine Colonna during their visit to the WFP warehouse in Adama, Ethiopia, Jan. 12, 2023.

She was referring to Russian forces blocking some Ukrainian grain exports as the Horn of Africa suffers through a record drought that has tens of millions struggling with hunger.

The two foreign ministers also met with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Thursday and called for accountability for atrocities committed during the war in the northern Tigray region.

Rights groups accuse all sides of committing rapes, torture, and extra-judicial killings during the two-year war.

The EU suspended some support for Ethiopia over the abuses and says accountability in the war is a condition for normalizing relations.



# China's BRI 'circle of friends' expanding

By He Yin

**T**HIS year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

At the beginning of 2023, China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the joint construction of the BRI with Turkmenistan and signed an updated MoU on the BRI with the Philippines. This fully demonstrated that the BRI meets the needs of world development, conforms to the expectations of the international community, and always enjoys strong resilience and vitality.

The Belt and Road cooperation embraces the historical trend of economic globalization, responds to the call for improving the global governance system and meets people's longing for a better life, which is the fundamental reason why it always has strong resilience and vitality.

So far, China has signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with 151 countries and 32 international organizations.

In its latest Global Economic Prospects report released on Jan. 10, the World Bank slashed its 2023 global economic growth forecast to 1.7 percent, 1.3 percentage points lower than what it projected last June.

As economic globalization is encountering headwinds and global economic recovery is in the doldrums, the joint construction of the BRI has shown a more important role in boosting the economic growth of relevant countries and regions and promoting the common development of all countries.

A research report released by the World Bank in 2019 showed that transportation infrastructure projects under the BRI, if fully implemented, would generate \$1.6 trillion in benefits annually in global revenue by 2030 – accounting for 1.3 percent of global GDP.

More countries will carry out high-quality cooperation under the framework of the BRI, which will be the prevailing trend.

The BRI was proposed by China, yet it generates opportunities and benefits for the entire world.



Featured products from countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative are popular among visitors at the 19th China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, Sept. 16, 2022. (People's Daily Online/Yu Xiangquan)

The initiative has provided new platforms for international trade and investment. Data showed that the cumulative value of trade in goods between China and countries along the BRI routes reached nearly \$11 trillion from 2013 to 2021, while the two-way investment

hit more than \$230 billion.

The initiative has also promoted infrastructure connectivity and made new contributions to the well-being of the people in various countries.

High-quality BRI cooperation conforms to the trend of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The cooperation has injected new vitality into the ancient Silk Road by seizing opportunities of digital, Internet-based and intelligent development, fostering new growth drivers, exploring new development pathways, and building the digital Silk Road and the Silk Road of innovation.

Martin Albrow, a British sociologist noted for his works on globalization, pointed out that the BRI has connected China's peaceful development with the prosperity and happiness of the whole world.

As an important international public good China has provided for the world to help improve global governance, high-quality BRI cooperation draws on past experience, values innovation, takes the initiative, emphasizes seeking common ground while reserving differences, and promotes incremental reform of the existing international order and rules.

The BRI and its guiding principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits have been included in relevant documents of the

United Nations, the Group of 20 (G20), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and other organizations, becoming an important consensus on global governance.

The establishment of multilateral development institutions and cooperation platforms, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund, will contribute to the building of a fairer and more reasonable global governance system.

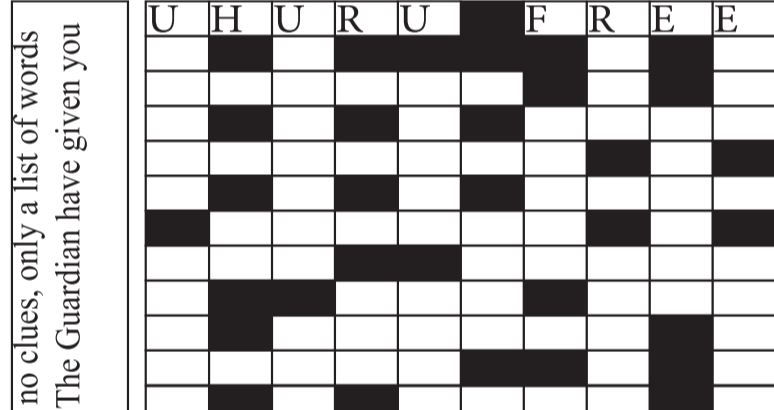
From visionary blueprints to intensive implementation, the BRI has taken a journey from taking roots to achieving sustainable progress. China's "circle of friends" for joint construction of the BRI has expanded continuously, while the BRI's quality of cooperation has kept improving and its development prospects have grown more promising.

China will consider holding the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation this year to provide fresh impetus for the development and prosperity of the world.

At a new starting point, China is ready to work together with various parties to continue promoting high-quality construction of the road for peace, prosperity, opening up, green development, innovation, and connected civilizations, so that the initiative, a project of the century, will better benefit people across the world.

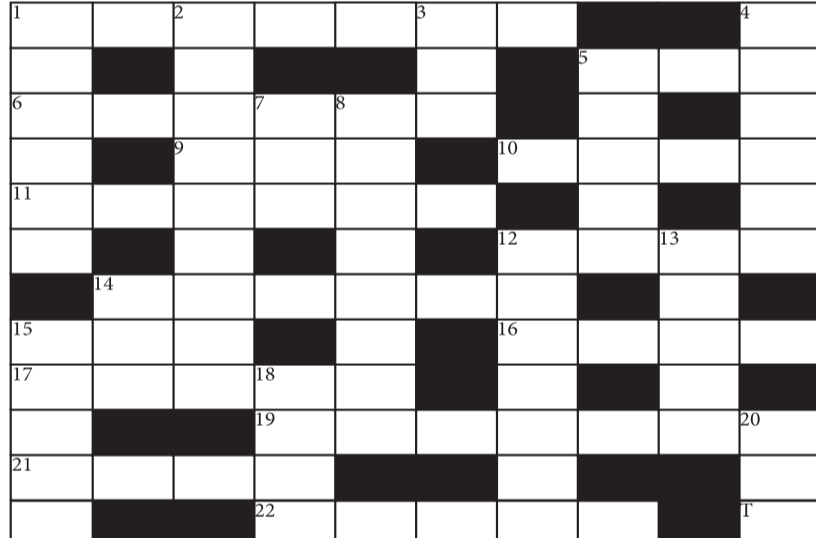
People's Daily

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 400 00--



In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

- 3 letters GOD, AOR, ACT, SAD, ARE,
- 4 letters FREE, ROOM, EVEN, AMEN, HIDE RARE, ORES, STUD,
- 5 letters UHURU, EVOKE, ASHET, GRAPE PLATE, ATTAR, TAMED, REACH
- 6 letters UNESCO, ELEVEN, ENDEAR, SEVERE
- 7 letters SCREAM, CURIOUS,
- 8 letters UN EARNED



- CLUES: Across**
- 1 the first black president of S.Africa
  - 5 flightless bird in New Zealand
  - 6 Islamic canonical law
  - 9 the star
  - 10 make a bleating sound
  - 11 citrus fruit
  - 12 a small restaurant
  - 14 a minister in charge of a Christian church
  - 15 an instrument for writing
  - 16 an American
  - 17 a narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff
  - 19 citrus fruits
  - 21 celebrity
  - 22 an official order or proclamation
- Down:**
- 1 Russia's capital
  - 2 Former name of Malawi
  - 3 an open area of grassy
  - 4 a woman's loose sleeveless cloak
  - 5 Valletta is her Capital
  - 7 flee
  - 8 gather in or together
  - 12 the deep-freezing of the bodies of people who have died of an incurable disease, in the hope of a future cure
  - 13 a barrier enclosing an area
  - 14 an act of urinating
  - 15 a rich fabric of silk, cotton
  - 18 blood that has been shed
  - 20 a habitual drunkard

**WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS**

U H U R U F R E E

**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

1 MANDIBULUS  
5 KAKAPO  
6 HAJI  
9 STARBUCKS  
10 BAA  
11 LEMON  
12 CAFE  
14 BISHOP  
15 QUILL  
16 AMERICA  
17 EAVES  
19 CITRUS  
21 CELEBRITY  
22 DECREE

# RADIO One

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Bolt gets new regional manager for East, Southern Africa

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## Mwanza Region's economy expands faster than Dar's, NBS data show

By Guardian Reporter

**M**WANZA regional economy is expanding faster than Dar es Salaam regional economy, according to data by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The National Accounts 2015-2021 by NBS shows during the last six years, from 2015 to 2021, Mwanza regional economy, at current market price, expanded by 87.30 percent while those of Dar es Salaam expanded by 68.75 percent.

According to NBS, Dar es Salaam regional economy reached 27.5trn/- in 2021 from 16.2trn/- in 2015 while Mwanza regional economy expanded to 11.8trn/- in 2021 from 6.3trn/- in 2015.

This shows that the second largest Mwanza regional economy, which mostly depends on fishing, mining, agriculture and livestock, might in the coming decades, catch up with the economy of metropolitan city of Dar es Salaam which mostly depends on port, heavy indus-

tries, high population and commercial activities to drive its economy.

Geographically, Mwanza is also a strategic region as it is the gateway for cross border trade between Tanzania and neighbouring countries of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi.

The improvement of Mwanza infrastructure including the construction of Magfuli Bridge (Kigongo-Busisi) is also expected to stimulate trade transaction within the region as well as cross border trade.

However, the Mwanza regional per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is still below the national average of 2.79mn/- by 2021, as NBS data show it had an income of 2.78mn/- per individual during the year 2021.

Data shows the share of Mwanza regional economy also increased by 0.7 percent over the reported six years, to 7.4 percent in 2021 from 6.7 percent in 2015, while the share of Dar es Salaam regional economy to national economy shrunk to 17 percent from 17.2 percent respectively.



The increased share of Mwanza economy was the highest than any other region in Tanzania mainland during the reported period, which indicates speedy growth.

However, the share of Mwanza regional econ-

omy remained flat at 7.4 percent between 2018 and 2021. Repoa executive director Donald Mmari was quoted by local media last year saying Dar es Salaam hosts at least 70 to 80 percent of the country's industrial base, but the diver-

sification of the economy caused people seek opportunities elsewhere.

However, economists say Dar es Salaam will remain a statistics hub as most of the transactions are done in the city, but production facilities may not necessarily be based in Dar es Salaam.

NBS report shows many regional economies in Tanzania mainland experienced the growth of between 0.1 percent and 0.3 percent during the period of six years (2015-2021), while the shares of remaining regional economies decreased.

Regional economies which increased their shares during the period were Njombe from 1.5 percent to 1.8 percent, Mayara (from 3.3 percent to 3.4 percent) and Singida (from 1.8 percent to 1.9 percent).

Others were Mtwara (from 2.6 percent to 2.7 percent), Lindi (from 1.9 percent to 2 percent) and Dodoma from 2.9 percent to 3.1 percent.

The remaining regional economies joined Dar es Salaam by recording the decreased trends of their share to the national economy.

## Faida Fund becomes a 'game changer' in promoting financial inclusion in TZ

By Guardian Reporter

It was hard for low income earner Tanzanians to invest in financial markets, particularly the government debt instruments or corporate bonds.

These areas require a lot of money at hand, of which are beyond the reach of many low income earning Tanzanians especially youths, women, special groups and those living in remote areas.

For example, investing in government debt instruments, particularly Treasury bonds, requires an investor to have at least 1mn/-, of which is beyond the reach of many Tanzanians.

This causes most of Tanzanians to fail to exploit these investments opportunities, which are important in building income growth, generated from the yields paid, depending on the maturities periods of the bonds.

