



**BUSINESS** Tanzania Portland Cement posts 97bn/- profit in 2022

Vodacom and partner merchants to reward M-Pesa customers

African economies remain upbeat despite global shocks, says ADB VP

Gold prices now face second weekly drop

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**BANK HANDS OVER 150 DESKS IN CAPITAL CITY PAGE 5**

# Media Bill deletes criminal liability

## Govt scales up checks on ozone depletion products

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 720 government officials from various regulatory authorities have been trained on the law on the control of chemicals that deplete the ozone layer.

Catherine Bamwenzaki, assistant director for Environment in the Vice President's Office yesterday profiled efforts in that sphere, when opening training for government officials at the Horohoro border center in Tanga Region, taking stock of the control of the importation of gas and equipment containing flammable gases that destroy the ozone layer.

Officials in the training session are drawn from the Chief Government Chemist Laboratory, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards and the Tanzania Revenue Authority, being taken through a comprehensive list of prohibited chemicals and products that may contain harmful chemicals, excluded from importation.

The key area is environmental management law regulations amended last year, a topic presented by Dustan Shimbo, the legal services director at VPO also holding ozone science advisory functions.

Other topics related to effects of the destruction of the ozone layer and control of importation of chemicals controlled under the Montreal Protocol, delivered by George Ngosso, an official of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

There is a presentation on the use of equipment to detect gases that destroy the ozone layer, presented by Goodluck Lulagora, an expert with the Fishing Education Training Agency (FETA) at Bagamoyo in Coast Region.

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By Henry Mwangonde

THE government yesterday tabled a bill for miscellaneous amendments bill relating to the Media Services Act of 2016, in its first reading.

Stakeholders who went over the bill say the bill proposes key changes aimed at making media practitioners enjoy freedom of expression, the right to access information and editorial independence without fear of criminal sanctions.

The bill will be subject to discussion by parliamentary committees and stakeholders to make contributions before its second reading in the House in the next meeting of the legislature.

The bill proposes separating the office of the Director of Information Services from coordinating government advertisements, whereupon government agencies will choose the relevant media depending on their needs.

The bill proposes deletion of section 38(3) of the Act for purposes of maximizing freedom of expression by amending sections 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 63 and 64.

The proposed amendments remove the threat of media practitioners being put to criminal defamation procedure as it usually falls under civil litigation, where it is an aggrieved individual who pursues remedies.

Sections listed for altering will in effect remove punishment upon owners of printing plants as printers don't check contents of what is printed, the bill reads in part. The bill also proposes to reduce penalties in respect of various offences in order to align such penalties with the gravity of those offences.

The Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) yesterday commended the government for tabling the bill, describ-

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## PM outlines plans for harvesting rainwater

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is implementing measures to contain the impact of climate change in the food crop sector in particular, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

Adjourning the latest meet-

ing of the legislature, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that the government is working to mitigate climate change by pushing for rainwater harvesting, construction of dams and irrigation farming.

This will help in ensuring sustainable economic growth

as climate change has affected economic activities and revenue collection in the current financial year.

He was outlining challenges noticed in executing the

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Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax signs a condolence book at the Turkish Embassy in Dar es Salaam following the series of deadly earthquake that hit that country and Syria earlier this week, with the death toll having surpassed 20,000 by the latest count. Photo: Foreign Affairs ministry

## Death count crosses 21,000 in Turkey-Syria earthquake

ISTANBUL

THE death toll in the earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria has crossed 21,000 with thousands of people left homeless in the harsh winter amid sub-zero temperatures.

The bitter cold and rain hampered rescue teams in their race against time and hopes were fading that many more would be found alive in the ruins

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# PM on plans for harvesting rainwater, building dams, irrigation

FROM PAGE 1

budget during the July to December period, citing drought in some parts of the country which affected crop production, livestock deaths and power outages.

Dwindling of water in all these areas calls for remedial measures in conserving water and putting to better use available water sources, thus the rainwater, dams and irrigation plans, he said.

Hydro-power generation stations were affected by diminishing river flows, pushing the government to map out strategies for sustaining the country's economic growth. This includes full implementation of the national environment policy of 2021, he said.

The government is financing drilling of deep wells and building dams for irrigation farming, he stated, pointing at registration of businesses in the informal sector and promotion of online businesses as equally intended to sustain growth rates and elevate revenue collection.

During fiscal 2023/24 and 2024/25 the government expects to build 15 dams for harvesting rainwater to propel irrigation farming, as part of the 'building a better tomorrow,' pegged to a reliable supply of water for irrigation farming and domestic use.

So far the government approved 19.4trn/- for recurrent and development expenditure, amounting to 91.7 percent of the target. Of the funds, close to 12.3trn/- was recurrent expenditure, retaining 7.1trn/- for development expenditure.

He expressed satisfaction with collection of revenues which topped 13.4trn/- (96.6 percent of the set target), where the Tanzania Revenue Authority collected 11.6trn/- (98.1 percent of the set target), he said.

Non-tax revenues amounted to 1.2trn/- (86.3 percent of the target) while local government authorities collected 458.6bn/- (89.7 percent of the target), he stated, elaborating that efficiency in revenue collections inched up by 12.2 percent.

Budget implementation during the first half saw several successes where economic growth attained 5.2 percent, rapid implementation of strategic projects, advances in irrigation farming along with the fuel and fertilizer subsidy initiatives.

Two bills were tabled for the first time before the legislature was adjourned, including the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill to keep the laws updated/

There are challenges observed in its implementation and thus amending the laws will facilitate improvement of rules and eliminate shortfalls in implementation, he said, citing the case of the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Act and the Media Service Act.

Other laws envisaged include the Medical Stores Act, the National Leaders' Funerals Act, the Railways Act, the Tanzania Forestry Research Institute Act, the Treasury Registrar Ordinance and the Value Added Tax Act, he stated.

A bill to amend the law on public-private partnerships aims at addressing challenges encountered in its implementation, with the need to enable private sector participation in carrying out government development projects, he stated.

"The involvement of the private sector will help the government reduce the budgetary burden in implementation of development projects," he stated.

Challenges in implementation of the current budget include delays in tax and levy payments by property owners as well as a rise in logistics costs and imported products and services.

He urged public institutions to observe several initiatives in the implementation of the current budget, tied to the 2023/24 development plan, citing instructions that district councils with revenue collections exceeding 2bn/- allocate not less than 20 percent of revenues for development projects, where a half of it targets empowering women, youth and the disabled.

During the 10th meeting of the National Assembly a total of 150 primary questions were answered, 450 supplementary questions and 13 direct questions were asked to the premier, with MPs set to reconvene for the budget session starting April 4th.

## Govt scales up checks on ozone depletion products

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Said Mziwanda from the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA), Chang'ombe centre will contribute to the topic, she said.

Officials manning border points need elaborate skills on how to identify and control chemicals that contribute to depletion of ozone layer, she said.

The training is timed to go in tandem with sensitization of the public on the importance of preserving the ozone layer, as the country seeks to play its part in controlling ozone layer depletion and consequent rise in ultraviolet radiation, causing vast damage to human health and the environment.

Chemicals or gases used in refrigerators, air conditioners, fire extinguishers, steel cleaning, mattress manufacturing, soil fumigation in tobacco farms, flower cultivation and grain storage in warehouses that are imported into the country through various border posts.

These chemicals cause skin cancer or blindness and affect the growth of plants, she elaborated.

Under the national programme on the issue, the government plans to eliminate chemicals that deplete the ozone layer, named Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 2030.

Hitherto abandoned activities include training of customs officers and other officials on environmental management regulations in implementation of the Vienna and Montreal conventions, she further noted.



Legislators take turns in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday to bid Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa farewell shortly after the House adjourned until the next ordinary meeting - in April. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Death count crosses 21,000 in Turkey-Syria earthquake

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of towns and cities, rescue agencies told international media.

The death toll in Turkey rose to 17,674 by early yesterday, Health minister Fahrettin Koca said. More than 3,377 people have died in Syria, a ministerial statement affirmed. Yet there have been extraordinary tales of survival that are still emerging such as the rescue of a 2-year-old boy after 79 hours trapped in the rubble of a collapsed building in Hatay.

Hundreds of thousands of people in both countries have been left homeless in the middle of winter. Many have camped out in makeshift shelters in supermarket car parks, mosques, roadsides or amid the ruins, often desperate for food, water and heat, streaming reports indicated.

The first UN convoy carrying aid to earthquake-hit Syria crossed over the border from Turkey, with India launching "Operation Dost" to help Turkey and Syria with rescue and medical teams to a num-

ber of disaster areas. India has set up a military field hospital in Hatay, equipped with surgical and emergency care wards, while the United States announced an initial \$85m package for emergency relief for Turkey and Syria. The funding will go to partners on the ground "to deliver urgently needed aid for millions of people" including food and shelter. The death toll across both countries has now surpassed the more than 17,000 killed in 1999 when a similarly powerful

earthquake hit northwest Turkey. Around 40 percent of buildings in the Turkish city of Kahramanmaraş, epicentre of the tremor, are damaged, according to an initial report from Turkey's Bogazici University. The Times of London identified nearly 200 buildings, many of them eight or more storeys tall, in central Kahramanmaraş that were damaged or destroyed. The death toll as a whole had by early yesterday surpassed the more than 17,000 killed in 1999

when a similarly powerful earthquake hit northwest Turkey. Turkish officials say close to 13.5m people were affected in an area spanning roughly 450 km (280 miles) from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east. In Syria, people were killed as far south as Hama, 250 km from the epicentre. Rescue crews looked for survivors at the site of a collapsed building in the dark in the city of Adiyaman with temperatures below freezing, Turkish television reported.



Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF) chairman Deodatus Balile (C) addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday chiefly in connection with the government's decision to have the bill on proposed amendments to the Media Services Act, 2016 tabled in the National Assembly yesterday. He is with Angel Akilimali (R) and Salim Said Salim, both members of the forum's executive committee. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## WHO reports exponential rise in cholera cases in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

AFRICA is currently experiencing an exponential rise in cholera cases, amid a global surge in the disease, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported.

Across the continent, cases in January were 30 per cent higher than for the whole of last year.

Most new infections and deaths have occurred in Malawi, which is facing its worst outbreak in 20 years.

Overall, 10 African countries are affected by cholera. The waterborne disease causes acute watery diarrhoea and can kill within hours but is easily treatable.

Besides Malawi, cases have

been reported in neighbouring Mozambique and Zambia, as well as in Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Nigeria.

Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are also responding to outbreaks amid the historic drought in the Horn of Africa which has left millions in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa said: "We are witnessing a worrying scenario where conflict and extreme climatic events are worsening the triggers of cholera and increasing its toll on lives."

As of 29 January, an estimated 26,000 cases and 660 deaths have been reported in the 10

countries. WHO warned that if the current trend continues, cases could surpass the number recorded in 2021 - the worst year for cholera in Africa in nearly a decade.

The average case fatality ratio is almost at three per cent, which is above the 2.3 per cent reached in 2022 and far exceeds the acceptable level of below one.

"It's critical for African countries to scale up readiness to quickly detect cases and mount comprehensive and timely response," said Dr Moeti.

WHO is helping governments to fight back, including ramping up disease surveillance, prevention and treatment, and com-

munity engagement.

Sixty-five experts have been deployed to five countries, 40 alone to Malawi, where nearly 37,000 cholera cases and 1,210 deaths have been reported in all 29 districts since last March.

Additionally, WHO has distributed cholera kits and other supplies there, including oral rehydration salts, IV fluids, antibiotics, rapid diagnostic test kits, personal protective equipment, tents and cholera beds.

It has also helped to provide nearly 50 rehydration points in vulnerable communities, and supported the recruitment of dozens of doctors, nurses and clinical technicians across the country.

## Media Bill deletes criminal liability

FROM PAGE 1

ing it as a huge step in enhancing freedom of expression.

TEF chairman Deodatus Balile told a press conference that the forum had confidence in the minister, Nape Nnauye, noting that the government has shown that it was willing to see the law changed.

"Therefore the tabling today shows the commitment which the government has demonstrated in the negotiation processes," he said, in the wake of a shift from an earlier position where the Director of Information Services had announced the shelving of tabling the bill in the National Assembly meeting that was being finalised yesterday.

TEF expressed dismay over the shelving, rejecting the reasons for the omission as minor, questioning whether there is indeed a firm intention to amend the law.

Speaking at a subsequent press conference, the minister assured stakeholders that the bill would be presented to the legislature before the February meeting closes business.



# Govt to allocate increased budget to disaster management strategies

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has revealed that the government will continuously work to strengthen the country's capabilities in dealing with disaster risk management and preparedness issues, including adopting modern technological facilities and increasing budgetary allocations towards disaster risk reductions.

He similarly directed executive directors in all district councils across the country to research and prepare helpful budgetary requirements for effective disaster management in their areas of jurisdictions.

The premier said this yesterday here when he graced an event for the official launching of at least five key framework and strategies, formulated to ensure the country stands at an advanced level in the side of disaster preparedness and management.

He directed all sectors that deal with disaster management issues to develop and implement useful strategies in cooperation with all ministries, institutions in the public and private sector as well as development partners.

"Tanzania stands among countries with a long background of experiencing several disasters, including floods, fire outbreaks, droughts, accidents and many others, and these calamities have negative effects at different levels, ranging from the national economy to individual livelihoods," he said.

Apart from the diverse efforts that the country has so far attained in strengthening capacities in disaster risk management and reduction, the minister said more efforts are needed to be put in place.

"For instance, the government is currently working on the project for the construction of an

equipped center for disaster management at Nzuguni area, and completion of the facility is projected to play a meaningful role in elevating the country's performance in disaster preparedness," he insisted.

Minister Majaliwa urged the Tanzanians to inculcate the patriotic habit of handing out assistance to the victims of numerous kinds of incidences of outbreaks of disasters, saying the move was partly to assist the government's hands towards the pandemics.

He extended gratitude for the manner to which various development partners are collaboratively assisting Tanzania to strengthen performance in the side of disaster preparedness.

The five critical disaster risk management guidelines yesterday launched by the prime minister include the National Disaster Communication Strategy (2022), the National Framework Coordination Mechanism for Tackling Illegal Maritime Activities (2022), the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022-2027) and the National One Health Strategic Plan (2022-2027).

Dr Angelina Mabula, Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlement Development, cautioned the Tanzanians who are residing in the flood prone areas as forecast from the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) shows most part of the country will be experiencing torrential rains.

"As the government continues to step up efforts to counter disaster, it is prudent for the residents in flood prone areas to leave the areas instead of waiting to be affected by the predicted floods," she urged.

UNDP Tanzania Resident Representative, Veronica Fubile, said their side will continue to stand at forefront to assist Tanzania to improve disaster management capability.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at State House in Zanzibar yesterday with Marcel Akpovo (L), Regional Representative for the East Africa Regional Office of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Photo: Zanzibar State House

# MPs condemn delay of 2.73bn/- arrears to TanzaniteOne firm

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PARLIAMENTARIANS fault the continuous delay in payment of 2.73bn/- salary arrears to the then TanzaniteOne Mining Limited (TML) contrary to the 2018 ruling by the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA) in Arusha.

The legislators' anger was sparked by a question from Arusha Urban legislator Mrisho Gambo who wanted to know the fate of the 540 of the then TML employees.

CMA ruled in 2018 that Sky Associates Group which acquired TML in 2014 from Richland Resources to pay the workers' arrears who are also currently ongoing with their job contracts at the mine.

Almost five years have passed since the ruling came out following the workers' decision of filing a lawsuit No CMAARS/ARD/112/2018 at the Arusha CMA but are yet to be paid.

Catherine Magige (Special Seats-Arusha) said that the workers are going through a difficult time with their money not being paid.

"It's high time for the government to negotiate with the new investor who acquired TML and consider the best way of clearing the salary arrears of these people," said Magige.

According to her, the new investor should also retain the workers in the Mererani Tanzanite mine.

Apart from the delay, Gambo

claimed that the workers are supposed to be paid 60bn/-.

Iddi Kassim Msalala legislator questioned sluggishness by the ministry in defending the rights of people working in mining companies and those waiting for compensations due to different reasons.

"When will the government administer compensation payments of the 1994 Bulyanhulu fallen mines," said Iddi.

In his response, Minerals deputy minister Stephen Kiruswa said that complaints should file their demands to the minerals ministry for further considerations.

In the TML saga, the deputy minister had earlier admitted to having received claims on delay of salary payments by the then TML which was running mining activities at Block C in Mererani. The ministry had made a follow-up and realized that the 540 ex-employees had filed a lawsuit.

The ruling was Tanzanite One should pay the workers 2.73bn/- in salary arrears and other benefits.

"Though the ruling has been in place for almost five years the money is yet to be paid. However, the ministry is patiently waiting for the court of law to make further decisions on the matter," said Kiruswa.

Richland Resources reached a decision to sell its stake in TanzaniteOne Mining Ltd in 2014 but the

government claimed not to be consulted. In December 2013, Richland Resources and the Tanzanian government through State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) signed a 10-years joint venture (JV) agreement over TanzaniteOne.

Idea was for the company to comply with a provision of the new Mining Act of 2010, which requires the foreign gemstone-mining firms to transfer their 50 percent stakes to locals.

But in unanticipated development, a year later, the London Stock Exchange listed company announced to sell its 50 percent shares in the embattled TML to Sky Associates for \$5.1 million, apparently without consulting its partner, Stamico.

Until 2017 when Richland stakes had been sold, a conflict of workers' salary arrears rose. An eight square km Block 'C' Tanzanite site, which TanzaniteOne purchased its operations from the giant South African mining company-African Gem Resources (AFGEM) way back in 2004, had been an epicentre of an endless standoff between the firm and small scale miners.

# NARCO in process to revoke licences of 31 local investors

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE National Ranching Company (NARCO) is finalising legal processes to revoke licences of laxity local investors who have so far proved failure to perform as per the set regulations and standards.

A total 31 local investors had entered into contracts to lease various ranching blocks owned by the NARCO but they have failed to develop the potential ranches. In an interview with The Guardian, NARCO's director general, Prof Peter Msoffe said the state-owned company was not in any position to tolerate any investors, be it local or foreign who will operate against the set regulations and standards.

The don informed that, being part to abide with the needed procedures pertaining to revoking the licenses, the company had to dispatch the concern to the Attorney General.

"Legal procedures require us to first seek for the Attorney General's wisdom before venturing into processes to terminate the contract of any investors in

order to avert causing the government any loss," he expressed.

The director further informed that the Attorney General has already instructed them on sober ways to revoke the licenses, saying they were now working over the necessary directives.

"We are at a good stage, and we are looking forward to soon embark on a vital exercise to revoke the licenses," he explained, adding that the investors in the category have primarily failed to improve the ranching blocks in different manners. Apart from the move, he expressed that the company was working to negate a negative spate of illegal human infringement at its branches from across the country.

"Extension of illegal human activities within the NARCO's earmarked ranch areas is to a greater extent thwarting performance of the state-owned company to attain its set targets in upgrading performance of the vital economic sector," he informed.

Prof Msoffe detailed that invasions into earmarked ranches stands a great barrier which retards efforts to improve NARCO's standards and pace


of service delivery, as well as animal's welfare and security.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE RAW HOSPITALITY GROUP\_FZCO WITH REGISTRATION NO 154-000-525, WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT OFFICIALLY FROM THIS DAY OF 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023 ONWARDS THE SAID COMPANY WILL BE PERMANET CLOSED.

ISSUED BY THE COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT.

RAMESH SUNDAR  
DIRECTOR  
Tel: +255 (0) 754 344913/0655 797 338  
Email:  
ramesh\_sundar2004@yahoo.co.im



## An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha Department of Foreign Affairs

Finance Assistant  
Embassy of Ireland, Dar es Salaam

Our mission is to promote and protect abroad the values, interests and economic well-being of Ireland and its people. We do this under the political direction of our Ministers, through our staff at home and through our Embassy network abroad.

The goal of the Embassy of Ireland is to promote Ireland's values and interests in Tanzania and across the Great Lakes sub-region, in line with Ireland's commitment to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals. The Embassy seeks to advance Ireland's values and interests through support for peace, prosperity and equality, with a focus on women and girls in Tanzania.

The Embassy of Ireland is seeking to recruit **a highly motivated and dynamic individual** to join a growing team in the position of Finance Assistant in the Embassy.

**Finance Assistant - Overview:**

- The candidate will be supported to complete the CPA / ACCA training programme (or other internationally recognised accountancy qualification).
- The contract will be offered on a three-year renewable basis, including a probationary period.
- Competitive salary TSH 43,882,355 annually, including a 13<sup>th</sup> month, plus health insurance and training opportunities. Salaries are paid direct to a bank account; therefore, the successful candidate must have a bank account.

**Main Responsibilities**

- Under the direction of the Head of Finance (HOF), work directly with Finance Team to support the achievement of results in the relevant sectors and Embassy business outcomes.
- Support HOF in the day-to-day financial management and control to the financial resources allocated to the Embassy and Aid Programme.
- Support HOF in the timely provision of financial information for reporting to headquarters in Ireland and to the Embassy management.
- Support HOF budget process, ongoing monitoring of expenditure against budget.
- Support HOF in ensuring the Embassy is compliant with the local regulatory system, with particular emphasis on payroll taxes, pension liabilities and VAT.
- Support HOF in ensuring compliance with all financial procedures as prescribed.
- Support HOF in ensuring the risk of fraud is minimised.
- Provide routine technical advice on financial issues (as per the Financial Policy & Procedures Manual) and systems improvements to administration and programme staff.
- Other duties as required from time to time and directed by Head of Finance.

**Essential Requirements candidates must be able to demonstrate:**

- The candidate **must** have a Degree in Accounting, finance or business, Postgraduate Degree in Accounting, finance or business or pursuing CPA/ACCA.
- The candidate **must** have a minimum of three years of relevant experience;
- The candidate **must** demonstrate experience (through examples) of financial analysis and budget management;
- The candidate **must** have proven record showing a very high degree of integrity and trust;
- The candidate **must** demonstrate using work based examples of providing excellent **interpersonal skills**, being persuasive, **working in a team** but also dealing effectively with people in external organisations;
- The candidate **must** provide evidence of flexibility, efficiency and effectiveness showing strong **organizational skills**, attention to detail, an ability to work under pressure and to manage multiple tasks;
- The candidate **must** provide examples of being solutions-oriented, and **committed to delivering results**, including by adapting approaches if necessary;
- The candidate **must** be **fluent** in English;
- The candidate **must** demonstrate using examples, their working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel); including setting up complex linked spread sheets & using formulae to monitor Budget vs Actual spend;
- Commitment to study or already started study of professional certification in Accounting (ACCA, CIMA or CPA)
- All applicants must have a permanent legal right to reside and work in Tanzania prior to recruitment.**

**Desirable Skills and Experience:**

- Experience with SUN System and the Q&A Reporting module will be an added advantage;
- Experience in payroll;
- Previous experience in a diplomatic mission is desirable, but not essential.

