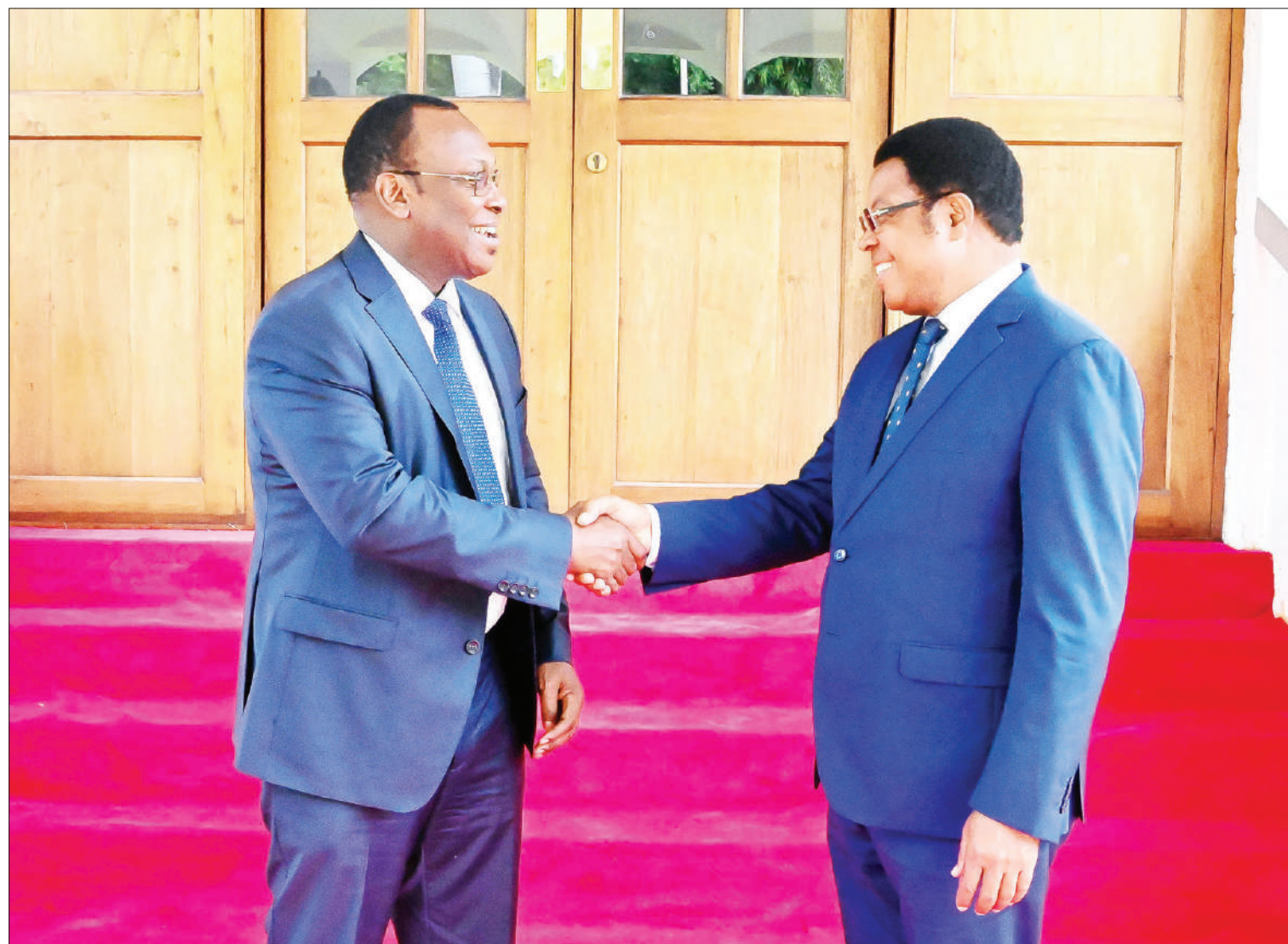




**National Pg 4**  
Kilosa District to boost sisal production

**National Pg 4**  
NIRC eyeing 13 irrigation projects in Mbeya

**National Pg 4**  
Minister Jafo praises NEMC



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa bids farewell to opposition Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe (L) shortly after talks in the PM's Dar es Salaam office yesterday. Photo: PMO

## Lindi outbreak tests negative for COVID-19, Ebola, Marburg

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

TESTS of samples collected from patients suffering from the yet-to-be-identified disease in Lindi Region have turned negative for Ebola, Marburg and Covid-19, which were the authorities' top suspects.

Dr Aifello Sichelwe, the chief medical officer, said in a statement yesterday that these are the preliminary results from samples collected at Mbekentera health center in Ruangwa District where the condition was first reported from two patients.

They had signs of fever and bleeding profusely from the nose, who underwent medical checks but no signs of Ebola or coronaviruses found, thus the Ministry of Health had formed a task force team of experts in epidemics, the chief

government chemist, the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) upon hearing the disease outbreak, causing intense apprehension in the area.

On Wednesday, 13 patients were brought to hospital with three bodies of deaths after similar symptoms, where two patients were isolated, treated and discharged. One patient had recovered and progressing well at Mbekenyera village, and several people who came into contact with the patients turned up for checks.

Five of the patients left for home in the Naungo suburb in Kilwa, while the chief medical officer appealed for cooperation among residents when the investigation team arrives there to start intense investigations on the medical

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## Road crashes kill eight, police blame speeding

By Guardian Correspondents, Bariadi/Arusha

EIGHT people have died in two highway crashes in Simiyu and Arusha regions, with three members of the same family killed in the Arusha accident.

The first accident occurred at Magereza on the outskirts of Bariadi town, Simiyu Region, on Tuesday night, with five people killed and 11 sustaining injuries.

Top regional police officials said yesterday that the accident involved two passenger

**“ Their bodies had multiple fractures on arms and legs; driver and the child had serious injuries on the head**

vehicles, one travelling from Lamadi and another from Bariadi, with the driver from Lamadi overtaking a vehicle and rammed into other passenger vehicle coming from Bariadi.

Speeding was the problem, he said, noting that both drivers are injured and are under police custody. Bariadi Hospital in charge, Dr Somanda Emmanuel confirmed receiving bodies of four people and four persons

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## Ministry team out to probe plot sales

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

ALLEGATIONS that top government officials irregularly acquired plots of land at the prime Isamilo area in Mwanza city are set to be investigated.

This follows a decision by the Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development minister, Dr Angeline Mabula to direct permanent secretary Dr Allan Kijazi to form an independent team to probe into how the plots ended in the hands of government officials.

The minister who was on a constituency visit

was alerted to the issue by residents of the area complaining that the land area with 38 plots was taken away from them without compensation and later sold to senior government officials.

She issued the directive when briefing reporters on the issue, while going over ministerial objectives at present, in executing budget plans for 2022/23, confessing that Isamilo land area in the city centre was sold to government officials, which the probe team is tasked to clarify the circumstances.

Widening the scope to ongoing land conflicts

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## Govt urges UK outfit, REPOA to formalise digital-link work

By Felister Peter

MORE research is needed on digital labour occupations to support efforts towards their formalisation, enhancing decent job conditions and social security, a top labour official has declared.

Joseph Nganga, the director of employment services in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), made this observation at a seminar in Dar es Salaam

to launch the 'fair work' project themed 'fair work principles for gig workers.'

An expert online describes gig workers as independent contractors working online, on-call workers or temporarily employed staff. Gig workers enter into formal agreements with on-demand companies to provide services to the company's clients, the chronicler states.

Gig workers can't be avoided as technology is growing rapidly but more research is needed to formulate better policies to ensure decent work in the sector, the director noted. The research project is intended to explore local gig economy markets, where the think tank Policy Research for Development (REPOA) is in partnership with Fairwork, a UK non-governmental organisation with a base at Oxford University.

The research exercise will collect data on the fairness of working conditions at digital labour platforms such as fair pay, contracts,

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Residents of Mapili village in Mlele District, Katavi Region, pictured earlier this week attending training on reproductive health and sexual violence. It was organised by Marie Stopes and other stakeholders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent







Energy minister January Makamba has a hearty moment with residents of Ukara Island in Ukerewe District earlier this week after he assured them of access to electricity. They were also provided 167 gas cylinders to enable them to use gas in their residences. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ministry team out to probe plot sales

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in various parts of the country, she said that this was among priorities in the next financial year, to sort out any remaining conflicts "as President Samia Suluhu Hassan does not want to hear about them anymore."

Among plans to deal with the issue is to strengthen land planning commissions at the regional level and strengthening land tribunals in all districts, she elaborated.

The Mwanza City Council said on a recent website post that to legislator Dr Tulia Ackson, TRA commissioner

general Alphayo Madata and Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja had purchased plots in the contested zone.

Other listed officials include Nyamagana MP Stanslaus Mabula, city director Sekiete Yahaya, city mayor Sima Constantine and the regional administrative secretary Ngusa Simike. Still others are permanent secretary Dramon Mpanju (Community Development, Gender and Special Groups) and Nyamagana district commissioner Amina Makilagi, cited on another plot at Luchebele.

Also named was Michael Magufuli, son of the late president, and ex-Kilimanjaro RC, Said Merck Sadiki.

Dr Mabula said every person including government officials have the right to buy land plots sold by the government, in line with laid down procedures. The city council announced the sale of the plots at Isamilo and Luchebele areas starting June 12, with prospective buyer charged 20,000/- to obtain the purchase request forms.

The dispute appears to have emerged after ordinary city residents who emerged paid for the forms but

their efforts to take invoices to pay for the plots stonewalled, the plots had been cleared by the top purchasers.

The city council said in its website post that a square meter of the plot was being sold at 5,000/- for residential plots while Isamilo area low density price is pegged at 25,000/- per square metre.

As the issue moved from purchasing plots to apparent privilege, city director Yahaya was no longer picking questions on the complaints, thus reporters confronted the minister with the matter as she briefed them on plans for the next financial year.



Singida regional commissioner Dr Binlith Mahenge addresses residents of Mughanga village at the weekend on the dangers of the worsening environment degradation in the Mgori forest reserve. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

## Road crashes kill eight, police blame speeding

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injured, with the injured doing well after treatment.

The vehicles were a Toyota Pro Box and Toyota Wish plying between Bariadi and Lamadi in Busega district.

Dr Selemani Athumani, the head of emergency services at Simiyu regional referral hospital, said he received eight people who sustained injuries. Some had their various parts broken and one died as he was receiving treatment, raising the number of those dying from the accident to five.

The accident occurred 13 days after another accident at Luguru area in Itilima District in Simiyu Region that killed five people and injured five others, officials said.

In Arusha, three family members including a one-year-old child, residents of Terati ward have lost their lives in an accident after being hit by a car when leaving a hospital and taking a motorcycle ride.

The accident occurred on Tuesday night towards 11 pm along the highway to Arusha highway. The year old infant, Ebenezer was taken to the hospital

accompanied by mother, Neema Molllel (27) and her younger brother, Agustino Molllel (24) who was driving the motorcycle.

John Mushi, an eyewitness, said the three lost their lives at the scene as they sustained serious injuries and suffered severe bleeding. "Their bodies had multiple fractures on arms and legs; driver and the child had serious injuries on the head," he said.

Neema's brother, Daud Molllel said his siblings were hit in the back and the driver of the car fled shortly after the accident.

"They left home at around 10pm for Murieti hospital; they were taking the child for an injection and on their way back at 10:45pm they were hit by a car and died."

Regional Police Commander Justine Masejo confirmed the incident saying they are searching for the car driver. The bodies of the deceased were being preserved at the health centre.

The accident occurred one day after eight people, including five from one family, died in a road crash along the Lusahunga-Nyakahura highway in Biharamulo District, Kagera Region.

## Lindi outbreak tests negative for Covid-19, Ebola, Marburg

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environment for the disease outbreak. Residents should take anyone with such symptoms to hospital rapidly, he said.

On Monday, President Samia Suluhu Hassan disclosed that the government was dispatching a team of experts to investigate a strange nosebleed disease in Lindi Region.

The president forwarded the hypothesis that the disease arises from impacts of environmental degradation, where routines of some wild species are disrupted, coming closer to human settlements and thus affecting health of inhabitants.

She highlighted consultations with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who is also MP for the area, as the premier was on a visit there following closure of the Budget sitting of the legislature.

The premier had alerted the president on the presence of a nosebleed disease where the patient soon collapses, she stated, admitting

that experts are baffled by what it is yet. "Scientists are now going there, and hopefully they will come up with answers and how to contain it," she said.

"If it was one or two cases we could have assumed it was high blood pressure that burst the nerves," she said, hinting that the plurality of cases suggests an epidemic situation. "We consider it a strange disease, which might have been caused by the growing interaction between people and wild animals," she asserted.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State (Union and Environment), said the nosebleed disease outbreak in the southern regions be left to scientists to sort out what it is, and local people need to fully participate in biodiversity rebuilding efforts.

"It's a collaborative effort and everybody needs to take part in protecting our environment which in turn supports development," he added.

## Police in Kagera Region kill person taken for a gangster

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

while others escaped.

POLICE in Kagera Region have killed a suspected armed robber aged between 30 to 35, in a shootout after allegedly stealing 19.7m/- at a shop belonging to Mussa Maduhu (38) a resident of Biharamulo District in the region.

Confirming the incident yesterday Regional Police Commander (RPC) of Kagera William Mwampaghale said the incident took place on July 12 at around 1:45 at Nembra village, Biharamulo when four suspected armed robbers invaded a shop and exploded blasts.

The regional police boss said the armed robbers upon invasion threatened the security officer at the shop who later escaped to protect his dear life.

"The security officer escaped to protect himself, the suspects started destroying the shop and left with airtime belonging to Airtel, Tigo whose amount is yet to be discovered," said Mwampaghale.

He said police set up a trap to arrest the suspects at Mgera Nyakanazi Ward where they saw the suspects fleeing riding a motorcycle.

He said the police ordered the suspects to stop but they refused, the police fired in the air and the suspects responded.