Low income earners or people living in remote areas have also missed many investment opportunities in financial markets, mainly capital markets due to logistics barriers such as being far away from banks or brokerage firms where they can buy financial products such as bonds.

Currently, less than one million Tanzanian populations are investing in financial markets, particularly the capital markets, including equities and securities, due to lack of liquidity or lack of awareness on the products available in market.

The government through its economic empowerment policy wants to increase the involvement of many Tanzanians in investments opportunities available, not

only in productive sectors of the economy, but also in growing financial markets.

But the recent launched Faida Fund, managed by Watumishi Housing Investment (WHI) has come to remove all barriers, which were limiting low income earning Tanzanians, including women, youths and special groups from investing in capital markets.

Launched on Saturday last week in Dar es Salaam, Faida Fund offers an opportunity for any person to invest with an initial amount of 10,000/-, which is affordable for many, compared to 1mn/- required to invest on one bid of the short, medium or long term government bonds.

The collected money from Faida Fund investors are therefore invested in government debt instruments, particularly Treasury Bonds, linking low income earners to such opportunities, which they never thought of reaching.

This means that 100 low income Tanzanians can now collectively, through Faida Fund, directly invest in government debt instruments and earn profit from yields provided depending on the maturities.

Investing on Faida Fund does not require someone to travel to a broker or bank branch, but it needs someone to click on a mobile phone, both smart phones (App) and non-smart phones (USSD).

By dialing \*152\*00# anyone can register for Faida Fund and start investing at an initial amount of 10,000/-, to get number of units of which are currently sold at 100.55/ each.

Upon buying the units, the value will



Watumishi Housing Investment (WHI) CEO Dr Fred Msemwa (R) with ministers, and other senior government officials at the launch of Faida Fund in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

be appreciating depending on the profit generated from fixed assets investment by the fund manager.

Dr Fred Msemwa, Chief Executive Officer of WHI, the fund manager of Faida Fund, said this new collective investment scheme does not discriminate any amount of investment the investor has, as it gives an opportunity for any Tanzanian to join.

The fund has so far collected a total of 13.5bn/- from different investors, as at the end of last week, of which 90 percent are retail investors.

As more Tanzanians are continuing to join the fund, it is hoped that by June this year, a total of 20bn/- will be raised of which 60 percent are invested in the primary market of long term government bonds and the remaining will be invested in short term government debt instruments (Treasury bills) and money markets.

Currently, only 800 Tanzanians includ-

ing minors, students, institutions and retail investors have so far joined the fund.

Minister in the office of the President, Public Services Management and Good Governance Jenister Mhagama though the economic empowerment policy, more emphases are put to ensure women, youths and other special groups are empowered to benefit from economic opportunities.

She has directed District Commissioners, District Executive Directors and District Administrative Secretaries to ensure an increased awareness of the fund to attract more Tanzanians, especially women, youths and special groups which are excluded from financial markets.

"This fund is part of the government intentions to empower Tanzanians economically and it is the implementation of the economic empowerment policy," she said.

She also called for Faida Fund managers to collaborate with financial institu-

tions to become partners of the fund.

Permanent secretary, ministry of finance and planning Dr Natu Mwamba said the establishment of Faida Fund is part of implementation of five-year development plan which will bring economic benefits to investors.

She said the Faida Fund is also promoting financial inclusion among Tanzanians on areas of investment in capital markets, especially for people who are previously excluded due to the requirements of the existing financial markets products.

"The ministry of finance and planning will collaborate with WHI and other stakeholders to create conducive environment to promote collective investment schemes," she said during the launch of the fund.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, the chief executive officer of CRDB Bank Group, the custodian bank said the fund is aimed at promoting financial inclusion.

"CRDB Bank has been a champion in coordinating and promoting investments, including in the areas of capital markets," he said during the fund launch.

Explaining on the benefits of investing in the fund, Nsekela said it is part of promoting financial inclusion which consider all Tanzanians of all ages and is the cheapest as it requires any person to invest at an initial investment amount of 10,000/-, which is part and parcel of the bank's policy in improving efficiency.

The Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) director general Nicodemus Mkama the launch of Faida Fund is part of implementing the five-year development plan which is aimed at building competitive economy. "We need more products on our capital markets, particularly collective investment schemes to enable people to build liquidity," he said during the fund's launch.

Mkama said CMSA approved the fund's offer document and trust deed on October 15 last year after Faida Fund complied with laws and regulations governing capital markets, particularly having a fund manager and custodian bank.

The CMSA director general believes that Faida Fund is a game changer on financial inclusion because of reduced initial amount of investment required to invest.

## Retailers in the UK defying consumer gloom

LONDON

THE first two weeks of the new year have delivered a spate of profit warnings in sectors ranging from housebuilding to recruitment, but one part of the UK's corporate landscape has proved surprisingly resilient: retail.

Predictions of a yuletide of woe on the high street, as shoppers faced with rising borrowing and household bills drastically cut back on spending, have failed to materialise. So far, car parts and bike seller Halfords has been the only conspicuous profit warning – easily outnumbered by upgrades from peers including Next, JD Sports and B&M.

Compared to recruitment, where important players Robert Walters and PageGroup have warned on profits, or technology, where cyber security specialist Darktrace

and video game developer Frontier have said they would record lower revenues than expected, retailers have largely stuck with their full-year forecasts.

They do not yet appear to have suffered from political uncertainty or the knock-on effect from a recent jump in mortgage costs, both of which were flagged by housebuilder Barratt for slowing home reservations.

Kien Tan, retail director at PwC, said this was partly a function of which names had updated investors so far – mostly blue-chip companies with strong market positions and clear strategies that had "been at the good end of lots of trends".

Higher prices Many areas of retail, from food to technology, have been broadly deflationary for years, increasing the purchasing power of consumers. That

changed in 2022 as prices surged, particularly following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and meant that retailers needed to sell fewer wares in order to achieve the same revenue. Broadly speaking, consumers bought fewer things but retailers' turnover still rose.

Price inflation in areas such as fashion has been fairly modest so far, but in food it has been high – and a creditable 7 per cent rise in festive sales at both J Sainsbury and Tesco needs to be seen in the context of food prices that are on average 16 per cent higher than a year ago.

Favourable comparisons

December 2021 was marked by the rapid advance of the Omicron variant of coronavirus and although no national lockdowns were imposed, many consumers remained wary of mixing in crowded places or had smaller gatherings at Christmas. That hurt

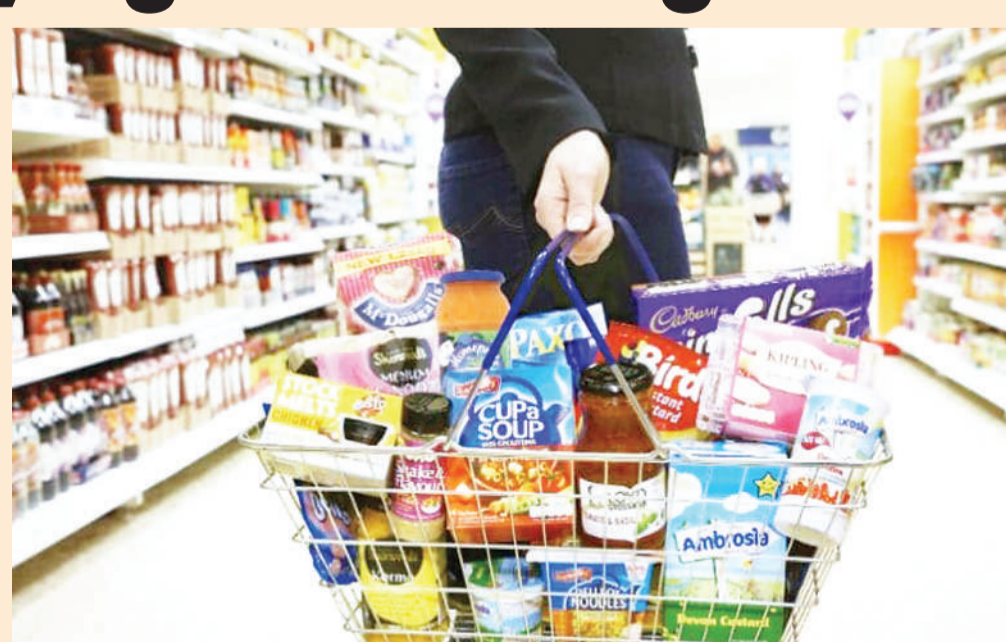
retailers with thousands of stores and meant that this year's sales were up against weak comparative figures.

The most obvious example of this was Argos, the general merchandise seller owned by supermarket chain J Sainsbury. A 4.5 per cent increase in sales for the third quarter looks healthy enough – but sales fell 16 per cent in the same period a year ago.

Shoppers flock back to the stores

When Britain was gripped by fear of catching Covid-19, consumers largely shopped online. But one of the defining trends of last year was the return to shops, and stores got a further boost in December from a sudden cold snap and disruption to delivery services due to postal strikes.

"The channel shift [back to stores] has been a benefit for the biggest retailers," said



Lisa Hooker, head of UK retail at PwC. "The online share of sales is now only a year ahead of where it would probably have been had Covid never happened."

At Next, store sales grew 7.5

per cent in the nine weeks to December 30 while online sales fell. At Marks and Spencer, clothing sales in stores were up 12 per cent in the third quarter.

Sales made in stores gener-

ally mean higher profit margins than those made online for many retailers, because the customer bears the cost of "last mile" transport and the running costs of stores are largely fixed.

## China's green finance to quadruple to \$10.4trn by 2031



BEIJING

CHINA'S sustainable finance market could more than quadruple to 70 trillion yuan (US\$10.4 trillion) by 2031, according to Swiss investment bank UBS.

But the lack of useful and comparable environmental, social and governance (ESG) data is a major hurdle for the development of ESG funds or products in China, said Ronald Wu, UBS' head of ESG and sustainability research in Asia-Pacific.

The size of the green finance market in the world's largest emitter nation has already reached 16 trillion yuan, accounting for about 8 per cent of the country's entire financial system, supported by President Xi Jinping's pledge in 2020 for China to peak national emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality

by 2060.

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Close to 15 trillion yuan of China's sustainable finance market consists of green loans, mainly from commercial banks, according to UBS. But assets under management of ESG funds has only reached around 500 to 600 billion yuan, representing a small portion of the market.

"If there are better information disclosures [by firms], it would make it easier for investors to include some Chinese companies in some of their indexes and products, which will play an important role in promoting the development of ESG investment," he said at the UBS Greater China Conference 2023 on Thursday.

ESG disclosure requirements from both regulators or standard-setters will have a positive effect on promoting the development and growth of ESG funds and investments, he added.

Since the first green bond was issued in 2016, the cumulative volume of green bonds in China had reached 1.73 trillion yuan by the end of 2021, with an average annual growth rate of nearly 25 per cent over five years, according to data published by the China Central Depository and Clearing and the International Capital Market Association on Tuesday.

"China's 'dual carbon' goal has been around for a few years, and China has a relatively long history of supporting its environmental work and goals," Wu said. "We estimate that green financing will grow relatively fast in China in future."

Wu also highlighted the importance of the upcoming

climate-related disclosures by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), a new body set up by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation in late 2021 to consolidate various ESG reporting standards.

Major Sustainability Reporting Frameworks and Standards Setters

The IFRS Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding with China's ministry of finance late last year to open an ISSB office in Beijing in mid-2023.

"We hope that it will serve as the beginning of a new journey that will witness closer cooperation between the two sides towards development and promotion of ISSB's high-quality international sustainability disclosure standards," Zhu Zhongming, China's vice-minister of finance, said in a statement on December 29.

The Beijing office is expected to play a vital role in the development of the new sustainability disclosure standards.