**Terms and conditions of employment:**

- The successful candidates will be hired on a three-year renewable contract;
- Training opportunity to pursue CPA(T)/ACCA qualification may be provided at the discretion of Management;
- Medical Insurance will be provided;
- The salary for the position is TSH 3,375,566 per month paid locally (TSH 43,882,355 annually, including a 13<sup>th</sup> month). Salary scales are fixed and **non-negotiable**.

**How to apply**

The Job Description and Application Form for this position is available on our website  
<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/tanzania/about-us/job-opportunities/vacancy-finance-assistant.html>

Completed application forms should be sent via e-mail only to [embassydrijobs@dfa.ie](mailto:embassydrijobs@dfa.ie) with the subject line "Finance Assistant"

**Applications must be received before 17:00hrs (local time) on 24 February 2023**

CVs or cover letters will not be accepted.

(No applications will be accepted after this deadline) **OR** (Depending on response rates the deadline may be extended).

Please note that only short listed applicants will be contacted.

**Selection Process:**

- Depending on the number of applications received, short-listed candidates may be called for a **competency-based** interview informed by the Essential Requirements above.
- It is planned that interviews will be held before the end of March 2023.
- A skills test may be included in the recruitment process;
- A second and third interview may be included in the recruitment process; and
- A panel may be set up depending on the calibre of candidates;

**General Data Protection Regulation:**

All personal information received will be kept in line with GDPR guidelines.

**Security Clearance for Local Staff**

Police security clearance will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for appointment. Enquiries may also be made with the police force of any country in which the applicant under consideration for appointment resided. If unsuccessful, this information will be destroyed. If the applicant subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

**Please note that canvassing will disqualify applicants.**

**The Embassy of Ireland is committed to a policy of Equal Opportunity.**





Students literally stranded at Kinyerezi commuter bus stand in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, eagerly waiting for public transport. One reason is that some conductors and drivers commonly bar students from boarding their buses just because primary and secondary school students are officially exempted from paying the adult fare. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Government tasks EASTRIP contractors to embrace speed and value for money

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has tasked contractors working on the construction of infrastructures for the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) to embrace speed and value for money.

Speaking during a tour to inspect progress of the project, Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Prof James Mdoe said the project was important to national development.

The project involves construction works for the Proposed Regional Flagship ICT Centre (RAF-IC) and Student Hostel Buildings at the DIT's Dar es Salaam Campus.

"You should closely supervise the contractor so that he completes the construction on time. We need speed and value for money," he said.

Recently, the institute signed a contract with the Chinese contractor, M/S Shanxi Construction Investment Group for the construction which will take 12 months.

"I have come while the project is at early stages so that we set goals before the construction has gone far," he said.

He assured that the ministry was ready to cooperate in ensuring that the contractor completes construction within 12 months as per the contract since the infrastructures are needed for learning.

"The contractor should have a work plan for procurement. Most tend to delay work as they attribute it to waiting for materials. Something which is unacceptable," he stated.

However, he commended the DIT for well implementation of the project.

Earlier, when briefing Prof Mdoe over the project, Dr Joseph Matiko, project coordinator, said the project is strategic after the government had looked at strategic areas for development, which includes the ICT sector.

The 37-billion project implementation started in 2019 and set for completion in 2024. Once completed, apart from accommodating students it would also be training lecturers.

The project will have two buildings, one for hostels and the other for teaching (rafic building).

He said the Rafic building will have capacity of accommodating 1500 students at once, with a conference hall with capacity of 400 people. On other hand, the hostel will accommodate 500 students.

## LSF in new programme to boost justice dispensation

By Guardian Reporter

LEGAL Service Facility (LSF) has embarked on a programme to reinforce zonal mentor's organisations (ZMOs) to improve paralegal services and justice dispensation in Tanzania.

Deogratias Bwire, LSF programme manager revealed this on Thursday when speaking at a two-day co-creation meeting that involved ZMOs - tasked to spearhead 92 paralegal organisations in six zones across Tanzania.

The idea is to increase the quality, capacity, and institutional development in providing legal aid services in the community. It also meant to review various planned activities if they reflect the objectives of the implementation of the access to justice programme in the country through paralegal services.

He said that the session aims to build a common understanding among the ZMOs executives in order to show a good direction of implementation of the access to justice

programme in the country and bring expected results according to the guidelines of the LSF including the five-year strategic plan as well as the national development plan.

"This session is being held to meet the needs of changes in the implementation system of our programme for access to justice in the country, especially in the provision of subsidies." Earlier, LSF had a system of providing grants to legal assistant organisations through Regional Mentors Organisations (RMOs), then later direct fund-

ing modality.

"Now we have decided to have regional management to increase efficiency," said the programme manager.

Chitung Said, monitoring and result manager said that the session aims to increase program management by building capacity for legal aid organisations that ZMOs will manage in their regions.

"These ZMOs, their main task is to manage the LSF programme in various regions that they will manage ac-

ording to their regions that we have given them. We expect this system to give us greater results at the end of our programme as we agreed in this important meeting," said Chitung. Regina Solomon, Morogoro Paralegal Center (MPLC) financial officer explained that the meeting has helped build a common understanding in the provision of information (reporting) with results about the implementation of the project in the areas that ZMOs will manage under the funding of the Legal Services

Facility.

Acting Director of the Center for Widows and Children Assistance (CWCA), Jane Kapufi said that her organisation which has been chosen to manage ZMOs of Mara, Mwanza, Simiyu and Shinyanga will ensure that legal aid organisations become more active in practice by continuing to build their capacity. In various aspects of the provision of legal aid services, including providing training on laws that have always had a tendency to change.



Ally Salehe Mkopi (R) from the Solomon Mahlangu Campus of the Morogoro-based Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), pictured earlier this week taking a visiting delegation headed by Ntombi Mkgwe (L, foreground), a senior executive of South Africa's ruling African National Congress doubling as Speaker of the Gauteng Province's Parliament, around the graveyard for fallen ANC freedom fighters in Morogoro municipality's Mazimbu suburb. Photo: Correspondent John Nditi

## EAC delegates to deploy troops to places abandoned by M23

NAIROBI

THE East Africa Community Chiefs of Defence Forces met in Nairobi to address the peace and security challenges in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Officials said the aim of the February 9 meeting was to evaluate the efforts for the restoration of peace and security in Eastern DRC.

The delegation also agreed on the deployment of EACRF to areas earmarked for M23 phased withdrawal, and the protection of civilians in areas vacated by M23.

Chairperson and Chief of the Defence Force Burundi, Gen Prime Niyongabo expressed hope that the deliberations of the meeting will contribute towards creating lasting peace and stability in Eastern DRC.

He also appreciated the extensive and fruitful deliberations by the participants that contributed to the fulfilment of the Directive by the EAC Heads of State.

He said he was optimistic that the deployment of the remaining East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) contingent will be expedited to enable the regional force to deliver on its mandate.

Present were EAC Secretariat, Senior Officers, and other invited guests. Budgetary constraints are among the issues affecting plans to address the crisis.

The meeting brought together

delegates from seven partner states that include Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The security chiefs are strategising on how they will contain resurgent M23 rebels and other groups in eastern DRC.

This comes amid ongoing protests in Goma by locals against the regional force, East African Community Regional Force accusing them of siding with M23.

During the Bujumbura meeting, President William Ruto called on leaders from the EAC to urgently address the conflict in DRC.

He said the situation remains fluid as civilians bear the brunt of the conflict.

So dire is the state of affairs that Ruto said at least 27 million people are in acute need of humanitarian aid.

Ruto called for the immediate convening of the Nairobi-IV session of the Inter-Congolese Consultations as a follow up on Nairobi-III.



**The security chiefs are strategising on how they will contain resurgent M23 rebels and other groups in eastern DRC**

## SUA signs pact with farm inputs institutions to boost productivity

By Guardian Reporter

SOKOINE University of Agriculture (SUA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with all institutions working on the area of farming inputs under the Ministry of Agriculture so as to strengthen cooperation and thus bring productivity in the agriculture sector.

Speaking during the signing ceremony on Thursday in Morogoro, SUA deputy vice chancellor- (Academic, Research and Consultancy) Prof Maulid Mwatawala said the university was earlier aiming to sign cooperation partnership with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI),

Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) and Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) but the Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe advised to include all institutions under the ministry.

According to him, the move will help strengthen cooperation between SUA and the institutions especially in the area of research and practical learning so as to stimulate development of the agriculture sector.

He wanted the heads of the institutions to appoint one person who will be coordinating the implementations of the agreements.

Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide

Authority (TPHPA) acting director, Prof Joseph Ndunguru said that the cooperation will help the institutions to discuss and set joint plans which will later help bring productivity in the sector.

"What we have done today is a very good thing because with our combined efforts in various fields and our institutional responsibilities, we can initiate joint projects that will bring productivity to agriculture through science, technology and innovation. With this, we will be able to make a great contribution to the agricultural sector and the national economy," Prof Ndunguru said.

He promised to ensure that all that they

have agreed to implement are implemented effectively with the institution providing all the needed cooperation to achieve the intended goals.

Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) executive director Dr Stephen Ngailo said his institution has been cooperating with some of these institutions in various fields but the new agreement will increase the scope of cooperation and productivity.

Stanford Chijenga from TOSCI said: "As seed stakeholders, we have been working with various institutions in different areas including receiving students from SUA for practical learning."

ASA chief executive officer, Dr Sophia Kashenge said: "We thank SUA for its cooperation because as seed producers, we have many areas that we have been seeing that we can work together, especially in seed production because we believe that SUA has many seeds that have not reached the farmers."

SUA deputy vice-chancellor (Finance and Planning) Prof Amandus Muhairwa asked the heads of the institutions to stick together to defend the arguments and various issues related to science in the country instead of having contradictory statements on matters that are clear for their personal interest.



## Exim Bank completes school desk donations

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AS part of its campaign to distribute 1,000 desks in different regions countrywide, Exim Bank Tanzania has completed its ambitious initiative in the capital city by handing over 150 desks at Chemba Primary School in the capital city.

The desk distribution campaign was launched at the end of 2021 by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa as part of the celebrations to mark 25 years since the inception of the bank.

The occasion was blessed by Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule in the Chemba district, where Exim bank handed over 150 desks to the school, an occasion that was attended by teachers, pupils, district and regional leaders.

Speaking during the occasion, the Dodoma RC paid tribute to Exim Bank for its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) campaign that was undertaken in eight regions with a view to improving the quality of education in the country by tackling the challenge of desks in several schools including Chemba Primary school.

"I wish to congratulate Exim Bank in this campaign that has touched hundreds of pupils who have benefited from this initiative, and I can assure you that the tone you have set shall always remain in the minds of these pupils," she noted.

RC Senyamule however, requested the bank to look at how it can help to fill the deficit of 86 desks that were still pending at Chemba Primary School. She also urged area residents to look for solutions on various challenges facing the education sector in Dodoma Region including shortage of classrooms, desks and toilet pits.

Earlier, when speaking at the occasion, Chemba District Commissioner (DC), Gerald Mongella said that his district that has 110 schools including 107 that were fully owned by the government, was facing shortage of desks amounting to 9,011 whereas Chemba Primary school had a shortage of 236 desks. He therefore said that the CSR provided by Exim Bank had rescued the situation adding that there were only 86 desks missing.

Exim Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Jaffari Matundu pledged to cover the desks deficit, noting that his bank decided to select Dodoma Region as the last destination due to the fact that it was the capital city. The bank was implementing its ambitious campaign dubbed 'Exim Cares.'



Archbishop Dr Brown Mwakipesile, Head of the Evangelistic Assemblies of God Tanzania, plants tree shortly before laying the foundation stone for EAGT's Mwangaza church building in Dodoma city on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## EU lifts ban on Tanzania's bitter gourd fruit

By Guardian Reporter

A ban on Tanzania's bitter gourd exports into the European Union (EU) countries has been lifted, clearing the way for the fruit to access its sprawling markets.

European Commission in November 2022, reported to have detected incidence of quarantine pest hosted in Tanzania's Momordica Charantia (bitter gourd), warranting a blanket ban on the bitter gourd crop exports into EU markets.

It was against that backdrop that Tanzania was required to present before the EU the pest surveillance report proving the absence

of Thrips Palmi Karny for it to be allowed to export the fruit to the EU markets.

As it happened, the horticulture industry champion, TAHA through the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) funded Horticulture Transformation for Inclusive Growth (HOTIGRO) had to intervene, working closely with Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) in conducting pest surveillance in all bitter gourd producing areas in Tanzania.

TAHA's chief executive officer, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi explained that her organization in collaboration with TPHPA had to collect samples

from the bitter gourd growers for laboratory tests to verify whether they have the Thrips Palmi Karny or not. "Luckily the outcomes of the laboratory test showed that Tanzania is free from Thrips palmi Karny and that the bitter gourds are produced in an area that is free from Spodopterafrugiperda" Dr Mkindi said in a statement yesterday.

Subsequently, the scientific report was presented to the EU for their consideration to lift the restriction on export of Tanzania's grown bitter gourd fruit to its markets. "After thorough evaluating the Tanzania's pest surveillance report, the Plant Health Unit under the European Commission declared Tanzania to

be eligible to export bitter gourd fruit to the EU under condition (a) of point 71 of Annex VII of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072" Dr Mkindi said.

The European Commission applauded Tanzania for reaching the important milestone in the phytosanitary certification system in compliance with the EU phytosanitary requirements.

"With your written communication notifying the commission that Tanzania is free from Thrips Palmi Karny, Tanzania is therefore eligible to export bitter gourd fruit to the EU" reads a statement wrote by a policy officer in the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

(DG Sante) of European Commission, Dr Leonard Shumba.

In its efforts to capture international markets, TAHA through the HOTIGRO project had embraced a bitter gourd with high demands in Germany and UK, owing to its nutritional values.

"We have added a bitter gourd in the list of our commercial and high horticultural value chain" she said, adding: "As a result from December to mid February 2022, TAHA facilitated farmers to export over 44 metric tonnes of bitter gourd to Germany, fetching them 60m/- directly and the economy \$132,000 foreign currency, implying that the crop is highly lucrative".

Dr Mkindi said that before the EU export ban projections were that local farmers would have exported 350 metric tonnes between February and June, earning them 472.5m/- directly and the economy \$1.05 million in foreign currency.

In the same season, the bitter gourd value chain would have created 750 employees, 90 percent being the women and youth who would have earned emoluments worth 45m/-, TAHA boss said.

In the November 2022 and May 2023 season, the bitter gourd farmers were expected to export 1,400 metric tonnes and earn them 1.8bn/- and the economy \$4.2 million, TAHA projections show.



ZARA Tours mountain tour guide Bruce Temba (C), explains a point to foreign tourists in Moshi municipality yesterday sometime before they began their six-day climb of Mount Kilimanjaro via the Marangu route. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## Children from pastoral communities to get primary education thanks to Tasaf support

By Polycarp Machira, Longido

CHILDREN from pastoral communities at Ilchangsapukin village, Longido District in Arusha Region now have access to primary school education, thanks to the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) for supporting construction of classrooms, teachers' houses and toilets.

No child from the village has ever joined secondary school, but villagers now have hopes of seeing pupils from the Ilchangsapukin primary school join secondary schools next year.

The school, established in 2019 has saved the children from walking about 18 kilometers to and from the nearby school. Many children dropped out of school due to long distance.

Speaking at the school recently, Village Chairperson, Tulito Karito said in 2014 villagers through village meetings saw the need to establish a school nearby in effort to save children from walking far away to the nearest, Gelai Lumbwa

primary school.

He said while the residents started to contribute money for the establishment of the school, the district authority approached them and told them about a project that can be funded by TASAF.

It was at this time that they all agreed that the best project to start with was a school.

They first started with a satellite school with pupils from the nearby mother school. "The existence of this school has saved our children from the wrath of wild animals and long distance.

School head teacher Ramadhan Ramadhan said the school started as nursery to class three in 2019 with only 180 pupils and in 2020, it was registered as a primary school.

He observed the enrolment has been increasing every year, registering 64 pupils in class one in 2020, 83 in 2021 and 174 in 2022 and a total of 561 in 2023.

With the ongoing registration of pupils, the pupil population is

growing. "I thank the government through TASAF in helping establish the school and providing the needed equipment" he said.

Ramadhan added that there are 19 pupils sitting the national primary education examination this year, expressing hope that they will all pass the exam.

Ward Education Officer, Rehema Katema on her part described the existence of the school as a step to boost the level of education in the ward which has two satellite schools, two primary schools and one secondary school.

According to Village Executive Officer, Jackson Molllel, the schools has also attracted several social services like water, improved road infrastructure, among others "The school is a blessing to villagers since it has come along with other social services," he said.

Things have changed for Naseria Ndalai, a 14 years old class seven pupil who argued that in the past it was risky travelling far away to the nearby school.

## Join registered groups to secure soft loans from Youth Development Fund - premier

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged youth to form registered groups for them to easily secure soft loans from the Youth Development Fund issued through the district councils and engage in various economic activities.

He said this yesterday in the House during the impromptu questions session posed to the prime minister.

He wanted youth to have proper addresses of their residence, secure necessary identification documents and take part in apprenticeship programmes for easy access of the loans from district councils.

The premier extended the advice to youth who are willing to engage in self-employment when he was responding to a question by Nustrat Hanje Special Seats for Singida, who wanted to know the government's initiatives in stimulating the Youth Development Fund by injecting more so that a big number of youth are reached.

"In most of the cases youth have been relocating from their districts or villages of origin to other towns in search of a good life. In the process they might be in need of seed capital but they don't have documents to qualify for the loans, are not in registered groups and some don't have proper residential addresses," said Majaliwa.

He asserted that the government through district councils has been sensitizing youth to be in groups and seek for required documents to qualify for the loans through community development departments.

Majaliwa said the community development departments have also been working on canvassing youth to join apprenticeship programmes at vocational education training centers and get required skills on different aspects so that once they apply for the loans they can easily access.

"It's simple for youth who have gone through the apprenticeship programmes to secure loans because the government already has all the details about them," he

asserted.

He said the apprenticeship programmes are sponsored by the government and lasts for six months where youth graduate with skills in hospitality, construction, nursing and crafts.

In her argument Hanje had challenged the central government to empower district councils with low collection of revenue in injecting money to the funds to equalize the liquidity of district councils so that they can offer soft loans to a big number of youth.

"Some district councils have no economic activities to collect even 1bn/-. Why can't the government prioritize them when

it comes to distribution of money from the fund?" she asked.

Ng'wasi Kamati, Special Seats Legislator for youth said that the youth fund had not been allocated with any funds since 2015 to 2022 when it was allocated with 1bn/- which was distributed to all 184 district councils.

Kamani wanted to know the government's efforts in identifying an alternative source of the youth fund so that it doesn't rely on the central government's money in empowering the youth economically.

"The distribution of 1bn/- to all district councils has been of no impact because many youth have not been reached with the loans," said Kamani.



## Representation of women in decision-making has come a long way, says Zanzibar deputy speaker

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE number of elected women members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives has significantly increased in recent years, said the Deputy Speaker, Mgeni Hassan Juma, citing that the number has quadrupled from two elected members in the previous term to eight in the current one.

Women's participation in the House's decision-making structures has also been on the increase, said Mgeni Hassan Juma with more women not only participating in, but leading ZHoR committees.

"Two women are chairing standing committees, where previously there were none, and there are four women vice chairs," said the deputy speaker.

Hassan Juma's remarks were made at a meeting held with a delegation from the Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Jukka Pajarinen - Head of Unit for the Horn of Africa and Eastern Africa, Jukka Pajarinen, and the team in charge of Tanzania, Markus Heydemann and Elina Levaniemi.

The delegation met with the deputy speaker

er and Members of the Association of Women Members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives (UWAWAZA) for an exchange on the progress that has been made through UWAWAZA's partnership with UN Women under the Women's Leadership and Political Participation "Wanawake Wanaweza" Phase II project that was implemented from 2018-2021 with support from the Government of Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and USAID.

Through training and technical support, the project aimed to promote women's increased representation, and to ensure women representatives and male champions within the House have the capacity of identifying gender related issues in bills, laws and policies, and recommend ways to address them.

According to the UWAWAZA Members, the project also helped to enhance their joint advocacy, with more private motions to address gender issues initiated by women in the House, including on the Community Development Fund and social service provisions. The project also supported the development of a gender mainstreaming guideline for the ZHoR and UWAWAZA's strategic plan.



Jeremiah Sigalla (R), coordinator of Zanzibar's World Vegetable Centre Accelerating Innovation Delivery Initiative (AIDI) project, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday making a presentation to various stakeholders on the project's objectives. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Tanzania's goodwill ambassador to start his 49th Mt Kili climb next week

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi.

TANZANIA'S Goodwill Ambassador for tourism in the United States (US) Macon Dunnagan, will early next week commence his 49th Mount Kilimanjaro Climb along with a group of other tourists.

In the year 2021, the tourism envoy successfully climbed Mount Meru and reached its highest peak. He climbed Mount Meru located within Arusha National Park, visiting some other tourism destinations within the park including Little Serengeti and Momella lakes, a move that aims at promoting Tanzania's tourism destinations.

Speaking with this paper in Moshi soon after he arrived from the US,

Dunnagan said he has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro 48 times, a move that aims at promoting the country's tourism destinations across the world. "I am a professional mountaineer, as I have already climbed Mount Kilimanjaro many times, other tourists from my country will also join me including my nephew Willy Dunnagan," he said.

Dunnagan said he has enough experience on Mount Kilimanjaro and Meru Climbing though he has experienced from Mount Meru Climbing in the 2021 that the mountain (Mount Meru) is more challenging than Kili as during his Meru summiting he used a special chain to climb as technical climb.

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

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

"Between March 25 and 26 this year I will also advertise Tanzania's major tourism destina-

tions in the Atlanta Georgia Travel Show with the core aim to promote this country's tourism destinations," Dunnagan explained.

He added that, after his 49th Mount Kilimanjaro Climb, he is going to visit some Zanzibar tourism destinations including beautiful beaches in the famous Tanzanians Isles. "I would also like to appreciate all who made my Mount Kilimanjaro Climb successfully including the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) officials, as well as my professional Mountain Guide, Edwin Kilawe from ZARA Tours who always guided us during our expedition," Macon explained during the interviews. The US national also commended

the production of the Royal Tour Documentary pioneered by President Samia Suluhu Hassan as this has greatly helped promote Tanzania's tourism destinations worldwide.