He said during the shootout police injured two, while one died on the way to the hospital to receive treatment

The RPC said the suspects had traditional weapons including an axe, machete, and a machine for explosives which they abandoned after the chase by law enforcers.

In another development, police in Mwanza are holding two people including Omary Lucas (48), for allegedly stabbing his wife Elizabeth Lusana (61) to death by using machete.

The police in the region are also holding Amos Lucas (29) for hiding the suspect who is his brother.

Regional Police Commander for Mwanza Ramadhan Ng'anzi confirmed the incident saying it happened on July 11 in Kagera region at Lwahima in Nyamagana district.

"On July 11 around 1 pm he attacked Elizabeth Lusana by stabbing her in various parts of her body which led to her death," he said.

Preliminary investigations have shown that the two who were married had quarrels on the fateful day when the man accused the woman of cheating while in marriage.

The suspect after allegedly murdering his wife escaped and went to hide in Tabora at the house of Amos Lucas who has also been arrested for hiding the suspect.

In another development, the police have confirmed the death of a five-year old child Ally Sipendeki who died in a fire accident after the house they were living in caught fire at Nyabulonga in the region.

## Govt urges UK outfit, REPOA to formalise digital-link work

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management and representation. The gig labour sphere is growing especially in cities like Arusha, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar with more than ten thousand ride-hailing workers including cab drivers, motorcycle and tricycle riders, the research plan underlines.

The director affirmed that for the country's digital occupations to perform better, innovations in service provision is required, embracing professionalism and developing positive attitudes in what they are doing, commending the research outfit on the planned research project as "the country's laws and policies are not deep on the matter."

Apart from contributing to decent working conditions, findings of the study will help service providers in various areas to be considered for social security protection, including registration with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF), he elaborated.

There are challenges that operations of some established companies are not transparent; a good number of people don't benefiting from occupations with digital labour potential when they don't have smartphones, he said, pointing out that the technological development has resulted in some jobs being eliminated.

Dr Donald Mmari, the REPOA

executive director, said the local gig market needs regulatory reforms to ensure the market offers decent jobs. Most such workers operate in a risky environment having limited access to social protection, like health insurance and pension funds.

"Findings of this study will be absorbed by policymakers in formulating labour policies for digital platforms," he emphasized, noting their wish to assist gig workers to obtain representation at higher levels and work in a decent environment. It is important for fair work principles to be considered in all forms of employment, but only on digital platforms do activists have an avenue to track down an elusive employer, observers noted.

Rehema Mushi, the chairperson for the Tanzania Online Drivers Association (TODA) said they are working in difficult conditions whereas most of them do not have contracts and are not registered for social protection.

"REPOA's research will help drivers to have their deserved rights which include friendly contracts resulting in enhanced professionalism," she remarked, surprised that most employers in the digital market consider them part-time workers.

The research profile says that in Kenya, digital labour jobs take up \$109m in occupational payments, and are likely to reach \$345m by end of 2023, having created 37,000 jobs by late 2019 and projected to reach 57,000 by 2023.





George Simbachawene, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), addresses a meeting at Kirusi in Mpwapwa District's Kibakwe constituency yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Livestock ministry registers 28 poultry breeding companies

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TWENTY eight poultry breeding companies have been registered by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries as part of efforts to end the shortage of day old chicks.

Ministry's Assistant director of veterinary services, Dr Annet Kitambi, told this paper that the move is part of the country's long term plans to revive production after being affected by the outbreak of COVID-19.

Current statistics from the ministry indicates that the country's annual demand for day old chicks is 100 million while the production capacity stands at 88.5 million chicks per year.

Out of the registered companies, four are foreign and 24 are owned by locals.

Dr Kitambi said the pandemic outbreak forced the government to come up with short and long term plans to end the problem as well as ensuring continued production even during disasters and pandemic outbreak.

She said the country's sub-sector was affected by the pandemic outbreak whereas it relied on imported day old chicks. She added that most of the companies have

been granted with temporary registration until they meet the required criteria.

On December 16 last year, the government announced its option to invite global poultry -breeding companies to open branches in the country as a long-term plan to reduce shortage of day-old chicks.

The Director of Veterinary Services at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Prof Hezron Nonga said that once the companies open branches in the country it could be easy to produce hatchery eggs as well as chicks.

He said the pandemic has affected the production of day old chicks not only in Tanzania but also other neighbouring countries.

The increasing demand offers many opportunities for companies looking to invest in the poultry sector in Tanzania.

The poultry subsector in Tanzania consists of approximately 72 million chickens, emerging steadily both in indigenous and exotic chicken.

With changing eating habits in urban areas and a growing economy the domestic market for exotic chicken and eggs is likely to keep expanding.

## Mtwara port's new berth boosts revenue collection

By Guardian Reporter, Mtwara

THE new berth at the Mtwara Port has increased revenue collection at the port from 14bn/- in 2020 to 23bn/- in 2022.

Speaking soon after visiting the port early this week, the Deputy Minister for Transport, Atupele Mwakibete said the increase of revenue has been contributed by the overall refurbishing of the port including construction of the new berth capable to serve 65,000-tonne ships.

"The government has heavily

invested here and we now discern the results, but this should not end here as we need more revenue as there is enough cargo to be handled at the port, hence if we mobilise ourselves, we can collect even more revenue," said the deputy minister.

He noted that it is important to advertise the port as without doing that big companies including those dealing in cement, coal and cashew nuts can continue to use it. He also called on Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to convene frequent meetings that will bring together all stakeholders

in cargo transport on how to utilise the port whose facelift cost 150bn/-.

Meanwhile, Mtwara port manager, Abdullah Salim has assured the Deputy Minister that TPA has plans to allocate areas for big traders such as Dongote that transport cement and Ruvuma Cashew Nuts Company for cashew nuts.

TPA Acting Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Thomas Mushi said already various efforts are being made to advertise the port within and outside the country to attract transporters, in particular traders from Zambia and Malawi who use the port of Dar es Salaam.

The deputy minister was in a two-day visit to Mtwara Region to inspect infrastructures managed by institutions in the transport sector.

## Mwinyi calls upon CPLP nations to provide scholarships to Zanzibaris

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has advised envoys from the Organisation of Portuguese speaking countries Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (CPLP) to provide opportunities for scholarships for higher learning in their countries to Zanzibaris as a step to enhance the use of the Portuguese language.

President Mwinyi gave the advice at Zanzibar State House yesterday when he met with and held talks with envoys from CPLP countries led by the Angolan ambassador to Tanzania,

Sandro de Oliveira, who, among other issues they also discussed about enhancing the use of the language in Tanzania.

Other CPLP envoys who attended the talks included Antonio Cesare from Brazil and Agostino Abakar Trinta from Mozambique.

Dr Mwinyi said the government supports the intention of CPLP countries to provide opportunities to Zanzibaris to learn Portuguese and underscored the need for starting the programme in the higher learning institutions level.

He said such procedure is also

being used by various world countries including Turkey, China, Russia and others whereby foreign students learn their languages during their first year of studies.

He said Zanzibar, through its State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) has an institution that deals with language issues - the Kiswahili and Foreign Languages Institute, adding that it is an important link in achieving the intention.

Meanwhile, the envoys told Dr Mwinyi on their intention to develop their ties with Zanzibar through the increase in the use of the Portuguese language.

They also pledged to develop the existing cooperation by working together with the Zanzibar government to attain the intended goals.



The World Bank's Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, Victoria Kwakwa (C, in white and blue), is gifted a home-made basket yesterday by an official with Tuko Kweli entrepreneurship group of Muungoni village in South Unguja when visiting projects funded by the World Bank in Zanzibar. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## 'Royalties for artists to be reviewed to end queries'

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

THE Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports has formed a ten members taskforce committee to look at modalities on how to review royalties for artists as well as copyrights for their works.

The minister in charge of the docket, Mohammed Mchengerwa, made the revelation recently when closing the three-day national cultural festival which was held at national level at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Mchengerwa said the committee members include experts derived from the National Arts Council of Tanzania (BASATA) who will work in close collaboration with the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA).

The committee members will be led by Victor Michael as the chairman, assisted by Saudi Mwakaje the Deputy Chairperson while the Secretary will be Demeshi Maujo.

Other members are Hamasi Mwijuma, Dr Omary Mohammed (from Zanzibar) Paul Mathias, Toriano Saramba, Gabriel Kitua, Twiza Mbarouk and Dr Asha Mshana.

The aforementioned committee members will make a review plan for the work and market distribution

with the aim of bringing an effective revolution in artistic sector in the country.

He said the taskforce committee would also look at various queries facing artists such as payments of their royalties and entitlement to copyright for their innovative works.

He said the team will work in collaboration with experts in the areas of economy, law and business people.

Artists in the country have been faced with a myriad of problems that range in their activities, a factor that makes them not to be happy, he stated.

"Artists have been complaining about how their apportionment of royalties is made out of their work performances saying that is little compared to the magnitude of the work done, an aspect that makes other parties benefit out of their innovative ideas.

The call by the minister came at a time when the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa issued directives to the ministry while closing the budget session for the 2022/23 fiscal year in August House in June this year.

The premier ordered the ministry together with other functionaries to prepare a guideline that would give right directions of the national dressing codes and how to organise annual

cultural festivities whereby all chiefs in the country should be engaged in the process.

While presenting the matter, the premier referred to Section 5 of 21 as stipulated in the National Cultural Policy document of 1991, which says that, "stakeholders should respect areas of traditional groups and that should understand that culture started within our societies and therefore should be respected".

BASATA is the National Arts Council of Tanzania is an organisation established under the National Arts Council Act No. 23 of 1984. It is a government agency for the revival, promotion and development of the arts in Tanzania.

The council strives to nurture an artistically conscious and active Tanzanian who is motivated to fully participate in the production and consumption of good art.

BASATA facilitates the production and consumption of good art works and services. The core values of NAC are the promoting and developing an authentic Tanzanian art tradition, upholding professionalism and excellence and promoting creativity and inattentiveness in the arts.

COSOTA is an organisation established under Section 46 of the Act and is responsible for managing copyright issues in Tanzania. It promotes and protects the interest of performers, translators and publishers.



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## Request for Proposals (RFP)

Consultancy: Documenting and sharing best FLR practices in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia

### Background

The WWF Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Africa Initiative is built around removing barriers to successful implementation of restoration at scale in nine African countries namely Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The initiative considers research and lesson sharing as one of the main strategies for delivering restoration impact at scale on the ground as this will help emerging restoration actions become more efficient and effective. FLR is not just about reforestation, but about restoring ecological functionalities in a "whole landscape" approach that involves stakeholder engagement and focus on people, landscapes and livelihoods for multiple benefits.

WWF Tanzania, Zambia and Kenya are implementing the FLR BENG/BMZ project called Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in East Africa - political framework and pilot measures for the successful implementation of FLR strategies. One of its key outputs is the documentation and sharing of lessons on best FLR practices that have been implemented by WWF and partners in the three countries. Understanding the underlying factors for success and failure of FLR interventions in three countries will help build success factors in design and implementation of new projects in the three countries as well as the other 6 target countries.

### Objective of the consultancy

This consultancy assignment is a deliberate effort to collect information on FLR practices that have been implemented by WWF and partners in the landscapes in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia for over the past 20 years. The aim is to document successful and failed FLR interventions and determine key success and failure lessons and come up with recommendations on key practices and approaches to consider for successful implementation of restoration at scale. The assignment also includes creation of a database of practices, success and failure factors and partnerships that deliver restoration at scale in landscape and nationally in the three countries. This information will be compiled into website materials which will be uploaded in WWF websites for the three offices and also for AFR100 Secretariat.

### Specifically, the consultant will

- Identify, analyze and synthesize FLR initiatives at National and Regional level together with WWF colleagues and partners of each country to document successful and failed interventions and lessons for success and pitfalls to avoid emerging from implementation.
- Document three best practices for each country and determine opportunities for replication
- Establish a database which is accessible for all three country teams of FLR best practices and failures and expected results of their implementation
- Develop a template to best present the three best practices but also future best practices, which can be published on WWF websites and the AFR100 platform
- Publish FLR good practice documents for sharing and upscaling in WWF websites and in AFR100 platform
- Develop FLR best practice guideline brochure for the three offices, which together with the best practice template can guide the three teams in publishing future best practices.

Application procedure & Submission of Applications

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

Secretary, Procurement Committee

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

All applications should reach us by or before 1600hrs Tanzania local time on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.



## Use accurate measurements, WMA advises stakeholders in agriculture

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

WEIGHTS and Measures Agency (WMA) has called upon all agricultural stakeholders to inculcate a habit of buying and selling using accurate measurements and refrain from fraudulent activities from unscrupulous traders.

WMA's acting manager in Iringa region Lina Msuya said in an interview that the main purpose of educating farmers and traders on the correct scales to be used in buying and selling of crops during the harvesting season.

"WMA continues providing education to farmers, stakeholders and traders during this harvest season to ensure that accurate measurements are used during the transaction, in order to boost the regional and national economy as a whole," she said, adding: "We make sure the farmer knows the important things to consider in order to identify the correct scales and also to easily identify the scales played or damaged."

She said that the education of balance and scales for farmers and traders exercise is a continuous exercise that is provided by the WMA every year

before the start of the harvest season.

Lina clarified that the education of farmers of various crops will be able to identify the scales verified by the WMA based on the following items; first, the Verified Scales contain a national seal with the last two digits of the year in which 2022 will be read (22).

Second, the verified scales have a special WMA sticker that indicates the date the scales were checked and the last date used.

The farmer should also make sure that the scales read zero (0) before placing his crop for measuring.

In accordance with the Weights and Measures Act and its 2002 review stated fines for various offenses where a convicted felon is convicted of a fine not less than 300,000 and not exceeding 50 million or imprisonment not exceeding two (2) years or both.

Similarly, if a suspect is caught for the second time and continues to be convicted will be sentenced to a fine of not less than 500,000 and not more than 100 million or imprisonment not exceeding five (5) years or both.

Also, if the suspect is arrested and pleads guilty then he will be fined not less than 100,000 and not more than 20 million.

## TASAF beneficiaries told to use subsidies well so as to improve their lives

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

DEOGRATIUS Ndejemi, the Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) has called on beneficiaries of Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) to improve their life standards from the subsidies they receive.