"China is the world's second largest economy and plays a vital role in supply chains for companies around the world - making it an important jurisdiction as the ISSB develops its global baseline of sustainability disclosures for the capital markets," ISSB chair Emmanuel Faber said in a statement.

## US companies turn to convertible bonds as equity fundraising stalls

NEW YORK

US companies are turning to convertible bonds as fundraising in Wall Street's main equities market is at its lowest level for three decades.

December was the busiest month of last year for convertible issuance by deal count according to Refinitiv data, as activity picked up over the second half of 2022. The amount US-based companies raised more than doubled in the second half from the preceding six months, after a sharp earlier slowdown.

Michael Zeidel, head of Americas in law firm Skadden Arps' capital markets division, said that "for more than 80 per cent of the year, the [convertibles] market was essentially dead" but it had "opened up" in the last two months of 2022 "and we are now seeing activity".

Extreme volatility and rising interest rates made 2022 the worst year for traditional stock market listings in the US since 1990. Most experts think it will take at least another quarter for IPOs - the most lucrative and high-profile part of the equity capital markets business - to pick up.

But a recent steady in valuations and encouraging inflation data have prompted a burst of activity in deals deemed to be less risky, especially sales of convertible bonds - debt that includes an equity component.

"Converts are always a market that tends to be interesting to a broader array of companies when other markets are experiencing difficulties," said Craig McCracken, co-head of equity capital markets at Wells Fargo, "because of their greater certainty of execution".

Convertibles start out like other corporate bonds, but they include an option enabling investors to swap their debt for equity if the company's shares rise to a specific price. They can allow businesses to borrow at lower interest rates than a traditional bond, without immediately diluting existing shareholders' stakes through the sale of new stock.

Like other forms of capital raising, convertible sales dropped in the spring of 2022 as inflation rose - stoked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine - and



Convertible deals can also be completed quickly, which is particularly beneficial when markets are volatile and windows of opportunity are short.

monetary policy tightened. Issuance by US-domiciled companies fell almost two-thirds last year, according to Refinitiv data, to just under \$27bn.

"This past year was difficult for converts...in line with other risk assets," said Michael Youngworth, convertible bond strategist at Bank of America Global Research.

In an environment where interest rates are expected to remain elevated, as they are this year, "convertible financing becomes more attractive", according to Youngworth, because it can help companies reduce borrowing costs relative to the ordinary bond market.

Concert giant Live Nation came to the market this week with a convertible bond sale that ultimately increased in size from \$850mn to \$900mn, implying stronger than expected demand. Some of the proceeds from the sale have been earmarked for buying back older instruments. "I think we will see more traditional businesses... coming to the convertible market to continue to keep interest costs at a reasonable level," said John McClain, portfolio manager at Brandywine Global Investment Management.

This year, "companies that are in the predicament of needing to finance their business [...] will have the ability to access a litany of different sources of capital that I think people aren't giving them credit for", McClain added.

Convertible deals can also be completed quickly, which is particularly

beneficial when markets are volatile and windows of opportunity are short.

"It's great for issuers because you can be [quickly] in and out of the market," said Lizzie Reed, head of equity syndicate at Goldman Sachs. "I think it will be particularly active in the first and second quarters as the macro picture stabilises."

But convertibles are not without risk, and have in recent years been associated with high-flying growth stocks whose valuations tumbled as the Federal Reserve jacked up borrowing costs.

Record numbers of convertibles are now trading at "busted" levels according to BofA, meaning their shares are unlikely ever to reach their conversion price. Globally, about two-thirds of convertibles are currently trading below their par value.

In 2021, "we saw a lot of very aggressive issuers coming to the convertible bonds space", said Youngworth. "High-growth names that took advantage of their equity prices at all-time highs and the frenzy in equity markets to raise convertible bond capital opportunistically and very cheaply."

Column chart of Nasdaq and NYSE listings including non-US domiciled companies showing IPOs had their worst year in decades in 2022

The subsequent spike in interest rates "not only damaged the bond values of the convert", Youngworth said, "but they also weakened the equity component as well, so converts got hit on both sides of their structure."

## How US social security scene changing in 2023

There's a huge cost-of-living increase coming to Social Security recipients this year - the largest adjustment since 1981, thanks to pandemic-prompted inflation. But that's not the only change coming. Other dollar limits on Social Security payroll taxes, taxes on benefits, disability thresholds and qualifying for benefits also will be changing for 2023.

If you need help setting and reaching retirement goals, consider working with a financial advisor.

### Changes to Social Security in 2023

The 8.7% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will hit the accounts of about 70 million recipients starting this month. Because of changes to Medicare, many of those people will be able to hang onto all of that benefit raise, which averages more than \$140 a month.

"Medicare premiums are going down and Social Security benefits are going up in 2023, which will give seniors more peace of mind and breathing room," said Kilo Kijakazi, the acting commissioner of the Social Security Administration. "We can provide more support to older Americans who count on the benefits they have earned."

### Maximum monthly benefit increases

Prompted by the higher inflation rate, the maximum payment for retirees at their full retirement age increases by \$282, from \$3,345 to \$3,627. To qualify, workers need to have been on the job for at least 35 years. And they need to have hit the maximum taxable earnings cap each year. That cap is \$160,200 this year, up from \$45,000 35 years ago, in 1988.

### Lifetime earnings minimum increases

To qualify for Social Security retirement benefits, you need to have amassed 40-lifetime earnings credits. You can earn four credits per year, with each credit requiring a minimum amount of earnings from your work. Last year, you earned one credit for each \$1,510 earned in a year, this year it's \$1,640. To earn the full four credits in 2023, you'll need to earn at least \$6,560.

### Rising earnings tax

Speaking of the maximum earnings limit, that cap of \$160,200 also applies to how much income you'll be taxed on for Social Security. That is up from last year's ceiling of \$147,000. Any income above that amount isn't subject to the 7.65% FICA tax - the Federal Insurance Contributions Act that finances Social Security and Medicare. So, in 2023 someone making \$60,000 pays FICA on 100% of his paychecks, while someone making \$250,000 pays FICA on just 64% of his earnings.

### Early filers get higher income limits

If you file to receive benefits before you reach your full retirement age (between 66 and 67 years old), your payments are reduced under the retirement earnings test. If you didn't hit full retirement age in 2022 but started claiming benefits, the SSA withheld \$1 in benefits for every \$2 in earned income above \$19,560, or \$1,630 per month. This year, the test limit rises to \$21,240, or \$1,770 per month.

### Earnings cap for disability benefits also rises

Social Security benefits aren't paid only to retirees - they also go to support disabled workers. However, anyone earning more than a certain rather low-income amount can't qualify for benefits. Non-blind disabled workers will lose their benefits once they earn more than \$1,470 a month this year, up from \$1,350 in 2022. For blind disabled workers, that cap goes from \$2,260 in 2022 to \$2,460 this year.

If, however, you'll reach your full retirement age sometime this year, the SSA will hang onto \$1 in benefits for every \$3 in earned income but only for the months before your full retirement age. Last year, that limit was \$51,960, or \$4,330 per month. But for 2023, the limit increases to \$56,520, or \$4,710 per month.

Social Security in 2023 has a lot of changes, partially due to inflation. And it doesn't hurt that Medicare premiums have declined, leaving more room for additional income in retirees wallets. If you are expecting Social Security benefits, it's important that you check your status and what you are expecting back.

CURRENT NEWS



## Farmers want reduced tariffs on imported greenhouse equipment

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

**S**MALL and medium farmers in Dodoma region have called on the government to reduce tariff charged on imported galvanized greenhouse equipment and drip irrigation system to help them reduce production costs, increase farm productivity and attract more youth and women to engage in agribusiness.

Ray mark, Chief Executive Officer of Dodoma based Young World Feeders said this last week when briefing Forum on Climate Change (FORUMCC)'s staff who were in Dodoma, Morogoro and Singida Regions to conduct a documentary of local success stories that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, waste, support environmental conservation and job creation.

"18 percent VAT charged on greenhouse equipment is frustrating us, as we spent a lot of funds to import them and right now there are a lot of

youth and women who are ready to engage in agri-business chain, but majority of them cannot afford to purchase and even import construction materials," he noted.

He said galvanized greenhouse is selling at a retail price of 24m/- charged with 18 percent VAT and 3 percent import duty, while the cost of drip irrigation system is between 2.7mn/- to 5.7mn/- depending on the size and this used for once acres of land.

He also urged Don Bosco centres, Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) and Industries Development Organization (SIDO) to manufacture affordable solar panel and simple solar powered water pumping machines to enable farmers utilize it for water pumping to irrigate their farms.

"I believe Don Bosco, VETA and SIDO have highly qualified technicians who can manufacture these technologies and assist farmers to utilize in areas where rainfall is irregular, drought for water pumping from the water sources to farms," he said.

The main goal was to reduce energy costs for irrigation farming, replace fossil fuels as energy sources for irrigation farming activities, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission that is now immensely contributing to climate

change, support environmental conservation and job creation.

In a bid to help farmers obtain these technologies, VETA, SIDO, and Don Bosco experts can carry out a visit to farmers to see what they need, the main challenges they have and later on manufacture affordable solar-powered irrigation systems that will help farmers in accordance with their needs.

This will also help them in reducing the power consumption from the electricity supply but also saves money for farmers in the long run.

For her part, Gladness Lauwo, Forum on Climate Change (FORUMCC)'s Project Officer added that while in Dodoma, Singida and Morogoro Regions, they met with different farmers engaged in beekeeping industry, vegetable farming and fish culture and have face-to-face discussions with them.

"The discussions with farmers have beard fruits in all areas, because we got best report that is very suitable for farmers and the government as well, that can be scale-up the project in other regions to combat climate change, create employment and improve the livelihood," he said.



## Bolt gets new regional manager to serve in East, Southern Africa

By Guardian Reporter

BOLT has appointed Takura Malaba (pictured) as the new regional manager for East and Southern Africa, effective 1st January 2023.

According to the statement issued by the company yesterday Takura takes over from Kenneth Micah, who was the regional manager for Eastern Africa since October 2019.

Takura is a visionary, strategic, collaborative and results-oriented leader who believes in empowering his teams to buy into the vision, which will, in turn, lead to achieving success.

He is passionate about developing strategies that lead to long-term impact whilst maintaining quality service delivery.

"Bolt is delighted to have Takura take on the role of Regional Manager for East and Southern Africa. Since joining the business in 2021, he has done an excellent job in leading the South African market," said Paddy Partridge, Vice President for Rides at Bolt.

"He has steered the business, and defended it against stiff competition, driven strong

growth despite a difficult macro-economic environment and effectively managed costs."

He said Takura has also been instrumental in making significant progress in improving the safety and quality of our platform in the country.

"I am confident he will continue to do a great job in this new role," he said.

Takura joined Bolt in November 2021 as the Country Manager for ride-hailing in South Africa, where he was responsible for Strategy and Operations.

Prior to joining Bolt, he was a Data Science Manager at Deloitte, where he focused on strategy, cloud and machine learning design and implementation.

Before that role, he was a strategy and consulting manager at Accenture, where he was in charge of strategy development, strategic cost reduction and advanced analytics.

Speaking on his appointment, Takura said he was looking forward to continued collaboration with the regional teams to spur the growth of the Bolt business in the region.

"I am honoured to have been considered for the role of Regional Manager for East and

Southern Africa, and I am eager to take on the challenges and opportunities it presents," said Takura Malaba, regional manager, East and Southern Africa.

He said his priority will be to continue growing the business in the region by championing our value propositions that focus on affordability, safety and sustainability.

"I believe in working collaboratively with my colleagues, partners, and stakeholders to achieve results, and I look forward to using my skills and expertise to contribute to the Bolt's success and to make a positive impact in this region," he said.