He said that President Samia made a wise decision to go for the film as it will help attract more investments that would result in creation of more jobs.

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

Macon who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, with ZARA Tours for 48 times, comes to Tanzania every year two or three times with a group of tourists to climb Mt Kilimanjaro and visit some tourism destinations in Tanzania with his group including Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) for fun or for the cause.

Tanzania's Goodwill Envoy in the US further explained that he has climbed Mt Kilimanjaro 48 times, and wrote many books about the attractiveness of Tanzania's tourism destinations including his famous book named 'Sons of Kilimanjaro', and later on he was named by the TTB a 'Goodwill Ambassador' for tourism in his country.



Simiyu regional commissioner Dr Yahaya Nawanda (C, cutting the ribbon), who is currently also filling in as acting Shinyanga regional commissioner, pictured yesterday officiating at the presentation of 221 motorcycles meant to boost the efficiency of extension officers in the latter region. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Igunga District provides over 291m/- in loans to 35 entrepreneurs' groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

IGUNGA District Council in Tabora Region has issued loans totaling 291.07m/- loans to 35 entrepreneurs' groups of youth, women and people with disabilities.

District acting community development officer, Devotha Macheo said this here on behalf of the district's Acting Executive Director, Joseph Samba to the District Commissioner, Sauda Mtondo at the event to hand over the loans.

Devotha said the loans came from the 10 per cent of the council's internal revenues.

According to her, in the second quarter of FY 2022/23 the council's Financial and Planning Committee endorsed loans to 35 vulnerable groups valued at 291.05m/-.

She said 167.6m/- was issued as loans to 24 women groups and 116.4m/- was issued to 10 youth groups.

She added that one group for people with disabilities received 7m/-. She said the groups that benefited by the loans have been engaging themselves in various economic activities including livestock keeping, farming, tailoring, trade in crops and transport of goods and passengers.

Devotha also mentioned two youth groups engaging in motorcycle transport - Simbo and Summit Igunga as having been provided with loans for their transport activities.

Chairman of Youth Wing (UVCCM) in Igunga District, Kimari Busagara advised the youth who have benefited with the motorcycle loans not to let them down by using the motorcycles in criminal activities.

Igunga District Executive Director, Joseph Sambo said the council will closely monitor revenue collection in order for the money be used for the development of the people as well as setting aside 10 per cent as loans to the vulnerable groups, and called upon the youth to grab the opportunity.

Presenting the motorcycles to Summit Igunga Group, DC Mtondo called upon the youth to use them while adhering to road traffic laws.

Conveying his thanks on behalf of the groups that were provided with loans for purchasing carts for refuse disposal, Clement Kivelge pledged to the DC that Igunga Town will be clean as the equipment will be used in refuse disposal as they had applied for.

## Parents in Bukoba ready to contribute 12,000/- monthly to support school feeding programmes

By Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

PARENTS and guardians in Bukoba District, Kagera Region have agreed to contribute 12,000/- monthly to support school feeding programmes to enable pupils to get lunch and thus boost attendance and performance.

The parents with pupils at Bunena and Buyekera primary schools made the resolution recently saying that the move

will also motivate attendance and keep students at school, as most of them were secretly sneaking out of school to go back home for lunch.

Through the programme, the pupils will get porridge and beans, sometimes cooked rice according to authorities behind the programme.

Bakoba ward councillor Shaban Rashid, urged the parents and guardians to invest in their children, to enable them to

be reliable and patriotic persons in their adulthood. "Yes, we are complaining of economic hardship, but this has hit not only Tanzania but all over the world due to the Russia and Ukraine war, education is important," he said.

Bakoba ward education officer, Aneth Mashulano reacted to a suggestion by some parents that pre-primary pupils continue having porridge, as they used saying the matter was important but

costly. "What teachers are supposed to do is to extend time for those classes (pre-primary, and class one and two) which are released at morning hours, until noon when the lunch is to be served," he said.

However, Hassan Byeyombo, a parent of two pupils at Buyekera primary school, was not sure if he and other fellow parents would be able to contribute to the lunch programme, as the amount is high compared to their income.

Tanzania launched the National School Feeding Guidelines (NSFG) in 2021, aimed at, among other things, combat hunger, support children and improve education.

In addition, the National Multisectoral Early Childhood Programme (NM-ECDP) focuses on addressing the holistic development needs of children aged 0-8 years and asks every development stakeholder to support the programme to ensure all children in Tanzania attend school.



## Repay council's loans in time, beneficiaries in Arumeru told

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

GROUPS that received loans from Arumeru District Council, Arusha Region have been told to repay the loans in time so that other groups can be provided with loans as well.

Arumeru District Commissioner Emmanuela Kaganda made the appeal here yesterday at the event to hand over 274m/- loans to 37 groups of youth, women and people with disabilities in the district.

"It is better for you to understand that this money is required to be paid, and that it should be used in projects you wrote up in your applications and repaid in time. She said: "If you repay the loans in time, you will be providing opportunities to loan the money to other people, but remember to use the funds with discipline."

She also called upon women to mobilise and educate the youth in order to benefit with the interest free loans provided by the councils from 10 per cent of their internal revenues.

"We women have the responsibility to educate our youth for them to emerge in big numbers to take up the loans, empower them to engage in businesses as you have been doing yourselves for

them to benefit from this opportunity," DC Emmanuela said.

Earlier, Arumeru Executive Director, Seleman Msumi said in the last three years, the council has provided a total of 1.3bn/- to vulnerable groups and in the six months in the FY 2022/23 it has loaned a total of 509m/-.

Arumeru district CCM chairman, Noel severe commended the council by implementing the CCM manifesto in the fight against poverty by empowering the people economically through loans.

"The loans are a result of the CCM manifesto, hence you must use them well to enhance your families' incomes, but remember to repay them in time," he said. Earlier, DC Emmanuela handed a 274m/- dummy cheque to the youth and women groups being 10 per cent from the council's internal revenues for FY 2022/23.

Habibu Malia, a young man with disabilities thanked the government for the plan saying it will help many people to get out of poverty.

"We thank the government for the interest free loans, we village youths have been able to get government loans, which is not easy to get from normal financing institutions," said Joseph Mibaroi from Kidali Youth Group of Mwandeti ward in the district.



Preparations for the construction of the opposition Chadema's Musoma Urban district office in progress at Nyakato in Musoma municipality yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Kigongo-Busisi Bridge lures mining company's engineers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

A GROUP of 40 engineers from Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) have visited the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge as part of the company's initiatives to develop its workforce through visits and exposure to major engineering projects.

Spread over 3.2 kilometers across Mwanza Bay and connecting Kigongo

in the Mwanza region and Busisi in the Geita region, the bridge is one of most picturesque sites in the country.

The visit was attended by technical groups including mechanical, electrical and industrial engineers, project managers, fitter mechanics, welders and boiler-makers.

GGML Infrastructure Manager, Eliakim Kagimbo revealed: "The Company is interested in using the bridge

as a learning platform to gain insightful knowledge on the technical aspects of the overall project."

"We are delighted to see this bridge being built in close proximity to our operations. As you may be aware, GGML has executed several engineering projects over the years and this bridge provides an opportune platform for us to upgrade our skills," he said.

TANROADS' construction supervisor

at the bridge, Eng. William Sanga welcomed the learning visit and revealed that the completion of the bridge was an important element in the implementation of the country's development programme.

"The Kigongo-Busisi Bridge will provide an important link between Mwanza and the surrounding regions as well as neighbouring countries. It thus has the potential to spur economic growth in

the area. This bridge will accommodate significantly more traffic volumes along the route as well as improve safety of users at this lake's crossing point," he said.

Since its inception, GGML has been working closely with the local government authorities to support several community projects in the Geita region through Public-Private Partnerships as well as national programmes.

Last November, GGML was recog-

nised by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) as the most compliant taxpayer in the country's mining industry while in December 2022, the Company scooped two accolades at the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) Awards: first place in its implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility and 2nd Runners Up amongst Best Private Sector Employers.



Sea Tumba of Dar es Salaam's Majohe suburb pictured earlier this week airing her views at seminar on how to report acts of violence co-organised and held in the city by local CSO Kipunguni Community Voice Centre and Haki Kiganjani, a digital platform. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Zanzibar prioritises infrastructure development for utilisation of sea resources - House deputy speaker

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DEPUTY Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Mgeni Hassan Juma, has said the government has placed priorities to develop infrastructures that will enable sustainable utilisation of the sea in order to put in place a better investment environment for the benefit of Tanzanians.

Mgeni made the remarks here yesterday when opening the meeting that reviewed the preparations for the new blue economy programme for Tanzania.

She said the 2050 Development Plan will reduce poverty and spur economic growth for the benefit of the people.

She said the government, through its blue economy and fisheries ministry has involved women in the economy and many of them use the sea for seaweed farming and crabs keeping.

She added that the blue economy programme is inclusive that involves development and women participation in the management of the sea resources.

"This issue goes in tandem with government goals in the implementation of its responsibilities in assessing the contribution and involvement of the private sector in spurring the country's development," she added.

She further noted that the private sector is the heart of Tanzania's economic growth hence there was every reason to incorporate various stake-

holders in implementing the plan.

Permanent Secretary for the blue economy and fisheries Aboud Suleiman Jumbe said the process of the project will help in elevating Zanzibar in providing them with education, innovation, tools, infrastructures and opportunities for market needs from private sector investment as well as strengthening gender equality.

He added that constructing better infrastructures for the blue economy will strengthen the quality of products from the economy, environmental protection and fighting the effects of climate change.

UNDP resident representative, Christiane Musisi said Zanzibar, through its ministry of blue economy and fisheries has awareness by listening to stakeholders in boosting the blue economy for it to be sustainable and beneficial to Zanzibar.

He said UNDP is collaborating with the ministry of blue economy and fisheries in preparing policies involving sea resources for economic growth.



**This issue goes in tandem with government goals in the implementation of its responsibilities in assessing the contribution and**

## Annual headline inflation for January up to 4.9 pct

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE annual headline inflation rate for the month of January, 2023 has increased to 4.9 percent from 4.8 percent that was recorded in December, 2022, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

A statement issued by the bureau states that the increase of the headline inflation explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended January, 2023 has increased compared to the speed

recorded for the year ended December, 2022. "The overall index went up from 105.59 recorded in January, 2022 to 110.81 in January, 2023," read the statement in part.

The national consumer price index has shown a relatively stable price movement from January, 2022 to January, 2023 ranging between 105.59 and 110.81 respectively. Inflation rates over the same period have shown a stable trend that ranges between 3.6 percent and 4.9 percent.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages infla-

tion rate for January, 2023 has increased to 9.9 percent from 9.7 percent that was recorded in December, 2022.

On the other hand, the annual inflation rate for all items without food and non-alcoholic beverages for January, 2023 has slightly increased to 3.0 percent from 2.9 percent that was recorded in December, 2022.

According to the statement, the national consumer price index between December 2022 and January 2023 has increased by 0.7 percent. The increase of the overall index is attributed

to price increase for some food and non-food items.

Some food items that contributed to an increase of the index include, wheat grains by 2.5 percent, rice (2.9), maize grains (5.0), wheat flour (0.6), sorghum flour (2.9), maize flour (3.3), fruits (0.6), vegetables (3.3), round potatoes (6.2) and sweet potatoes (6.3).

Others are fresh cassava (4.3), cocoyam (0.9), cooking bananas (2.7), dried beans (5.5), dried lentils (4.3), cowpeas (6.7) and dry cassava (7.0).

Some non-food items that contributed to an increase of the index includes garments for men by 0.2 percent, garments for women (0.5), garments for infants (0.5), school uniforms (0.9), footwear for women (0.8), actual rentals paid by tenants (0.2), cooking gas (0.1), kerosene (0.9), firewood (0.5) and furniture (0.3).

Others are household appliances (1.4), diesel (1.6), petrol (0.6), passenger transport by road (1.7), school fees (2.4), accommodation services in hotels, lodges and guest houses (3.0) and goods and services for personal care (0.7).



SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2023

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

## Agro-sector innovation is crucial item in sustainable development

DISCUSSIONS have a way of rolling their sentiments and subjects over time, and even within the space of five years a measure of realism is creeping in, as to what experts think is most important in moving the country forward. There is a change of air from expectations of industrialisation that go back to the 1970s and fed by undercurrents of anti-privatisation on state factories that had ground to a halt. Feelings are shifting because of experience with radical solutions from 2015-21.

That is why new explorations are on air with experts from the University of Dar es Salaam and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) meeting in Dar es Salaam to map out innovation paths to uplift economic growth. The wider issue being discussed is innovation, but it is likely to take a more acute function when panelists in one or other area start examining innovation in industry, agriculture, information technology, entertainment and others. Which sector responds better or has a greater potential for positive yields with innovation clinches the top award.

A few of the answers are already in the air, mentioned for instance by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in a presentation at the Food Summit in Dakar towards the end of the year, as regards resettling the continent's teeming youths with lower or upper levels of education, in agriculture. While it is true that one size fits all is not at issue here, prospects of agriculture are better than most other sectors. For one thing agro-based exports are on the rise globally; no one says for manufactures.

Some innovation is already being compelled upon the country to resolve its resource sharing conflicts, for instance creation of ranching blocks and digging up wells to pump water into well-

built ponds where water doesn't just seep into the ground, or tanks with measured release of water from time to time. Agro-input subsidy is no longer at issue as policy, despite that the best methods are still being ironed out, ideas being put across for comparison. The same goes for seeds, etc.

In many other areas public authorities don't have much to do to foster innovation as it is plentiful, thinking of the arts, entertainment, even spheres like education with its numerous QT facilities, etc. What needs plenty of innovation is agro-sector resettling of the less-educated and even the fairly well educated sections of the youth, perhaps as transition for some of them to do other things. For one thing, proximity to settled areas will do much better than trying to sink them into a bush to start something like an Ujamaa village; it won't work. That is rule no 1 in the pursuit of innovation to resettle youths, that is keeps within social modernisation.

Within these parameters plenty is indeed possible, for instance what sort of link such youths can have with TASAF, a relationship that could be confined to where a farm is and they do something, like taking up an acre and needing inputs and some rented room loan, etc.

The key issue is how resettling can be done within a social modernisation framework but without need for large capital inputs for a single unit, as it would reduce ability for absorption. The president has floated the idea of resettling youths in the farming sector, and it is the hope of other spheres in policy making and social engagement that experts will help the government to make that idea workable, easy to implement. 'It can be done if you play your part.'

## Africa's approach to countering terrorism still misses the mark

Violent extremism is an affront to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It undermines peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. No country or region is immune from its impacts.

Violent extremism is a diverse phenomenon, without clear definition. It is neither new nor exclusive to any region, nationality or system of belief. Nevertheless, in recent years, terrorist groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida and Boko Haram have shaped our image of violent extremism and the debate on how to address this threat.

These groups' message of intolerance – religious, cultural, social – has had drastic consequences for many regions of the world. Holding territory and using social media for real-time communication of their atrocious crimes, they seek to challenge our shared values of peace, justice and human dignity.

The spread of violent extremism has further aggravated an already unprecedented humanitarian crisis which surpasses the boundaries of any one region. Millions of people have fled the territory controlled by terrorist and violent extremist groups. Migratory flows have increased both away, from, and towards the conflict zones – involving those seeking safety and those lured into the conflict as foreign terrorist fighters, further

destabilising the regions concerned.

Nothing can justify violent extremism but we must also acknowledge that it does not arise in a vacuum. Narratives of grievance, actual or perceived injustice, promised empowerment and sweeping change become attractive where human rights are being violated, good governance is being ignored and aspirations are being crushed.

In its resolution the General Assembly decided to declare 12 February the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism and when conducive to Terrorism, in order to raise awareness of the threats linked to violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism, and to enhance international cooperation in this regard.

The General Assembly emphasised in this context the primary responsibility of Member States and their respective national institutions in countering terrorism, and underlined the important role of intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia, religious leaders and the media in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism.

The resolution reaffirmed that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group.

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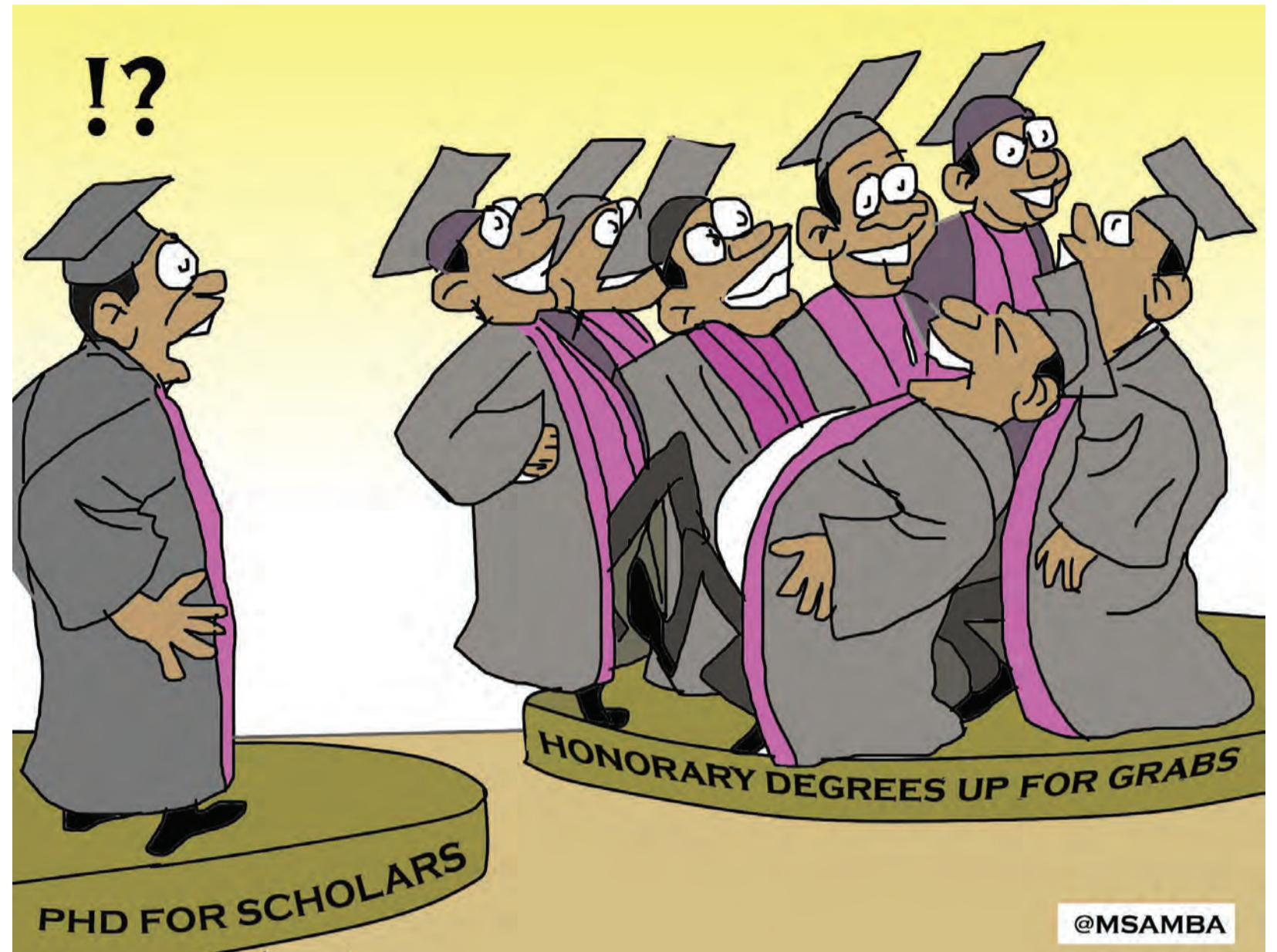
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## Canada initiative offers opportunity for Cameroon peace process

By **Adrien Blanchard**

PRE-TALKS between Cameroon's government and Anglophone separatists, facilitated by Canada, have opened the door to a long overdue peace process, but Yaoundé has balked. The government should embrace these talks, while domestic and external actors should put their full weight behind the initiative.

Having cooperated with efforts to bring Cameroon's government and Anglophone separatists into formal peace talks, Yaoundé should now commit to participate in them. On 20 January, Canada's foreign minister, Mélanie Joly, announced that the two sides had agreed to start peace negotiations. The announcement raised hopes that there might be a way out of the grinding seven-year conflict in mostly Francophone Cameroon's two Anglophone regions, the North West and South West. For months, Ottawa had led secret "pre-talks" that seemingly helped the two sides overcome key hurdles to initiating a formal dialogue. Shortly after Joly's comments, Anglophone leaders issued a joint statement affirming their commitment to participate in negotiations with Canada's facilitation. But three days later, Cameroon's government brushed aside Canada's efforts, denying that it had asked a "foreign party" to broker a resolution to the conflict. The denial revealed deep divisions among top Cameroonian officials and came as a surprise, given Yaoundé's previous engagement in the Canada-led pre-talks. While this last-minute rejection after months of careful work was a blow to peace efforts, the government can and should correct its course and get the talks on track.

Yaoundé's brusque dismissal of Canada's initiative leaves talks in limbo and risks perpetuating, or even escalating, the conflict. Separatist militias immediately responded to the government's statement with a fresh campaign of violence in the North West and South West regions, erecting roadblocks and firing rocket-propelled grenades at army convoys. Their leaders started discussing the possibility of bringing the militias under a single command or organising joint operations against security forces under the banner of a united Southern Cameroon military front. In Yaoundé, meanwhile, the defence ministry launched a drive to recruit

nearly 9,500 new soldiers. Its special forces stepped up patrols in the Anglophone regions and attacked separatist positions.

After seven years of hostilities in the Anglophone regions, the prospect that the parties might miss an opportunity to put hostilities behind them is jarring. The trouble in the North West and South West regions began in October 2016, when lawyers and teachers led protests calling for a two-state federation to preserve the Anglophone legal and educational systems, which they felt were being encroached upon by the Francophone-led central government. The military's heavy-handed response to peaceful calls for greater autonomy prompted Anglophones to form militias, leading to armed conflict the following year. Since 2017, the fighting has claimed over 6,000 lives in the Anglophone regions and displaced nearly 800,000 people. Making up 60 per cent of the displaced population, women and children face differentiated risks, including gender-based violence and child trafficking. Recent estimates state that the conflict has disrupted the education of over 700,000 children.

Yaoundé has thus far been reluctant to consider a political settlement with the separatists.