He said the fund follows President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vows to rescue poor household from abject poverty.

Ndejemi made the call when speaking to TASAF beneficiaries at Arri area, Nangara Ward in Babati Town during his visit to inspect TASAF activities.

He called on the beneficiaries to be grateful to President Samia for she decided to provide the funds to rescue poor households from poverty through TASAF as she could have directed the funds to other projects.

"You receive TASAF subsidies, it is your responsibility to support President Samia by making sure you use the money well in improving your life standards," he said.

He also reproved the habit among TASAF beneficiaries who use the money in luxurious activities such as drinking, the expenditure that violates the entire intention of the programme.

Meanwhile, one of the fund's beneficiaries from the area, Lydia Kaaya said the money received has improved her life as she embarked on poultry keeping and later rented a farm for cultivation from which she was able to build a house that she now lives in.

Another beneficiary, Hellen Philemon thanked TASAF for improving her life, as she has been able to educate her children and made improvement to her house, the things she was unable to do before she received the subsidies.

Also, representative from TASAF Managing Director, Oscar Maduhu said TASAF has seen great achievements to the lives of many beneficiaries who used the funds well.

He said President Samia still continues providing adequate funds to enable TASAF rescue poor household countrywide.

## Kilosa District planning to increase sisal production

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

Kilosa

KILOSA District Council unveiled new strategies to increase sisal production by cultivating 13,109 hectares of the crop by the year 2025.

Speaking during a meeting involving stakeholders including pastoralists, farmers and the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), District Agriculture Officer Dr Yuda Mgeni said the district was committed to meet the set targets.

"We've provided block farms to farmers, registering all sisal cultivators to Tanzania Sisal Board (TSB), training 93 experts and 300 farmers," he said.

Dr Megni cited areas set for sisal cultivation as Kimamba A, Kimamba B, Rudewa, Msowero, Mvumi, Madoto, Masanze, Kilangali, Chanzuru, Tindiga, Magole, Kitete, Ulaya, Mhenda and Magomeni.

Currently, the district owns 6,695 hectares used for sisal cultivation saying the hope was that it will increase to 13,109 hectares before 2025.

He said the district has a special programme of establishing seed nurseries which will be provided to smallholder farmers free of charge the exercise that will be accompanied by emphasizing the establishment of processing industries.

SAGCOT's Project Manager, John Banga hailed the plan saying this has

been achieved after the end of conflicts between farmers and pastoralists which was the main stumbling block.

He said concentration should be on production because the government has already allocated budget for the completion of tarmac road from Kilosa to Dar es Salaam which will facilitate importation.

"Sisal is one of the key crops and it has all potential to bring about economic gain to local communities and preserve beautiful nature of a region. Cooperation is inevitable to three sectors of private, government and farmers because they all depend on each other."

Ruling CCM chairperson in Kilosa District, Morogoro region, Amer Mbaraka described the crop as a game-changer because is grown well in hot climates with temperatures between 10 to 32 degrees of Celsius and allows intercropping because is not affected by other crops.

"Annually a farmer has the capacity to harvest three times and there is an assurance of the market," he added.

Tanzania is ranked the second after Brazil on sisal production standing at 27,460,50 tonnes per year and key sisal growing regions are Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Coast, Lindi and Mtwara.

Currently the sisal industry in Tanzania employs over 100,000 people according to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



Mwamvita Makamba (C), Vodacom's group head of external affairs, makes remarks in Zanzibar yesterday in a panel session on "Accelerating strategic health transformation in Tanzania through business coalition for health". It was held with Vodacom Tanzania Plc sponsorship. She is with Sarah Maongezi (R) from The Aga Khan Health Services and session moderator Dr Faustine Ndogulile. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Exim Bank donates 100 desks to Tabora schools

By Guardian Reporter, Tabora

EXIM Bank Tanzania has donated 100 desks worth 20m/- to Tabora Regional Commissioner Ambassador Dr Batilda Buriani to support the region's efforts in addressing the challenges facing the education sector including the shortage of desks.

Speaking at a brief handover ceremony held at the RC's office, Exim Bank's Head of Credit, Zainabu Nungu said the move was a continuation of the bank's 'Exim Cares' CSR programme aimed at distributing more than 1000 desks in various regions in the

country and is only part of the efforts the bank has been making to help the community.

She said that the bank has been at the forefront in cooperating with the government in achieving various initiatives, especially in improving the education sector in the country, a move she described as the catalyst for development for all sectors, including banks.

"Our ambition to support the education sector in the country stems from our belief that without an educated society even the banking services we provide would be shattered

due to the fact that our business is highly dependent on the success of the society around us... the success we believe will be brought about through education," she said.

She said since the beginning of the programme launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa late last year, a total of 600 desks have already been handed over in Lindi, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mbeya, and Shinyanga regions. The support is expected to benefit more than 300 children a year within an estimated 10 years.

"The support will help combat the challenge of shortage of desks in some

of our schools... we are very grateful to Exim Bank for this support and we ask you to continue supporting us in other areas as well including the health sector. Madam President is tirelessly raising funds for major ongoing projects in the country so it is encouraging for her to see other stakeholders including banks continue to support her to achieve her goals," she said.

She further expressed satisfaction with the quality standards of the desks while noting that the support will further improve the teaching environment for schools that will benefit from the desks.

"We are very grateful to Exim Bank for this support and we hope that other stakeholders will continue to emulate this example so that together we can overcome this challenge. So the doors are still open for other stakeholders as joint efforts are more important," said Dr Burian.



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Batilda Buriani (2nd-L) receives 100 desks in her office yesterday from Exim Bank Tanzania's head of credit, Zainabu Nungu (3rd-R). It was a donation by the bank in supporting the region's efforts to ease a shortage of desks. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Makamba mobilises use of clean energy for cooking

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY Minister January Makamba has embarked on mobilising use of clean energy for cooking in various regions in the country in which Phase 1 will incorporate 14 regions and 38 districts starting with Mara Region.

This is part in the implementation of one priority of the Energy ministry in the 2022/23 government budget.

In his first day, Makamba addressed various groups of people in Musoma, Butiama and Bunda districts and distributed gas cylinders to the groups including poor households.

"One of the issues we manage as

Energy ministry is electricity, gas for cooking and for motor vehicles, but in regard to the later we have not started yet, but it is a kind of energy every Tanzanian should use, hence starting this year, we have decided to give big priority in mobilising people to use the clean energy," he said.

He explained that in Tanzania, about 22,000 Tanzanians die from breathing complications caused by charcoal and firewood whereas in Mara Region about 400 to 600 people suffer every year for using wood fuel, hence, he said the government has seen the need to act.

In regard to gas prices challenges that keep many people away from

it, he said the government is taking various steps, including reducing taxes so that many families can afford gas for cooking.

The issue of wood fuel was stressed by Dr Mary Mahenge from Musoma District Hospital who explained in developing countries, the main reason for breathing complications is setting fire to firewood and charcoal that causes toxic carbon dioxide, whose large quantities can be fatal to human beings.

While in Musoma, Makamba handed out six gas cylinders to the Kusama Group that fries fish by using wood fuel and pledged to install a cooking gas system that will help the group.

Meanwhile, Beatrice Mbagi from Kusama Group said her eyes are severely affected from using wood fuel and thanked the Minister for his promise to install the system for their business.

While in Butiama District in Kismwene Village, Makamba handed out a gas cylinder to a poor household belonging to Theresa Stephano who thanked him for getting the clean energy for cooking saying it will simplify her cooking.

Meanwhile, Makamba also inaugurated the Butuguri power project that will be providing electricity to 287 households costing 385m/-.



# NIRC eyeing 13 irrigation projects in Mbeya Region in FY 2022/2023

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) intends to build 13 irrigation projects in Mbeya Region to increase food production and trade and refrain from relying on rain-fed agriculture.

NIRC director general Raymond Mndolwa said this yesterday here when speaking to reporters about his visit in Katavi, Rukwa, Songwe and Mbeya regions where he said the projects will be implemented in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Mndolwa said among the projects that will be implemented in Mbeya Region, 11 are in Mbarali District, one in Kyela District Council and one in Busokelo municipal Council in Rungwe district.

According to him, the government's aim was to eliminate rain-fed agriculture on the grounds that such farming was less productive in the event of climate change.

He said the projects would be for the construction of irrigation schemes as well as the rehabilitation of old ones to increase the efficiency of crop

production.

He mentioned that the projects include the Makwale Project in Kyela District of about 2500 hectares and the Mbaka Irrigation Scheme located in Busokelo Council in Rungwe district with about 300 hectares.

He also named the existing projects in Mbarali district as Lwanyo project with about 1,000 hectares, Gonakuvagolo 250 hectares, Matebete 1,200 hectares, Chosi with 1,700 hectares, Helman 400 hectares, Uturo 2,000 hectares, Isenyela 1,000 hectares and Makangarawe with 1,100 hectares.

Other projects are the Madibira Scheme with 3,200 hectares, Mbuyuni-Kimani with 3,000 hectares and Msesule with 4,500 hectares and that of those 1,500 hectares will be built in the 2022/2023 financial year.

"But apart from the projects, during this visit we've inspected all Igumbilo / Isitu and Njombe schemes in Mbarali district totaling 900 hectares and we've inspected them to be included in architectural and construction plans," said Mndolwa.

He also stated that apart from building the projects, the government also intends to start building rainwater harvesting dams to further irrigation agriculture.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera said the regional government will ensure that it provides co-operation to the commission so that all these projects are completed and benefit farmers in the region by increasing their income and food security.

RC Homera said for the past agricultural season the production of various crops declined due to climate change which led to a decrease in rainfall.

"We cannot grow the agriculture sector by relying on rainfall alone, so I highly commend NIRC for making this visit to our region and we are confident this will help us greatly increase production," said Homera.

He urged farmers in the region to plan for better use of the schemes when they are completed to increase production and food security and income.



Philibert Casmir (C), NMB Bank PIC's head of card business, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday symbolically presenting 50 Merchant POS machine to Dr Amina Ameir Issa, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Zanzibar's Tourism and Heritage ministry, in supporting the ministry's efforts to digitalise revenue collections. Looking on is the bank's Zanzibar Cluster manager, Naima Shame. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# TPA issues ultimatum to five illegal ports in L. Victoria to be formalised

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has given an ultimatum until the end of this month to five illegal ports in Lake Victoria to be formalised so as to allow government officials to maximise controls.

The Acting Manager of Lake Victoria Ports, Vicent Steven named the five ports that have to be formalised as Nyeuhunge, Kamanga Ferry, Mkombozi South, Mkombozi North and Bijili.

"We have given these illegal ports until the end of this month to undergo legal process including enacted by various government institutions so as to become formal ports," he said.

He added: "Kamanga port is on good progress to be registered as a formal port, we are calling other four ports to learn from Kamanga so as to make sure that by the end of this month all ports are formal."

These ports are ferrying passengers

and cargoes to and from various islands of Lake Victoria; therefore we are afraid of losing revenues, that's why we want to see the ports legalized. "After being formalised, these ports will be placed under one umbrella for easy collection of government revenue," he said.

He noted: "We want to monitor them and this will scale up revenue collection and speed up development in the country."

In 2019, TPA said they want to formalise the entire country's dumb ports in a bid to control the flow of goods in and outside the country as well as check the landing of undocumented persons.

TPA said various items are shipped in through dumb or unrecognized entry points including sugar, cooking oil, cement, and timber, as well as facilitating the export of crops and minerals, operations which upset revenue projections and disturb the market by landing untaxed goods, sold

at significantly lower prices.

On other development, the Lake Victoria Port Manager said: "We have seen significant operational changes in Mwanza port, last year in July we recorded 185,000 tonnes of cargos compared to the current volume of 240,000 cargos recorded the same month this year, and we expect to increase the volume to 300,000 tonnes next year."

The government has invested 11.24bn/- for the upgrading of TPA-managed ports in the lake.

He said the improvements made include the construction of piers, construction and upgrading of port buildings, and expansion of passenger buildings in the ports of Mwanza and Bukoba, where in Mwanza the building has been expanded to be able to accommodate 400 passengers at a time unlike before 100, while in Bukoba it currently hosts 450 passengers instead of 150 it used to cater for.

"We are also congratulating the Mwanza Regional Commissioner Eng Robert Gabriel on his advice and directives that contribute to our achievements," he said.

# Minister praises NEMC for providing education on environment protection

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment), Dr Selemani Jafu has praised the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) for providing education on environment issues to Roman Catholic Bishops from the East and Central Africa region.

He made the remarks yesterday when briefing reporters at the meeting of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) at Julius Nyerere Conference Centre in Dar es Salaam participated by NEMC.

He said NEMC has been managing the environmental protection laws in order to protect the environment.

"I must thank NEMC for their efforts in managing the law, they are doing a

great job, therefore all stakeholders should work together with the council in regard to issues of the environment, they should recognise the fact that the council want the country to remain safe at all times," Jafu said.

He added: "This meeting has come with a special agenda on environment in order to preserve it and spur world sustainable development, and in this I must thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her directives that show how Tanzania has vowed to protect its environment, led by our 2021 environment policy," he added.

He said the environment agenda is a crosscutting issue and that there have been many obstacles along the way. "We have witnessed many areas where sea levels have increased, increase of global warming, persisting droughts hence we have every reason to protect

our environment," Jafu noted.

He instructed regional commissioners to make sure environment cleanliness in all towns is enhanced.

Meanwhile, Bishop Flavian Kassala from the catholic diocese of Geita said the work being done by NEMC on environment issues is important as it has simplified the adherence to the laws on the environment.

"This education is important to be adhered to as it is a strong foundation for planning and implementing development activities by considering adverse effects that can happen due to climate change," he said.

NEMC expert, Suzan Chawe said climate change is adversely affecting development projects hence it was essential to assess the adverse effects to the environment.