Takura will drive operational excellence in the region while expanding Bolt's footprint within the East and Southern Africa markets.

Bolt has 100 million customers in 45 countries and over 400 cities across Europe and Africa.

The company seeks to accelerate the transition from owned cars to shared mobility, offering better alternatives for every use case, including ride-hailing, shared cars and scooters, and food and grocery delivery.

## Private equity persuades suppliers of luxury items

MILAN

Italian businesses discovered the limits of their 'small is beautiful' motto when competition became global. Nudged by private equity funds, those supplying the booming luxury goods industry are now finding strength in unity.

With its tradition of sophisticated craftsmanship, Italy is home to thousands of small manufacturers that cover 50-55% of the global production of luxury clothing and leather goods, consultancy Bain calculates, against 20-25% for the rest of Europe.

Largely family-owned and small in size, these businesses often struggle to meet the changing needs of the luxury brands they work for.

To address luxury shoppers' growing sustainability concerns while also securing timely deliveries, brands are looking to establish close ties with suppliers, who in turn require hefty investments to track where they source materials and build an adequate digital backbone.

Private equity funds, after running out of big brands to buy, have now locked on to the challenges of the luxury industry's supply chain and turned to a "buy and build" strategy.

"Luxury brands have been growing exponentially: our customers needed us to grow with them," said Nicola Giuntini, whose Tuscany-based company makes luxury coats and jackets for brands including Celine, Burberry and Stella McCartney.

The Giuntinis in 2020 sold their company to VAM Investments - controlled by former Bulgari Chief Executive Francesco Trapani - and two other Italian investment firms when they became part of a hub of luxury clothing manufacturers.

"Working together we can guarantee stable production levels and undertake projects that would otherwise be too costly," said Giuntini.

Private equity has had a big

say in the shaping of Italy's fashion industry. It accounts for 40% of transactions over the past decade or so, including the buyouts of Moncler, Versace, Roberto Cavalli and Ermenegildo Zegna, KPMG research showed.

The COVID-19 pandemic, with its aftermath of supply chain disruption, has been central in convincing Italian baby-boomer business owners that the time was right to let outsiders into their closely held companies.

The Giuntini business is now part of Gruppo Florence, a hub owned by the funds and the families that sold their businesses and reinvested part of the proceeds.

The group currently includes 22 companies with combined revenue of more than 500 million euros (\$542.00 million) and aims to get to 30 before looking at a possible initial public offering.

Meanwhile it has started working with Bank of America and Citi to assess strategic options after drawing interest from investment firms including Carlyle and Permira, two people close to the matter said. All interested parties declined to comment.

"There are no listed assets that give investors exposure to the luxury sector's made-in-Italy supply chain," VAM CEO Marco Piana told Reuters.

"This is one of the few sectors where being Italian is a competitive advantage: there is no other geography where you have the same know-how when it comes to manufacturing soft luxury products."

Luciano Barbetta, whose clothing company in southern Italy joined Gruppo Florence last year, said hubs can help producers to make up for delays in deliveries of raw materials.

"There being several companies we can help one another fulfil orders right on schedule. And it feels good to know all the weight is not just on your shoulders," Barbetta said.



Giuntini employees work with designs of jackets for luxury brands, in Peccioli

## Oil prices head lower as traders take profits

DUBAI

CRUDE oil began the week with a decline as traders took profits from last week's rally and settled down to wait for market forecasts due this week by OPEC and the International Energy Agency.

At the time of writing, Brent crude was trading at a little over \$84.50 per barrel while West Texas Intermediate had slipped below \$80 and was changing hands for about \$79.30 per barrel.

Last week, crude oil booked its sharpest weekly price rise since last October, largely on expectations of a demand rebound in China after the country reversed its zero-Covid policy that had hobbled industrial activity and, consequently, oil demand for three years.

Brent crude settled at over \$85 per barrel last Friday and WTI ended the week at close to \$80 per barrel, both benchmarks adding more than 8 percent during the week.

OPEC is due to release its

latest Monthly Oil Market Report tomorrow and traders are waiting to see if the cartel has revised its oil demand expectations for the year from last month's report.

In December, OPEC forecast that oil demand this year would grow by 2.2 million bpd, down from 2.5 million bpd last year. Demand growth from the OECD countries was forecast at a modest 300,000 bpd while non-OECD growth was seen at 1.9 million bpd. Non-OPEC supply, according to OPEC, was to grow by 1.9 million bpd as well this year, according to the December MOMR.

"Now with China opening, hopefully we will see a pickup in demand and when we meet, we will analyze that as usual. We always take the decision that serves the balancing of the market," UAE's oil minister, Suhail al-Mazrouei, said on the sidelines of the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Forum, which took place in Abu Dhabi this weekend.

## WORLD

## Israeli president warns of crisis over Netanyahu's reforms

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S President Isaac Herzog warned on Sunday of an impending "historic constitutional crisis" in the country over a controversial plan by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government to overhaul the judiciary.

Herzog said in a statement that he has been mediating over the past week between the involved parties, including Netanyahu, Justice Minister Yariv Levin who drew up the plan, and President of the Supreme Court Justice Esther Hayut.

"We are in the grips of a profound disagreement that is tearing our nation apart," he noted.

Herzog, whose role is mainly ceremonial and focused on unifying the divided Israeli society, said that his efforts are focused on "averting a historic constitutional crisis and stopping the continued rift within the nation."

At his weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday, Netanyahu dismissed the Saturday nationwide rallies, saying that in the elections held in November 2022, "millions of people vote on reforming the judicial system."

He said the reforms will be discussed "thoroughly" in a parliamentary review committee, which also includes members from the opposition.

"We will complete the reform of legislation in a way that will fully protect individual rights and restore public



Israeli President Isaac Herzog speaks during the Jerusalem Post 10th annual conference in Jerusalem on Oct 12, 2021. AFP

confidence in the judicial system," he added.

Last week, Levin announced a series of reforms, including giving the parliament the ability to override supreme court rulings with a simple majority. In addition, politicians will have greater influence in the appointment of supreme court judges and legal advisers to ministries.

Opponents of the plan, who rallied in Tel Aviv and other cities across Is-

rael on Saturday night, argue that it would undermine the independence of the judiciary, harm minority rights and will make it easier for corrupted politicians to evade accountability.

On Thursday, Hayut described the plan as "an uncontrolled attack on the legal system." In rare public remarks, she said it "intended to force a deadly blow on the independence and impartiality of the judicial system."

Agencies

## Egypt's Sisi calls for promoting Africa-China cooperation

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi on Sunday called for strengthening Egypt's coordination with China in international and regional affairs, as well as further promoting the Arab-China and Africa-China cooperation.

Sisi made the remarks during his meeting with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Cairo, the capital of Egypt.

Sisi asked Qin to convey his sincere greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping, while once again congratulating the successful convening of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in October last year.

China is a great country and its development is unstoppable, the Egyptian president said, adding that the friendship between Egypt and China has been historically "unbreakable."

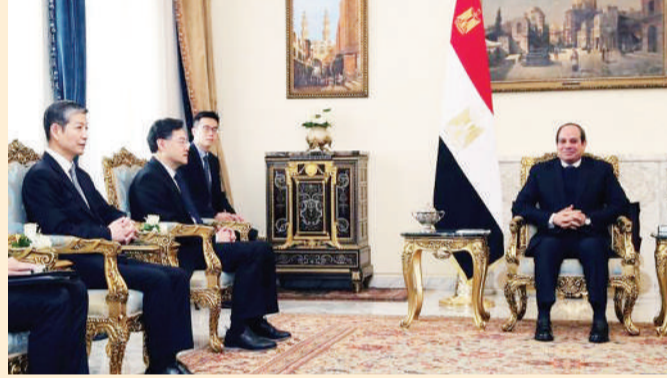
Egypt will continue to firmly adhere to the one-China principle and resolutely oppose any interference in China's internal affairs by external forces, Sisi stressed.

Commending the fruitful results that Egypt and China have achieved in jointly advancing the Belt and Road Initiative, Sisi said Chinese enterprises are welcome to invest and set up businesses in Egypt.

In light of China's recent optimization and adjustment of the COVID-19 prevention and control measures, Egypt warmly welcomes the Chinese people to visit as soon as possible, the Egyptian president said.

Qin, for his part, conveyed President Xi's cordial greetings and best wishes to Sisi, saying China and Egypt have supported each other and forged a profound friendship in the cause of pursuing development, promoting peace and safeguarding justice.

The two countries' heads of



Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi (right) meets with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang (2nd, left) in Cairo, on Sunday. XINHUA

state have a high level of mutual trust and maintained close exchanges, giving a strong impetus to the development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Egypt, Qin said.

China highly appreciates Egypt's reaffirmation of firmly adhering to the one-China principle and likewise supports Egypt in taking a development path that suits its own national conditions and safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests, he noted.

Qin said he looked forward to closely aligning the two countries' respective development strategies, speeding up the building of key cooperation projects, and achieving more results in the BRI construction as well as the implementation of the China-Arab States Summit's outcome in Egypt.

Expressing China's support to Egypt's positive role in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, he said that China is willing to work with Egypt to jointly promote long-term peace and stability in the region and push for an early and just settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Qin later held talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, during which the two sides spoke highly of the exemplary role and strategic significance of the China-Egypt solidarity and cooperation.

The two ministers vowed to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, continuously improve bilateral relations, strengthen multilateral coordination, jointly safeguard the basic norms of international relations, and defend international fairness and justice.

Xinhua

## US-Japan pact may increase global tension

IN a historic shift from the post-World War II international order, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida cast off the country's pacifist limitations during a recent meeting with United States President Joe Biden, a move that will increase regional and geopolitical tension, experts said.

"Japan has actually broken out of its six decades of pacifist status," said Wang Qi, a researcher of East Asia at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing.

"So the question now is whether the world is ready to accept an aggressive Japan that is committed to growing its military and is less hesitant to use military power as one of its statecraft tools, because we all remember what happened the last time Japan did these things," Wang said.

Meeting with Biden on Friday on the last leg of a G7 tour

ahead of the group's summit in Hiroshima in May, Kishida said the US-Japan alliance was "stronger than ever".

Biden said, "The United States is fully, thoroughly, completely committed to the alliance and, more importantly, to the defense of Japan" – showing Washington's support for the country's controversial rearmament plan, which aims to double Japan's defense spending over the next five years.

The two leaders signed a pact to deepen cooperation on security and space, among other areas.

Japan agreed to upgrade the intelligence and surveillance capabilities of US troops stationed in Japan. The US endorsed Japan's decision to develop counterstrike capabilities, which would allow Tokyo to defend itself from incoming missiles and launch strikes



against possible aggressors.

"Biden's support for Japan's rearmament, is, in a way, a very selfish act in making Japan a cat's-paw to contain China," said Xu Liping, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies of the CASS.

"In fact, the US has reneged on some of the commitments it made after World War II, and (the support) is, to some extent, a kind of disrespect for the sacrifice of the US military during the war," Xu said.

"It is very sad that the Biden administration has lost the

values that the US holds consistently, just for short-term gains," Xu added.

Da Zhigang, director of the Institute of Northeast Asian Studies at the Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, said that what Washington and Tokyo are doing will feed a regional arms race, which will increase regional and geopolitical tensions.

"The move can curb or even undermine interregional cooperation on many fronts, including climate change and marine pollution," Da said. "Besides that, the ongoing efforts of the US and Japan to intensify regional groupings have a significant negative impact on the development of the entire Asia-Pacific region."

Friday's meeting also triggered protests in Japan, with some objecting to Biden's pointing his finger at Kishida and others denouncing Ja-

pan's military expansion, saying it will disrupt people's lives.