Yaoundé has thus far been reluctant to consider a political settlement with the separatists. Previous peace initiatives have foundered. In January 2017, the government suspended negotiations with Anglophone civil society leaders in the city of Bamenda, in the North West region, before arresting them, triggering widespread Anglophone calls for the two regions' secession. In 2019, President Paul Biya ignored a Swiss offer to facilitate talks, instead organising what purported to be a national conference, but without inviting the most influential separatist leaders. In April 2020, Cameroonian officials began talks with imprisoned separatist leaders, only to suddenly call them off after a second encounter in July of that year. In October 2022, while again rejecting Swiss efforts to push forward with their initiative, the government started low-level consultations with Anglophone leaders in the diaspora. This time around, the separatists' discretion and clear commitment to finding a resolution persuaded some in Yaoundé to participate at senior levels in pre-talks, with Ottawa's facilitation, leading observers to believe that the government was ready to take the next step

and fully engage in formal talks.

It should. Committing to the Canada-facilitated peace initiative would allow President Biya to change the perception that he has little interest in a political solution, prevent yet another escalation of the conflict and contribute to stabilising the country ahead of elections that are likely to be fraught. The presidential, legislative and local polls due in 2025 are already fuelling familiar political and ethnic tensions that tend to surface during election cycles. Politicians from rival power blocs are positioning themselves to succeed Biya, who has served as president for 40 years and will turn 90 later in February. Cameroon has not seen a single democratic transfer of power since gaining its independence in 1960 and has a history of contested polls, leaving the 2025 elections freighted with uncertainty. Among other reasons for concern, separatist militias forced many Anglophones to boycott votes in 2018 and 2020.

If formal negotiations proceed, they will benefit from good work done in the pre-talk phase. Those pre-talks set as a priority the establishment of confidence-building measures, such as a cessation of the right to education and the release of prisoners. Reaching agreement on some or all of these in the next phase of dialogue could ease the suffering of millions of Cameroonians. Building on these achievements, the talks could then turn to issues that will be at the core of any settlement, such as designing a consensual political reconfiguration of the Anglophone regions; reforming the security sector; disarming the rebels; establishing transitional justice mechanisms to address abuses committed over the course of the conflict; and launching economic reconstruction.

Already the Canada-facilitated initiative has yielded clear benefits.

Already the Canada-facilitated initiative has yielded clear benefits. Anglophone faith leaders (Catholics, Presbyterians, Baptists, Muslims and Anglicans), as well as civil society and women's groups, are more supportive of the prospective Canada talks than of previous initiatives. More critically, the facilitation has also persuaded rival separatist movements to form an orderly bloc. Drawing on earlier efforts by Swiss facilitators, Canada managed to bring together four major sepa-

ratist groups, with a fifth announcing its commitment to the peace process after Joly's statement. In the past, separatist groups appeared too divided to reach consensus among themselves. This time around, their unity offers the Cameroonian government a clear counterpart in negotiations.

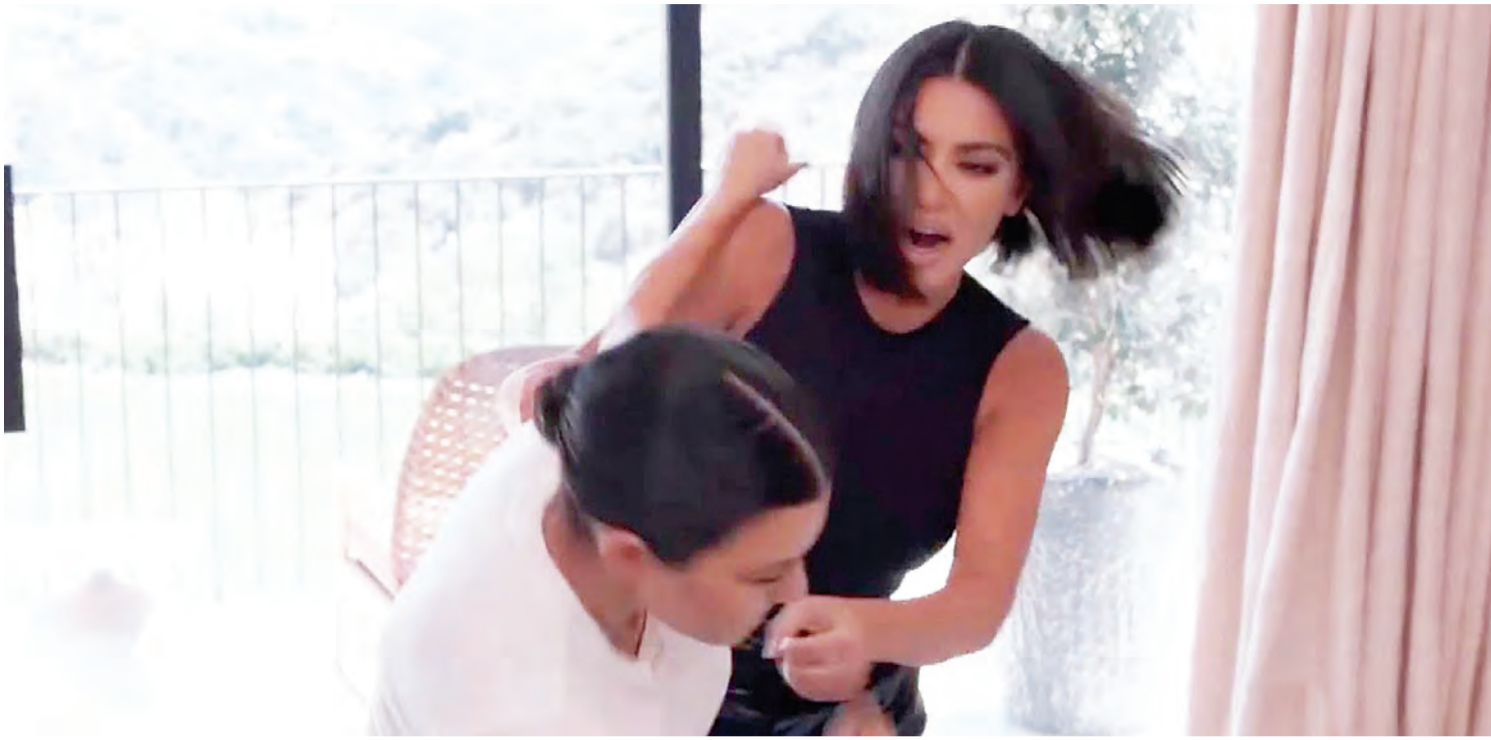
Key outside interlocutors – including France, Germany, Switzerland, the UK, the U.S. and the Vatican, and multilateral organisations such as the African Union, European Union and UN – should urge Cameroon not to miss this opportunity. They should underscore the benefits that a commitment to formal talks would bring Yaoundé on the security, humanitarian and diplomatic fronts. Should the impasse be overcome, Canada should convene an inclusive discussion among interested Cameroonian parties that would allow them to agree on a negotiation framework that addresses the two sides' concerns about the agenda for future talks.

To set the talks up for success, Ottawa should seek a public commitment from the Cameroonian government to stick with the process and clarify misconceptions among some Cameroonian parties that Canada seeks a bigger role than to facilitate or is driving toward a particular outcome. For their part, Cameroon's government and separatist movements should work closely with faith leaders, women's groups, civil society organisations and politicians to build domestic support for the talks, as suggested by Yaoundé in its 23 January statement. Outside parties should monitor progress closely and provide persistent support, and France should use its close relationship with Cameroon to press for positive momentum.

Progress toward an enduring settlement has not come easily. The tumultuous relationship between Cameroon's Anglophones and the central government is marked by years of frustration, mistrust and, since 2017, gruesome violence. Unpacking and addressing the two sides' differences will take time, effort and good faith. The Canada-facilitated process represents a crucial chance to begin this long-overdue work. All those with an interest in the peaceful resolution of Cameroon's festering Anglophone conflict should do what they can to ensure this opportunity is not squandered.



# People can resolve civil matters, criminal ones are handled by the state



By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we briefly looked at the children's extraordinary capacity for learning, which we as parents tend to ignore, thinking that children still have many years of learning in school. So, we think that even if they may not learn during their early childhood years, they will still do it at a later stage.

Yet, recent studies conducted in some countries, including Tanzania, show that early childhood years (0-6 years) are crucial to the child's development and learning because they provide a foundation for formal schooling. This follows that some countries, especially members of the European Union (EU), have made pre-primary education free and compulsory for all children.

So, we should provide our children with the best learning environment so that they may explore their potential and in this way we will be able to create an enabling environment through which our children will not only have access to education, which they are entitled to, but also quality education.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the distinction between legal consequences of criminal liability and civil liability. I am sure many laypersons may not be familiar with these legal concepts. What has prompted me to do this is that the other week I shared a story of a man who, while armed with a machete, attacked his wife on New Year's Eve, causing her to sustain serious wounds on different parts of her body.

Three months before, the man is alleged to have had beaten and caused his wife to sustain some wounds. After that, the wife decided to leave him for a while and went to stay with her parents who live in the same village.

So, the man's second attack on his wife occurred while his wife was still staying with her parents and nursing her wounds. The violent attack caused her to lose consciousness. She became conscious again when she was already in a hospital ward for first aid after which she was referred to the district hospital and then to a referral hospital and finally to the regional hospital where she was hospitalised and stitched up her serious wounds.

After this violent attack, the husband fled to a village (about 10 kilometres from their village) to hide himself. The wife's relatives went to report the matter to a police station and together with the police, they started hunting for him and he was finally found in a hideout and was arrested.

He stayed in police custody and was then taken to a remand prison after which he was bailed out. His wife was discharged from hospital after she felt better and the police called her to go to the police station to write a statement.

Meanwhile, the relatives of the husband approached the wife's relatives, persuading them to settle the matter and even offered to compensate the severely wounded young lady, who according to relatives, could not eat, take a bath, go to a toilet or dress without being assisted by another person. In other words, she has been permanently disabled.

As we saw the other week when we referred to some acts related to family or domestic violence, we said written murder threats, acts intended to cause grievous harm to another person, grievously harming another person, assault causing actual bodily harm and neglect to prevent an offence are among the acts prohibited by the Penal Code (R.E. 2022).

Neglect to prevent an offence occurs when a person knows that

an offence is about to be committed or is being committed, but fails to use all reasonable means to prevent it. Criminal law is part of public law which regulates relationships between the State and individual persons.

All acts we do or not do which are prohibited by law are criminal acts under the pain of punishment. In criminal justice the State (Republic) has almost exclusively criminal jurisdiction. That is, when a person is suspected of committing a criminal offence, it is the State (Republic) which takes charge of criminal proceedings and a person who has been assaulted as this story goes becomes a prosecution witness. During trial the case is between the State/Republic (abbreviated R) against the accused (e.g. R v Amos Makene).

On the other hand, all acts or omissions which are not criminal fall under the jurisdiction of civil justice - that is acts or omissions between individuals, but which do not lead to criminal liability like a person's failure to fulfil his or her contract or to repay a debt, etc are regulated by private law.

The civil justice system entitles an aggrieved person to sue for damages or compensation (in terms of mone-

etary relief). Thus, an aggrieved person may sue for damages in cases of breach of contract, defamation, adultery or enticement or breach of promise of marriage, unlawful termination of employment, etc.

So, going back to the story narrated above, the wounding of the young lady since it was an unlawful attack on another person falls under the jurisdiction of criminal justice and not of civil justice. So, it is useless for the relatives of the husband who has severely wounded his wife to go to the relatives of the wife and ask for the settlement of the matter and even offer to compensate her.

They could only have done that if the matter fell under the jurisdiction of civil justice. Civil wrongs are all acts which injure personal relationships or arrangements between individual persons, but their legal consequences are civil liability and not criminal liability.

**Today's proverb: "Out of the frying pan into the fire."**

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## The Law and You

# Gender equality: We still need affirmative action in training, employment

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

**U**NEMPLOYMENT is oftentimes discussed and interventions devised generally although it is common knowledge that women are more prone to it when gender is factored in. This is a reality not only in developing countries like Tanzania but even in the developed ones.

For example, statistics released in March last year by the United States' Labour Department showed that most of the nation's 6.6 million jobs gained since President Joe Biden took office went to men. As of early February last year, there were still 1.4 million fewer employed adult women in the workforce compared to 500,000 fewer adult men.

As Tanzania and the rest of the world reels from the devastating impact of COVID-19 pandemic which forced companies to lay off workers and others closed shop, it is important to continue with the discussion on how to ensure that women are not left out in new employment opportunities.

One of the ways to ensure that both men and women get equal opportunities is affirmative action in employment. The purpose of affirmative action is to ensure equal employment opportunities for applicants and employees. It is based on the premise that, absent discrimination, over time a company's workforce generally will reflect the demographics of the qualified available workforce in the relevant job market.

According to International Labour Organisation (ILO), unemployment refers to the share of the labour force that is without work but available for and seeking employment. In Tanzania, female unemployment stood at 3.35 per cent in 2021.

In complementing efforts by the government and other stakeholders working in the country to tackle unemployment among females, Ladies Joint Forum (LJF)—a local non-governmental organization—has come up with various projects designed to empower girls and women, especially those from vulnerable communities.

LJF was initiated in 2016 to bring change to women and girls from underprivileged communities and was formally registered in July 2019 to push for women and girls' rights to education



and professional growth to enable them realize their potential and utilize their skills and talents to gain economic independence.

It works to highlight voices of women and girls from marginalized communities to eradicate violence and harmful practices that hinder their access to economic resources, leadership and decision-making positions as well as their general welfare.

Francisca Damian, LJF executive director, says the NGO is currently implementing a 12-month project designed to empower young women from three municipalities in Dar es Salaam Region namely Kinondoni, Ilala and Temeke.

Damian said that the project dubbed 'She Goes Digital' aims at empowering by building capacity of vulnerable girls and women aged 18 to 35 years who are victims of gender based violence (GBV) through training on professional photography and digital marketing.

She said that the project aims to solve the challenge of unemployment among girls and women to enable them acquire emerging digital opportunities which employ many young people in Tanzania through salaried employment and self-employment.

The director argued that women are less represented in the digital market due to patriarchal system that influence traditional division of labour, sexual abuse, extreme poverty and digital and creative industry stereotypes which discourage girls and women participation in digital jobs or employments.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics' 2022 Population and Housing Census (PHC), Tanzania's population expanded by 16 million in ten years to 61.7 million. Of the total population, 31.7 million are females, and 30 million are males.

"In photography and digital arts fields, males make up 85 per cent of the workforce with women just 15 per cent and only 7 per cent of female photographers are likely to work for major media organizations, according to Gender-Photojournalism report of 2019," she said.

"Therefore, this initiative is necessary to address these issues. Direct beneficiaries shall be 60 girls and women identified as the most vulnerable in the communities and most unskilled and unemployed young women, teen mothers, school dropouts due to pregnancy and extreme poverty."

Beneficiaries have been from Buza, Kitunda and Mwananyamala wards with each ward producing 20 beneficiaries, she said, adding that additional 10,000 will be indirect beneficiaries the project.

The NGO leader urged the government and other civil society organisations, digital and photography companies, media houses and printers to support implementation and sustainability of the project.

Damian said that core objective of She Goes Digital is to increase access to economic and social opportunities for vulnerable women and girls as well as digital marketing and professional photography so that at the end of the project, beneficiaries can get employed or employ themselves.

"We also seek to improve representation of young women and girls in digital platforms and create sustainable job opportunities that are inclusive," she said.

"This will be done by using a well-designed guideline tool to ensure that the mentees and mentors support each other to grow and create sustainability of the project through 'adopt another one' philosophy to ensure the mentees also train other vulnerable girls and women in their communities for the cycle to continue even after the phase-out of the project."



# Food industry exposes five billion people to toxic chemicals that kill

By Baher Kamal

THE food industry continues to intensively use toxic chemicals in their products, some of them provoking heart diseases and death. Trans fat is just one of them, adding to contaminating fertilisers, pesticides, microplastics and a long etcetera.

"Trans fat is a toxic chemical that kills, and should have no place in food," warns Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), informing that trans fat has no known benefits, and substantial health risks that incur enormous costs for health systems.

"Put simply, trans fat is a toxic chemical that kills, and should have no place in food."

### What is trans fat?

Trans fat, or trans-unsaturated fatty acids, is a type of unsaturated fat that occurs in food. Of all the fats, trans fat is the worst for health. Used intensively it increases the risks of heart disease and death.

Trans fat can be found in commercial baked goods, such as cakes, cookies, fried foods, margarine, packaged foods, cooking oils and spreads among many other products.

Industrially produced trans fat is responsible for up to 500,000 premature deaths from coronary heart disease each year, WHO said.

Currently, nine of the 16 countries with the highest estimated proportion of coronary heart disease deaths caused by trans fat intake do not have a best-practice policy.

They are Australia, Azerbaijan,

Bhutan, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea.

The annual status report has been published by WHO in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives, a not-for-profit organisation that supports action towards eliminating industrially produced trans fat from national food supplies.

### Food industry doubles its profits in just one year

Alongside oil and gas corporations, food companies more than doubled their profits in 2022 at a time when more than 800 million people were going hungry and 1.7 billion workers live in countries where inflation is outpacing wages, reports Oxfam International.

### Industrial food systems destroy

On this, Navdanya International warns that in a few decades, industrial food systems have destroyed the Earth's systems, human health and livelihoods as it has directly violated ecological laws and laws of justice.

Now we are seeing a global agenda to erase land-based cultures, to destroy real farms, real farmers, real food to create a dystopia of "farming without farmers" and "food without farms" as false totalitarian solutions to climate change, it adds in its Call to Action "Our Bread, Our Freedom" 2022.

"It is time to abandon our resource-intensive and profit-based economic systems that have created havoc in the world, disrupting the planet's ecosystems and undermining society's systems of health, justice, and democracy."

Navdanya and the Navdanya movement was created by Dr.



Industrially produced trans-fat is responsible for up to 500,000 premature deaths from coronary heart disease each year, according to WHO. Credit: Shutterstock.

Vandana Shiva 30 years ago in India to defend Seed and Food sovereignty and small farmers around the world.

For its part, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that more than 600 million people fall ill and 420,000 die every year as a result of eating food contaminated with bacteria, viruses, parasites, toxins and chemicals.

### More damage, more profits

These huge damages caused by the food business add to many others. One of them is the infant formula corporations' exploitative marketing tactics, which the world-leading health organisation on 8 February 2023 called for "a swift crackdown" on such

business tactics.

In a previous report Scope and impact of digital marketing strategies for promoting breast-milk substitutes on what it called 'insidious' online marketing of baby formula, the world's top health organisation warned that the 55 billion US dollars baby formula industry must end exploitative online marketing targeting parents, particularly mothers

WHO's report found that companies are paying social media platforms and influencers to "gain direct access to pregnant women and mothers at some of the most vulnerable moments in their lives," through personalised content that is "often not recognisable as advertising."

### Big Business pays to social media influencers

"Through tools like apps, virtual support groups or 'baby-clubs', paid social media influencers, promotions and competitions and advice forums or services, formula milk companies can buy or collect personal information and send personalised promotions to new pregnant women and mothers."

The report summarises findings of a new research that sampled and analysed 4 million social media posts about infant feeding, published between January and June 2021 using a commercial social listening platform.

These posts reached 2.47 billion people and generated more than 12 million likes, shares or comments.

"This new research highlights the vast economic and political power of the big formula milk companies, as well as serious public policy failures that prevent millions of women from breastfeeding their children," said Nigel Rollins, one of the authors of a series on the \$55 billion-a-year industry and their marketing "playbooks", published in the peer-reviewed medical journal The Lancet.

"Actions are needed across different areas of society to better support mothers to breastfeed for as long as they want, alongside efforts to tackle exploitative formula milk marketing once and for all," he added.

### 650 million women lack 'maternity protection'

Currently, around 650 million women lack adequate maternity protections, the research noted.

Elaborated by a group of doctors and scientists, it examines how formula marketing tactics undermine breastfeeding and target parents, health professionals and politicians, and how feeding practices, women's rights and health outcomes, are determined by power imbalances and political and economic structures.

### Dairy lobbyists' misleading claims

WHO recommends exclusively breastfeeding infants for at least six months. The practice provides immense benefits to babies and young children, from reducing infection risks to lowering rates of obesity and chronic diseases later in life.

However, globally, only around half of newborns are put to the breast within the first hour of life, warns WHO.

# Clues in State of the Union speech that suggest Biden will run for president in 2024

By Sarah Smith

PRESIDENT Joe Biden will probably announce in the next couple of months that he will run for a second presidential term in 2024. Were there clues in his State of the Union speech about his re-election campaign?

The State of the Union address is an opportunity for the president to lay out his legislative programme for the coming year. In Mr Biden's speech on Tuesday, he also sounded as though he was making the case for his 2024 run, and made it clear he has no plan to cool down his political ambitions, despite lukewarm polling.

As he rattled off his list of achievements and laid out his plans for the future, we got a preview of what his campaign platform could be.

Mr Biden had more to boast about in 2022 than many would have predicted, after his difficult first year in the White House.

Some of the achievements he is claiming are economic: more jobs created in two years than any other president has created in four years; unemployment at the lowest rate in half a century.

Although the bounce back from the pandemic lay-offs began under his predecessor, Donald Trump.

He spoke of legislative successes, too. In his speech, he touted passing a huge infrastructure bill, that will help rebuild crumbling roads and bridges across America, by forging cross-party support.

Then there were his climate measures that will encourage the production of clean energy, and tax breaks that will encourage the production of semiconductor chips in America, to reduce reliance on China.

Add to that the much better-than-expected results for Democrats in last year's midterm elections and you can see why Mr Biden feels he is a good position to win a second term.

Most importantly, he



doesn't have any serious challengers for the nomination. No other senior Democrats would dare put their names forward as potential candidates if the president says he is running again.

And yet there are also serious weaknesses too.

A recent ABC-Washington Post poll that asked voters about a possible Biden vs Trump rematch gave Trump a 48% to 45% advantage.

That's within the margin of error but still concerning for Democrats.

"Two years is forever and it's just one poll, but if he's faring this poorly after a string of wins, that should be worrisome," tweeted Julian Castro, a former Obama cabinet member.

Other surveys suggest the prospect of a Biden candidacy does not excite voters.

An AP-NORC poll suggests

that 62% of Democrats don't want him to run again. Many said they think he is too old and would prefer a younger candidate.

A CBS poll published on Tuesday showed that well over half of voters asked, said Biden's policies were making inflation, gas prices and the overall economy worse.

Of course, it is almost ridiculously early to be looking at polls and trying to work out

what voters will be thinking 21 months from now.

What Team Biden are relying on is that by 2024, voters will be feeling the benefit of some of the legislation that Biden has already passed.