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, FINANCE AND PLANNING

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)  
COUNTRY: UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

NAME OF PROJECT: BOOSTING INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR ZANZIBAR (BIG-Z)

Loan No: IDA - 69140 -TZ

Assignment Title: Completion of Feasibility Study, Detailed Engineering Designs and Preparation of Bidding Documents for Integrated Mobility Program for Zanzibar Metropolitan Center

Reference No: TZ-POFP-249026-CS-QCBS

This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for the Boosting Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar Project (BIG-Z) that appeared in the UN Development Business online No. WB-P811333-8 of 27-08-2021

The United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Boosting Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar Project (BIG-Z) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Consultancy Services ("the Services") includes: Seek to improve Alternative 1 and integrate it with STMMP proposed interventions with a complete understanding of the study area; Identify gaps and carry out missing work and studies to ensure sufficient quality of the improved Alternative 1 and its related interventions; Complete a Feasibility Study for improved Alternative 1 and related interventions, consolidating and linking the improved MAIRP's Alternative 1 and STMMP proposed interventions; Prepare the detailed engineering design, detailed drawings, relevant cost estimates including operation and maintenance cost, technical specifications, and Bills of Quantities for all work items covering MAIRP's improved Alternative 1 and STMMP related interventions as well as the necessary documents for procurement including packaging, bidding documents, and implementation schedules; and Supervise the construction works of the above-mentioned interventions. The assignment shall be for period of 44 months (14 months for feasibility study and design completion, 18 months construction supervision and 12 months for defect liability period). Construction supervision shall be signed based on the satisfactory performance of design phase.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be found upon request to the following email: [bigzpmt@gmail.com](mailto:bigzpmt@gmail.com)

The Principal Secretary, President's Office Finance and Planning now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The shortlisting criteria are :

A: Core business and 10 years in business.

B: Relevant similar experience as specified below

- a) Relevant experience is required in developing countries.
- b) The firm(s) shall also be capable of documenting adequately their know-how and experience in the implementation of at least 2 similar contracts successfully completed within the last 10 years. Information to be provided should include name of assignment, name and full contact address of the client, contract value (in equivalent US dollars) and period (dates) of execution of assignment.
- c) The consulting firm(s) to undertake this assignment shall have a minimum of 10 years of experience in the urban development sector with a specialization in mobility, heritage conservation and management, urban infrastructure, and urban planning and design, with a solid background in civil works design (transport, roads, utilities and drainage, in particular) and contract management.
- d) The firm(s) shall be capable of demonstrating at least 10 years of experience in urban planning/redevelopment projects, sustainable mobility, and urban and landscape design interventions with a socially and culturally conscious design of successful public spaces and place making in historic areas.
- e) The firm(s) shall be capable of demonstrating relevant planning experience in heritage and high-cultural value contexts. The firm/s shall also have experience in managing UNESCO standards in HUL (36 C in Resolution 41) aimed at integrating conservation and management of cultural heritage in cities and settlements with policies and practices for sustainable urban development. Expertise in this field implies the application of a range of traditional and innovative tools recommended by UNESCO and adapted to local contexts like civic engagement tools, knowledge and planning tools, regulatory systems, and financial tools.

C: Technical and managerial capability of the firm (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications, and number of key staff). Do not provide CV of the key staff. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to section III, paragraph 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth Edition, November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's Policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Therefore, each member of JV shall independently meet the requirements of the evaluation criteria.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 07.30 am to 03.30 pm EAT excluding public holidays.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by mail) by **4<sup>th</sup> August 2022**. The firms that will submit their REOI via e-mail must get confirmation of the receipt of their documents from the Project Coordinator, BIG - Z Project. In case the firm does not receive an acknowledgement within two days after sending the documents via email they should call +255 776 979979 for follow-up.

The address referred above is:

**President's Office Finance and Planning**  
**Attn: Project Coordinator, BIG -Z Project**  
**P.O.BOX 874**  
**First Floor, Sea View-Wing, Vuga Street**  
**Zanzibar - Tanzania**  
**Email: [bigzpmt@gmail.com](mailto:bigzpmt@gmail.com)**

The Principal Secretary, President's Office Finance and Planning



## Protect Lake Victoria against pollution, says government

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has urged different stakeholders to continue with efforts to protect Lake Victoria against pollution because of its importance to the Tanzanian and African communities.

Dr Selemán Jafo, the Minister in Vice President Office, (Environment and Union) made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when launching Development Environmental Management Strategy for Lake Victoria, which is coordinated by Center for Science and Environment (CSE) of India.

CSE has been identifying water pollution sources along Lake Victoria and find solutions towards sustaining ecological integrity of the lake.

Minister Jafo said Lake Victoria is depended by millions of Africans in their daily economic activities so CSE has been doing wonderful job in the maintenance of its environment.

He said Lake Victoria is important source of water for Nile River and it is dependable by over 50 million people for fishing activities and agriculture.

"Lake Victoria is said to be the second largest lake in the world and its water is depended on by millions of people so when I see friends like CSE come in the front to protect the lake it make me very happy. Our fellows from Egypt depend much on this lake because Nile River takes water from Lake Victoria," he said.

Either, Minister Jafo said he is satisfied to see people from outside the country like officials from CSE visit the lake to see its environment and take measures to protect it for sustainable development. "If you visit lake Victoria this season you may think that this is how it is usually but it is not. During the drought you find the lake is very clean and there is no pollution but when you go there during rain seasons that are where you can see the reality," he said.

He also commended Indian government for supporting various water projects in Tanzania adding that currently there are 28 water projects going on in different regions worth trillions of money sponsored by Indian government.

Director of CSE, Dr Sunita Narain, commended Tanzanian government for various initiatives it is taking to protect environment in the country.

"We thank your government very much for your hospitality since we came here on June, you have been very kind and supported us for everything we did regarding environment protection and we hope to continue working to gather with you," said Sunita.

Meanwhile, Director of National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Dr Samuel Gwamaka, said the council has been working closely with CSE in the preparations of Development Environmental Management Strategy for Lake Victoria.

He said NEMC has been collaborating with CSE in various activities to ensure that all they do adhere to Tanzanian laws and policies.

"The introduction of this environment management strategy we are launching today is the fruits of NEMC efforts in the implementation of government environment strategy for the year 2022/32 which was launched on June 2022," said Dr Gwamaka.



**If you visit lake Victoria this season you may think that this is how it is usually but it is not**

## Zanzibar First VP to grace Mkapa's second memorial

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

THE government in collaboration with Mkapa Foundation Programme (MFP) has organised a two day consultative dialogue as a commemoration in remembrance of two years since the death of the country's third President Benjamin William Mkapa.

This is the second dialogue to be conducted under the theme "Resilient leadership-inspiring change for all" and is scheduled to be held in Zanzibar starting today and ends tomorrow.

MFP's CEO Dr Ellen Senkoro said in a statement she issued yesterday in Dar es Salaam that, "the occasion will be graced by the First Vice-President of the revolutionary government of Zanzibar Honorable Othman Masoud Othman as a guest of honour and attended by 500 invited guests across the world.

According to the statement, the participants will include mainly academicians and the main subject of the debate will focus increasing the pace of strategic changes on health systems in the country through commercial cooperation.

Another agenda to be put for discussion will involve innovations of strategic projects for corporation between government NGOs, public and private institutions in bringing health services closer to the majority citizens.

Health projects initiated under Mkapa Foundation programme since it was established 16 years ago has reached 26 million people in the country.

This is equivalent to one third of the current estimated number of 55 million people which the organisation has been working closely in collaboration with the government programmes aimed to strengthen health sector countrywide.

The foundation has employed about 10,042 health workers under community based program in both mainland Tanzania as well as in Zanzibar bearing in mind the fact that health sector is a cross cutting issue.

Over the period under review half of the number about 5,200 workers have been stationed in rural areas where the demand of health services is

high mostly from unprivileged groups, while others have been located in urban centres through government's administration schemes.

In addition, there are about 482 houses which have been constructed to accommodate health workers in rural areas; the essence of doing this was to entice people into working in abandoned rural reserve areas.

There are also 268 health centres which the organisation has constructed to be used for regular medical checkup for adolescent youths and so far have carried out the exercise to 47,000 youths for HIV/AIDS disease.

So far there are about 933 health workers who have benefited from their scholarships issued for health and medical studies since the organisation was formed in 2006.

Currently the organisation is in line to ensure that, universal health coverage scheme is given priority and is being provided in the country to help majority of citizens who are languishing in abject poverty, an aspect that cannot afford the expensive medical services rendered.

In the meantime the government through the Ministry of Health is working around the clock to accomplish the compilation of the bill which will later on be tabled in parliament for discussion.

The late former President Benjamin Mkapa who established the organisation died on July 24, 2020 at the age of 81 years old. He established the foundation in 2006 which was formed after the launching of its first programme known as the Mkapa Fellows Programme in July 2005.

The fellowship programme was initiated between him and the Former President of the United States of America, William Jefferson Clinton in July 2005 under the support of the Royal Kingdom of Norway with aim of accelerating HIV/AIDS services through addressing the shortage of skilled health professionals in rural underserved settings.

The foundation prior to having a full time secretariat team as from its inception to November 2006, it was under the interim guidance of the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) foundation, World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.



Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) policy manager Khalid Mgalamo (L) exchanges views in Arusha city yesterday with Leo Mavika (R), head of coordination of the economic and production sectors in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments). It was on the sidelines of a one-day seminar on council by-laws relating to the availability of affordable quality seeds for farmers in the northern zone. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## All seed levies scrapped this fiscal year, state functionaries reminded

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) functionaries were yesterday called upon to refrain from making by-laws, demanding and collecting any levy relating to seeds during the current fiscal year because all levies on seeds have been removed by the central government.

The point was made clear to 80 officers from 20 district councils of Manyara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Morogoro Regions during a one-day seminar funded by the Africa Green Revolution Alliance (AGRA). The meeting was called to make

the strategic cadres -local council agricultural officers, planners and lawyers -remain abreast of the changes made at the national level that relate to speedy availability of quality seeds to farmers and at approved reasonable prices.

Speaking to reporters at the opening ceremony of the seminar, the Manager of Policy of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), Khalid Mgalamo, said the seminar sought to make the officers aware of the important changes made at national level that relate to production and delivery of quality seeds to farmers during the current fiscal year so that new by-

laws and their enforcement do not contradict decisions made at the national level.

"It has been made very clear to the participants that all levies have been waved and that the legal reforms made at national level must be respected when councils are making and enforcing their by-laws. All levies relating to all seeds have been dropped. Therefore, there should be no conflict or disagreement between council officials and seed growers," he explained.

The seminar, jointly organised by the SAGCOT and the PO-RALG brought together officers from regions considered to be having a huge

potential for seed production.

PO-RALG's Head of Coordination of Economic and Production sectors, Leo Mavika, said the seminar has been held at the right time because it has enabled participants to know the many changes made relating to laws and levies.

He said Tamisemi is the implementer of laws, regulations, policies and directives made by the government and therefore it is important for functionaries to always remain abreast of changes made.

AGRA's Projects Officer, Ipyana Mwakasaka, pledged AGRA's continued cooperation with the government. He said the seminar was part of the implementation of the project for reforming laws and policies governing production and distribution of seeds so that Tanzania can become self-sufficient in seed production and export the surplus.



Members of Wamama wa Bora and Maisha Mapya in Chang'ombe ward in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, in jubilation yesterday as they display cooking equipment donated to them by Tanzania Cigarettes Company as part of its drive to empower entrepreneurs economically. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Completion of Songea Airport expansion to bolster air travel

By Guardian Reporter

COMPLETION of Songea Airport expansion at the tune of nearly 37bn/- will enable six planes carrying approximately 70 passengers to be serviced simultaneously for 24 hours seven days a week.

The Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Atupele Mwakibete said this here on Tuesday when speaking shortly after inspecting the progress of the facility's expansion.

The expansion and rehabilitation of the airport is implemented by the Chinese Construction Company -Chico and the Tanzania Roads Agency (Tanroads) in Ruvuma Region.

He said the government was looking at the opportunities available in Ruvuma region including coal mining, tourism and agriculture as well as deciding to improve the airport to facilitate trade and shipping and transportation activities.

"This region has many opportunities so if the government sees it fit to improve this airport so that traders, investors and citizens can have easy travel as trade has no limits it can be done in 24 hours," said Mwakibete.

He called on the Tanroads and the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) to have a vision to upgrade the airport to cater for aircraft capable of carrying 300 passengers.

He also commended TANROADS and TAA for ensuring the contractor adheres to the value for money and standards in the construction of the airport and supervising it closely.

Tanroads manager in Ruvuma Region, Eng Ephatar Mlavi said that currently construction has reached 90 percent and ongoing work includes the completion of a temporary flight guidance and lighting installation on the runway.

Eng Mlavi added that the airport is expected to be completed in August where the contractor expects to hand over all the work in September this year. Songea airport acting manager Jafari Mbana said the completion of

the expansion has increased air travel, especially for Tanzania Airlines (ATCL) as has increased its flights from two to three flights per week.

The expansion of Songea airport has included a runway from 1625 meters to 1860 meters and a width of 30 meters, construction of fences, temporary flight controls, aircraft parking, lighting, fire truck and various systems.

The airport expansion will also attract more tourists in the region which is blessed with a number of tourist attractions such as Lake Nyasa shores, Livingstone Mountains, the Nyerere National Park, the Majimaji war heroes museum and the Liparamba Forest.





Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) executive director Dr Rose Reuben (C) pictured in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday addressing journalists attending a capacity building seminar on gender, freedom of expression and leadership. She is with Tumbaini University Dar es Salaam (TUDARCo) assistant lecturer Mary Kafyome (L) and TAMWA programmes officer Sauda Msangi. Photo: Mary Kadoke

## Write more on human rights in effort to promote gender equality, journos challenged

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA Media Women Association (TAMWA) has called upon journalists to write more on human rights as a tool to promote gender equality in Tanzanian society. TAMWA Executive Director, Dr Rose Reuben made the call on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a seminar aimed at training journalists on gender, freedom of expression and leadership.

Dr Rose highlighted that journalists' news writing target should focus on reporting news with gender content to promote an equal society which will later lead to justice.