"Pointing the finger is a gesture considered very rude in Japanese culture," said Wang, the CASS researcher, who added that "repeatedly pointing while speaking to another person is considered a sign of extreme disdain or an expression of dissatisfaction".

In Shinjuku, the most bustling area of Tokyo, several worker and student groups protested Kishida's meeting with Biden.

One protester told China Daily, "The Kishida administration has disregarded the national interests and domestic agenda of Japan and tied itself to the US chariot. It is a strategy heading all the way to war. Under this trend, Japan will inevitably be part of war in the future."

Agencies

## Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia may introduce visa-free regime for Russians – diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is currently in work on agreements on the introduction of the visa-free regime for Russian nationals traveling to Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and a number of other countries, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgeny Ivanov told TASS yesterday.

"The work is currently underway on draft projects regarding visa-free agreements with Mexico and Malaysia, as well as with some island states in the Caribbean (the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia)," Ivanov said in an interview with TASS.

"Similar agreements are currently under work with Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Zambia," the diplomat continued. "Moreover, we are currently in discussions with Hong Kong to extend the visa-free regime term of stay from 14 to 30 days."

Ivanov also said that as of today citizens of over 60 countries are able to enter Russia without visas using only their national passports.

## Strikes in protest against worsening economy paralyse vital sectors in Sudan

KHARTOUM

STRIKES in protest against low income and worsening economic conditions held on Sunday paralyzed vital sectors in Sudan.

Thousands of workers and students in the capital Khartoum had to go to work or school on foot after owners of public transport buses staged a strike to protest high fees of licensing, traffic fines and taxes.

More than 75 percent of the population living in Khartoum depends on buses as their main transport. "Today we were surprised by the strike of bus owners, which forced us to walk to the college," said Ramzi Saleh, a student at Optical Science College in Omdurman, a city in the State of Khartoum.

"This is an additional suffering under the economic deterioration," Saleh told Xinhua.

Abdul-Rahim Fadl, an owner of a public transport bus in Khartoum, however, defended the strike decision. "There are significant increases in licensing fees, traffic fines and taxes on the transport sector. We cannot afford them under the current transport fees," he said.

The transport sector is not the only one that has seen strikes, as several universities have witnessed students' strikes from time to time against the high tuition fees.

A total of 20 educational unions on Sunday issued a statement, criticizing the increase in tuition fees in universities by nearly 800 percent. "Under the current economic conditions, the increase in university fees constitutes an additional burden on Sudanese families," the statement said.

"During the past year, more than 100 days were lost because of repeated strikes which had a negative impact on important service and production sectors," said Kamal Awad, a Sudanese economic analyst.

Sudan has been suffering from an economic crisis because of the depreciation of the national currency, the increase in inflation rates and the rise in prices of consumer goods, at a time when the official authorities are trying to address the revenue deficit by hiking fees and taxes.

The United States has suspended 700 million U.S. dollars in economic aid to Sudan, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) halted 150 million dollars in special drawing rights for the country.

The World Bank also failed to offer Sudan the 500 million dollars due in November 2021. Sudan's debt relief process under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative of the IMF has also been suspended.

## UN chief condemns deadly attack at DR Congo church

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned a deadly attack at a church in the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), his spokesman said on Sunday.

Citing preliminary reports, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman, said at least 12 civilians were killed and 50 others injured when an explosive device was detonated during Sunday service at a local church in Kasindi of the North Kivu province.

The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC is providing medical evacuation to the injured in coordination with Congolese authorities, Dujarric said in a statement. Guterres "expresses his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and the people and government of the DRC, and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured," said the spokesman.

The secretary-general stressed the need to hold the perpetrators of the attack to account and noted that the United Nations Mine Action Service is supporting the Congolese authorities in investigating the incident, he added.

By Gerd Schwandner

## Looking forward to joint efforts in advancing global green transition

I have been to China more than 100 times and forged an unbreakable bond with the country.

In 2013, I was granted Honorary Citizenship of Xi'an, which was a recognition of my efforts in deepening the friendship between Oldenburg of Germany and Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, and promoting Germany-China friendship. I was truly honored to receive it.

I like to experience a country by public transport. When I first came to Beijing and Shanghai, both cities had only two subway lines. Nowadays, the rail transit systems in the two cities are far-reaching and efficient.

In 2016, I traveled from Beijing to Shanghai by high-speed train. The journey took less than five hours and the train was very punctual and comfortable. China has also built many modern

airports. I think the constantly improving transportation infrastructure in China is an epitome of its rapid development.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China has successfully found a development path that suits its national conditions.

Over the past more than four decades since reform and opening up, China has lifted over 700 million impoverished rural residents out of poverty, which is undoubtedly a great achievement in the poverty reduction history of mankind. The living standards of the Chinese people have kept rising and the size of Chinese middle-income earners has exceeded 400 million. The European Union (EU) and China have

maintained close trade ties, sharing extensive common interests and enormous demand for cooperation.

Statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce showed that the EU's overall investment in China rose by 123.7 percent year on year from January to August 2022. Statistics from the Eurostat also indicated that in the first half of 2022, China remained the largest trading partner of the EU.

The Germany-China economic and trade cooperation has been running at a high level and enjoys potential for further progress. The two countries have rich experience, advanced technologies and strong innovation capabilities in environmental protection, embracing broad prospects for relevant cooperation.

I still remember clearly that during an event held in March 2009, the then Chinese Ambassador to Germany told me that China attached great importance to sustainable development. In recent years, China has taken solid efforts in ecological environmental governance, and has embarked on a fast track of green development.

As the second largest economy in the world, China's adherence to sustainable development is of great significance to the world. I believe that China will become a global forerunner in more and more green industries. In the future, Germany and China can strengthen cooperation in hydrogen power, solar power and wind power, and jointly promote the global green transition.

Through my experience of living in Africa

over the past two years, the EU and China enjoy vast room for third-party market cooperation in Africa, which will benefit developing countries in the continent. China has rich experience in infrastructure construction and I very much look forward to more cooperation carried out in Africa between Germany and China and between the EU and China.

The 20th National Congress of the CPC is of great significance to the future development of China and has garnered worldwide attention. The event achieved fruitful results and I look forward to more contributions made by China to the common development of all countries.

Gerd Schwandner is the former mayor of Oldenburg, Germany.



# Martin Luther King: Surprising facts about civil rights icon

WASHINGTON

AS America pauses to honour Dr Martin Luther King, Jr's legacy, experts say his fight against poverty and inequality is still just as relevant today as it was during the US civil rights movement.

Here are 10 little-known facts about the life and legacy of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

## 'I have a dream' speech was improvised

Halfway through his speech at the 1963 , gospel singer Mahalia Jackson shouted, "Tell them about the dream, Martin!"

The call-out prompted King to pivot to a previous sermon he'd delivered, where he described a version of the American Dream that was equal and accessible to all citizens.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character. I have a dream today," Dr King said.

The iconic moment would later become known as the "I have a dream" speech. And there is still work to be done to truly live up to Dr King's dream of equality, said Lerone Martin.

His dream of equality is quintessentially American, said Lerone Martin, director of the Martin Luther King Jr Research and Education Institute at Stanford University.

"Despite all the disparagement he endured, King did a wonderful job of constantly trying to show how his efforts were in line with American ideals."

## His birth name was Michael King

When born on 15 January 1929, he was named after his father, Michael King. But six years later, King's father visited Germany and learned about Martin Luther, the leader of the Protestant reformation.

He was said to have been so inspired that he returned home and officially changed both his and his eldest son's names to Martin Luther King.

## King decided at college to become a preacher

In 1944, Martin Luther King, Jr was admitted to Morehouse College at the age of 15. Generations of the King family had graduated from the prestigious all-male historically black college in Atlanta, Georgia.

According to the King Institute, the future civil rights leader was said to have been an "ordinary" student, but his time at Morehouse was instrumental in awakening his passion for social and political equality and inspired him to become a preacher.

## He was arrested more than 25 times

In his 13 years as a civil rights leader, King was arrested 30 times, largely for misdemeanours and civil protest violations, according to the King Center. Though he was often a target of law enforcement, King did not relish being imprisoned.

He was arrested in October 1960 after a sit-in at a department store in Atlanta and was held in Georgia State Prison. He wrote to his wife, Coretta, from jail saying that he hoped the "excessive suffering that is now coming to our family will in some little way serve



Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

to make Atlanta a better city, Georgia a better state, and America a better country".

## He wrote five books

According to the King Center, King wrote five books over the course of his lifetime and published numerous collections of his letters and sermons.

His 1964 book, *Why We Can't Wait*, recounted the events that led to the landmark Birmingham, Alabama, campaign to end segregation.

## He was a Trekkie

Nichelle Nichols, better known as the original Lt Nyota Ohura in *Star Trek*, was once introduced to someone claiming to be "her biggest fan" - Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Nichols had resigned from her ground-breaking role on *Star Trek* days before they met at an awards ceremony. But when she informed King she planned to leave the show, she told the Television Academy Foundation, King was adamant that she could not abandon the iconic role.

"He said, 'For the first time on television we will be seen as we should be seen every day, as intelligent, quality, beautiful people... who can go into space,'" Nichols recalled. "I just stood there realising every word he was saying was the truth. At that moment, the world tilted for me." She would continue in

the role for years.

## He survived previous assassination attempts

In September 1958, King was approached by a mentally ill woman as he signed copies of his latest book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, in Harlem. The woman verified that he was indeed King before stabbing him with a seven-inch blade.

At the time, doctors said he was "a sneeze away from death", because the knife was so close to his aorta, according to the King Institute. After learning the woman was mentally ill, King said: "I bear no bitterness toward her" and instead called for her to receive treatment.

## King's mother, Alberta, was also assassinated

On 30 June 1974, six years after King's assassination, a 23-year-old man shot and killed King's mother, Alberta Williams King, while she was playing the organ during a service at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The shooter was found guilty and sentenced to death, but was later re-sentenced to life in prison in part because of the King family's opposition to the death penalty.

The King family paid for Julia Roberts'

## birth

In an interview with Gayle King that recently went viral, actress Julia Roberts confirmed a little-known fact about the day she was born.

"The King family paid for my hospital bills," she said, adding that the Roberts and King families became close because her parents welcomed King's children into their Atlanta acting school.

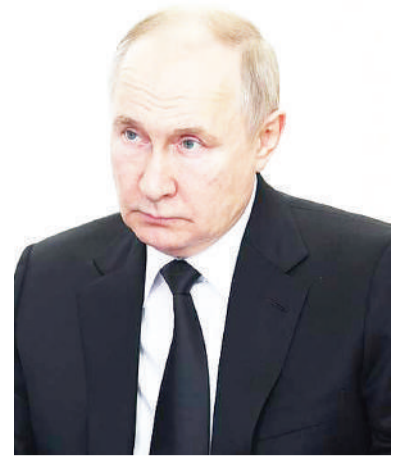
Later, when Julia was born and her family couldn't afford the hospital bills, King and his wife, Coretta, "helped us out of a jam".

## He was only 39 when he was killed

Dr King was only 39 years old when he was assassinated on 4 April 1968. He spent less than 13 years in the public eye campaigning for civil rights and racial equality.

But according to the King Center, in that short amount of time he was able to bring more progress towards racial equality in the United States than the previous 350 years.

BBC



Dynamics of special op are positive, everything is going according to plan - Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin positively assessed the dynamics of the special military operation. In an interview with the Rossiya-1 TV channel for the program 'Moscow Kremlin. Putin', the head of state expressed the hope that Russian fighters would once again please everyone with the results of their work.

"The dynamics are positive. Everything is developing within the plan of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff.