They hope his infrastructure spending will not only have repaired the fabric of the nation but will create even more jobs. They hope manufacturing industries will be seeing increased investment. And that inflation may have been tamed.

Joe Biden's agenda confronts divided Congress

When confronted about the poor polling figures, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Democrats won in the midterm elections because of Mr Biden's successes.

As they look to mount a 2024 campaign, his team needs to prepare themselves on questions about his age as well as his record.

The Republican rebuttal on Tuesday night by a 40-year-old rising star Sarah Hucka-

bee Sanders highlighted the generational difference and called on a new wave of young, conservative politicians to seize the moment.

As the oldest US president in history, how Joe Biden appeared in his primetime speech mattered almost as much as what he had to say.

Everyone knows he would be 86 by the end of a second term. Even voters who support him frequently express doubts about his advancing years.

This was a much more energetic performance than last year's address.

On Tuesday he enjoyed taunting his Republican opponents. Fluent and confident, he succeeded in sounding like he still has a real passion to "finish the job" - a line he repeated often.

Within hours of finishing his speech, Mr Biden headed to the key electoral state of Wisconsin to promote his infrastructure plan.

It's a presidential visit that may look a lot like a campaign stop.

## 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



## FCS hosts directors from 15 nations under the Change the Game Academy initiative

By Guardian Reporter

THE Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) in collaboration with Change the Game Academy (CtGA) initiative under Wilde Ganzen Foundation has hosted the Directors' Meeting in Zanzibar bringing together 15 national partner organisations from across the globe.

The meeting held from February 6 to 8, this year aimed to discuss the CtGA programme initiative's progress at the global and country-level and set a roadmap for the future of the programme, strategizing for greater community impact.

Speaking during the meeting held in Zanzibar this week, Kees de Jong, Director of Wilde Ganzen Foundation said that worldwide funding for CSOs is decreasing and CSOs especially at the grassroots are more impacted by funding challenges.

CtGA is an innovative blended learning initiative implemented in 15 countries that supports grassroots social change makers, community-based Organisations and small CSOs learn to effectively fundraise and mobilize domestic and international stakeholders to achieve programme sustainability, effectively and community impact. CtGA works directly with the grassroots CSOs, through partnerships with NPOs to train CSOs in their constituencies

"CtGA aims to reduce poverty, inequality and dependency on foreign funding in low and middle-income countries by strengthening fundraising capacity so that CSOs achieve a better future and enable communities to have control over their future and development," he said.

Jong said more than 1,000 organisations have been trained through the CtGA initiative.

ive. The training on resource mobilization and fundraising empowers CSOs to tap into local resources to get local impactful solutions to community challenges.

"There is enormous potential for local fundraising in low- and middle-income countries as every community has resources available to drive the change they want to see. It is from that belief that the Change the Game Academy was created," he added.

Speaking about FCS' experience as a NPO in Tanzania, Francis Kiwanga, FCS executive director said that they have been CtGA partners for six years supporting, coaching and mentoring CSOs, especially grassroots on how to mobilize support from stakeholders in their communities and raise funds locally, to ensure communities are well organised, resilient, have a voice to bring change and development in their communities.

"FCS became a NPO in 2018 and is working with grassroots organizations in Tanzania. Since 2018 to date FCS has trained 225 organizations on local fundraising and 205 organisations on mobilizing support," he said.

He added that CSOs play a critical role in furthering social development, tackling socio-environmental challenges and complementing governmental efforts in bringing change at the grassroots levels. CSOs are also in close contact with communities, serving them and working with them to solve community challenges, hence CtGA training is important for the growth of CSOs.

"Our collaboration with Wilde Ganzen Foundation under CtGA has enabled us to support local community-based organizations to grow and achieve impactful results in their communities. We believe that



Wilde Ganzen director Kees de Jong addresses a change the Game Academy directors meeting held in Zanzibar earlier this week on the academy's mission, vision and direction.

Communities have the power to solve their problems hence when CSOs engage with communities, communities have a stronger voice and participate fully in development initiatives. This takes both time and commitment. Through capacity training we bring CSOs into contact with each other, to facilitate knowledge exchange so that they can better engage with communities for impact," he said.

Participation was from organizations

such as Association Burkinabè de Fundraising from Burkina Faso, Uganda National NGO Forum From Uganda, Rhiza Babuyile from South Africa, SATUNAMA Foundation From Indonesia, Community Action Support Association (CASA-Gambia) from Gambia, Corporaci3n PODION From Colombia, Cordaid From Nepal, West Africa Civil Society Institute From Ghana, Development Expertise Center Ethiopia, The Institute for Moni-

toring and Evaluation (TIME) from Sri Lanka, CESE - Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço from Brazil, Advocacy and Policy Institute From Cambodia, Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) from Kenya, Assembly of Social Mobilization From Sri Lanka, Smile Foundation from India, Assembly of social mobilization From Sri Lanka, Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) from Tanzania.

## Hailstones destroy 72 acres of maize in Njombe District

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

HAILSTONES accompanied by strong winds had destroyed 72 acres of maize, 30 acres of avocado and blew away roofs of 14 houses with other houses collapsing in Image village, Njombe District.

Speaking to this paper, villagers said the incident occurred on Monday this week during noon hours and has put them in danger of hunger especially during this farming season.

"This year we may die of hunger, all my three acres have been destroyed, there was no warning for the rain,

it just came and pounded on us. We were not even able to prepare food on that day and we slept without eating any meal, we do not know what to do now," said Erika Imelo, one of the villagers.

Esther Zarambaya said the rain was heavy but they were thankful there were no human fatalities apart from de-

stroying avocado trees, bananas and other properties

Njombe District administrative secretary Emmanuel George said early estimates showed that at least 72 acres of maize were destroyed and 14 houses had their roofs blown away.

"There are other houses that collapsed, others by

falling trees, but it should be recalled that last year we had an almost similar disaster.

"The government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is together with you, we are currently conducting an assessment of the disaster and after this we will see

how to assist you as soon as possible," he said.

Israel Mhada, the secretary for Lupembe Member of Parliament Edwin Swale, said following the disaster, the office of the MP has provided 100 roofing sheets.

Njombe District agriculture officer, Ibrahim Fungo advised the villagers to

plant crops that they can harvest in a short time in order to ward off the threat of hunger.

"We need now to create a culture of planting crops that take a short time to grow and ripe as this will also strengthen food security as well as improve incomes," he said.

## AfCHPRP urges increased cooperation from stakeholders to strengthen justice

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPRP) has urged stakeholders including member states of the African Union and partners to work jointly to build an alliance towards pursuing quality justice; strengthen protection of human rights in Africa, promote democracy and the rule of law as the foundation for peace and social harmony.

In her New Year message to the public, partners and other human rights stakeholders issued yesterday, President of the Court, Justice Imani Aboud (pictured) said the court need support from stakeholders so as to achieve intended goals which include strengthen inter-institutional cooperation, develop judicial diplomacy with other stakeholders and enhance the visibility of the African Court.

"Strengthening inter-institutional cooperation of the bodies of the African Union vested with a human rights mandate is a requirement set out in the protocol establishing the court, with a view to fostering dynamic interaction between institutions working in the same field. It is the price for the promotion of human rights in Africa and the right of every person who considers that their rights have been violated and therefore have to be heard by our organs," she said.

She said: "We have a great responsibility in this regard, and one of the ways to foster the hope of a better future in the implementation of human rights at both the continental and national levels is cooperation and active partnership."

Justice Imani acknowledged the court's outstanding merit of its work and invaluable contribution to the protection of human rights in Africa, the promotion of democracy and the rule of law as the foundation for peace and social harmony.

He said in 2022 member states to PRC members, AU organs, CSO's, judges, staff, and partners, everyone played their role in a professional way, focused solely on enhancing the protection of human rights on the continent. For all these and many more, we are enormously thankful.

She said the court will continue with the judicial dialogue that it has already begun with the high national courts, sub-regional courts and also regional human rights institutions. It will also collaborate with member states in a closer framework and through diplomatic channels.

"I would like to take this opportunity to commend the African Union and Member States for the unwavering commitment in the year 2023 to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Court. African governments should renew their commitment to the original



aim that led to the establishment of the African Court," she called. Justice Imani said the court will continue to conduct sensitization visits to African Union member states in 2023 and develop partnership with members states, donors, human rights stakeholders.

"We will continue our engagement with our host country, Tanzania, to make sure that our court building project becomes a reality. We will continue our drive towards international accreditations, and continue increasing our recognition and reputation as a continental human rights court, both at home and abroad," she added.

She however said that the court faces some challenges in achieving its goals as high percentage of decisions that remain unimplemented and the withdrawal of the declaration by some states.

"The non-execution of the decisions of bodies vested with a human rights mandate by the States concerned is a threat to the human rights protection system in Africa. There is still time to initiate serious reflections on the future of our decisions in order to raise, through their effective implementation, the level of human rights protection, strengthen confidence in our institutions and to meet the challenges of our mission.

This is the key to the success and credibility of our work," she explained.

She further noted: "It is also important to note that the protection of human rights cannot be fully realised without the active participation of African citizens and the support of non-governmental actors, who represent the people of Africa for whom and on whose behalf member states established the African Court. African citizens should proactively engage with the court directly and through the African civil society to ensure the effective protection of their rights and fundamental freedoms."







## BUSINESS

## Vodacom and partner merchants to reward M-Pesa customers

By Guardian Reporter

Vodacom Tanzania Plc has launched 'Lipa Kwa Simu Valentine Campaign' to reward customers for using their mobile phones when making purchases at select store.

Speaking during launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam yesterday, M-Pesa, director Epimack Mbeteni said the new campaign which is driving digital payments is also meant to spread love to customers using M-Pesa to make digital payments through instant cashback, discounts and in-store experiences.

"This is the season of love and we know our customers will be out and about purchasing gifts and spending time with loved ones. As they enjoy the security and convenience of using our Lipa kwa Simu service for payments at select retail stores they will receive an instant 10 percent cashback on amount spent plus other valentines themed confectionaries", said Mbeteni.

Through the Lipa kwa Simu valentine campaign, Vodacom and its partners will reward customers in selected Hotels, Cafés, Restaurants and Retail outlets with cashbacks, special discounts and in-store experiences to make the customers feel loved and special.

Vodacom M-Pesa is a leading mobile money service determined to drive Tanzania towards a cashless economy through its various products and

services such as Lipa Kwa Simu, M-Pesa Visa, M-Pawa, M-Koba and much more as part of its vision to lead Tanzania into a digital world and transform lives through technology.

"I urge customers to take this opportunity to spread love and cheer as they make payments via M-Pesa in order to not only enjoy these great discounts and offers but also enjoy the comfort, security and convenience of digital payment during the month of Valentine", added Mbeteni.

Speaking on behalf of other partners, Anna Mwakitwile Manager at Mr. Price Mlimani city said they are delighted to partner with Vodacom M-Pesa to offer their customers unique shopping experiences and rewards for them and their loved ones during this valentine season.

"We are happy to partner with Vodacom, we promise to serve Our Customers to Our best because we will also be having some offers during Valentine Day," she added.

"With over 10 Million M-Pesa customers and a state of the art M-Pesa App, Vodacom is best placed to push for non-cash transactions through enhancing mobile payments. Our 'Lipa Kwa Simu' product allows payments seamlessly across networks and countries which is a critical step towards making life easier and more convenient" Epimack Concluded



Production of gold at Russia's Krastsvetmet precious metals plant in Krasnoyarsk

## Gold prices now face second weekly drop

NEW YORK

Gold prices edged lower on Friday and were set for a second straight weekly drop, as investors remained wary of impending interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve to tame high inflation.

Although gold is seen as an inflation hedge, higher rates tend to dull the appeal of bullion, which pays no interest.

Spot gold was down 0.1 percent at \$1,859.80 per ounce, as of 0704 GMT, hitting its lowest level since Jan. 6 earlier in the session. For the week so far, the metal was down 0.3 percent.

US gold futures fell 0.4 percent to \$1,858.30.

Last week's stronger-than-expected US job numbers have contributed to expectations that the Fed will end up concluding its rate-hike cycle above 5 percent, while rate-cut expectations for the second half of this year have evaporated and driven gold lower, said Ilya Spivak, head of global macro at TastyLive.

Market participants are now expecting the Fed's target rate to peak at 5.153 percent in July from a current

range of 4.5 percent to 4.75 percent.

Richmond Fed President Thomas Barkin said on Thursday "it just makes sense to steer more deliberately" with any further rate increases and that the decline in inflation seen so far had been "distorted" by some falling goods prices.

Barkin's comments came after Fed Chair Jerome Powell and several other policymakers this week indicated that interest rates might need to move higher than expected.

Gold prices have been in a consolidation mode and struggling for direction for the past several days, said TastyLive's Spivak, adding that the next big inflection point was likely to be the US CPI report next week.

The dollar edged 0.1 percent higher against its rivals. A stronger greenback makes dollar-priced gold more expensive for buyers holding other currencies.

Elsewhere, spot silver rose 0.3 percent to \$22.03 per ounce, and palladium shed 0.7 percent to \$1,617.54.

Platinum was down 0.2 percent at \$952.42 and was on track for a fifth consecutive weekly fall.

## Tanzania Portland Cement posts 97bn/- profit in 2022

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Tanzania Portland Cement Company Limited (TPCC) posted an annual profit amounting 97.35bn/- last year, higher than 88.48bn/- recorded during the previous year.

This indicates that the company earned a profit amounting to nearly 28bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, as a profit of 69.9bn/- was already recorded during the first nine months of last year.

Unaudited financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2022 shows the increase was attributed to the revenue growth due to increased cement demands and slowdown of other operating expenses.

Revenue increased to 494.7bn/- last year compared with 449.5bn/- in 2021, which pushed up gross profit to 183.2bn/- from 172.3bn/- respectively, amid increased costs of sale.

"The increase was due to continued increase of demands for cement products within Tanzania and outside Tanzania," said Hakan Gurdal, the chairman of the board.

"The company continues to focus on delivering excellent customer service, selling of high quality products and maintaining strong customer relationship to enable TP-CPLC to demonstrate its strength as the leading player in the industry," the chairman said in his statement.

"The cement demand in Tanzania and East African region has been growing steadily in recent years. TPCPLC is well placed to meet this growing demand and will continue to work to improve efficiency and operating performances."

Tanzania was estimated to have had cement consumption of 3.3 metric tonnes in the first six months of 2022.

Thirteen manufacturers operat-



Tanzania was estimated to have had cement consumption of 3.3 metric tonnes in the first six months of 2022. File Photo

ing in Tanzania have an installed capacity of 11 million tonnes a year.

He said high availability and efficiency of the plant and machinery has contributed to improved performance compared with 2021, all within an environment where health and safety of employees and contractors is paramount.

According to the statement op-

erating profit grew to 137bn/- last year from 127bn/- in 2021 while other operating expenses decreased by nearly half to 2.9bn/- last year from 5.3bn/- in 2021.

The company total assets amounted to 417bn/- from 379bn/- respectively due to increase of both current and non-current assets.

Current assets increased to 268bn/- from 230bn/- respective-

ly due to increase in inventories as well as trade and other receivables while non-current assets slightly increased to 149bn/- from 148bn/- due to increase of other non-current assets amid decrease of tangible fixed assets, intangible fixed assets and right of use of assets.

Other non-current assets increased sharply to 4.3bn/- last year from 796mn/- in 2021.

## African economies remain upbeat despite global shocks, says AfDB VP

ABIDJAN

African economies remain resilient despite experiencing multiple shocks, with 53 out of 54 African countries seen maintaining positive growth and a stable outlook for the 2023/24 period, the African Development Bank has projected.

Prof Kevin Urama, (pictured), Acting Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management at the bank, said that with Africa's abundant natural capital, massive youthful population and its growing economy, there is a huge opportunity for low-income economies to rebound after shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Urama spoke at the launch of the International Monetary Fund's Macroeconomic Developments and Prospects in Low-Income Countries - 2022 Report in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

"The beautiful news is that Africa's five fastest-growing economies are set to re-join the ten fastest-growing economies around the world in the coming years," he said.

He said many low-income countries are in Africa and noted that the IMF report comes at an opportune time, especially as most of these economies are grappling with complex domestic and external economic shocks.

"These shocks are threatening the recovery and momentum we have seen from countries trying to make a comeback after the ravaging effects of Covid-19 and also what Russia's invasion of Ukraine is creating in the global economy," Urama said.

He explained that the overlapping shocks are disrupting Africa's and global supply chains and fuelling widespread energy and food price inflation.



The prevailing global financial conditions, domestic debt service costs and the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are all creating significant headwinds that African countries must navigate.

Inflation is accelerating rapidly, with food and commodity prices continuing to rise, heightening food insecurity and raising the risk of social unrest in low-income countries, including in Africa.

Citing World Food Programme data, Urama said over 345 million people in 82 countries globally are today suffering from acute food insecurity, and there is a need to increase access to food, energy and facilities that can help

address some of these challenges. "In Africa, last year, our own estimate is that over 15 million more people were driven into extreme poverty due to high energy prices and food pricing inflation," he said.

He said the African Development Bank's 2023 Africa's Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook report, which launched on 19 January, shows that these inflationary trends could ease in 2023-2024, giving some cautious optimism for the continent's outlook.

African and middle-income countries will face significant challenges in 2023 going forward, Urama warned.

Roland Kangni Kpodar, International Monetary Fund Deputy Division Chief for Strategy, Policy and Review, presented the IMF report. He said the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted low-income countries disproportionately.

"Despite the low number of [Covid-19] identified cases, the health systems in low-income countries had been severely affected by the pandemic because they were already fragile even before the pandemic," Kpodar said.

On top of health impacts, Kpodar said that loss of learning hours due to school closures created a setback to human capital development in these countries.



# Seven start-ups get \$385k for blue economy solutions

NAIROBI

Climate resilience venture launcher Triggering Exponential Climate Action (TECA) has announced the selection of seven startups including Tanzanian to each receive \$55,000 in funding to advance their solutions for the blue economy in Africa.

The startup founders were selected following their participation in TECA's fellowship programme where they were supported to create ideas for companies in the blue economy, build teams, and form companies.

The TECA programme, managed by BFA Global and supported by FSD Africa, was created to accelerate the development of climate-resilient solutions to protect and sustain the environment and vulnerable communities.

Each startup will receive \$27,500 in seed capital and \$27,500 in hands-on venture building support to progress financial and tech-enabled solutions that bolster the climate resilience of communities and ecosystems in and around the oceans, lakes, and rivers across the Eastern region of Africa.

"Through the TECA programme, we are proud to support and accelerate the development of innovative solutions that will protect and sustain the environment and vulnerable communities in the Eastern coast of Africa. These seven startups represent the forefront of the blue economy in Africa, and we look forward to seeing the impact of their financial and tech-enabled solutions on communities and ecosystems," said David del Ser, chairperson and chief innovation officer at BFA Global.

"The ventures that have been formed

through the TECA program are an inspiration. They represent young Africans - including women - coming forward with great ideas and solutions to climate-related challenges, in this case, in the blue economy," added Juliet Munro, digital economy director at FSD Africa.

"I'm proud that FSD Africa is supporting this initiative, which leverages finance and technology to help build resilience and create opportunity in the context of climate adversity. Through our partnership with BFA Global, we plan to roll out TECA beyond the blue economy to also solve for other challenges and geographies across Africa."

Founders of the seven startups selected in the current cohort originate from six countries in Africa—Kenya, Egypt, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania—with ideas focusing on bridging

existing gaps in: aquaculture; ecotourism; measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) in conservation; seaweed value chain; mangrove restoration and protection; and financial services for fisher folk.

Selected startups include AquaTrack, a data-driven solution for sustainable aquaculture production. They aim to provide a water quality monitoring device for fish farmers seeking to increase production and efficiency in their farms and Carboni Bank, a community-centered platform for tourists to offset their carbon emissions and support local climate initiatives.

Other include ConserVate, which want to utilize innovative digital technology to build local capacity for monitoring reporting and credible verification (MRV) of conservation impact for both funders and implementers

to reverse the effects of climate change and Mwani Blu which want to build a seaweed marketplace with high-level traceability, providing women smallholder farmers with dignified and stable incomes.

RegisTree is targeting empowering coastal communities to be agents of climate change mitigation by facilitating their role in mangrove restoration and protection while Vua Solutions a fintech company is seeking to provide affordable and responsible financial services to people working in the blue economy.

The last nominated startup is Wezesha Aqua Farms, which is seeking to address the dwindling wild capture fisheries stocks that negatively impact the livelihoods and socio-economic status of local fishing communities around the Great Lake region in Eastern Africa.

## SA's rand now pays price for nation's energy challenges

JOHANNESBURG

The Eskom risk premium is in full force for South Africa's rand.

The currency of Africa's most industrialized economy is headed for a fourth weekly loss versus the dollar, the longest streak since an emerging-market-wide selloff in October.

This time, the under-performance is specific to South Africa. The rand is already down 4.1 percent this year, while most of its peers are firmer, with Chile's peso racking gains of over 6 percent.

"Since the start of the year, the rand has been one of the worst performers in EM," said Daria Parkhomenko, an FX strategist at RBC Capital Mar-

kets in a note to clients. "We think that a key driver of this has been the rand carrying a risk premium for the worsening power situation."

Parkhomenko said market confidence was low as President Cyril Ramaphosa's response to the ongoing crisis has been slow, while some pledges to address the situation have not been met sufficiently. Turning the tide with investors would boost the currency, she said. "By our estimates, the pair would have space to sell off by almost 5 percent, with all else equal," she said. "That would equate to -16.90/95 from current spot levels of -17.80."

Credit default swaps for Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. are trading at the cheapest in



about eight months. That's in anticipation of South Africa taking over as much as two-thirds of Eskom's debt later this year, a deal that may be announced in the annual budget on Feb. 22.

The state electricity company has imposed power cuts for 13 consecutive months, based on Bloomberg calculations.

Ramaphosa declared a state

of disaster to enable the government to accelerate its response to an ongoing energy crisis, and said he'll appoint a minister in his office who will focus on boosting the power supply.

"This can be a positive step," said Parkhomenko. "But now the question is who will it be? Then, what will happen with the Department of Minerals Resources

and Energy, and will Ramaphosa remove Gwede Mantashe from overseeing this department?"

"If the crisis worsens - a scenario that cannot be ruled out - the market will have to carry an even larger risk premium," she said. "A more severe deterioration would likely see USD/ZAR test the triple top at -18.50, with all else equal."

## Adani offers coal shipment at a discount

LONDO

Adani Group is offering shipments of coal at a discount, according to people with knowledge of the matter, a sign the embattled conglomerate may be seeking to sell cargoes quickly as its liquidity position comes under increased scrutiny.