"Gender reporting acts as a bus fare to facilitate your career, it will never fade away since it cuts across politics, human rights and agriculture. Your goal as you fulfill your responsibility should always aim at branding your career," she said.

She however stressed that its time journalists evaluate how helpful TAMWA seminars are as its astonishing how the organization strategically

teach tactics to shape their writing skills and end up achieving undesired changes.

Mary Kafyome, an assistant lecturer at Tumbaini University Dar es Salaam College (TUDARCO) noted that despite having freedom to cover news, journalists should always put the public at heart.

"People are moved mostly by the content they watch. You should offer equal opportunities without being gender biased. The more content on women holding low levels the more we change the perception of women to the community," she said.

Adding: "We should not be the reason to discriminate against people. The same way men are featured as prominent characters, content experts should also apply to women so as to bring diverse opinions."

However, Kafyome said that journalists that attend TAMWA seminars from time to time ought to be the champions in advocating changes in the media industry as far as gender socialization is concerned.

## TOSCI assists seed dealers by sensitising them on laws

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) is implementing a robust programme to assist the seed dealers in the country to deliver services in reflection to the Seed Act, 2003 and its regulations.

The State-owned seed regulatory body has decided to run the initiative in order to contain a spate of irregularities among most of the seed traders, a move that weakens performance of the seed industry within the country.

According to TOSCI's director general (DG), Dr Patrick Ngwedigi some of the seeds dealers are not recognised nor register themselves at TOSCI, which is against the Seeds Act 2003, and Seeds Regulations of 2007.

Expressing other challenges, Dr Ngwedigi noted that some dealers are marketing expired seeds (of above 7 months), while others have a negative tendency of opening seeds packages in order to re-measure and sell it in different quantities.

"After investigating the said irregularities in seeds marketing, we have patriotically decided to take a sober initiative to educate the seeds dealers so as to assist them to perform their business in needed standards," he stated.

Moreover, he added that some of the seed traders are marketing seeds without official labels of TOSCI or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

"As per the ruling regulations, all home-based produced seeds to be marketed must possess an official label from TOSCI, whereby those from outside the country must have OECD's labels," he detailed.

He stated that the initiative also targets to empower the traders with professional seeds storage manner, observing that some traders used to store seeds on the cement-floor while others are hoarding the seeds together with fertilizers, which is unprofessional.

He insisted that TOSCI will not hesitate to issue punitive measures against all traders who will continue their business without adhering to the Seed Act, added: "As per the provisions of the Seed Act 2003, any person/dealer who will found to have violated the set regulations will be imposed with a fine from 1m/- to 500m/- or a jail sentence for one year."

The TOSCI chief boss insists that the seed traders must ensure all seeds they receive from agencies fulfill all requirements, including TOSCI and OECD labels.

"Apart from the said labels, the seeds packages must also include a special paper note with key information like germination percent, purity percentage as well as seed lot number (fn) 2700ITAN I23," he added.

He said the institute has a number of plans ahead to implement in a general quest to ensure the country is equipped with quality seed varieties with the dealers executing their business in accordance with the Seed Act 2003 and the relevant regulations.

With its headquarters based in Morogoro, TOSCI is now recognised internationally since it has been accredited to International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seed Certification Schemes, whereby seed produced in Tanzania and certified by TOSCI can now be sold in the country and the excess can be exported to other countries.

TOSCI is responsible for field and seed inspection, sampling, seed testing, variety evaluation and verification through National Performance Trials (NPT), Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability tests (DUS) and control plot testing.

Tanzania is also a member of the International Union for Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), since 2015.



## UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company (TPCPLC) continues to deliver strong operating results when compared to the same period 2021. Both the sales volume and revenue increased compared to the same period 2021. Revenue increased by 7.9% compared to the same period last year. This increase is due to the increased demand of cement products within Tanzania and outside Tanzania, notably in the infrastructural projects.

The improved operating performance and the availability of the plant and machinery attributed

to the improved performance compared to the same period 2021, all within an environment where the Health and Safety of our employees and contractors is paramount. The Company continues to focus on delivering excellent customer service, selling of high quality products and maintaining strong customer relationships to enable TPCPLC to demonstrate its strength as the leading player in the industry.

### Prospects

The cement demand in Tanzania and in the 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 maintain its leadership. However, the on-going world crisis is putting pressure on operating margins given rising costs and posing logistical challenges for lead times of critical materials and spares.

### Appreciation

The Board would like to thank all its stakeholders for their support. We have every confidence that TPCPLC will continue to deliver value for the shareholders and community in the future.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Hakan Gurdal  
Chairman of the Board  
12.07.2022

	JAN - JUN 2022	JAN - JUN 2021
	TZS'000	TZS'000
<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>		
Revenue	227,512,642	210,825,663
Cost of sales	(139,272,410)	(126,277,122)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>88,240,232</b>	<b>84,548,541</b>
Other operating income	212,412	821,403
Selling and administrative expenses	(1,413,469)	(1,552,643)
Administrative expenses	(10,468,251)	(9,314,386)
Depreciation and amortisation	(10,442,081)	(8,681,096)
Other operating expenses	(958,201)	(1,091,706)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>65,170,642</b>	<b>64,730,113</b>
Financial items	2,131,055	1,298,145
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>67,301,697</b>	<b>66,028,258</b>
Taxes on income	(20,248,978)	(19,937,458)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>47,052,719</b>	<b>46,090,800</b>

	2022	2021
	TZS'000	TZS'000
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Intangible fixed assets	909,928	797,216
Tangible fixed assets	141,397,837	130,771,416
Other non-current assets	7,232,854	4,286,500
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>149,540,619</b>	<b>135,855,132</b>
Inventories	86,107,493	69,747,539
Trade and other receivables	70,387,157	60,811,816
Cash and cash equivalents	58,774,862	73,260,020
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>215,269,512</b>	<b>203,819,375</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>364,810,131</b>	<b>339,674,507</b>
<b>EQUITY &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Equity</b>	<b>249,118,402</b>	<b>230,868,930</b>
Lease liabilities	6,145,443	3,196,726
Long term provisions	9,324,932	6,621,779
Provision for deferred taxes	10,435,603	12,940,597
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>	<b>25,905,978</b>	<b>22,759,102</b>
Lease liabilities	-	-
Current income tax payable	769,868	3,447,885
Trade and other payables	86,247,190	79,801,715
Dividend payable	2,768,693	2,796,875
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>89,785,751</b>	<b>86,046,475</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY &amp; LIABILITIES</b>	<b>364,810,131</b>	<b>339,674,507</b>

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## SA's Library for the Blind is an idea worth emulating

SOMEWHERE in Grahamstown in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province lies a facility - or, rather, an institution - called the South African Library for the Blind (SALB).

Records show that the library was founded in 1918 courtesy of an arrangement between two women - a Grahamstown inhabitant and a missionary from England.

The library service started in earnest the following year with little more than 100 Braille books and pamphlets stacked in a single room.

It's a long story but highlights include the fact that the year 1998 saw the facility receive statutory recognition as a national South African resource.

And, in a word, the law is categorical that the facility's affairs are controlled by a board appointed by the Arts and Culture minister.

Additionally, the library receives some state subsidy and is legally charged with the responsibility of, among other things, serving the reading needs of South Africa's visually impaired and print-handicapped persons.

To ensure enhanced utility and efficiency, the library provides free Braille books - with some now digitally produced and made available to members by e-mail.

One especially heartening feature about the rare institution is that the modest building housing it bears a signpost reading: "Library for the Blind - We are on the same page".

This suggests that part of the mission here is to make deliberate efforts to ensure that both the visually impaired and their sighted peers benefit as much as practicable from the services libraries are supposed - or expected - to offer.

Indeed, internet searches easily show that the services offered by the pleasantly unique institution are of unparalleled relevance and utility to the visually impaired. The services are also part of evidence of the unwavering efforts of a people socially committed to striving, in co-operation with others, to remove barriers to accessing information.

Indeed, everything pointed to commitment to providing quality services to meet, as fully as human and other resources allow, the information needs of all those meant to be reached out to.

This makes us cast another glance at the history of the facility - that it was born of humble beginnings in the form of a person's private collection of no more than a hundred Braille volumes plus

financial, material and other support from well-wishers during the height of the 1918 global flu pandemic.

We are told that SALB received the first talking book machines from overseas in 1949, with the South African Post Office granting it and its members a free post concession some four years later. It was declared a Cultural Institution and National Library for the Blind in 1968, setting up audio and Braille in-house production units in 1992 and entering production of digital audio books in 2004. It is worth noting that the library's mandate is in accordance with the South African Constitution and a 1998 law - and is therefore legally in consonance with the values upon which the country is founded.

These values include respect for human dignity, advancement of human rights, accountability and democracy.

The library meanwhile also strives to make a contribution to the African continent generally by standing as a resource of advice and expertise in its focus area. The facility is legally mandated to provide access to free and appropriate information and other services responsive to the needs of all those it is there to serve.

This is in line with its vision of adding value to the quality of the lives of these special-needs people by helping them access information to facilitate their participation in informed decision-making alongside taking pleasure in the enjoyment of recreational reading.

SALB ascribes the achievements it has made chiefly to the sacrifice made by people and institutions moved by the plight of the visually impaired and therefore inspired by the need to build a better South Africa.

Despite its decades of existence, though, the library will likely still be experiencing a number of operational challenges - even problems. This would be hardly surprising, considering that few libraries ever enjoy handsome budgetary and other support these days.

However, the mere fact that institutions of the kind exist speaks volumes about the extent to which communities and nations can go towards translating the concept of social responsibility into needs-focused action.

Admittedly, Tanzania has made encouraging headway in empowering the visually impaired and other people with disabilities. But South Africa's SALB experience is well worth learning from, as doing so could mean doing much better for the good of even more variously disadvantaged people.

## Not a nightmare if 70 pct vaccination isn't attained

HEALTH minister Umyi Mwalimu is fighting hard to ensure that the country attains the 70 per cent Covid-19 immunisation coverage by the end of the year. Very understandably so, as that remains a key objective for the government.

The minister's determination was visible even when she appeared at a recent joint press conference with Ted Chaiban, the United Nations Assistant Secretary General doubling as global lead coordinator for the Covid-19 vaccine delivery partnership.

Chaiban was emphatic that the pandemic was far from over, even as many people tend to think of it in the past tense - in part, with masks all but forgotten even in hospital settings.

While there is indeed the risk of new Covid-19 variants, and again especially in under-vaccinated populations, the issue of the protection of those most at risk has already been conducted - the elderly in particular.

There was also a special appeal from President Samia Suluhu Hassan for job turnovers for people with underlying conditions, frontline health workers and people working in sectors such as tourism and hospitality.

In some places, especially in the

tourism sector, it was a requirement just as applied to upper levels of the hospitality industry, including tourist hotels. Too bad, with ordinary hotels or guest houses, it is usually the normal reflex that applies.

While the government will be intensifying campaigns on vaccination against the disease, on the basis of reports that new cases are being reported, it is worth remembering that plenty of discussion went into the whole issue on the local and global stages.

No wonder, it had to take a resurgence of polio cases in northern Nigeria for traditionalist authorities there to accept an immunisation campaign during the past decade. In 1998 some one million US dollars meant for the purchase of polio vaccines was misappropriated there.

Therefore, it's crucial that we continue reminding people that testing physical resilience against Covid-19 isn't a good thing and that myths suggesting that medication is badly intended just do not help.

Yes, infections are far from a daily occurrence and what the UN says is 'herd immunity' is likely to continue coming in handy. Still, that should not mean it would be wise to ignore or rule out the need for taking the job, surely.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

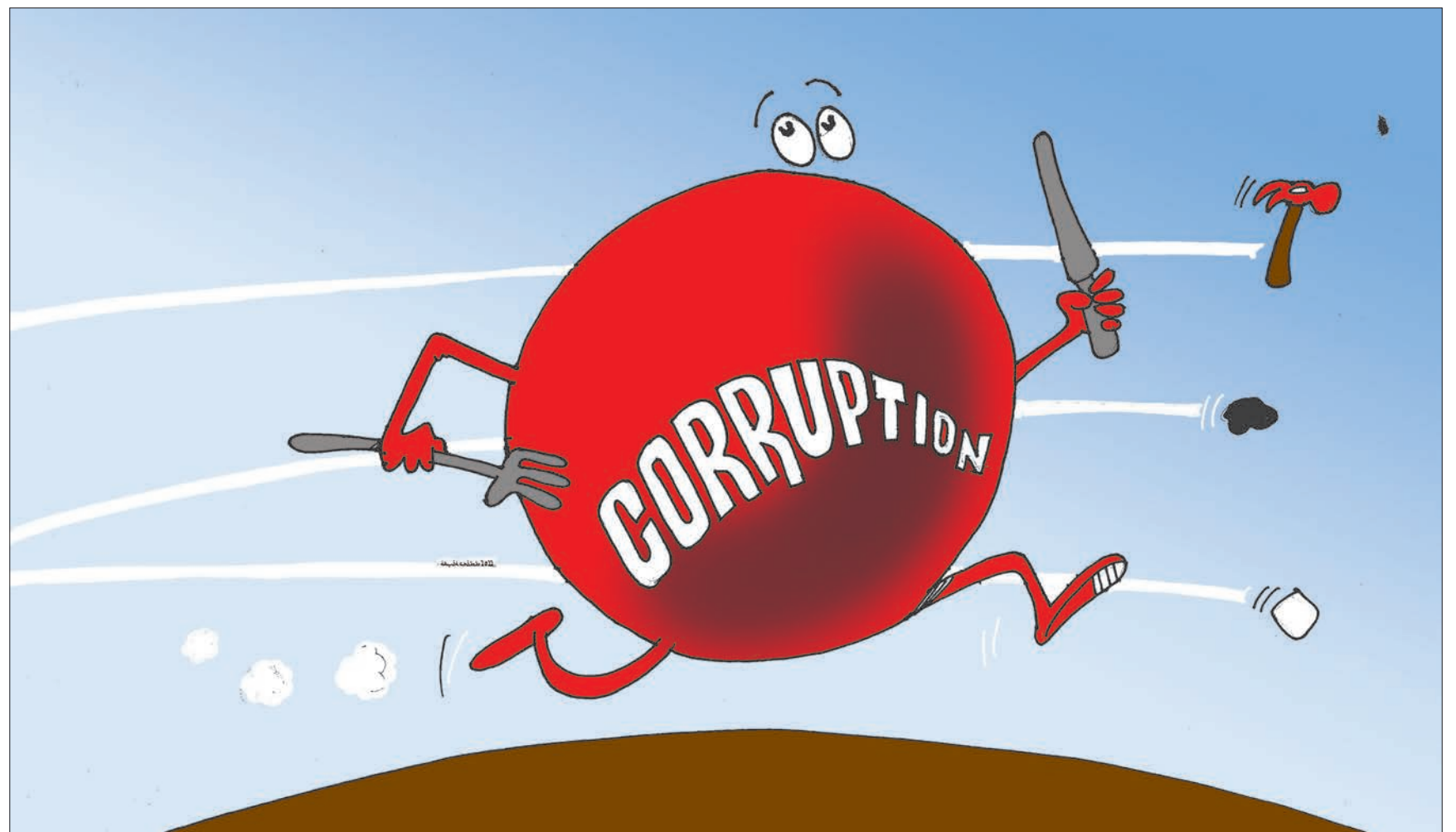
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## India publishers discuss post-Covid recovery: 'The fear of the unknown is no longer there'

By Teemu Henriksson

AFTER the upheaval caused by the Covid-19 health crisis, large parts of the Indian news industry have started to see an upturn.