And I hope that our fighters will please us more than once again with the results of their combat work," Putin said, answering questions from journalist Pavel Zarubin.

Russian Defense Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov on Friday said Russian troops had liberated Seldar in the evening of January 12.

He said full control over Seldar made it possible to sever supply routes of Ukrainian forces in Artyomovsk, known in Ukraine as Bakhmut, which is located to the southwest, then surround Ukrainian forces in that town.



The dynamics are positive. Everything is developing within the plan of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff

# What China has done right to maintain mild inflation growth

BEIJING

CHINA has avoided the inflation shock that afflicted most Western economies last year, despite multiple challenges such as mounting imported inflationary pressures and the resurgence of domestic COVID-19 cases.

China's consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, rose 2 percent in 2022 compared with 2021 - well below an official target of around 3 percent - while China's producer price index rose 4.1 percent in 2022, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics.

China's increases are just a fraction of those reported in the United States, the eurozone and Britain, and also substantially lower than those seen in other emerging economies such as India, Brazil and South Africa.

"Stable domestic consumer prices are in stark contrast to the global spike," said Wan Jinsong, an official with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

Mild inflation confirms China's role as a stabilizer for world prices, and clears the way for the government to adopt stimulus measures to rev up the economy.

## Stabilize food prices

A steady food market is crucial for ensuring overall price stability, as food prices account for nearly one-third of China's CPI last year.

Food prices rose 2.8 percent year-on-year in China last year, significantly lower than the 10-percent increase seen in major economies such as the US and Europe.

This could not have been achieved in China without the government's marco-regulation measures - a case in point is the price of pork, the staple meat in China.

When hog prices were depressed in the first half of 2022, the central



In this file photo dated Sept 27, 2022, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari speaks during an interview with the media at the Pakistan Embassy, in Washington. AP

government bought pork for its central reserves 13 times in succession and asked local governments to increase purchases in a bid to support hog prices and boost pig farmers' confidence. When pork supplies were tight during the second half of the year, authorities released seven batches of frozen pork from central reserves amid soaring prices, and urged local governments to increase supplies, said Wan.

"China's pig production capacity is generally within a reasonable range, and we will likely see smaller price fluctuations this year," he added.

The grain price is another telling example. Monthly international wheat and corn prices once soared as much as 74 percent and 36 percent, respectively, year-on-year, while the retail price of rice fell 1 percent in 36 major Chinese cities in 2022, and that of flour went up just 3 percent, said Niu Yubin, an official with the NDRC.

## Ensure energy supplies

China has been largely protected from the impact of the global energy crisis, due to its measures to ensure adequate supplies.

The country cut import tariffs for coal to zero from May 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. China also increased high-quality coal production capacity in an orderly manner, accelerated the construction of large wind power and photovoltaic bases, and increased oil and gas exploration and development.

To stabilize market expectations, authorities effectively responded to abnormal energy price changes, reined in on malicious speculation, and also cracked down on the fabrication and spreading of fake information about price increases.

China established a coal price monitoring and cost investigation system, and launched evaluations and compliance reviews concerning coal price index pro-

viders.

In the first 11 months of 2022, energy prices in the US and the eurozone jumped about 27 percent and 38 percent, respectively, from a year earlier, while fuel prices posted a mild increase of 3 percent in China.

## Deliver subsidies

The country has established a price subsidy mechanism to offer financial aid to vulnerable communities in case of price hikes.

In 2022, China adjusted this mechanism, expanding the beneficiaries of the policy and lowering its triggering threshold from September 2022 to March 2023.

Around 6.5 billion yuan (\$968 million) of price subsidies were offered to 200 million people in need last year, data from the NDRC showed.

Since 2020, Chinese authorities have provided a total of around 37.5 billion yuan of price subsidies to 730 million people in distress, in order to help cushion the impact of price increases.

Xinhua

# ILO: Global jobs growth will halve in challenging 2023

LONDON

GLOBAL employment growth is expected to slow down sharply to 1 percent this year compared to 2 percent in 2022, hit by the economic fallout of the conflict in Ukraine, high inflation and tighter monetary policy, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said yesterday.

At the same time, the number of unemployed people in the world is expected to rise by 3 million to 208 million in 2023, while inflation will eat into real wages, the ILO said in a report on global trends.

The scarcity of new jobs will hit countries at a time when many are still recovering from the economic shock of the global pandemic.

"The slowdown in global employment growth means that we don't expect the losses incurred during the COVID-19 crisis to be recovered before 2025," said Richard

Samans, Director of the ILO's Research Department and coordinator of its newly published report.

Progress in reducing the number of informal jobs in the world is also likely to be reversed in the coming years, the ILO said.

The global jobs forecast is lower than the previous ILO estimate of 1.5 percent growth for 2023.

"The current slowdown means that many workers will have to accept lower quality jobs, often at very low pay, sometimes with insufficient hours," ILO said. "Furthermore, as prices rise faster than nominal labor incomes, the cost-of-living crisis risks pushing more people into poverty."

The situation could worsen further if the global economy slows down, ILO added.



In this file photo taken on Sept 10, 2019, Indonesian jobseekers gather at a job fair in Surabaya. AFP

# SPORT

## Geita Gold Mining Limited extends sponsorship agreement with Geita Gold FC

By Guardian Reporter

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) yesterday extended its sponsorship agreement with NBC Premier League outfit, Geita Gold Football Club, at a value of 800m/-.

The GGML gained exclusive rights as the club's major sponsor for all matches and events related to the 2022/23 NBC Premier League season according to the agreement.

During the 2020/21 top-flight season, Geita Gold FC accomplished several objectives including participation in Africa's inter-club tournament matches.

Geita Gold FC, which was battling it out in the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time in the club's existence, had settled for the fourth spot in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League to make it to the continental showdown.

During the signing ceremony at the Magogo headquarters of the Geita Town Council, GGML Managing Director Terry Strong stated that the signed deal made GGML the main sponsor of the Geita Gold Football Club.

Strong revealed: "Last season, GGML agreed to sponsor Geita Gold FC with 500m/-, however, for 2022/23, our sponsorship package has been increased to 800m/-."

The GGML Managing Director noted: "As

mentioned in the MoU, GGML would prefer this package to facilitate the final purchase of the club's bus, team meals, and sports equipment."

"We expect that our sponsorship will facilitate the team's participation in Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League for the 2022/23 season, as well as other club activities," he stated.

The Geita District Commissioner, Wilson Shimo, who was the guest of honour at the signing event, was pleased to see the two sides sign the agreement since it will have a positive influence on Geita.

Shimo said: "Geita Gold Football Club is a reflection and symbol of Geita's positive qualities."

"The club has successfully branded our district and region... everyone is now aware of the geographical location of our region," he said.

Shimo asked the two parties to consider creating a sports academy in Geita to unleash the talents of young people.

Zahara Michuzi, Director of the Geita Town Council, praised GGML's devotion to Geita Gold Football Club.

"GGML's support in this club has had a significant impact... the passion and effort of the players are the results of GGML's investment. We sincerely appreciate the support," she stated.



The Managing Director of Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML), Terry Strong (Standing, R), and the Acting Chairperson of Geita Gold FC, Izengo, display the signed sponsorship deal between the two sides at an occasion that took place in Geita on Monday. Looking on are Member of Parliament for Geita, Constantine Kanyasu (L), Geita District Commissioner, Wilson Shimo (3rd L), Director of the Geita Town Council Zahara Michuzi (3rd R), and GGML Acting Senior Manager for Community Affairs Moses Rusasa (2nd right), look on (2nd right). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Urgent action required on key issues in sports



Kilimanjaro's Moshi Khalsa outfit's players (in pink jerseys) confront Arusha's Black Mambaz in the 2022 Uhuru hockey tournament final which took place at Sikh Club venue in Arusha in December. Moshi Khalsa lifted the tournament's title following the outfit's 3-1 win over Black Mambaz in a penalty shootout. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IN recent years, domestic women's football has doubtlessly taken giant strides, to the sheer delight of die-hard football supporters.

Indeed, this remarkable progress can be seen in the various trophies that our senior national women's football team and the national women's youth teams have secured in the last few years.

In addition, the fact that the national U-17 women's football team, Serengeti Girls, successfully progressed to the last eight of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup last year despite making their debut at the elite championship, speaks volumes about just how far women's football has come in our country.

That notwithstanding, though, there is still a lot more that can be done to ensure that women's football remains well and truly on track.

For example, the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League could do with a few more sponsors as this would incentivize female football players to go the extra mile in the perfection of their craft.

Granted, the fact that the premier beer brand in the country, Serengeti,

opted to sponsor the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League a few years ago via its Serengeti Lite brand was a noteworthy development that marked a turning point for local women's football.

Nevertheless, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that two or more sponsors are infinitely better than a lone sponsor doing all of the heavy liftings.

Let us put that issue to bed now and focus our attention on a few low-profile sports on the local scene which are in dire need of investment.

One such sport is field hockey, which continued along its distinctly discouraging trajectory last year. Indeed, domestic hockey championships were few and far between last year, which is a deeply disturbing trend that is holding back the sport's progress.

One hopes then that the Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) will be able to get its act together this year and rope in would-be sponsors who will be willing to channel vast sums of money into the sport.

Let us now examine global rugby as this year is expected to be a memorably monumental one for the sport.

Indeed, the quadrennial Rugby World Cup is slated to take place this year in France from September 8 to October 28.

Significantly, the reigning world champions are the fearsome Springboks of South Africa who overpowered England 32-12 in the final of the last Rugby World Cup in 2019.

As ever, the Rugby World Cup this year will pit the greatest teams in the Northern hemisphere of the sport against the most formidable teams in the Southern

hemisphere of rugby.

For those in the dark, the Northern hemisphere of rugby comprises the European powers like England, Wales, France, et al while the Southern hemisphere of the sport is made up of South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, and Argentina.

Historically, teams from the Southern hemisphere have tended to rule the roost in the Rugby World Cup as England remains the sole team from the Northern hemisphere to have lifted the Rugby World Cup in 2003.

From an African standpoint, our hopes will be resting on the Springboks, who with their inspirational skipper Siya Kolisi seem like good bets to claim a fourth World Cup victory following gloriously unforgettable triumphs in 1995, 2007, and 2019.

## The offside rule and a cloudy FIFA legacy: Why it is too clever by half

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

AT times the generation to which a person belongs governs reflexes in public discussion in ways that appear awkward for instance to those of the younger generation.

If it goes on for a while and people start checking the usual references it is possible to discover changes in the basic rule or positions on the matter that took place years ago when the person debating it was no longer paying attention.

The point is that one learns common sense on most things as a youth, and they appear natural, so if something changes drastically in that direction, he loses touch.

That is what this commentator found out in the heat of a debate about an offside goal, or what was presumed to be offside by fans of the opposite side in a well-followed England Premier League game.

It was a Manchester derby where Man United came from behind to win 2-1 against Man City and the second goal was sharply contested as offside.

As these teams have legions of fans at the local level, the discussion was pursued on social media, then the book of rules was opened and soon a surprise sprang up.

When learning a few things about soccer as a youth in school, and never becoming a player even at the school level, the wisdom of offside position was that a player - usually an attacker - is in an offside position if he gets the ball without any defender on the same parallel as himself, with only the keeper in front.

That is offside because one is supposed to either tackle a defender or deceive him, before aiming the ball at goal, as then the defender between the shooter and the keeper makes the move valid.

If one jumps ahead of defenders, gets the ball, and shoots, it is offside.

With this image of things in the head, it



Tanzanian referee, Jonesia Rukyaa.

became difficult to follow what some younger people were saying, especially a particularly concerned one, affirming that had one offside player not interfered with the ball, a City defender would thus have cleared it.