The group's traders are offering to sell several coal shipments from Australia and Indonesia at discounts of about 4 percent relative to Asia's price benchmarks, the people said, requesting anonymity to discuss private details.

While Adani hasn't spelled out its motivation for offering discounts and it's not the only producer doing so, the move suggests the firm is eager to offload the cargoes swiftly, the people said.

An Adani representative declined to immediately comment when reached by phone.

Coal prices have dropped on waning demand for the fuel, with several suppliers resorting to discounts to find buyers from uncontracted shipments.

Asia's benchmark Newcastle coal futures traded at \$231 a ton Thursday and have fallen by about half since touching a record in September.

Adani has coal mines with more than 50 million tons of capacity across Indonesia, Australia and India, producing fuel both for sale in global markets and to be used in Adani's own power stations.

The conglomerate's cash position entered the spotlight after allegations of fraud by short seller Hindenburg Research sent its shares and bonds tumbling.

In a sign that global banks have become more wary of funding Adani's empire, negotiations over the refinancing of a \$500 million bridge loan stalled after the Hindenburg report. That prompted a decision by the group to repay the debt early instead.

Adani has repeatedly denied Hindenburg's allegations and said the group's balance sheet is healthy.



Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani

## Treasury slashes Sh10 billion from KQ bailout

NAIROBI

The national Treasury has slashed Sh10 billion in support to Kenya Airways (KQ) as the exchequer begins unwinding bailouts to the company.

Documents from the first 2022/23 Supplementary Budget indicate the government plans to revise the amount of capital injected into the national carrier to Sh20 billion from the initial Sh30 billion.

Previously, the National Treasury had in December disclosed to the International Monetary Fund that it would provide Sh34.95 billion to Kenya Airways including assumed payments for debt service.

It said that it disbursed Sh10 billion in September 2022. The State, which holds the largest share of the carrier at 48.9 percent, has persistently bailed out KQ in recent years, pouring in at least Sh35 billion between 2016 and 2020.

Earlier this year, the exchequer in its draft 2023 Budget Policy Statement said it was winding up support to the national carrier, setting a deadline of December this year for an end to persistent bailouts to the carrier.

"To support the aviation industry, the government will develop a turnaround strategy for Kenya Airways. A critical plank of this strategy will be a financing plan that does not depend on operational support from the exchequer beyond December 2023," said the Treasury.

Kenya Airways has remained a burden to the exchequer with the government currently involved in the rounding off of



a novation/takeover process for the carrier's guaranteed debt amounting to Sh60.7 billion (\$485 million).

"As part of the ongoing discussions, the government has settled outstanding debt service

arrears on the guaranteed loan as of the end of September 2022 and additional amounts through end-June 2023 on debt service payments on the guaranteed amount have been included in the Supplementary

Budget," the National Treasury added.

"All payments paid on behalf of KQ are deemed shareholder loans and shareholder agreements with agreed term sheets that are being prepared."

As of November 17, 2022, the total value of KQ's debt portfolio was Sh104.4 billion (\$835 million) including all debts, loans, letters of credit facilities and convertible equity amounts.



# Kazuo Ueda set to become Bank of Japan governor

TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will nominate Kazuo Ueda (pictured), a professor and former Bank of Japan board member, to take the helm of the BOJ from April, according to local media reports, in a surprise move that sparked a jump in the yen.

Masayoshi Amamiya, deputy BOJ governor, refused to take the post, the Nikkei newspaper reported Friday. Amamiya had been viewed as the top contender for the post by economists. NHK, Yomiuri and Kyodo also reported that Ueda was in line for the nomination.

The yen strengthened as much as 1.4 percent against the dollar to 129.81 after the news from around 131.54, a move that suggests investors initially interpreted the decision as likely a hawkish choice.

The choice suggests Kishida may not be seeking a drastic change at the central bank given the report said the premier wanted Amamiya to take the post. Ueda has expressed caution over raising interest rates prematurely.

"The market was completely taken by surprise," said Norihiro Fujito,



chief investment strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities. "Putting aside what kind of policy Ueda will take, the way the government has handled this seems a bit clumsy, having raised expectations that Amamiya will succeed."

Shinichi Uchida, BOJ's executive director in charge of monetary policy and Ryozo Himino, former head of Japan's financial watchdog were picked for the two deputy governor positions, according to the Nikkei.

The selection of Uchida, who has worked closely with Amamiya to conduct Kuroda's monetary easing, would show the top leadership will still have a veteran central banker associated with the stimulus program of the last decade.

The new deputies will assume their roles from March 20 once approved by parliament.

Ueda, 71, a professor at Kyoritsu Women's University, was a

BOJ board member from 1998-2005 when the central bank introduced a zero interest rate policy for the first time and embarked on quantitative easing.

Ueda is known for voting against pulling away from the zero rate in August 2000 when the government also officially requested the central bank to hold off from the move. The BOJ went ahead anyway and the decision became known as a key event for creating doubt over the BOJ's willingness to ease for years to follow.

"Ueda's relationship with the Bank of Japan is extremely strong so this choice was likely essentially made by the BOJ," Takahide Kiuchi, a former BOJ board member and economist at Nomura Research Institute, wrote in a report. "You can't say Ueda is against monetary easing but compared with Kuroda's stance, he is on the cautious side."

In a local media article last year, Ueda warned against

raising rates too early. He said there wasn't much scope for the BOJ to increase rates, though that didn't mean the chances were zero.

"In any case, a serious consideration will be required at some point in the future over the extraordinary monetary easing framework that has stayed in place for longer than many expected," Ueda wrote in last year's Nikkei article.

Ueda holds a PhD from MIT and has maintained a close relationship with the BOJ as a professor even after he left the bank. He has moderated various BOJ conferences including one in November last year about the wage-growth mechanism.

"I think Ueda is a good choice," said Nobuyasu Atago, chief economist at Ichiyoshi Securities. "Markets will probably want to depict him as a hawk or a dove but in my opinion, he is neither of them. He is someone who looks at the reality and seeks the best policy decision."

# Global investors losing appetite for Chinese bonds

HONG KONG

GLOBAL investors are reducing their holdings of Chinese government bonds, a steady source of secure returns during the pandemic years, as they prepare for some monetary tightening in China and eye juicier stock markets in the reopened economy.

China's bond market was the outlier in 2022 as global central banks raised rates hurriedly to fight inflation, while policymakers in Beijing faced a sharp, COVID-induced slowdown. But now, as the economy reopens swiftly, analysts expect the People's Bank of China will eventually rein in stimulus. Signs of a peak in developed market rates are another reason why China's bonds, yielding roughly 3% on 10-year investments, are less appealing, given the potential greater capital gains elsewhere.

Data from China's Bond Connect platform, the primary avenue for foreigners investing in mainland markets, shows foreigners sold roughly 616 billion yuan (\$90.63 billion) worth of bonds in 2022, taking their holdings down to 3.4 trillion yuan.

That trend has strengthened this year, as per fund managers.

"If investors are saying that I want to trade the China recovery, the answer is not Chinese government bonds (CGBs). The answer to participating in risk-on opportunities in bonds would be Chinese offshore credit and long renminbi," said Jason Pang, portfolio manager of the China Bond Opportunities Fund at J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Investors who have already committed cash to mainland markets might just switch to equities, he says.

Pang said he has partially reduced his exposure to CGBs and reallocated a large part of that into the offshore yuan (CNH) denominated dim sum bonds in Hong Kong. As global investors play China's recovery through stocks in Hong Kong, cash conditions in the

city will improve and put a floor under those bonds, he reckons.

In contrast to the global tightening trend, China has been easing monetary policy over the past two years. That has helped its bond market outperform peers.

The FTSE Xinhua Chinese Government Bond Index returned 3.2% in 2022 in local currency terms and a negative 5.4% in dollar terms. The FTSE World Government Bond Index declined 18.3% in dollar terms.

Edmund Goh, head of fixed income for China at British asset manager abrdn, also favours countries that would be among the first to exit higher interest rates.

"We haven't increased our Chinese bonds exposure in our Asian fixed Income portfolios as there are other markets that present a bigger upside in capital gains," he said.

Markets such as South Korea, India and Indonesia are likely to start pricing in cuts as the next policy step, he added.

Jerome Broustra, head of investment specialists, fixed income and multi-asset solutions, core investments, at AXA Investment Managers, shares that view. He is overweight Indonesian sovereign bonds and infrastructure-related offshore China high yield bonds.

The cushion of higher yields in CGBs has also evaporated as U.S. yields first caught up and then overtook China's. Treasuries now offer around 3.7% on 10-year tenors, while China's equivalent is 2.9%. Meanwhile, the Shanghai stock market is up 13% in just over two months.

"China bonds served as a very good type of diversifier, in particular over the past 3 years," said Pang. But as global rates hit a peak, it made sense to plough limited cash into better yielding markets, he said.

Still, while fund managers are switching to more attractive markets, they do not expect a massive selloff in CGBs.



MONDAY 26 Dec	TUESDAY 27 Dec	WEDNESDAY 28 Dec	THURSDAY 29 Dec	FRIDAY 30 Dec	SATURDAY 31 Dec	SUNDAY 1 Jan
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
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11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt
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18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	18:30 DW: Afrimaxx	19:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon	19:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon
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## WORLD

# South Africa invokes disaster law to tackle energy crisis

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday declared a national "state of disaster" over his country's crippling power shortages, saying they posed an existential threat to the economy and social fabric.

The electricity crunch has been years in the making, a product of delays in building new coal-fired power stations, corruption in coal-supply contracts, criminal sabotage and failures to ease up regulation to enable private providers to swiftly bring renewable energy on tap.

"We are in the grip of a profound energy crisis," Ramaphosa said in his annual State of the Nation Address to parliament.

"The crisis has progressively evolved to affect every part of society. We must act to lessen the impact of the crisis on farmers, on small businesses, on our water infrastructure and our transport network."

State electricity utility Eskom is implementing the worst rolling blackouts on record, leaving households in the dark, disrupting manufacturing and hurting businesses of all sizes.

The power cuts are expected to re-



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa delivers his speech during the 2023 State of the Nation Address at the Cape Town City Hall in Cape Town on Feb 9, 2023. AFP

duce economic growth in Africa's most industrialized nation to just 0.3 percent this year.

Declaring a national state of disaster gives the government additional powers to respond to a crisis, including by permitting emergency procurement procedures with fewer bureaucratic delays and less oversight.

The legislation was used to enable health authorities to respond more swiftly to the COVID-19 pandemic, but some analysts doubt it will help the government expand power supply much quicker.

Eskom said it would study the details of the declaration before commenting.

Brighton Hlupego, a street trader outside Cape Town City Hall where Ramaphosa delivered his speech, said the biggest problems facing South Africans were poverty, unemployment and electricity.

"To some extent he gave some solutions to the problems, but these won't be solved

easily," said Hlupego, who bought mobile data to listen to the speech with friends. "The state of disaster is a good thing but we don't want to see them (politicians) put the money in their pockets."

The biggest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, said it would challenge the "state of disaster" declaration in court, alleging Ramaphosa's party issued nonsensical regulations and abused procurement processes during the pandemic.

Ramaphosa also said on Thursday that the government was working on a mechanism for targeted basic income support for the most vulnerable, within fiscal constraints.

He started his speech about 45 minutes late after opposition lawmakers, mainly from the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters party, disrupted proceedings and tried to barge onto the stage.

Agencies

## Russian ambassador blasts US claims that Russia is 'haven' for hackers

WASHINGTON

THE US government's claims that Russia is a haven for cyber criminals are false and irresponsible, and constitute an element of the hybrid warfare against Russia, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said in a statement yesterday.



Commenting on US sanctions targeting the Trickbot cybercrime gang, which the US claims is based in Russia, the diplomat said: "It is yet another example of baseless accusations against our country."

"The US Treasury seems to have nothing else to do than to impose sanctions on Russian citizens. And all this is done in a very clumsy way - no arguments and no evidence. It is an apparent attempt to create appearance of the fight against cybercrime in the eyes of American taxpayers," he continued.

"Russia has always underlined that cybercrime can be defeated only through mutual efforts. The Russian side demonstrated its readiness to cooperate with the United States on cybersecurity matters when at the US request the intelligence agencies of our countries performed an operation to neutralize members of a large hacker group in January 2022.

However, Washington 'froze' the Kremlin-White House dialogue on these issues. We definitely will not impose ourselves," the ambassador went on.

"As for the US Treasury's allegations that Russia is a 'haven' for cybercriminals, they are false and irresponsible. All that is an integral element of the hybrid war waged against us," Antonov added.

"In 2022, our country was a target of an unprecedentedly high number of external cyberattacks. About 50 thousand hacker attacks were repelled. The majority of them originated from the territory of the United States. A fair question is: maybe the 'haven' for cybercrime is the United States then?"

## US officials prepping legislation to revamp asylum system

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden's administration is developing a sweeping bill that would revamp the country's asylum system to speed up the resolution of claims in large-scale processing centers at the border with Mexico, two US Department of Homeland Security officials told Reuters.

The effort emerged from ongoing Biden administration discussions to reimagine asylum as border crossings have reached record highs and immigration courts face steep backlogs, said the two sources, who requested anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. US officials traveled to Europe last month, including a stop in the Netherlands, to examine systems there, they said.

Biden, a Democrat, is expected to seek reelection in 2024 and has toughened his approach to border security, introducing new immigration measures in recent weeks as Republicans have escalated attacks over the issue after taking control of the US House of Representatives.

The legislation - which remains in a conceptual phase - could also include different procedures for asylum seekers based on nationality, with migrants from countries with typically higher rates of approval given more freedom of movement while they await the outcome of their cases, the sources said.

Those with better chances would potentially be housed in apartments or less restrictive settings than a detention center, the two officials said. Migrants deemed less likely to win asylum could be processed and deported quickly.

"It's a total rethink of the approach and is not constrained by current laws," one of the DHS officials said.

The sources stressed that the bill remained in development and that details could change before it is finalized. Blas Nunez-Neto, a top DHS policy official, is one of the people leading the legislative effort, according to one of the DHS officials and another person familiar with the matter.

DHS spokeswoman Marsha Espinosa downplayed the asylum legislation discussions.

"DHS is always exploring ways to improve our asylum system, but no proposal is under serious consideration," she said.

Espinosa said the administration remains committed to passing an immigration reform bill Biden sent to Congress shortly after taking office in 2021, although that bill has failed to gain traction.

The timing of eventual asylum legislation, or whether it would win support among Republicans or Democrats in Congress, remains unclear.

The goal of the effort is to open a conversation with Congress to create an asylum system that is "fair, fast and functioning," said another DHS official directly involved in the planning.

Agencies

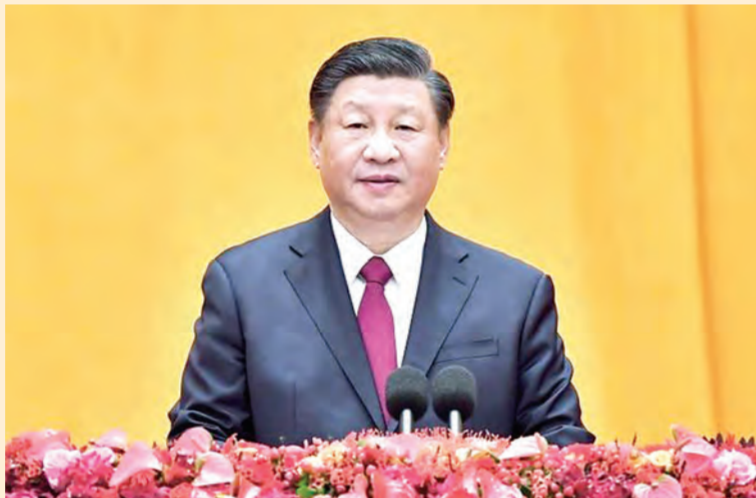
## Xi encourages Chinese medics in Africa to bring benefits to locals

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday encouraged members of a Chinese medical team sent to Africa to benefit local people with their medical proficiency and medical ethics, and to better present China to the world through their concrete actions.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a letter replying to the 19th Chinese medical team dispatched to the Central African Republic.

In his letter, Xi praised the medical personnel for overcom-



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission

ing difficulties in work and life people, saying that they are not only saving lives, but also build-

ing friendship.

He extended his heartfelt regards to all those who are or were on China's international medical aid missions, as this year marks the 60th anniversary of the occasion when the country sent its first medical aid team abroad.

The Chinese people love peace and cherish lives, which is vividly illustrated by their efforts in international medical assistance, the letter says.

Xi called on the medical personnel to use their medical proficiency and ethics to benefit local people, and to better present China to the world through their concrete actions, thus making greater contributions to the

building of a global community of health for all, according to the letter.

The 11 members of the team had written to Xi to report on how they had served local people there, expressing their resolve to help build a global community of health for all.

Over the past six decades, China has sent medical teams consisting of 30,000 members to 76 countries and regions across five continents, providing 290 million diagnoses and treatments for local people.

Chinese medical teams are currently working at 115 sites in 56 countries around the world, of which nearly half are in remote areas with harsh conditions.

Xinhua

## Pakistan says agrees to IMF conditions on release of \$1.1b funding

KARACHI

PAKISTAN has agreed with the International Monetary Fund on the conditions to release about \$1.1 billion in critical funding, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday, adding that the payout was delayed due to "routine procedures".

Dar was speaking to reporters hours after an IMF mission left Islamabad after 10 days of talks aimed at releasing the funds Pakistan desperately needs to keep its economy afloat. Payment of the funds, part of a \$6.5 billion bailout Pakistan signed in 2019, has been stalled since last December.

"The prime minister has said we're committed," Dar said. "We will implement whatever has been agreed upon between our teams." "We will try to make sure Pakistan completes its second IMF programme in its history," he added.

The money is necessary to prevent Pakistan from defaulting on external payment



People visit a dry fruit market in the old area of Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 1, 2023. AP

obligations, and an IMF deal paves the way for other organizations and governments to provide funds, analysts say. The fiscal adjustments demanded by any deal, however, are likely to fuel record high inflation, which hit

27.5 percent year-on-year in January.

The IMF talks were due to end on Thursday, but Dar said they would continue virtually on Monday, with the aim of reaching a staff-level agreement which then needs

to be approved by the IMF's head office in Washington before the funds are disbursed.

In a statement, Pakistan IMF Mission Chief Nathan Porter confirmed talks were continuing, adding that considerable progress had already been made.

The IMF funding is crucial for the country's \$350 billion economy, which is facing a balance-of-payments crisis with foreign exchange reserves dipping to less than three weeks of import cover. Last week, Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif called Pakistan's economic situation "unimaginable."

Pakistan has already shifted back to a market-based exchange rate and hiked fuel prices, which are among the conditions set by the IMF.

Asked about other measures, Dar said Pakistan would raise fuel prices in tranches, would not impose a sales tax on petroleum products and that it was considering introducing a new finance bill. He did not give further details.

Agencies

MORE than four months after the explosion of Nord Stream pipelines, a shocking report by US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh released on Wednesday has once again ignited international public opinion. The report provides details of how the US intelligence agencies planned the sabotage under the order of US President Joe Biden and how the US Navy carried out the bombing with the cooperation of the Norwegian forces. After the report was published, Washington quickly denied it. But simply using the phrase "fake news" is obviously not convincing. The international community needs to keep asking Washington until it gives a convincing explanation.

The 85-year-old Hersh is a famous Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. More than 50 years ago, his report that exposed the

## Washington owes world an explanation of Nord Stream explosion

US military's massacre of Vietnamese civilians significantly pushed the anti-war movement in the US. He was also behind the investigation of the notorious incident of Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse in 2003 and contributed to revealing the Watergate scandal, one of the most disgraceful political scandals in Washington's history. Hersh's latest report is not comparable to conspiracy theories in public opinion, nor are they something Washington can just gloss over.

To be honest, the suspicions about the US are not baseless, but the details that got exposed still send chills down one's spine. For example, the report claims that Washington had been secretly planning the sabotage of Nord Stream pipelines

since the end of 2021, long before the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. And in more than nine months of debate, Washington focused not on whether to blow up the pipelines, but on how to leave no evidence behind. Therefore, the execution forces, time, place, and the way the explosion was carried out were all carefully planned. Even the most imaginative screenwriter in Hollywood would not dare to write such a plot. If what is reported in Hersh's article is true, then the world will probably have to reassess the US' capability to disrupt peace.

The explosion of the Nord Stream pipelines, one of the world's most important transnational energy supply infrastructures, was an extreme event in interna-

tional politics. Under the fragile political mutual trust, the Nord Stream pipelines were once a main artery of energy connecting Western Europe and Russia, stabilizing the security situation by expanding common interests. Because of this, it has always been a "thorn in the eye" of Washington.

With the blast of the Nord Stream pipelines, the only remaining bridge to build common security in Europe was destroyed, which means that Western European countries have to choose to be deeply bound with the US at the crossroads of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Hersh also mentioned in his latest report that "Germany and the rest of Western Europe would become addicted

to low-cost natural gas supplied by Russia - while diminishing European reliance on America." This is one of the main reasons Washington decided to blow up the Nord Stream pipelines.

Attacking and destroying major civil infrastructure is a highly egregious act of terrorist nature and must not be tolerated. The international community has no dispute over this. After the explosion, many countries publicly condemned it, and the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also declared that sabotage on the Nord Stream gas pipelines would be "in no-one's interest."

The Global Times then published an editorial, calling for relevant international agencies to set up a joint investigation

team to restore the truth as soon as possible, find out the perpetrators, and let them be punished. But as expected, some countries are blocking such an international investigation, and more than four months have passed, with little progress made. Hersh's report now at least provides an important clue to the international investigation.

It is worth noting that the US mainstream media, which has always claimed to be "professional" and "independent," was selectively blind to Hersh's revelations or simply reported denials by the US government. Compared with their unanimously pointing their fingers at Russia after the explosion, this abnormal silence shows that American media agencies are very clear about when to be high-profile or low-key.

Global Times



## Hostilities in Ukraine have been going on since 2014, Russia seeks to end them – Putin

MOSCOW

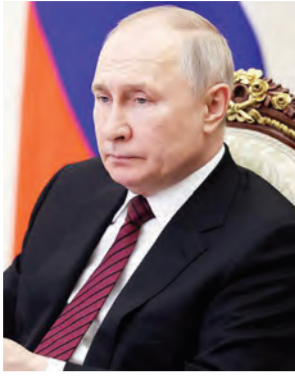
RUSSIA did not begin hostilities in Ukraine, but it is trying to stop them, as hostilities have been going on since 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a meeting with aviation industry representatives on Thursday.