A recent conversation among publishing executives explored the long-term impacts of the pandemic, including a quicker adoption of new technologies and an accelerated shift from an advertising-driven business model to paid content.

Phrased a bit differently, as the immediate effects of the health crisis start to subside, the mood among Indian publishers is increasingly hopeful about the future. However, there is a renewed urgency to reassess some of the industry's fundamental building blocks.

This was the message from a recent panel at the recent Indian Media Leaders eSUMMIT organised by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).

The participating CEOs took stock of the situation two-plus years after the pandemic started and discussed the steps their companies have taken to ensure that they are braced for a seemingly uncertain future.

### Covid-19 accelerated productivity

"Any data or metrics of today compared to when Covid-19 hit would look good, positive and hopeful. This is simply because Covid-19 was a disaster in terms of business and in terms of the crisis it posed for us," said Dhruba Mukherjee, CEO of ABP.

Although ABP experienced "zero-revenue days" during the toughest days of the pandemic, Mukherjee said the situation has now greatly improved: advertising has started to recover, even if it's "nowhere near pre-Covid levels", while circulations are now at about 80 per cent compared to before the pandemic.

He said that beyond the improving business metrics, perhaps the biggest step forward has been psychological.

"The fear of the unknown is no longer there. The fear is out. It's just that you kind of brace for what new challenges each wave will bring and how you respond to that," he added.

Part of that mindset change follows big advances in operational streamlining and accelerated technological adoption, noted Rajeev Beotra, Executive Director of HT Media Ltd.

He added: "There have been collateral benefits of the pandemic. All of us worked on productivity improvements, several projects were fast-forwarded, technology was adopted faster, and processes were



improved."

As a result, according to Beotra, companies are now better able to take on future challenges: "We are now prepared to face anything - we have seen very different degrees of peaks and troughs."

"It's not as if businesses did not have peaks and troughs earlier, but the cycles have become much shorter now, and I think we've all learned to adapt and cope with it," he said.

### Business model with paid content

While the business outlook may surely be improving, there is no denying that the pandemic caused many publishers to question their revenue models, most notably their reliance on advertising.

Indeed, "The mix of advertising and subscription needs to change by investing in content, investing in journalism," argued Dr Bhaskar Das, Director of Unica Token Pvt Ltd.

Although the rise of digital paid content is a global trend, he said that print has a strong advantage in India as a trusted medium.

He explained: "I'm very optimistic about print, at least in India, and the business model recalibration can take print to new heights. And in this age of lack of credibility and trust, print is the only oasis."

One example of an evolving business model comes from the Hindustan Times, which implemented a paywall during the pandemic, and won first place for Best Reader Revenue Initiative in WAN-IFRA's 2021 South Asian Digital Media Awards.

Beotrasaid prices were also increased across the company's websites that are behind the paywall, noting about the Covid-19 crisis: "It's not as if we had a lean period throughout but there were windows of opportunity".

He added: "The festive period was good, some elections happened, and

the economy rebounded in between briefly, so all of us have learned to now manage those business cycles better compared to earlier."

### Accelerating organisational changes

Mukherjee stressed that the prevailing kind of volatility was there to stay, and businesses needed to prepare accordingly.

He elaborated: "It has been a very bumpy ride. I can't say right now that we feel that it's going to be smooth sailing. It's not."

"We feel that now it's going to be the order of the day, that there won't be any smooth sailing at least in the near term. There's going to be turbulent waters and we need to just learn to navigate the ship accordingly."

Mukherjee reported that during the lockdown in April and May 2020, "when we were seeing our newspapers going out without any advertising whatsoever, ABP started a serious reflection on their business fundamentals. The whole revenue model came under scrutiny".

He said that process led to an active diversification of revenue streams, one result of which was the withdrawal of all subscription discounts.

The ABP chief executive noted further: "We always had this question: 'Will readers pay for good content, the right content?' We believed that we created good content. But we never probably had that strength of conviction to try it out by stopping all discounted subscription schemes and asking the reader to pay the full price."

"Covid helped us do that. And we were lucky to come out unscathed. And then it also gave a huge amount of confidence to the team and to the organisation that, yes, if you publish the right content, people will probably pay the full price."

Asked if there has been a turning

point in the recovery process, Mukherjee underlined the importance of agility: "It's a cliché, but the turning point has been the ability to believe that you can disrupt yourself and still come out stronger, rather than wait for somebody else to come and disrupt us. Now we are getting to that."

### Are there good times ahead?

Asked about the outlook for the future, Mukherjee was clearly optimistic: "They say hope is not a strategy but hope is a great motivator. I certainly live in hope and I am a little bullish right now looking at the fundamentals, because we all made fundamental corrections in our model. I think we have a positive outlook for print in general - and for content as a business."

On the other hand, Beotra highlighted the fact that newspapers ought to be ready to face challenging situations also in the future by learning to spot the opportunities that arise.

"I think it's more about being able to identify the opportunities that will keep coming, so it will eventually boil down to how well we can maximise these opportunities. People have done that in the last two years, and that's how it will be for a while."

Dr Das meanwhile underscored the need for news publishers to rapidly reassess their revenue streams: "Businesses don't die, business models die."

According to him, a stable foundation to work towards would be a structure where about 65 per cent of a publisher's revenue come from subscriptions and 35 per cent from advertising.

• Teemu Henriksson is research editor with WAN-IFRA. Contact: teemu.henriksson@wan-ifra.org



# It has taken long but, now, Kiswahili has received the honour it deserves

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**I**N the 1950s the United Nations established Kiswahili Unit of United Nations Radio. And today, it is the only African language within the Directorate of Global Communications at the UN.

Last week, Tanzania joined other countries to celebrate the World Kiswahili Day for the first time since the governing council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced 7th July of every year to honour the language.

The move makes Kiswahili the first African language to be recognised by the United Nations and given a special day of its commemoration worldwide.

In Tanzania, Vice-President Dr Phillip Mpango graced the colorful celebrations at an occasion held in Dar es Salaam and attended heads of foreign missions as well as dignitaries from the East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

During the celebrations, Dr Mpango witnessed the signing of an accord between Tanzania and South Africa in which the two countries committed to cooperating in an exchange programme to allow Tanzanian experts teach Kiswahili in South Africa.

This came after a long dialogue the two countries have been holding as part of strategic plans started in 2019 on how Kiswahili should be included in South Africa's education system.

Professor Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology and South African Minister for Basic Education Matsie Motshekga signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Tanzania to provide teaching services and technical support to primary schools in South Africa.

Apart from African continent, Kiswahili has also acquired an international accolade for having been taught in some universities in countries such



**Prof Adolf Mkenda (left) Education, Science and Technology Minister and South African Minister for Basic Education Matsie Motshekga display copies of Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in Kiswahili teaching signed in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo/Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango**

as USA, Germany, China, Japan and South Korea. Within SADC region it has been approved for teaching in Namibia and South Africa.

With over 200 million speakers, it is one of the most widely used African languages, encompassing more than a dozen main dialects. Over the centuries, this Bantu language has emerged as a common form of communication in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa as well as some countries in the Middle East. It enjoys official language status within EAC, SADC and African Union.

In recent days, Ugandan government announced it had realized the role and importance of Kiswahili as it is being used in EAC Legislative Assembly sessions and announced the decision to make it compulsory subject in both primary and secondary schools.

While announcing the country's decision passed by Cabinet, Ugandan Minister for Information, Technology and Communication Dr Chris Baryomunsi said that all government documents will be presented in Kiswahili.

The decision by Ugandan government follows directives issued by heads of EAC member states in their 21st Ordinary Summit held at the bloc's headquarters in Arusha in February 2021. The meeting resolved that Kiswahili be used as an official language in addition to English which has been in use since the community was formed.

It has become an important language for EAC member states whereas for Tanzania and Kenya, it is officially recognized and widely used as nation-

al language.

Apart from Kenya and Tanzania, other nations which speak Kiswahili are Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Sudan. In Uganda for instance, President Yoweri Museveni speaks fluent Kiswahili. Military and police in Uganda also use Kiswahili.

Speaking at a symposium held a day before the celebration, Abdulrahman Kinana, CCM Vice Chairman of CCM (Mainland) said that Kiswahili helped mobilize people in the struggles for independence in the country as well as liberation of a number of southern African countries.

"Kiswahili Day has a great significance in political landscape in Tanzania because on the same day (7th July) in 1954, at a time when the country was called Tanganyika under British rule, the first African political party called Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) was formed," he said.

Led by Father of the Nation the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, all TANU founders and top cadres who championed the push for independence used Kiswahili in their public engagements with the people.

Since then, Kiswahili continues to be a symbol of unity to Tanzanians and this is applauded all over Africa because it is rare to find a country on the continent where one can communicate in every corner without language barrier.

Eric Kajiru, Programme Manager for Tanzania National Commission for UNESCO said that the recent recognition of Kiswahili language is a step towards acknowledging it among international languages in the world.

According to him, efforts are underway by UNESCO Tanzania office to enable Kiswahili acquire full status as an international language among six others already accepted by the UN.

English is the dominant international language used in most regions of the world in terms of trade, science, medicine, sport and many other key areas such as diplomacy. Other languages are French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese.

BY THOMAS LYIMO

**C**HALLENGES in our education are numerous and every day, people and organizations conceive and float various ideas that can help improve provision of not just education but quality education in the country.

The need to improve education is underscored by the value that the society attaches to it. English people have this saying on the importance of education: "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

With that saying, it becomes a must to think of how to improve our education. Philosophers and psychologists say that we humans are a product of our thinking. Embracing this, having tireless struggles in improving our education which is the basis of our thinking is justifiable.

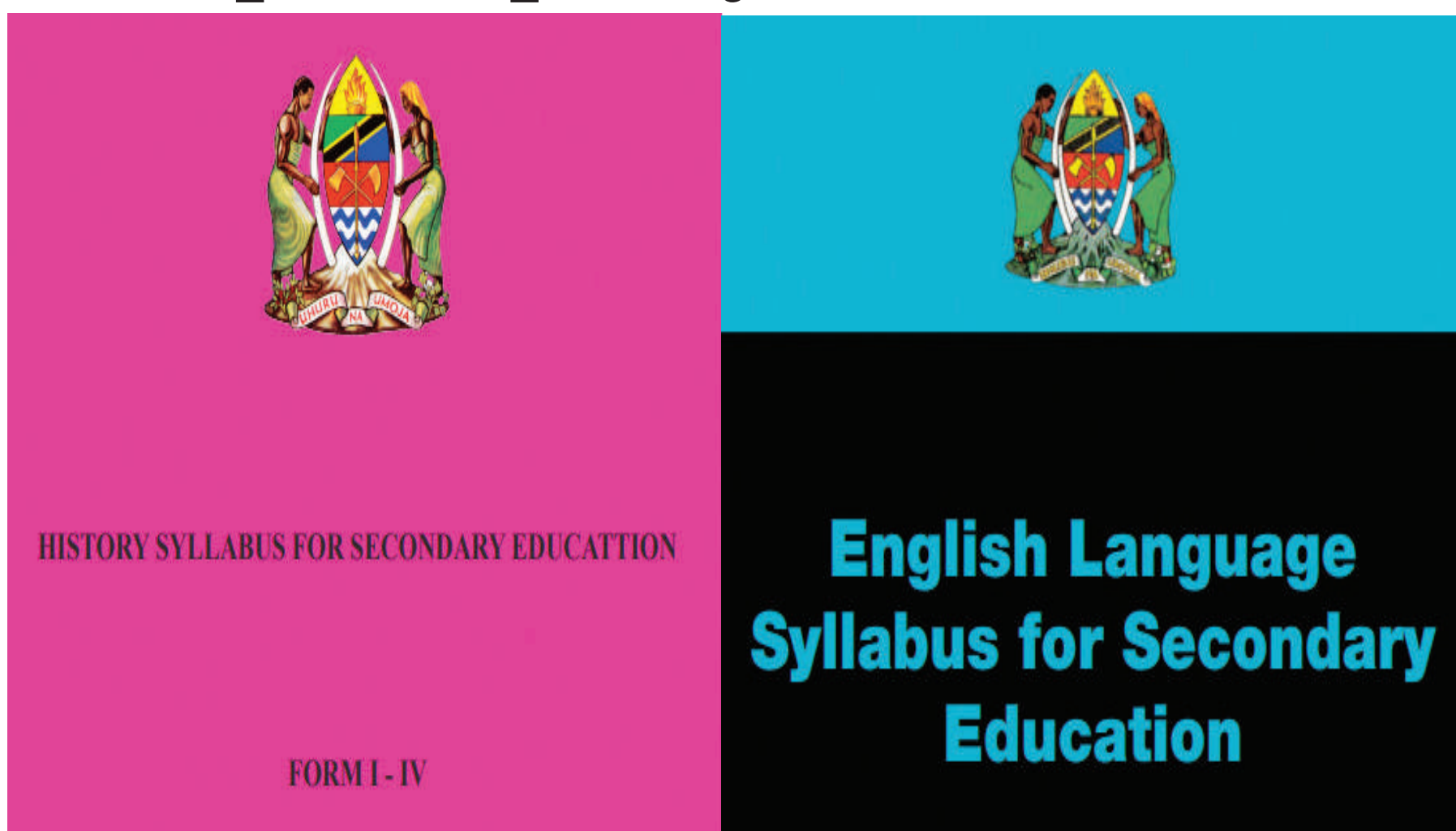
One of the areas to improve in our education system is writing of curricula, syllabuses and books which are to be harmonized. If one examines syllabuses and books, they will note that there is no harmony between them hence making implementation of curricula impeded. There are contents which are in syllabuses but not in books and there are contents in books but not in a syllabus.