So the issue is that an offside forward prevented a fullback from clearing the ball, as if he was supposed to help him, rather than being an adversary.

It was unclear if this was an appeal to the rules or sympathy, and then someone decided to write down the rule on a piece

of paper to help people match the facts.

What the rule was saying was quite astonishing, as it first broke a rule in media and surely in legal framing, 'keep it short and simple'.

It says: "a player moving from, or standing in, an offside position - is in the way of an opponent and interferes with the movement of the opponent toward the ball..." It is a potential offside position.

Then it completes the provision, namely that "this is an offside offense if it impacts on the ability of the opponent to play or

challenge for the ball," which explained precisely what the younger fellow was talking about.

Still, it was one thing to grasp what the rule appeared to say, and another to figure out how it is used in a match by either the assistant referee, the referee, or match officials in their report - or how video assistant refereeing instruments are used.

Instead of identifying offside as in the old days, a litany of sympathetic connotations arises, of preventing a defender to clear!

There is something in the constitutional history of the country known as 'bad laws' listed by the Nyalali Commission (on shifting to a multiparty state, led by then Chief Justice Francis Nyalali), and 40 such laws were listed.

Were this to be applied to soccer, the rule about offside would easily fall into the category of bad laws as it gives excessive discretion to match officials on the issue involved.

The result is that bribes permit ignoring off-sides or creating such moments by whim, and situations in the World Cup finals of invoking offside were bewildering.

The issue here isn't really to debate how to formulate the provision but why it is designed to leave or really to create so many loose ends.

Just one issue ought to have been resolved by looking at the rule, whether the player receiving the ball was offside or not, or a player was offside when another (of his side) was receiving the ball.

In the old wisdom, if he then shot and scored without any defender being on the same parallel (even at a distance) it is offside.

In the contested match, the key player held the ball until defenders moved in, and another shot in the open gap to score.

Given the long history of graft in the ranks of the international federation, FIFA, designing opaque rules of this kind is not a surprise.

Instead of finding out if a player was alone with the keeper when shooting, an issue is opened up about 'preventing a defender from clearing the ball' as if the game involved is netball.

For those who 'studied in Cuba' this is intentional ambiguity so that accusations of match-fixing or deliberate bias of officials are left aside, as it is pointless to argue.

## Mudryk signs for Chelsea in \$108m deal on 8 1/2-year deal

LONDON

UKRAINE winger Mykhailo Mudryk became the latest big-money signing for Chelsea under the club's new American ownership, joining from Shakhtar Donetsk on Sunday in a deal worth 100 million euros (\$108 million) and on a remarkable 8 1/2-year deal.

The 22-year-old Mudryk, who was heavily linked with a move to Arsenal, was pictured holding up a Ukraine flag inside Chelsea's stadium before the Premier League game against Crystal Palace and posing for photos.

About 20 minutes into the match, Chelsea announced his signing and described him as "one of the most dangerous attacking players in Europe in one-vs-one situations."

"This is a huge club, in a fantastic league and it is a very attractive project for me at this stage of my career," Mudryk said. "I'm excited to meet my new teammates and I'm looking forward to working and learning under Graham Potter and his staff."

Britain's Press Association reported that while Chelsea and Arsenal were believed to have offered a similar amount, the Blues have structured a deal which would see Shakhtar receive more money up front and with more favorable add-ons than those being negotiated with Arsenal.

Chelsea didn't disclose the fee, but Shakhtar said in a statement it will receive 70 million euros (\$75 million) and another 30 million euros "as a bonus payment."

"I am sure that Mykhailo will win respect, sympathy and love of all connoisseurs of world football with his speed, his technique, his impressive and beautiful play," Shakhtar president Rinat Akhmetov said.

Mudryk, who has played just 65 club games across his career to date, had posted several Instagram mes-

sages seemingly suggesting he was keen on a move to Arsenal.

Chelsea moved quickly, though, to add him to the signings of Benoit Badjiashile, David Fofana and Andrey Santos for a reported \$70 million in the January window. Joao Felix has also joined on loan from Atletico Madrid.

Bringing in Mudryk is another bold move from the ownership, fronted by Todd Boehly, who oversaw the spending of around \$300 million on new players – a record amount by an English team – in the summer transfer window.

"He's a hugely exciting talent who we believe will be a terrific addition to our squad both now and in the years to come," said Boehly and Behdad Eghbali, Chelsea's co-controlling owner. "He will add further depth to our attack and we know he'll get a very warm welcome to London."

Mudryk plays predominantly as a left-sided attacker, where Chelsea already has strong depth in Raheem Sterling, Christian Pulisic and Felix, while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang can also play there.

Chelsea is 10th in the Premier League after winning just one of its previous nine league games before the visit of Palace.

The London club stands to lose tens of millions of euros (dollars) if it fails to qualify for the next Champions League. In the 2020-21 season, the most recent for which UEFA published prize money figures, Chelsea won the Champions League and got 120 million euros. Liverpool lost in the quarterfinals and got 88 million euros.

That same season in the second-tier Europa League, Arsenal reached the semifinals yet earned just 30 million euros from UEFA. Prize money has since risen from broadcast and sponsor deals for the 2021-24 seasons.

AP

## Indonesia soccer disaster trial begins for 5 charged

SURABAYA, Indonesia

AN Indonesian court began trial Monday against five men on charges of negligence leading to the deaths of 135 people after police fired tear gas inside a soccer stadium, setting off a panicked run for the exits in which many were crushed.

The deadly crowd surge Oct. 1 in East Java's Malang city was among the world's worst sporting disasters. Police officers fired tear gas when fans flooded the pitch after Arema FC was defeated in a home match for the first time in 23 years by rival Persebaya Surabaya.

The match at Kanjuruhan stadium was attended only by Arema fans, as organizers had banned Persebaya supporters because of Indonesia's history of violent soccer rivalries.

Police described the pitch invasion as a riot and said two officers were killed, but survivors accused them of overreacting. Videos showed officers using force, kicking and hitting fans with batons, and pushing spectators back into the stands.

At least 11 officers fired tear gas – eight canisters into the stands and three onto the pitch – to prevent more spectators from taking to the field after the game.

An investigation team set up by Indonesian President Joko Widodo in response to a national outcry over the deaths concluded that the tear gas was the main cause of the crowd surge. It said police on duty had no knowledge that the use of tear gas is prohibited at soccer stadiums and used it "indiscriminately" on the field, in the stands and

outside the stadium, causing more than 42,000 spectators inside the 36,000-seat stadium to rush to the exits – several of which were locked.

It was among the deadliest soccer-related tragedies since a 1964 crush in Peru killed over 300 people.

Prosecutors charged the five men – three police officials who allowed or ordered officers to use tear gas and the Arema FC Organizing Committee chair and security chief – with criminal negligence causing death and bodily harm, which carries a penalty of up to five years in jail if found guilty.

Authorities in Surabaya, the capital of East Java province, deployed 1,600 security forces Monday, including police and soldiers, in and around the Surabaya District Court, and the trial is being held remotely for added security.

Arema fans, known widely as "Aremania," are prohibited from coming to Surabaya during the trial to avoid possible clash with Persebaya fans.

National Police have removed the police chiefs of East Java province and Malang district and suspended nine other officers over violations of professional ethics since the tragedy.

The fact-finding team, which included government officials, soccer and security experts and activists, also concluded the national soccer association known as PSSI had been negligent and ignored safety and security regulations. They urged its chair and executive committee to quit.

AP

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## Arteta hails Arsenal 'courage' as leaders sink Spurs before fan attack

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta praised Arsenal's "courage" as the Premier League leaders powered to a 2-0 win at arch rivals Tottenham before keeping their cool when goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale was attacked by a fan after the final whistle on Sunday.

Arteta's side were gifted the lead by Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, who pushed Bukayo Saka's cross into his own net early in the first half.

Martin Odegaard added Arsenal's second goal with a superb long-range strike before the interval.

Arsenal's first league double over Tottenham since 2013-14 moved them eight points clear of second placed Manchester City.

But their celebrations were tarnished by an ugly conclusion to the derby when a Spurs fan jumped onto the pitch and tried to kick Ramsdale after the Arsenal keeper clashed with Tottenham's Richarlison.

"The Spurs fans were giving me some throughout the second half, I gave them some back, then the fan jumped over," Ramsdale said.

"It's a sour taste but thankfully nothing too drastic happened."

Asked about the flashpoint, Arteta added: "I just want to talk about football and the beautiful game we just played."

"I loved the way we played and the courage we showed. Everything we ask, they are so willing to try. They are a terrific group of players."

"I think today we went another step. We won last season in big stadiums, but the way we won today was really pleasing."

Tottenham manager Antonio Conte condemned the fan attack, saying: "If it happened, it is not good. We always have to show respect for an opponent and the players. I don't like it."

As Arsenal's unexpected title charge gathers pace, their trip to fifth placed Tottenham was a significant test of their mettle.

They passed with flying colours at a venue which had been a house of horrors for the Gunners, who had lost all three games at Tottenham's plush new stadium since it opened in 2019.

"Big result"

"It shows not only determination and courage but you have to have the belief and quality to do



Arsenal players celebrate after Arsenal's Martin Odegaard, left, scored his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, England, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023. (AP Photo)

it against this team. That is absolutely down to the players," Arteta said.

Even losing out to Chelsea in the race to sign Shakhtar Donetsk winger Mykhailo Mudryk on Sunday could be dismissed as a minor inconvenience thanks to this statement success.

Unbeaten in their last 12 league games, the Gunners are in pole position to win the title for the first time since Arsene Wenger's Invincibles reigned supreme in 2004.

With spluttering City looking more vulnerable than usual and Liverpool struggling to shake off a season-long funk, Arsenal have seized the initiative in the title race with a remarkable 15 wins from their 18 games.

Next weekend's visit from Manchester United – the only team to beat the Gunners in the league this season – stands as another crucial test for Arsenal, who still have to face City twice in the league and in the FA Cup.

"Psychologically and emotionally it's a big result. There is a big history between the clubs and this means so much to our people," Arteta said.

"It's a great position to be in. Lets enjoy every single moment and keep working. I don't want to do calculations, we have to focus on United."

Arsenal took the lead thanks to Lloris' 14th minute nightmare.

When Saka cut in from the right

flank and guided a cross into the six-yard box, it should have been easy for Lloris to handle.

But Lloris committed the latest in a growing list of costly errors with a woefully weak attempted save that let the ball squirm into the net at the near post.

Arsenal controlled possession with imperious ease and Thomas Partey was inches away when his dipping long-range volley crashed off the post.

Saka was proving impossible to contain and he provided the assist when Odegaard struck in the 36th minute.

Rampaging forward unchecked, Saka picked out the unmarked Odegaard and the Arsenal captain drilled a fine finish past Lloris from 25 yards.

Meanwhile, Tottenham promised to take the "strongest possible action" after Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale was kicked by a fan following the Gunners' 2-0 win in the north London derby on Sunday.

"We are appalled by the behaviour of a supporter that attempted to attack Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale at the end of today's match," Tottenham said in a statement. "Violence in any form has no place in football."

"The club has reviewed its CCTV footage to identify the supporter and will be working with the Met Police, Arsenal and Aaron Ramsdale to take the strongest possible action, including an im-

mediate ban from Tottenham Hotspur Stadium." Ramsdale made a number of crucial saves to help Arsenal move eight points clear at the top of the Premier League with their first away league win against their local rivals since 2014.

The England international exchanged words with Tottenham forward Richarlison after celebrating in front of the stand behind his goal at full-time.

The supporter then leapt onto the advertising boards at the side of the pitch to kick out at Ramsdale.

"The Spurs fans gave me some throughout the game," Ramsdale told Sky Sports.