"I would like to say it one more time: we did not start any hostilities, we are trying to end them. These hostilities were started by Ukrainian nationalists and those who supported them in 2014, when the coup took place; that is how it all began, the events in Crimea and in Donbas followed after that," the head of state said.

Putin pointed out that Kiev started the war against Donbas in 2014, and, in violation of all agreements and obligations, effectively blockaded the Donbas regions.

"Heavy military vehicles were used against them, major military operations were carried out against them," the head of state noted. "This is when they started the war. It lasted for eight years and aimed to exterminate the people who live there and feel themselves tied to Russia, Russian culture and the Russian language by blood. How long could we have kept tolerating it?"

The President also thanked the participants of the meeting for their support of the special military operation.



Agencies

## Certain MEPS use European parliament as platform to attack Morocco, says Haddad

RABAT

MOROCCO is facing a number of MEPs who are using the European Parliament (EP) as a platform to attack the Kingdom in an organized manner and with great resources, said Lahcen Haddad, chairman of the Moroccan-European Union (EU) Joint Parliamentary Committee, on Wednesday in Rabat.

Speaking at a debate on EP's hostile, blatant and recurrent attacks on the Kingdom, Haddad said that the Kingdom's problem is not with the European Union or its various institutions, but rather with MEPs known for their hostility towards Morocco.

According to him, these MEPs have taken advantage of the corruption crisis shaking the EP to create a climate of fear within the European legislative institution, pushing it to undermine Morocco's image and reputation in the media and to adopt resolutions hostile to the Kingdom.

Haddad noted that 112 anti-Morocco issues and 18 attempted amendments were raised in the EP in 2022, claiming the existence of a "systematic war" against the Kingdom.

For his part, Authenticity and Modernity Group President Ahmed Touzi said that the European Parliament has become "a platform to attack and provoke Morocco," noting that there is a joint Morocco-EU committee that MEPs have chosen to ignore and freeze in order to directly attack the Kingdom.

Touzi stressed that some MEPs do not want to defend human rights but "to attack the territorial integrity of the Kingdom," explaining this hostility by the geostrategic position that Morocco now occupies on the continent thanks to the enlightened vision of HM King Mohammed VI. He added that the European Parliament, which is trying to "blackmail" Morocco, cannot afford to ignore the great progress made by the Kingdom in the field of human rights, knowing that the Moroccan Parliament has adopted laws to protect freedoms and human rights.

This meeting, organized by the two Houses of Parliament, examines the basis of the methodical attacks and false aggressions transmitted by the EP against the Kingdom in a systematic and presumptuous manner.

It brings together MPs, representatives of civil society, experts and lawyers to discuss the instrumentalization of the human rights issue, the attacks on the Kingdom's territorial integrity and the exploitation of the Pegasus case.

Agencies

## Russia supports Sudan's efforts to resolve political crisis without foreign dictations - FM

KHARTOUM

VISITING Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Thursday expressed Russia's support for Sudan's efforts to resolve the country's political crisis without foreign dictations.

"We support Sudan's efforts to achieve stability. We support the national dialogue among the Sudanese away from foreign dictations," Lavrov said at a joint press conference with Sudanese Acting Foreign Minister Ali Al-Sadiq at the airport of Sudan's capital Khartoum.

"We support Sudan's endeavor to lift the sanctions imposed on it and we will work to support each other regarding the decisions of the United Nations," he added.

The two sides also discussed coordination at the international forums and reformation of the UN Security Council, the Russian top diplomat noted, advocating the establishment of a multipolar world in which all parties enjoy equal opportunities.

Commenting on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Lavrov highlighted the importance of implementing the Minsk agreements aimed at achieving a cease-fire in Donbas.

If "efforts were directed to implement the Minsk agreements, the Russian military operation would not have started," he said. For his part, Al-Sadiq said Sudan and Russia have agreed on increasing bilateral trade cooperation and the reformation of "the United Nations generally and the Security Council in particular."

He also expressed Sudan's support for Russia's endeavor to create a multipolar world in which all parties are generally equal. He said that Sudan will take part in the Russia-Africa summit slated for July in Russia.

Xinhua

# Int'l rescuers rush to aid quake-hit areas, as US sanctions hamper relief work

ANKARA/DAMASCUS

A pregnant woman was loaded into an ambulance and rushed to a hospital early Thursday in Hatay, Türkiye, immediately after she was rescued from under the rubble of a collapsed eight-story building.

Hatay was one of the hardest-hit areas by the massive earthquakes that jolted Türkiye and neighboring Syria on Monday.

International rescuers, including those from China, are racing against time searching for signs of life among the wreckage in quake-stricken regions, as the essential 72-hour window has closed, but sanctions by the United States on Syria have obstructed coordinated efforts to save lives in the country, triggering worldwide criticism.

CLIMBING CASUALTIES

According to the latest statistics, the death toll from the devastating earthquakes reached 14,014 in Türkiye and 3,556 in Syria and is expected to rise further, as the 72-hour window closed on Thursday morning.

More than 90 percent of earthquake survivors were rescued within the first three days, and the survival rate for those stranded without water and food drops drastically after the first 72 hours, said Gao Mengtan, a research fellow at the China Earthquake Administration.

He also warned that the optimal survival window may be much smaller than anticipated, given the low temperatures that swept through the disaster zones, which will increase the risk of fatal hypothermia.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country is facing "one of the biggest



Rescuers search for survivors on the rubble of a building destroyed in a powerful earthquake in Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye, on Feb. 7, 2023. (Xinhua/Li Zhenbei)

disasters of the history of the Republic of Türkiye."

On Wednesday, he visited a "tent city" in hard-hit Kahramanmaraş where thousands of survivors were living and admitted that there were some problems in the first-day response to the deadly earthquakes.

Meanwhile, Turkish volunteers flocked to the quake-hit zone to help the victims. Terminals were crowded with volunteers willing to lend a hand. Roads leading to the affected areas were clogged with vehicles transporting supplies or offering assistance.

Kerem Okyay, a Turkish volunteer, drove 200 km to help the victims in Elbistan, the epicenter of a 7.6 magnitude quake.

"We formed a team of volunteers with some friends as soon as we heard the news and came here immediately," said Okyay, adding they have helped save two survivors from under the ruins since their arrival on Monday.

"We were focusing on areas where we could hear people," he said.

In Syria, most of the quake-hit cities are still waiting for international aid, especially excavation equipment and medical supplies. Rescuers in Aleppo, northern Syria,

have to dig through the rubble with their bare hands due to lack of rescue equipment.

UN Secretary-General spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Wednesday that the road leading to the Bab al-Hawa Border Crossing from Türkiye to northern Syria was damaged, and aid delivery to the rebel-held northwest was temporarily disrupted.

INTERNATIONAL AID POURS IN

International search and rescue teams, including an 82-member Chinese rescue team that arrived in Türkiye on Wednesday, rushed to the quake-impacted zone to assist in rescue efforts.

The Chinese team arrived in the city of Adana in southern Türkiye in the wee hours of Wednesday with around 20 tons of relief materials and equipment.

A Chinese civil rescue team and members of the Blue Sky Rescue (BSR) team, with rich experience in international rescue, also reached Türkiye, bringing rescue dogs, equipment, and other necessary resources to support their work.

"We will try our best to search for and rescue survivors," said Zhang Yupu, a BSR member from east China's Jiangsu Prov-

ince, who had participated in the Wenchuan earthquake relief in 2008.

Chinese companies are also lending a helping hand. The local branch of Chinese machinery giant Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group has deployed dozens of excavators and loaders as well as relief materials such as blankets and hygiene products to the earthquake-ravaged region.

Countries across the world also sent help. Russia has sent a second rescue team with medical specialists and rescuers to Türkiye, according to the country's emergencies ministry Wednesday.

More than 100 Russian rescuers have already arrived in Türkiye, and most are conducting search and rescue operations in the Kahramanmaraş Province, which was the most affected by the earthquake.

Tunisia has dispatched three aircraft carrying rescuers and emergency aid, including food, medication and clothing, to the two quake-stricken countries.

Saudi Arabia launched a donation campaign on Wednesday to help the victims in Syria and Türkiye. A total of 25 million Saudi Riyals (6.7 million U.S. dollars) has been collected so far, according to local press.

Armenia has sent 27 rescuers to the quake-hit regions of Türkiye and 29 to Syria to assist in the search-and-rescue operations, its Internal Affairs Ministry said Wednesday.

Jordan, Sudan and Lebanon also announced plans to send rescue teams or aid to quake-impacted areas in Syria and Türkiye.

As of Wednesday morning, 20 European Union (EU) member states and three countries participating in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism sent a total of 36 rescue and medical teams, comprised of around 1,500 personnel and 100 search and rescue dogs, said Janez Lenarčič, European commissioner for crisis management.

OUTCRY FOR LIFTING U.S. SANCTIONS

In Syria, where the economic situation is even worse than Türkiye, people are railing against the United States for retaining economic sanctions when Syria desperately needs help from the international community.

"These sanctions 'punished' us, but we didn't do anything. Shame on them ... They must remove these sanctions," Aisha al-Hilu, a school teacher in Syria's northern city of Aleppo said.

She told Xinhua that she and her family fled the house without taking any belongings and are in desperate need of food and clothing in the freezing weather.

Aleppo is among the cities hardest hit by Monday's megaquakes. The media office at the Aleppo governorate headquarters told Xinhua on Tuesday that the quakes killed at least 364 people, injured 702 others and toppled 52 buildings in the city.

## China's energy storage industry on fast lane of development

AS China works to pursue the "dual carbon" goal, which is to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, its energy storage industry, as an important pillar for building a new type of power system, is going through a rapid expansion.

According to the China Electricity Council (CEC), as of the end of 2022, the total installed capacity of China's pumped-storage hydroelectricity reached 45.79 million kW, ranking first in the world, and it was expected to exceed 50 million kW by the end of this year. Besides, multiple relevant technologies developed by China were among the best in the world.

The energy density of Chinese storage batteries has more than doubled compared with that 10 years ago and many key materials are now produced domestically.

China has also seen fast development of compressed air energy storage technologies. In the flywheel energy storage sector, the country has developed big-capacity flywheels, high-speed motors, as well as other key technologies. Chinese sodium-ion battery projects are now up-and-coming.

As energy transition picks up speed, China's total installed capacity of new-type energy storage facilities is expected to hit 150 million kW by 2030.

The large-scale development and technological progress of the Chinese energy storage industry have led to a steady reduction in the cost of the application of energy storage technologies.

Chen Haisheng, director of the Energy Storage Committee under the China Energy Research Society, told People's Daily that the cost of new-type energy storage in China has been lowered by 10 percent to 15 percent annually on average in the past decade. In particular, the costs of sodium-ion battery and compressed air energy storage have dropped rapidly, and are close to that of pumped-storage.

Jiangsu Hige Energy Co., Ltd. (Hige) in Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu province has adopted a photovoltaic (PV) generation - energy storage system. The system generates electricity with rooftop PV panels in the day and stores low-price electricity during off-peak hours at night, which makes it possible for the system to "feed" the plant at the peak



Employees of the Jindong power supply company under the State Grid maintains photovoltaic panels on the roof of a workshop in a factory in Jindong district, Jinhua, east China's Zhejiang province, Dec. 15, 2022. (Photo by Hu Xiaofei/People's Daily Online)

time and significantly reduces the production cost.

"The price of industrial electricity during off-peak hours in Wuxi is only 0.28 yuan (\$0.04) per kWh, while that in peak hours is around 1.15 yuan. The PV generation-energy storage system can save 500,000 to 600,000 yuan for the company every year," said Li Xiangchao, an employee of the State Grid Wuxi Power Supply Company.

This is just one of the many scenarios of energy storage. Through integrated development with power sources, grids, and loads, energy storage is expected to improve the utilization of clean energy and the operational efficiency of the power system.

On the side of power sources, energy storage makes it easier for new energy to be connected to power grids, assists the transmission of renewable energy to other regions, and strengthens regulation of conventional power sources.

On the side of grids, energy storage offers peak load and frequency regulation services, enhances the power system's performance in emergency response and failure recovery, improves the safety and stability of the power system's operation and strengthens power supply for regions with weak power supply.

On the user side, energy storage can be employed by distributed energy supply systems to improve the quality of energy consumption and lower the cost. Besides,

user-end energy storage, charging, battery-swap facilities, as well as intelligent electricity facilities can make users' energy consumption more flexible.

According to statistics released by the China Energy Storage Alliance, 47 percent of the newly built new-type energy storage projects in 2022 were put into use on the grid side, 45 percent on the side of power sources, and 8 percent on the user side.

At present, it has become a consensus of the energy industry to accelerate the large-scale, commercial, and market-oriented development of the energy storage sector.

A 2021 report on the development of the pumped-storage sector said there would be over 200 pumped-storage hydro plants by 2025 in China. By that time, the country's total operational capacity of pumped-storage hydro plants will reach 62 million kW, equivalent to the total installed capacity of 3 Three Gorges Dams.

An official with the National Energy Administration (NEA) told People's Daily that China's total installed capacity of new-type energy storage facilities would hit 30 million kW by the end of 2025, maintaining annual growth of over 50 percent.

According to plans issued by the National Development and Reform Commission, NEA, and other departments, the new-type energy storage industry will be fully market-oriented by 2030.

People's Daily

## Egypt seeks to prevent Israel-Palestine escalation in Ramadan

GAZA

EGYPT has stepped up mediation between Israel and the Palestinians in a bid to tamp down violence in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and to prevent its spread to the Gaza Strip ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, officials said.

This week Cairo hosted leaders from Gaza's ruling Hamas Islamist militant group and from the smaller, allied Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) group, according to the officials. Talks with Israeli representatives were held earlier, they said.

West Bank violence, which surged last year as Israel intensified raids following a series of lethal Palestinian street attacks in Israeli cities, has picked up pace since a hard-right Israeli government was sworn in on Dec 29.

Two Egyptian officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Cairo believed the situation could further spiral out of control, especially given Palestinian sensitivities about Israeli control of access to Jerusalem during Ramadan, which begins in late March.

Egypt wanted the United States to appeal to Israel to help constrain an escalation of violence, the officials said. Egypt, for its part, was appealing to the PIJ, which spurns

direct contact with Israel.

"More than ever, the Egyptians are worried of a possible new armed confrontation in 2023 because they realize it would be hard to restrain actions by some ministers of the new extremist government in Israel," a Palestinian official told Reuters.

"Egypt understands that if things blow up in the West Bank it will ignite an explosion in Gaza too," the Palestinian official said.

Israeli officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Israel last fought a 56-hour war in Gaza in August 2022 against PIJ, and the year before against Hamas. The two groups are sworn to Israel's destruction but have been observing a de facto extended truce with it, brokered by neighboring Egypt in 2021.

PIJ spokesman Daoud Shehab accused Egypt of trying to change the "status quo" in the West Bank and Jerusalem, a reference to the new government's plan to expand Jewish settlements and what Palestinians see as Jewish encroachment on a contested site in the holy city that is sacred to both faiths.

Shehab said the group told Egypt that "no one can restrain" themselves if "Israeli provocations" continue during Ramadan.

Agencies



A picture shows a general view of the Israeli settlement of Givat Zeev, near the Palestinian city of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, on Feb 3, 2023. Egypt has stepped up mediation between Israel and the Palestinians in a bid to tamp down violence in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and to prevent its spread to the Gaza Strip ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, officials said. AFP



## Simba SC squad vs Horoya AC revealed as Saido, Mkude miss out

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SAID Ntibazonkiza, Jonas Mkude, Peter Banda, Augustine Okrah, and Jimmyson Mwanuke were not part of Simba SC's trip to Guinea for the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage match.

Simba SC will play Guinea's Horoya AC in CAF Champions League's Group C opening fixture on Saturday night, before heading back to Dar es Salaam for a game against Raja Club Athletic. On Thursday dawn, the squad left for West Africa.

According to Simba SC's doctor Edwin Kagabo, Ntibazonkiza, alias 'Saido', was injured in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League game against Singida Big Stars and, despite recovering, he is not fully fit and had to be left behind in Dar es Salaam.

Kagabo revealed: "Saido suffered thigh pain in the game against Singida Big Stars, his condition has improved but he cannot travel because he is not fit and has not trained with his colleagues. When the team returns, he will join his colleagues."

The Burundi international has quickly established himself as a key member of the Msimbazi Street squad having joined from Geita Gold FC during the December-January mini-transfer window.

Mkude, Banda, and Mwanuke were not part of the technical bench's plan for the game. Banda returned to



Saido Ntibazonkiza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

training recently following a three-month injury layoff while Mkude and Mwanuke appear to be out of favour.

New signings, Burkina Faso international defensive midfielder Ismael Sawadogo, Congolese striker Jean Baleke, and former Zanzibar's Malindi striker Mohamed Musa, made are part of Simba SC traveling squad.

In this campaign, Simba SC under head coach Robert Oliveira is raring to reach the semi-final following four quarterfinal exits in the last four years.

Last year, they were eliminated by the South African side, Orlando Pirates, in the quarterfinals of the CAF Confederation Cup after a penalty shootout.

In 2021, they came up short against Kaizer Chiefs in the CAF Champions League quarterfinals after a 4-1 aggregate win by the South African side.

In 2019, it was TP Mazembe who thwarted the semi-final dream for Simba SC with a 4-1 aggregate victory for the Congolese giants.

Simba SC traveling squad:

**Goalkeepers:** Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya, Ally Salim

**Defenders:** Shomari Kapombe, Israel Mwenda, Gadiel Michael, Mohamed Hussein, Henock Inonga, Joash Inonga, Erasto Nyoni, Kennedy Juma, and Mohamed Ouattara.

**Midfielders:** Ismael Sawadogo, Sadio Kanoute, Mzamiru Yassin, Nassor Kapama, Clatus Chama, Pape Sakho, and Dennis Kibu.

**Forwards:** John Bocco, Moses Phiri, Jean Baleke, Habib Kyombo, and Mohamed Mussa.

## Deferred wedding: Marketing fiasco of issuing new jerseys for Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

CITY rivals Simba SC and Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, seem to be competing in any initiative that a club takes, as the other must also come up with a similar move, in many instances.

This brazen effort at 'keeping up with the Joneses' helps the clubs' morale as it brings about a new hotly contested talking point when the fan base is too silent comfort, as street disputes are an extension of deafening applause when the team is in play. It is something that both sides cannot avoid, to catch up, with the dispute.

This foot stepping on the path of the other side is almost mechanical, from player pursuit to administration experts swapping, and now an issue of the team jersey, which for some reason is taking place at an identical moment.

Yanga proceeded with their fairly controversial jersey issue whose advertisement problem is not yet done with, and their archrivals felt it necessary to hurry up with their jersey issuance.

The trouble is that they were not ready to do things at the same time, and in splitting the launching and the proper sale, watered down an auspicious moment.

How far this disappointment in the fan base will affect the jersey sales later is one thing but it appears the launching proper will have to be redone so that what happened is just an announcement, a notice of intention to launch the jersey.

Pundits pointed at what more needed to be there, for instance, more jerseys and a top player to sign the jerseys which would be sold on the spot, presumably with ink that does not get rubbed out easily.

It means reactivating the whole launching fanfare despite that the fans already heard of it, which needs some



Some Simba SC officials and representatives of the side's main sponsors, M-Bet Tanzania, display jerseys, to be used by the outfit in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage, during an occasion that took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

marketing skills.

There was no dispute among pundits that this initial launching was hasty and a non-starter, as it had to be done in full, including selling the jerseys, not just showing a model jersey for the near future.

For management, researchers say in the sports field, it is an occasion to study the 'lost opportunity' of a proper launching and to figure out if in sports there are 'second chances' or if they do not exist.

Once the fans are disappointed with a certain event, can energy be recaptured sufficiently to do precisely the same thing a fortnight later? Yes, but it will be a bit expensive.

For instance, if the club leadership or management just put up a notice on the recent launch in a rather casual way, this time they will have to engage event professional firms to drum up eulogies for that event.

They may have to use their often-tested event needs to colour those arrangements, to bring up excitement beyond the call of duty, or tie up that event with anything else that tallies with it.

They showed skills in the way of a precipitous introduction of Cesar Lobi Manzoki as a future club recruit, helping to cement

some undecided votes to the incumbent leadership.

It is up to the leadership and their closest auxiliary advisers to think up auxiliary but relevant occasions that could be tied up with the re-launching not the start of sales, as perhaps it needs no actual start.

Plenty will also depend on what happens on the Tunisia trip, despite that as it is a group stage, there are plenty of other occasions with which to weigh team credibility or chances in the tourney.

Were the side to obtain positive results the re-launch will be easier, and if not it is entirely the start of sales to be put up in some energetic commercial method, period.

Surprisingly it was Yanga who would have the worry that causes disappointment, as in a sense portions of the leadership and management recall the 'colour' issue that has been sparked, needlessly for some, by remarks that Manzoki made on the Simba SC occasion.

Here the fans created a problem themselves, by repeating the remarks to say 'snake' colour whereas those of us who were listening, or at least a good number of us, heard something about chameleon colours, not a

snake.

The difference is that a chameleon is bizarre but largely presentable, whereas a snake is not 'sexy.'

Already some debate has started concerning the jerseys intended for away matches for both teams, if a sort of blue-white jersey is appropriate for Simba SC, for instance.

The tastes vary among fans and pundits, whether the jersey is a bit close to Azam FC or such, though it isn't being so cited.

So this initial event has become a relative non-starter for the club and the leadership faces a results hurdle to plan its repetition or drum up the start of sales in a different way.

None is more knowledgeable as to how to go about that sort of repetition, chances are that it will be virtually out of the way if positive results did not come in, which makes an eventual start of jersey sales a low-key affair.

It will require a bit of savvy marketing if there isn't a happy mood after the next continental tie to reissue jerseys, re-launched, or sell starts.

It might be incumbent to wait for a slightly happier moment, not hurrying up things for a second time, without a fallback option.

## Dar to host African Schools Championship's CECAFA Zone Qualifiers next week

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will, next week, host the first edition of the Africa Schools Football Championship's CECAFA Zone Qualifiers at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer Clifford Ndimbo said the championship, scheduled to kick off on Friday and climax on Sunday, has attracted eight nations forming the CECAFA Zone. He mentioned the countries as Djibouti, Burundi, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, and the host Tanzania.

Ndimbo stated that each of the eight countries will be represented by a boys' and a girls' football team.

"The Africa Schools Football Championship's CECAFA Zone Qualifiers will be held at Azam Complex Stadium from next week. Tanzania, Djibouti, Burundi, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda teams will compete," Ndimbo noted.

According to the official, the competing teams have already been through a qualifying process in their countries and now meet in the hope of being crowned regional winners in the boys' and girls' competitions.