The effects of disparity in terms of contents between syllabuses and books are several, one of them being challenges in covering contents. A teacher may fail to cover a certain aspect of study due to lack of materials for that particular aspect. Also, a teacher may teach things which are not needed due to relying on a book without consulting the syllabus.

Teaching things which are not in a syllabus will predispose a teacher to waste precious time unnecessarily and hence causing negative effects. The time which is wasted in covering unrequired contents may be used in dealing with areas which have proved difficult for pupils to grasp.

One may argue that how can a professional teacher rely on a book and not both a book and syllabus in preparing lessons? In fact, that argument is valid regarding the profes-

## Let's harmonise curricula, syllabuses to improve quality of our education



sional standards observance, but it should not be forgotten that a teacher is a human being who can hardly escape fallibility as other professionals may also do. Another challenge which may result from disparity between curricula, syllabuses and books is unfair teaching of the contents. Sometimes the curriculum indicates a very few number of periods per week for a certain subject but the reality is that the contents of that particular subject cannot be taught within the time limit stipulated in the curriculum.

A teacher may get confused when planning lesson. He or she fails to know who was mistaken between the writer of curriculum, the syllabus or the book! Eventually, the teacher may force to finish the contents within the time limit of syllabus or curriculum and making most if not all pupils incompetent in certain areas covered. Also, the disparity in curricula, syllabuses and books may cause conflicts in a school where a teacher can be blamed for not finishing in time a certain topic or

syllabus regarding the number of periods indicated in a syllabus or curriculum. In this case, the wideness of the subject is measured by the number of periods per week for a particular subject. In a simple and common way of suggesting which subject is wider than the other, the number of pages in a book can be considered. Taking into account three subjects for primary schools for standard seven, we may try to establish a conviction that may prove the validity of harmonizing the writing of curricula,

syllabuses and books. Those subjects are Social Studies, Vocational Skills and Civic and Moral Education. The Social Studies book has 186 pages and the subject has been allocated 3 periods per week in the curriculum, Vocational Skills book has 138 pages, and has been allocated 2 periods while the Civic and Moral Education book has 130 pages, and has been allocated 5 periods in the syllabus as well. Any positive critic may try to question the validity of the distribution of peri-

ods per subject per week. One may defend the above arrangement with a claim that there are subjects with concepts that may seem short but having complex and broad meaning when it comes to their coverage and analysis.

That claim may be accepted, but what should be done for those subjects whose concepts are considered simple but have numerous materials when they are to be taught?

The issues raised above justify the argument that the writing of curricula, syllabuses and books should be harmonized so that the objectives in education may be realized.

The outcomes of harmonizing curricula, syllabuses and books are obvious. One is that there will be a correct allocation of periods per subject per week. Also, there will be confidence in the teaching and learning process as the application of the curricula and syllabuses will be practical and hence absence of unnecessary confusions, conflicts and disappointments.

When a big job is done, it's likely to bring big results as well. There is this Kiswahili saying which can literally be translated as a goat eats depending on the length of the rope it is tied to. Working hard for our education will increase the length of the rope, making it possible for us to enjoy a wide range of pastures that our education will guarantee. Success demands a beginning.

**The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached through [lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com)**



# WWF joins the AFR100 management team to further accelerate restoration

BY SEVERIN KALONGA

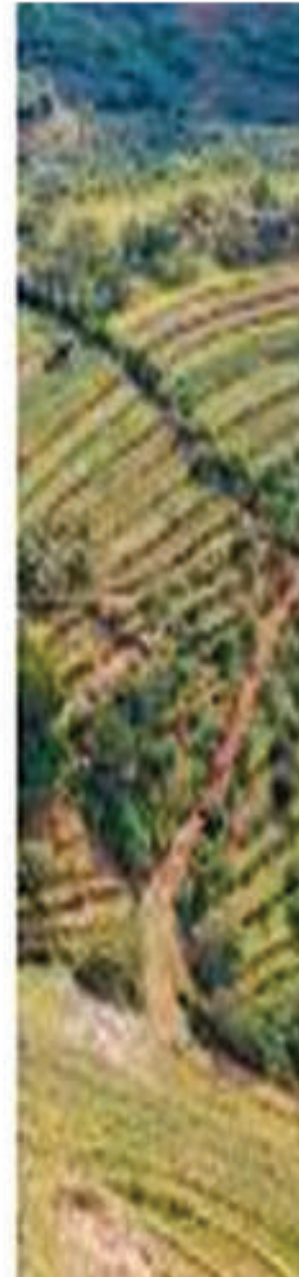
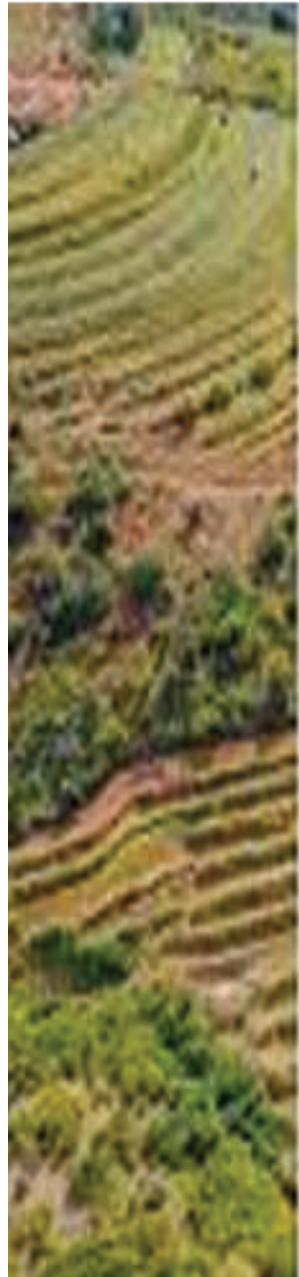
**T**HE African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. The African Union (AU) endorsed the 100 million hectares goal in October 2015 as a continental-wide ambition and to provide for strong legitimacy and its ownership by African countries. This initiative is part of the global commitment under the Bonn Challenge and is aimed at supporting countries to realize number of international commitments including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Convention of Biodiversity (CBD), UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) and the Paris Climate agreement.

The AFR100 international institutional arrangement is made of the Secretariat, among others. The Secretariat, under the African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), with mandate from the African Union Heads of State and Government, is the main contact for the initiative that coordinates partners to jointly mobilize and sustain political support. The Secretariat with support from partners, provides technical support to assess restoration opportunities and support the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) at scale and include number of international organizations such as World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). This role is delivered with the support of the AFR100 management team, of which WWF just joined and announced officially during the AFR100 Annual Partnership Meeting in Blantyre Malawi 27th June - 1st July 2022.

WWF being a technical partner and a member of the AFR100 management team, is re-iterating its commitment of working with AFR100 Secretariat, partners and the governments where there is WWF's physical presence to accelerate restoration phase II. WWF has developed a regional FLR programme covering 9 countries in Eastern, Southern and Central Africa. These countries are Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## Why this WWF FLR in Africa programme?

Forests and Landscapes are critical components of nature, providing a myriad of benefits to people and ecosystem. High proportion of Africa's population depends on forest resources for their livelihoods. About 90 per cent of Africa's population depends on firewood and charcoal for



energy, especially for cooking. More than 60 per cent of Africa's population depends on goods and services from forests and other ecosystems, whereas 80 per cent of Africans use medicinal products from forests. However, high deforestation and land degradation rates are compromising the sustainability of forest resources production to meet people's demand and ecosystem services provision. Statistics show that forests are being lost at a worrying rate despite their importance to people and nature. About 4.4 million ha of forest is lost annually in Africa, while 65 per cent of productive land in Africa is already degraded.

Despite the increasing number of challenges, there are emerging positive interventions and opportunities. The FLR in Africa Initiative through the AFR100 is one of them. The FLR is recommended approach in mitigating deforestation and land degradation challenges in Africa to achieve multiple benefits, it is a key activity for green recovery as it stimulates investments and creates jobs primarily in rural areas and helps to secure livelihoods of local communities while also contributing to reverse biodiversity loss and mitigating

climate change, and the inclusive conservation through 'Integrated and landscape' approach for FLR is envisaged to reverse the situation in Africa - addressing and solving contested interests.

The FLR is an on-going process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested and degraded forest landscapes. Landscape Restoration is a key activity for green recovery as it stimulates investments and creates jobs and helps to secure livelihoods of local communities while contributing to reversing biodiversity loss and mitigating the impact of climate change.

FLR is more than planting trees: It's about restoring ecological functions across whole landscapes for multiple benefits for people and nature. It does it by bringing on board a wide range of actors to deliver various interventions depending on thematic areas and sectors to achieve multiple benefits for people (human wellbeing) and nature (ecosystem services).

After the Bonn Challenge, which is a global vehicle to bring 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2030, the African Forest Landscape Restoration

Initiative (AFR100) was born to actionalize the Bonn Challenge in Africa. A total of 32 countries have pledged to restore 128 million hectares to date. Despite the good intentions and commitments from the governments, implementation is already well behind schedule.

Why has the AFR100 commitments' implementation been slow? There are a number of challenges: FLR is a challenging concept and many different interpretations of the term and the approach co-exist, inequitable tenure and property rights, leading to insecurity and conflict with subsequent impacts on FLR investment and implementation and human and technical capacity to implement FLR effectively remain insufficient.

Others are locally relevant tools for FLR are still missing, poor infrastructure creates access difficulties, making it difficult for support staff to enter the landscape and support implementation, but also for products from the landscape to reach markets and information gaps and the lack of mechanisms to share results hamper the dissemination of success stories, and an ability to build on existing knowledge and expertise.

Having been aware of these challenges, WWF conceived the idea and did develop this FLR regional program to accelerate the implementation of FLR in Africa through the AFR100 Secretariat. This WWF FLR in Africa program is an ambitious multi-country initiative that aims to kick-start the restoration of 13.5 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes across 9 countries by 2027.

Goal is to enable governments in the 9 target countries to deliver their AFR100 commitments in a just way that promotes sustainable livelihoods of local people, resulting in 13.5 million ha of degraded land and deforested forest landscapes under restoration by 2027. The programme's strategy is based on pursuing three main pillars: One is enabling policy, governance and institutional frameworks; two, promoting finance and market enablers; and three, delivering AFR100 commitments on the ground, at scale.

**Pillar 1** is enabling policy, governance and institutional frameworks: lays the foundation for up-scaling FLR by identifying potential areas for advocacy and capacity strengthening on enabling policies and institutional arrangements and tenure security rights that facilitate FLR up-scaling.

Objective is to see that WWF would effectively be engaged in AFR100 promoting enabling policy and institutional frameworks for FLR in the 9 countries generating large-scale restoration opportunities and investment

**Pillar 2** is promoting finance and market enablers: seeks to leverage new and enhance existing business models and finance for NbS and FLR, to establish economic development pathways that are decoupled from deforestation and conversion and also build mechanisms that will facilitate structuring partnerships and deals.

Objective of this is to see that WWF would ensure that Business models, financial mechanisms or incentives, and related opportunities are created that restore degraded and deforested landscapes, improve local livelihoods and enable wildlife habitat connectivity

**Pillar 3** is delivering AFR100 commitments on the ground, at scale: brings in WWF-led actions on the ground at the national, landscape and community levels through co-design and co-implementation approaches with stakeholders. This pillar will incorporate efforts aimed youth engagement, technology and knowledge transfer, as well as green entrepreneurship.

Objective is WWF and partners would ensure that transformational implementation of AFR100 commitments in the 9 countries is catalysed through an integrated and landscape approach and a regional movement.

## WWF Africa offices are already delivering FLR projects:

This programme, building on previous and ongoing experience, will replicate this experience to avoid mistakes and hence speed up the implementation of sustainable FLR interventions.

WWF believes in power of partnership: Partnership and collaboration are the cornerstone principles for the implementation of this program. To ensure sustainability of this program during the implementation, WWF being AFR100 Sec technical partner and member of the management team, will: directly support the AFR100 implementation success; bring additional and structured capacity and we will promote integration among stakeholders.

Also, it will promote the implementation of the FLR principles across the projects; support to channel additional funds for FLR and bring technology and innovation (monitoring and reporting tools).

## 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



# Tanganyika DC wants TARI technical know-how to boost cotton production

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, recently in Katavi

**A**UTHORITIES in Tanganyika District, Katavi Region have tasked the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) Ukiriguru to camp in the area and interact with cotton farmers so that they can acquire new technologies of farming various crops to increase production.

Tanganyika District Commissioner Onesmo Buswelu said the district has large virgin land, good climatic condition throughout the year, suitable land for agriculture but the farmers have little knowledge on the latest technologies to farm productively.

Buswelu made the call recently when launching Cotton Victoria project during farmers' field day in a brief ceremony held at Majalila village in the district.