"I was giving some back. The people I did give it to greeted it in sportsman-like terms but one fan tried to give me a little punch on the back.

"It is a shame as it is just a game of football at the end of the day. Both sets of players tried to bring me away but thankfully nothing too drastic happened.

"It is a sour taste but I'm sure we will enjoy it when we go back into the dressing room."

Tottenham manager Antonio Conte called for more respect to be shown to the players. "To be able to show always respect is better, in any moment, for the opponent, for the players," said Conte. "I didn't like it."

Spurs defender Eric Dier, who had his own confrontation with a fan at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in 2020, said the incident was "unacceptable."

AFP

## 'Spectacular' Gavi shines as Barca beat Madrid to win Spanish Super Cup

BARCELONA convincingly beat Real Madrid 3-1 in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to win the Spanish Super Cup, their first trophy since coach Xavi Hernandez took over.

Inspired by teenager Gavi, who scored himself and set up goals for Robert Lewandowski and Pedri Gonzalez, the Catalans produced one of their best performances in years against their bitter Clasico rivals.

Having enjoyed great success as a player at Barca, Xavi returned in November 2021 and after a summer of heavy spending this emphatic victory is a sign his project is moving in the right direction.

Karim Benzema netted a late consolation for Madrid, who have been far from their best since the World Cup break and also fell three points behind Barcelona in La Liga last weekend.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti suffered his first defeat in a final since 2014, with Los Blancos surrendering the trophy they earned last season to Barcelona, who have now won the Super Cup a record 14 times.

"We knew it was a chance we had to take, we have lived through an era of changes at the club and in the dressing room, and this will reinforce us to keep fighting for more titles," Barca captain Sergio Busquets told Movistar.

Xavi crucially deployed four central midfielders, with 18-year-old Gavi drifting inside off a nominal starting position on the left and frequently giving Madrid right-back Dani Carvajal the slip.

Barcelona broke the deadlock when Busquets pressed well after a loose Antonio Rudiger pass, leading to Lewandowski feeding Gavi, who slotted home confidently.

Gavi turned provider for the second, running on to De Jong's pass and sliding the ball across for Lewandowski to finish clinically.

"Gavi is a kid that excites us all, when you see him compete like that, putting his soul out there, he's a character that is contagious for the team, he has an innate capacity for leadership," Xavi told a press conference.

"It comes from inside him, it's spectacular. At 18, I have said it many times, but don't let it stop, he has no ceiling this boy."

- Real 'weaknesses'

Gavi, who won the Golden Boy award in 2022, was the game's outstanding performer and showed Barcelona are in good hands both now and for years to come.

Madrid's own young star Vinicius

Junior was shackled by Ronald Araujo, the Uruguayan playing at right-back to directly subdue the Brazilian's threat.

"Today I think we were lacking, we went out there giving 90 percent, 80 percent, and in a final against a rival like this, you can't do that," Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde told Movistar.

Courtois denied Dembele after a brilliant Alejandro Balde run and the overworked Belgian stopper was keeping Madrid's slim hopes alive. By contrast, Barcelona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen went untested until the 70th minute, by when his side had netted their third.

Lewandowski released Gavi, who crossed for Pedri to tap home at the back post as Barcelona romped to a compelling victory.

The only blot on Barcelona's copybook was a late Benzema strike, finishing after his first effort was blocked.

"To say it was humiliation is dis-

respectful," Ancelotti told a news conference.

"We lost a game against Barcelona like we beat them in the league. They played better and they deserved it, full stop."

The biggest blow for Madrid may prove to be the morale boost the victory is for their rivals.

Although Xavi will ultimately be judged on his performance in major competitions – and Barcelona have already been eliminated from this season's Champions League – he was thrilled by the victory.

"It brings a lot of calm, confidence, because what we planned worked brilliantly, we beat Madrid, dominating the whole game," said Xavi.

"I'll take how we played from this, it is very important to me. The trophy, yes, but how (we won it).

"We have three trophies to play for this season and this gives us confidence."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Arteta hails Arsenal 'courage' as leaders sink Spurs before fan attack

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Rotary E-Club of Masaki's president, Akash Shah (R), presents a certificate of appreciation to Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mussa Azzan (C), after the completion of a charity run seeking to raise funds for providing eye treatment services to Tanzanians with eye problems. The race took place at the Horse Fields, Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Standing (L) is Lions Club International District 411C Tanzania's Governor, Lion Mustansir Gulamhussein. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Singida Big Stars seeking to continue strong home form with victory over Kagera Sugar

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Big Stars will aim to continue their dream 2022/23 NBC Premier League season as they host Kagera Sugar at Liti Stadium in the afternoon.

In their topflight debut season, Singida Big Stars are placed fourth in the standings with 37 points from 19 games.

Head coach Hans van der Pluijm's men have been excellent this season, although they did lose last weekend to Mlandege, going down 2-1 in the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup final in Zanzibar in a futile attempt to win their first-ever title.

They are 10 points clear of fifth-placed Geita Gold FC and just three points off the top three in the top flight.

It has been a remarkable season for Singida Big Stars and it could get better. As it stands, the side is in the CAF Confederation Cup qualification place.

They head into today's clash on a four-game unbeaten streak in the league, having picked up three wins and one draw since their last loss.

Singida Big Stars have been especially strong on home soil, losing just one of their previous nine league games at the Liti Stadium.

The defense has been their key. They have the best defensive record in the league after Simba SC and Yanga, as they have conceded 15 times in 19 games.

Though they lost their first-choice goalkeeper Metacha Mnata who has joined Yanga on loan, they have strengthened their squads with the signing of Kelvin Nashon (Geita Gold FC), Yusuph Kagoma (Geita Gold FC), Marcos Silva and Ibrahim Ajibu (Azam FC).

On the other hand, they have either released or loaned out Peterson Cruz (Clube Nautico Marcilio Dias), Miguel Escobar (Club General Caballero), Frank Zakaria (KMC FC), James Msuva (Mbeya City FC), Daud Mbweni (Polisi Tanzania), David Mwantika (Ihefu SC), Issa Makamba (Kitayosce FC) and Rajab Zahir (Kitayosce FC).

As for Kagera Sugar, they come into the match on the back of a 2-0 loss to Dodoma Jiji FC in the last league outing.

The Kagera club is currently sitting eighth in the table, boasting 24 points from the opening 19 matches.

The visitors have won just one of their last five NBC Premier League games. Worse still, Kagera Sugar has twice let the outfit's lead slip in two home games against Simba SC and Azam FC, they also let Geita Gold FC snatch an equalizer in stoppage time.

A 1-0 defeat at Mwanza's CCM Kirumba Stadium in the reverse fixture means Kagera Sugar will be keen on exacting revenge on the hosts, but away form in the league shows the former has won just two of the side's last 10 fixtures on the road.

Mecky Mexime's Kagera Sugar has a clean bill of health. The coach will be able to select from his best players for the starting XI.

## Yanga, Simba SC beef squads with deadline day signings

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE December-January transfer window slammed shut in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League on Sunday after a month-long period of transfer business dominated by media speculations.

Many of the clubs did their business early in the transfer period as the league was going on.

That, though, does not mean there were not some last-minute deals as clubs scrambled to put the finishing touches to their selections.

As has become the norm, Yanga and Simba SC stole the show with big-name deadline signings that were confirmed on Sunday night.

Yanga signed Singida Big Stars FC goalkeeper Metacha Mnata on loan for the remainder of the 2022/23 season, the Jangwani Street outfit announced on Monday.

The 24-year-old Tanzania international joined Singida Big Stars at the start of the 2022/23 campaign where he made 12 league appearances and will join Yanga as a back-up to first-choice Djigui Diarra.

This is the second time the former Azam FC goalkeeper is joining the Nasreddine Nabi-coached side.

After he made his Mainland Tanzania Premier League debut with Mwanza's Mbao FC in the 2019/20 season, he went to Yanga and spent two seasons before he made a switch to Polisi Tanzania in 2021/22.

He becomes Yanga's fourth new addition in this window after Kennedy Musonda (Power Dynamos, Zambia), Mamadou Doumbia (Stade Malien, Mali), and Mudathir Yahya (free agent).

The reason why Mnata has been re-signed is that Aboutwalib Msherry, Yanga's second-choice custodian, sustained an injury that will keep him out of action for some time. Yanga still has Eric Johola to call upon as a third-choice shot-stopper.

Mnata's return comes at a time when the defending league champions are preparing for the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup group stage scheduled for next month.

Burkina Faso attacking midfielder Yacouba Sogne and Congolese forward Heritier Makambo have been released by the club while forward Yusuph Athuman has been loaned out to Coastal Union.

On the other side of the Dar es Salaam divide, Simba SC has completed two signings, with Congo-



Yanga's newly signed Zambian forward Kennedy Musonda attends training at the squad's camp at Avic Town in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam last week after the footballer was announced as the outfit's new signing recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

lese forward Jean Baleke joining Burkina Faso defensive midfielder Hamed Ismael Sawadogo as the deadline-day addition to the Msimbazi Street outfit.

Simba SC wanted to add more firepower to their ranks and was looking at several names including long-term target Caesar Manzoki and Jean Makusu Mundele but it

seems the deals did not materialize in the end.

Simba SC will play in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League group stage next month. They are pitted against Vipers SC (Uganda), Raja Casablanca (Morocco), and Horoya AC (Guinea).

Robertinho lauds Simba SC second half performance against CSKA Moscow

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC head coach Roberto Oliveira alias 'Robertinho' was eager to hail an 'amazing' second-half performance showcased by his side, as they fought back from 2-0 down at halftime to earn a 2-2 draw in a pulsating international club friendly with Russian Premier League side, CSKA Moscow, in Dubai on Sunday afternoon.

Robertinho's side was coming into the game having lost a previous friendly with Oman side, Al Dhafra, and found themselves 1-0 down in the opening 10 minutes with CSKA Moscow also missing a penalty kick in the seventh minute.

The Russian outfit added the second goal after the half-hour mark to go into the break with a 2-0 lead.

Robertinho shuffled in the second half, Habib Kyombo replacing Pape Sakho and Mzamiru Yassin taking the palace of Erasto Nyoni.

Kyombo took just two minutes to make an impact when he slotted home to make it 2-1 in the 47th minute.

And that goal set the tone for the second half in which Simba SC dominated against CSKA Moscow who had changed their entire first eleven. But it took until the 71st minute for Robertinho's side to draw level.

In a post-game interview with a member of Simba SC's information department, the Brazilian gaffer was understandably delighted with his side's second-half performance as he issued his view on a memorable afternoon in Dubai.

The tactician noted: "I am happy because I have been here for five days with my team and today the second half was amazing because I had good opportunities to change and try young players and to get the balance with experienced players. We played very well in the second half."

The gaffer revealed: "Simba SC showed everyone their ability for the CAF Champions League. Our opponents used two teams today but in the second half Simba SC played better than the opponents."

"That's very important and I am very happy for the young players who played in the second half because they changed their mentality, they quickly understood my philosophy for Simba SC."

The tactician noted: "My objective is to build a strong team and a new philosophy for the CAF Champions League. It is very important because I need to understand every player. I like to talk to the players, support and build their confidence. I think we have a good future."

Simba SC lately positioned second in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League standings, is expected to return from Dubai just in time for the club's Wednesday game against Mbeya City FC.

The side went to Dubai for a mid-season training camp after facing an ignominious exit from the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup which took place in Zanzibar.

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That's very important and I am very happy for the young players who played in the second half because they changed their mentality, they quickly understood my philosophy for Simba SC

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
14:00 SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
16:00 Hot Spot  
16:30 Zote Kuntu  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 Club Bangers

**MJADALA** is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

**eastafRICA RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