Tanzania will be represented by Fountain Gate Secondary School and Benjamin William Mkapa High School. Sudan will be represented by El Hilla Al Jadida and Al Jeel Algenina schools, whereas Burundi will feature ECOFO Ruseno and ECOFO Gasanda. Djibouti will have CEM Baulous and CEM Baulous.

Awaro Secondary School and Geda Roble Secondary School are teams from Ethiopia, St. Josephine Bakhita Primary School and Libya 1 Primary School are sides from South Sudan, while Rwanda will be represented by Kiramuzi Modern Primary School and Ecole Secondaire Sumba.

The victors will represent CECAFA Zone in the maiden African Schools Football Championship which is slated to take place early in April.

The CAF African Schools Football Championship is a brainchild of the confederation's president, Patrice Motsepe, who said Africa needs to invest in young football talent.

"Schools football is at the heart of the long-term development and growth of African football," Motsepe disclosed.

"One of the best investments that we can make to ensure that African football is amongst the best in the world is to invest in schools' football and football infrastructure for boys and girls at schools, amateur and professional levels," he said.

The CAF African Schools Football Program is a partnership involving CAF, African governments, and football associations from 41 participating countries.

The program also involves the provision of education, coaching, football, and skills development courses.

The CAF African Schools Football Program received a donation of USD 10 million from The Motsepe Foundation which will be used as prize money.

## Magnet Youth Academy player heads to Tunisia for surgery

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM's Magnet Youth Sports Academy's footballer, Shomary Mkwama, has headed to Tunisia to undergo surgery at one of the hospitals in the northern African country.

Mkwama had suffered a career-threatening injury that had compelled him to have surgery.

Magnet Youth Sports Academy's Chairman, Tuntufye Mwambusi, said the player who was turning out for Championship League club, African Lyon, was injured during a duel against Simba SC's U-17 squad and the money for the operation was generated through support from various stakeholders.

Mwambusi hailed the medical department of his academy and senior national football team's doctor Gilbert Kidadye for being close with the young player since he was injured.

He mentioned those who helped his academy successfully send the player to Tunisia for the surgery as the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Tanzania Premier League Board



Magnet Youth Sports Academy's footballer, Shomary Mkwama (2nd R), is pictured with the institution's Chairman Tuntufye Mwambusi (R), Yanga's president, Hersi Said (2nd L), and the club's doctor, Youssef Ammar, at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in Dar es Salaam recently ahead of the footballer's trip to Tunisia for surgery. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MAGNET YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATION

(TPLB), and parents and guardians of Magnet Youth Sports Academy's youths who contributed financially. The chairman also hailed the 2022/23 NBC Premier League runaway leaders and defending champions, Yanga, for their ad-

vice and guidelines on the Tunisia hospital, saying without the outfit's support, it would have been very expensive for his institution to send the player to the facility. Mwambusi expressed joy that Mkwama, who is also the national U-17

football team's player, will be treated.

The Magnet Youth Sports Academy boss disclosed: "Our prolific U-17 player, Mkwama, was injured during our game against Simba SC's U-17 team, it was not easy for us to raise funds

for this sophisticated treatment in Tunisia but we thank TFF, TPLB, and parents of youths nurtured by Magnet Youth Sports Academy."

He pointed out: "In a very exceptional way, I also thank Yanga for showcasing a high level of sportsmanship, given they chipped in to ensure the young talented Mkwama's mission to treatment is successful."

"The previous hospital we identified for his surgery was in South Africa, it was costly as he was supposed to be accompanied by a guardian but Yanga advised us to take him to Tunisia where they have a partner hospital," Mwambusi said.

Mkwama will be treated at the same facility where Yanga's keeper, Aboutwalib Mshery, will be operated.

The duo left with Yanga's footballers that jetted off to Tunisia on Tuesday to face US Monastir in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage tie. Mkwama is expected back in Tanzania on Tuesday next week.



## Madrid target own Club World Cup record against Al-Hilal

RABAT

REAL Madrid have proven they can find the net even if they must take the field without talisman Karim Benzema in Saturday's Club World Cup final against Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal in Morocco.

Carlo Ancelotti's side, reigning European and Spanish champions, are aiming to win the competition for a fifth time and build confidence after a shaky start to 2023.

Madrid captain Benzema missed the semi-final with a thigh injury but is set to train with the squad on Friday before the final.

Los Blancos are already the record four-time winners and are firm favourites to beat Al-Hilal after their 4-1 semi-final victory over Egyptian outfit Al Ahly on Wednesday.

Madrid won the competition under Ancelotti in 2014 during his first stint in charge, as well as in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Fede Valverde lined up in attack and all scored in the triumph, along with youngster Sergio Arribas from the bench.

Madrid were not at their best but the forwards had enough cutting edge to blow past the 10-time African Champions League winners in the final stages.

Ancelotti said Benzema's injury was not serious, but the coach may choose to begin with the Ballon d'Or holder on the bench, even if he is fit to play, after his team's clinical performance.

Madrid lost the Spanish Super Cup against Barcelona in January and have fallen eight points behind their rivals in the La Liga title race.

Winning their second trophy of the season, after lifting the European Super Cup in August, would boost morale in the Spanish capital.

Al-Hilal, who overcame Copa Libertadores winners Flamengo in the other semi-final, have former Manchester United striker Odion Ighalo and ex-Atletico Madrid forward Luciano Vietto leading the line.

The 2021 Asian Champions League winners are aiming to win the trophy for the first time, having finished fourth in 2019 and 2021.

"We have to respect this team, they've got good players and play well collectively. They'll be excited to play in the final and so will we," said Ancelotti on Wednesday.

AFP

## European Super League 'progressing', says Barcelona's Laporta

BARCELONA

BARCELONA president Joan Laporta on Thursday said plans to create a European Super League were "progressing" and expected a favourable court ruling for the breakaway competition fiercely opposed by UEFA and FIFA.

European football was rocked in 2021 by an attempt by 12 clubs to set up a Super League, but after a backlash by fans and governments, most pulled out of the project.

Barcelona, Real Madrid and Juventus have continued to insist on a potential Super League, despite disapproval from various quarters.

"The Super League is progressing" and will be "more sustainable" for clubs, Laporta told a press conference.

A22 Sports Management, the company promoting the Super League, published its 10 principles for the competition and laid out its position in several European newspapers.

These include the creation of an "open" competition made up of multiple divisions and between 60 and 80 teams.

"Participating clubs should remain fully committed to domestic tournaments as they do today," A22 added, after critics said the Super League sought to rival national leagues and UEFA-organised club competitions.

"What we want is that dialogue with UEFA isn't broken and is harmonised with national leagues. I think that through dialogue we will finally reach a good deal with UEFA," Laporta added on Thursday.

The Super League will need to cooperate with UEFA but also "be mainly governed by the clubs", the Spaniard added.

A lawsuit has been launched against UEFA and FIFA at the European Court of Justice, accusing the governing bodies of abusing their power by threatening to expel clubs and players interested in joining a Super League.

Laporta said he expected the European Union's top court to provide a ruling in April and that the Super League's promoters would be able to organise the competition.

The court's advocate general, whose opinions are often followed by judges, provided a first ruling favourable to UEFA in December.

The European Club Association repeated its longstanding opposition to the project in a statement, saying A22's ideas were "another deliberately distorted and misleading attempt" to destabilise ongoing work between football's stakeholders to move the game forward.

AFP

# Arsenal aim to settle nerves as Liverpool attempt reset

LONDON

PREMIER League leaders Arsenal and defending champions Manchester City will be desperate to return to winning ways this weekend as Jurgen Klopp searches for answers to Liverpool's dire form.

Chelsea face a tough trip to West Ham, with Graham Potter forced into a juggling act after an influx of expensive new players, while Manchester United take on Leeds for the second time in five days.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the action.

Can Arsenal hold their nerve?

Arsenal travelled to Goodison Park last week as hot favourites to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League but left after suffering just their second league defeat of the season.

Mikel Arteta's men -- chasing the Gunners' first league title for 19 years -- struggled to si-

lence the doubters earlier this campaign, even after starting at a sprint.

But in recent weeks they have shown their mettle, drawing against Newcastle before beating Tottenham and Manchester United.

Arsenal take on in-form Brentford at the Emirates on Saturday before hosting Manchester City next week.

The Gunners' recent record against the reigning champions is woeful -- they have lost the past 10 league meetings, with an aggregate score of 26-3.

Arteta said after the Everton defeat that his players were not feeling the pressure, and they were helped by City's loss at Tottenham the following day.

But he knows he must keep Pep Guardiola's seasoned winners at arm's length.

Derby test for faltering Liverpool

Liverpool need to find their mojo quickly after three heavy defeats in four Premier League matches left them floundering in mid-table but



Mikel Arteta

Jurgen Klopp will be wary of a reinvigorated Everton.

The Blues travel to Anfield on Monday with a spring in their step after last week's shock win against Arsenal in Sean Dyche's first match at the helm.

Liverpool's home record against relegation-threatened Everton is impressive -- before their

defeat at Anfield in 2021 they had not lost to their neighbours at home for more than two decades.

But if Everton can repeat the energy and intensity they showed against Arsenal, they will fancy their chances against a Liverpool team short of confidence after a terrible run.

A team once hailed by Klopp as "mental-

ity monsters", who came agonisingly close to winning an unprecedented quadruple last season, have lost their way quickly.

The German described last week's 3-0 defeat by Wolves as the "pinnacle of our problems". He will hope that gives him a vantage point to see the way ahead.

Can Joao Felix get Chelsea on the goal trail?

Graham Potter's new-look Chelsea kick off the weekend's Premier League action at the London Stadium on Saturday with Joao Felix likely to be back in the fold after serving a three-game ban.

The forward, on loan from Atletico Madrid, was sent off in his first appearance at the Stamford Bridge club at Fulham last month.

He will return to find a very different dressing room from the one he experienced in the Fulham match, which Chelsea lost 2-1.

The club splashed the cash in spectacular style last month -- bringing in eight new faces

in total, including wingers Mykhailo Mudryk and Noni Madueke, and breaking the British transfer record to sign Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez.

Potter knows his team must gel quickly if they are to have any hope of closing the 10-point gap to the top four.

They will have no chance unless they boost their disappointing return of just 22 goals in 21 Premier League matches.

### Fixtures

Today (1500 GMT unless stated)

West Ham v Chelsea (1230), Arsenal v Brentford, Crystal Palace v Brighton, Fulham v Nottingham Forest, Leicester v Tottenham, Southampton v Wolves, Bournemouth v Newcastle (1730)

### Tomorrow

Leeds v Manchester United (1400), Manchester City v Aston Villa (1630)

### Monday

Liverpool v Everton (2000)

AFP

# Sir Jim Ratcliffe to battle Qatari and US investors for Manchester United takeover

By TOM MORGAN

SIR Jim Ratcliffe will fight it out with private Qatari investors and US consortia for Manchester United, having secured two of Wall Street's biggest lenders to bankroll his deal.

At least four serious contenders have emerged ahead of a soft February 17 deadline, with formal offers expected beyond £5 billion to tempt the Glazers into a full sale.

Senior dealmakers say Saudi Arabia is also in the frame, but the most serious Middle East-based interest appears to be across the border in the city of Doha.

Telegraph Sport understands a high-powered Qatari individual and other wealthy investors are seriously considering an offer independent of the Paris Saint Germain ownership.

Ratcliffe, meanwhile, has given his strongest indication yet that he has funding in place, having been working with two prolific investment banks for several weeks. Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase & Co are prepared to back his offer with bonds and loans beyond the value of United's existing debt of £659 million.

However, the British billionaire may be forced to accept high interest payments on the debt financing provided. Investment bankers on both sides of the Atlantic are grappling with a dearth in dealmaking since central banks increased interest rates to tackle inflation.

Ratcliffe has sought additional investment

Next Friday's deadline for offers allows for the club to stick with its



In this file photo taken on May 7, 2022 British INEOS Group chairman and OGC Nice's owner Jim Ratcliffe looks on before the French Cup final football match between OGC Nice and FC Nantes at the Stade de France, in Saint-Denis, on the outskirts of Paris. (Agencies)

instructions to have a deal completed before the end of the current season. With that in mind, different prices depending on Champions League qualification could be factored in. Formal bids will be taken for total buyouts as well as minority stakes.

Ratcliffe has amassed a £6.33 billion personal fortune, but United have been uncertain of whether he is willing to meet the Glazers' asking price, having initially walked away from talks with Chelsea last year. Sources now confirm he has sought additional investment to table an offer that would dwarf any of his previous investments in sport.

Wall Street's biggest banks have become increasingly active in football, largely thanks to the boom in the game in the US. JPMorgan has previously underwritten plans for a European Super League breakaway and had also acted

tees were offered when asked whether the investors would draw on any money from the Qatar Investment Authority, a sovereign fund worth £360 billion.

The QIA's chief executive, Mansoor bin Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud, declined to rule out a United deal when asked by an American broadcaster about investment last month. In the US, meanwhile, fresh approaches have been known from groups who missed out to Todd Boehly and Clearlake in the race to buy Chelsea last year.

Ricketts family unlikely to bid

It is understood that the Ricketts family -- whose consortium was one of the final four shortlisted Chelsea bids -- will not be among the bidders for United, though. The Ricketts family, who own the Chicago Cubs baseball team, had partnered with US billionaires Ken Griffin and Dan Gilbert but ended up withdrawing from the process.

Telegraph Sport reported yesterday how "several" US financier-led consortiums have privately provided as-

surances that they will bid. However, given commitments to secrecy as part of the bidding process, few are willing to be named.

There have also been reports of potential investors from Saudi entering the bidding and being given access to United's financials. The Saudi government confirmed publicly in November that they would accept private sector bids from the country for United and Liverpool. Much like the Qatari/PSG conundrum, it is unclear how any prospective Saudi deal for United would work in practice, however, given their involvement in Newcastle United.

Saudi interest in United is nothing new. It is understood that the country have twice explored the prospect of a full takeover at Old Trafford in the past. Sources told Telegraph Sport that on those occasions the Glazers were only ever open to selling a 20 per cent stake in the club and so the situation never advanced.

United have partnered with Saudi Telecom, the country's biggest telecommunications com-

pany, before.

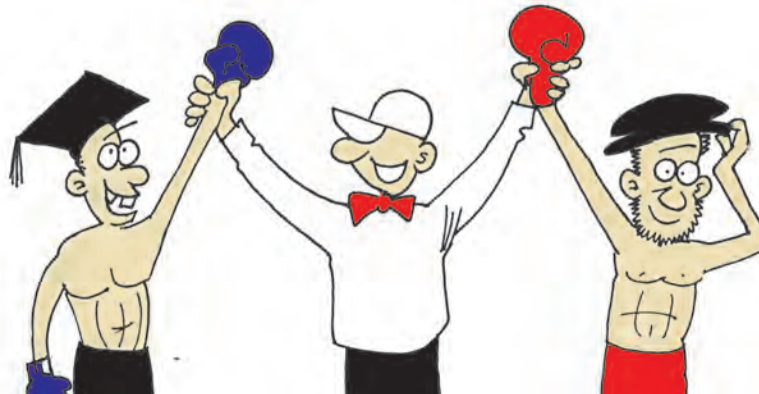
They also agreed a strategic partnership in 2017 that saw United help Saudi Arabia's General Sports Authority to develop its football industry as part of its Saudi Vision 2030 and plans to diversify the Saudi economy and develop its public sectors.

A £5 billion-plus valuation has been described as steep by the likes of Sir Martin Broughton, but the involvement of the Middle East may prove a significant factor in deciding a ceiling on price.

New York-based investment bank the Raine Group, which declined to comment when contacted by Telegraph Sport, remains the first port of call for interested parties. Richard Arnold, the Manchester United chief executive, said recently that any new investors in the club will be urged to work closely with fans and expressed hope that a potential full or partial sale would prove a "positive" step forward. The club aims to complete a deal within the first quarter or by the end of April.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Arsenal aim to settle nerves as Liverpool attempt reset**

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**5 EATV MONDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**5Sports**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Bongo Hit  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE  
22:00 Zote kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa (r)  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

**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**

## Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon announces registration closure

By Guardian Correspondent

WITH less than three weeks to go, organizers of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon have announced the closure of registration for this year's showdown, slated for February 26, as capacity was reached last week.

A statement issued by the organizers yesterday said that there will be no more registration for the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km, and Tigo 21km Half Marathon.

"We, however, still have entries for the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run but these will no longer be purchased online but rather at race number collection points in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Moshi," read the statement in part.

The deadline for registration was February 6, but according to the organizers, entries were full before that date calling for immediate closure of the registration exercise which was conducted online through www.kilimanjaramarathon.com website and TigoPesa.

"We have to adhere to the set standards as an international race, hence we cannot over register to ensure the roads can accommodate all the runners without any incidences," the organizers stated.

The statement noted that a cutoff point is important so that they can do early preparations for essentials like water along the route, race numbers, runners' vests, and medals and ensure adequate security along the route and at the Moshi Cooperatives University ground where the event will take place.

Meanwhile, the organizers have also issued a stern warning to those said to be involved in the unscrupulous sale of tickets online, saying legal action will be taken against them.

"There are reports that some people claim to be selling Kilimanjaro Marathon tickets online. We are calling on the public to be aware of such people and report them immediately so that action can be taken against them as we have already closed registration," the organizers revealed.

The organizers also warned against participants running with other people's numbers, saying that the event will not be held responsible if anything happens to such participants and that they will not also receive medals and their names will be completely removed from the official results list online.

Likewise, registering for a different race and then participating in another distance will result in immediate disqualification and runners will be escorted off the route by the local police force.

"We have also had cases of people running with old numbers. Stern measures will be taken against such individuals including permanently banning them from participating in the Kilimanjaro Marathon," the organizers pointed out.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km, Tigo- 21km Half Marathon, Grand Malt 5km Fun Run, while the water table sponsors include TPC Limited, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies, and official suppliers Kibo Palace Hotel, CMC Automobiles, GardaWorld Security, and Keys Hotel.

## Simba SC targets positive start to 2022/23 CAF CL Group Stage campaign



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Group C fixture against Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club, to be played in Conakry today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA SC will target a positive start to the club's Group C campaign in the 2022/22 CAF Champions League when the side battles Guinea Premier League Champions, Horoya Athletic Club, at Stade Général Lansana Conté in Conakry, with kick-off scheduled for 7:00 pm.

Simba SC jetted off to Guinea on Thursday at dawn and arrived yesterday afternoon after enduring a long trip that saw them stop off in Dubai before jumping onto another long flight down to Conakry.

The Tanzania representatives earned their place in the Group Stage thanks to comfortable aggregate victories over Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets (4-

0) and Angola's Primeiro de Agosto (4-1) in the qualifying rounds.

Their prize is a place in a tough Group C, which includes East African neighbours Vipers SC of Uganda, Moroccan giants Raja Club Athletic, and today's opponents Horoya Athletic Club of Guinea.

Simba SC is looking to repeat the squad's 2021 heroics when it opened its CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign with a 1-0 away win against

AS Vita Club to qualify for the quarterfinals as table leader ahead of defending champions, Al Ahly.

The side comes into this clash in solid form as it has not lost in its last 18 games across all competitions.

Simba SC has won five back-to-back matches and the club's last outing was a comfortable 3-1 victory over Singida Big Stars in this season's NBC Premier League tie.

Ahead of today's game, Simba SC experienced

midfielder Erasto Nyoni says he is looking forward to his first CAF Champions League encounter with the West African side and, though he admits they expect a difficult challenge, they are well prepared for the huge task in front of them.

Said Ntibazonkiza and Augustine Okrah are two experienced players that remain in the medical room for Simba SC, with the former expected back for the second game after

suffering a muscle injury against Singida Big Stars.

Horoya Athletic Club, meanwhile, won on a walkover after Gambia's Hawks withdrew from the competition citing financial reasons before seeing off ASEC Mimosas to secure their place in Group C.

They hope to do better than last season when they failed to make it out of the Group Stage.

On top of winning the last 10 league titles in Guinea, Horoya Athletic Club has established itself as the continental elite, regularly making the Group Stage of either the CAF Champions League or CAF Confederation Cup.

In 2018, after finishing second in the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League, the club reached the quarterfinals for the first time in its history, where it lost against Al Ahly SC 4-0 on aggregate (0-0 in Conakry and 4-0 in Cairo).

Egyptian referee, Amin Mohamed Omar, will take charge of the match on Saturday night.

The other Group C game was played yesterday with Raja Club Athletic taking on debutants Vipers SC.

Three-time champions Raja Club Athletic topped their group last season but lost to Al Ahly in the quarterfinals.

## Coach: The first CAF Confederation Cup game is very important for Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

WITH a place in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup last 16 secured and a 2022/23 NBC Premier League title almost secured, Young Africans SC has shifted its focus to this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage opener against Tunisia's US Monastirienne, with the former aiming for a perfect start.

Assistant coach Cedric Kaze has issued his thoughts ahead of this coming Sunday, when Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, will open their CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage campaign.

The Tanzanian champions have been drawn in Group D, picking out an interesting battle against DR Congo's TP Mazembe, US Monastirienne, and will also duel with Mali's AS Real Bamako.

Yanga begins the outfit's campaign tomorrow against hosts US Monastirienne, a club the former is facing for the first

time in its history.

Kaze emphasized the 'extremely high importance' of Yanga's opening game in North Africa.

The coach revealed: "We have done the first training practice here in Tunisia, it was a session with high intensity. The players have expended energy, they are focused, committed, and they know the first match is very important."

The gaffer disclosed: "In the group stage, the first match offers many things apart from the points you can get. It also gives direction on how you can progress in these matches... it moreover gives you the confidence to start the competition."

Kaze further added: "It was a tough training session but we saw players respond with dynamism, they showed there is something they want to do well"

Yanga is top of the standings in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, six points ahead of



Yanga's assistant coach Cedric Kaze. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

second-placed Simba SC after 22 matches, and will be confident, looking to translate their domestic form to continental football.

They are determined to take their league form into the Group Stage, having not qualified for the knockout phase of the competition in two previous attempts.

Head coach Nasreddine Nabi, who is Tunisian-

born, will be key for Yanga as he is familiar with the surroundings and knows a bit more about the opponents who are based in his hometown.

After guiding Yanga to an away victory in North Africa for the first time in their history, Nabi's giants will take a lot of confidence into the encounter.

After the US Monastirienne

game, the Yanga squad will fly back to Dar es Salaam to prepare for their second outing in the CAF Confederation Cup against TP Mazembe.

The TP Mazembe game is scheduled for February 19, five days before Yanga's next Premier League game against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