The project is being implemented around Lake Victoria regions of Mwanza, Simiyu, Geita, Shinyanga, Mara, Tabora and Tanganyika in Katavi. In this new project researchers and farmers have proved that the farmers who used to get between 250 kg and 400 kg per acre they can now harvest more than 700 kg per acre. With favourable climatic condition and good agronomic practices, the farmers can



Tanganyika district commissioner Onesmo Buswelu (in white shirt) surrounded by researchers and cotton farmers as he asks TARI to visit Katavi regularly and provide new technologies. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

get more than 1000 kg

He said cotton farmers in Tanganyika district are hardworking and are in dire need of new technologies that would increase production and productivity.

He also asked farmers to follow ten steps of good agronomic practices saying TARI can bring useful technologies but without adhering to good agronomic practices, yield will not change.

"Our farming system in Tanganyika will be more efficient if farmers apply principles that are well adapted to the agricultural produc-

tion, adding that he climatic conditions here are good, he said.

He said with the new spacing system, the farmers will be able to expand the farming areas, engage in commercial farming, get more profit and change their livelihood.

Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture Timotheo Semuguruka and Shenal Nyonni called on extension officers who have received training from TARI to work hand in hand with the farmers to improve their agricultural practices in

their respective villages and wards.

They said the extension officers have been equipped with working tools such as motorcycles that enable them to reach the farmers' field on time and help them to conduct fruitful agriculture.

"Make sure that these good agronomic practices are taught and demo plots are established in every village and wards so that many farmers can benefit," said Nyonni.

A representative of TARI Dr Deogratias Lwezaura told

Katavi farmers that TARI has a range of technologies available for the farmers. He said the new spacing system aimed at increasing production and productivity.

"Katavi has a very favorable climate for cotton farming. Technologies are readily available for the farmers. It's up to the farmers to access these technologies in the nearby TARI centres to improve your cotton farming," he said.

TARI Ukiriguru centre director Dr Paul Saidia said in recent year's cotton production and productivity in the

country has declined due to different reasons, one of them being poor agronomic practices.

Giving example of spacing Dr Saidia who is also the National cotton research coordinator said in this new spacing, the distance between rows and holes has reduced yield ranging from 300 kg to 400 kg per acre. Potential yield of UKM08 cotton variety per for example is 1,200 kg per acre and it can go beyond 1400 kg/acre using the new crop spacing of 60/30. So what researchers are doing is to address the gap and increase cotton productivity in Tanzania, he said Saidia who is also Ukiriguru centre acting director.

He said in 2016 researchers from Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute in collaborating with researchers from Brazil and the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) started conducting research through Cotton Victoria project.

The research aimed at increasing yield through proper crop spacing. So a number of farmers were involved. Along the Lake Victoria Zone, the project started in Mwanza region.

The farmers found that the yields had gone up twice and in some areas the yield increased four times. Some farmers witnessed increase in yield from 200 kgs per

acre to between 800 and 1,200 kg per acre. So that increase has influenced us to move from Mwanza region to other areas such as Geita, Simiyu, he said.

He further explained that the approach was to invite extension officers at least 20 from each region for training on good agricultural practices. Among other things, the training emphasized on the importance of adoption the new spacing system. Thereafter, it was made clear that those who have received the training should go all the way training the farmers on their respective work stations.

"We made sure that every extension officer train farmers on their respective areas. Finally we communicated with them that they should establish demonstration plots in their respective areas to exhibit to other farmers who did not get chance of attending the training and it worked out very well because seeing is believing," said senior researcher Dr Paul Saidia.

The message of the training was to change their mindset and adopt new crop spacing. Finally we conducted farmers' field day so that farmers can gather provide testimony and learn from each other and from experts, he added.

He said the farmers were convinced that even when

he or she cultivates a small area, he can still get bumper yield of more than 1,200 kg per acre. So this Cotton Victoria project gave us the room to move from Mwanza and spread this important education to other areas such as Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Tabora, Katavi and Mara region

TARI Coordinators for technology dissemination and Partnership Mshaghuley Ishika and Dr George Sonda said lead farmers and trained extension officers in Tanganyika district should be envoys in their respective work places.

"This exercise continues, we understand that there are lead farmers and extension officers who have been trained by our researchers, don't be selfish. You should move out and spread this good education to other farmers. We want to see big change through this project."

The farmers were insisted to follow good agricultural practices saying the practices are substantial to increased production and productivity.

The launched project is being implemented jointly between the Ministry of Agriculture through TARI-Ukiriguru and the government of Brazil through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)

## Cameroon orders investment in wheat production to quell protests sparked by running shortages

By Moki Kindzeka, Yaounde

CAMEROON President Paul Biya says the government will increase funding to grow more wheat after protests over wheat shortages and price spikes sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Before Russia's Black Sea blockade, Cameroon imported 60 percent of its wheat from Ukraine. The cut-off has led to a nearly 50 percent increase in the price of bread.

Cameroon government says President Paul Biya on Monday ordered an immediate disbursement of over \$15 million to grow wheat in the central African state.

Cameroon's agriculture minister, Gabriel Mbairrobe, says Biya responded to pleas from civilians that the cost of living is becoming very high, and many Cameroonians are finding it very difficult to put food on the table.

Mbairrobe says Russia's war in Ukraine has completely disrupted supply chains of consumer goods, especially wheat, which is the main staple food in Cameroon. He says investing in wheat production is a wise decision because each Cameroonian consumes 33 kilograms of wheat each year which is far more than 23 kilograms of rice each Cameroonian eats annually. He says wheat can be grown in several places in Cameroon.

The government says Cameroon produces less than one-fourth of the 1.6 million tons of wheat it needs each year. Last year, the government imported more than 850,000 tons from Russia and Ukraine. Now, according to the Cameroon Importers Union, up to 25,000 tons have been imported since January 2022.

Mbairrobe says while the nation waits for its own newly planted wheat to be harvested before the end of the year, local substitutes like sweet potato, cassava and yams should replace the wheat Cameroon imports from Russia and Ukraine.

Cameroon says while baking bread, backers should replace imported wheat with local substitutes such as cassava, yams and potato.

Biya's instructions for more than \$15 million to be invested to grow more wheat come after several weeks of nationwide protest against cereal shortages. The shortage of wheat has led to a close to 50 percent increase in the price of bread.

Delor Magellan Kamseu Kamgaing, the president of Cameroon's Consumers League, says his league organized the protests to force the government to take immediate actions that will reduce growing hunger and anger among civilians.

Kamgaing says after COVID-19, Russia's war in Ukraine is leading to severe food shortages and unprecedented hikes in the prices of imported staple foods like cereals. He says people are hungry and unable to afford bread which is consumed by a majority of households in Cameroon. Kamgaing says the government should dialogue with its citizens and take measures that will stop a looming famine.

Kamgaing said the government should provide fertilizers and subsidies to local farmers to increase plantain, rice, yam and cassava production. Kamgaing said the war in Ukraine though causing sufferings should provide an opportunity for Cameroon to invest in its local industries and stop over dependency on imports.

The government says the money ordered by Biya will either be used in buying fertilizers or paid out as subsidies to wheat farmers. Some of the money will be used to purchase tractors.

The UN reports that 1.7 billion people in 107 economies including 41 African countries are exposed to either rising food prices, rising energy prices or tightening financial conditions as a result of Russia's war in Ukraine.



## Africa seeks private sector funding for ocean climate action

By Special Correspondent

COUNTRIES on Africa's west coast are increasingly turning to climate funding initiatives to boost livelihoods of Oceanside communities, aid biodiversity and take climate action.

On the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development currently under way at the United Nations headquarters in New York, African coastal and island states and conservation groups outlined plans to boost ocean conservation and economic development. The plan is to use a system of "blue bonds" – a method of financing projects that would also benefit ocean health.

Following on from Africa's Great Green Wall, which spans its Sahel region, east African nations are now seeking funds for the Great Blue Wall initiative, which aims to protect marine areas across the coastline. Both blue and green finance refers to funding aimed at preventing environmental damage and com-



batting climate change while creating sustainable ecosystems.

"The blue bond is a powerful example of the critical role that the capital markets can play in supporting sustainable objectives," said Jorge Familiar, vice president of the World Bank.

The Great Blue Wall initiative, launched last year by 10 western Indian Ocean states during the UN's climate conference in Glasgow, aims to create a network of coastal

and marine protected areas. Supporters say it would restore and conserve some two million hectares of ocean, capture 100 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and secure livelihoods for more than 70 million people.

The project spans the continent's east coast – from Somalia to South Africa – and includes the island states of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia and the French territories, Mayotte and Reunion.

Jean-Paul Adam, who heads the climate division at the UN Economic Commission for Africa, said the blue wall initiative would recognise "the true value the environment has in future wealth creation and empowerment of local communities".

"We need to dramatically upscale private sector investment into green and blue sectors," he said. Less than one percent of so-called blue and green bonds, which are used for marine and land projects

respectively, are issued for African countries.

"The next steps are to make these markets more accessible to African countries," he added.

The UN says many of the financial climate promises made by richer countries are not being committed to in full, meaning that many African nations are unable to take necessary adaptation and mitigation measures against the effect of climate change.

In its latest assessment, the African Development Bank said that between \$1.3 trillion and \$1.6 trillion is needed by 2030 to implement climate action in line with nationally determined contributions – targets set by individual countries to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees F) and no more than 2C (3.6 F). But blue bonds are currently just a fraction of ocean conservation funding, the bank added.

"Bonds alone are not a panacea for the financing gap but they can allow us to raise large amounts," Adam said.



# Migrant workers from Mexico caught up in trafficking, forced labour and exploitation

MEXICO CITY

Eduardo Reyes, originally from Puebla in central Mexico, was offered a 40-hour workweek contract by his recruiter and his employer in the United States, but ended up performing hundreds of hours of unpaid work that was not authorized because his visa had expired, unbeknownst to him.

Hired by recruiter Vazquez Citrus & Hauling (VCH), Reyes and five other temporary workers reached the United States between May and September 2017, months before starting work for Four Star Greenhouse in the Midwest state of Michigan.

In 2018, they worked more than 60 hours per week, received bad checks, and never obtained a copy of their contract, even though U.S. laws require that they be given one.

When they complained to Four Star and to their recruiter about the ex-



Mexican workers harvest produce on a farm in the western U.S. state of California. The number of temporary agricultural workers from Mexico has increased in recent years in the United States and with it, human rights violations. CREDIT: Courtesy of Linnaea Mallette

ploitative conditions, the latter turned them over to immigration authorities for deportation in July of that year because their visas had expired, which they had not been informed of by their agent.

In December 2017, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) authorized the arrival of 145 workers to the Four Star facilities in Carleton, Michigan. They were to earn 12.75 dollars per hour for 36 hours a week between January and July 2018.

Reyes' case is set forth in complaint 2:20-CV-11692, seen by IPS, filed in the Southern Division of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan by six Mexican workers against the company and its manager, whom they accuse of wage gouging, forced labor and workplace reprisals.

This story of exploitation has an aggravating factor that shows the shortcomings of the U.S. government's H-2A temporary agricultural workers program, or H-2A visa program.

The United States created H-2 visas for unskilled temporary foreign workers in 1943 and in the 1980s established H-2A categories for rural workers and 2B for other labor, such as landscaping, construction, and hotel staff.

These visas allow Mexicans, mainly from rural areas, to migrate seasonally to the U.S. to work legally on farms included on a list, with the intermediation of recruiting companies.

The number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline operated by Polaris in the US reflects the apparent increase in abuses. Between 2015 and 2017, 800 people on temporary visas, 500 of which were H-2A, called the hotline, compared to 2,890 people between 2018 and 2020 - a 360 percent increase.

Evy Peña, spokesperson for Mexico's Migrant Rights Center, said temporary labor systems are designed to benefit employers, who have all the control, along with the recruiters. "From the moment the workers are recruited, there is no transparency. There is a lack of oversight by the DOL, there are parts of recruitment that should be overseen by the Mexican government. There are things that the Mexican government should work out at home," she told IPS from the northern city of Monterrey.

She said the situation has worsened because of the pandemic. The United States and Mexico have idealized the H-2A program because it solves the lack of employment in rural areas, fomenting remittances that provide financial oxygen to those areas, and meets a vital demand in food-producing centers that supply U.S. households.

But the humanitarian costs are high, as the cases reviewed attest. Mexico's Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare has 369 labor placement agencies registered in 29 of Mexico's 33 states. For overseas labor recruitment, seven operate - including four in Mexico City -, a small number compared to the thousands of visas issued in 2021.

For its part, the DOL reports 241 licensed recruiters in the US working for a handful of companies in that country. "Economic vulnerability puts migrants at risk,"

because many workers go into debt to get to the United States, and that gives the agencies a lot of power. They can set any kind of requirement for people to get the jobs. Sometimes recruiters make offers that look more attractive than they really are. That is fraud," she told IPS in Mexico City.

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The ones authorized in Mexico do not appear on the US list and vice versa, in another example of the scarce exchange of information between the two partners.

The number of H-2A visas for Mexican workers is on the rise, with the U.S. government authorizing 201,123 in 2020, a high number driven by the pandemic. That number grew 22 percent in 2021, to a total of 246,738.

In the first four months of the year, U.S. consulates in Mexico issued 121,516 such visas, 18 percent more than in the same period of 2021, when they granted 102,952.

In 2021, the states with the highest demand for Mexican labor were Florida, Georgia, California, Washington and North Carolina, in activities such as agriculture, the operation of farm equipment and construction.

The United States and Mexico agreed to issue another 150,000 visas for temporary workers in an attempt to mitigate forced migration from the south, which will also include Central American seasonal workers.

Details of the expansion of the program will be announced by Presidents Joe Biden and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador at a meeting to be held on Jul. 12 at the White House, with migration as one of the main topics on the agenda.

Lidia Muñoz, a doctoral student at the University of Oregon in the United States who has studied labor recruitment, stresses that there are no policies on the subject in Mexico, even though the government is aware of the problem.

"There are regulations for recruitment agencies that are not followed to the letter," she told IPS from Portland, the largest city in the northwestern state of Oregon. "Most recruiters are not registered. The intermediaries are the ones who earn the most. There is no proper oversight."

Article 28 of Mexico's Federal Labour Law of 1970 regulates the provision of services by workers hired within Mexico for work abroad, but in practice it is not enforced.

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 323 00--

**WORD-FIT**

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

3 letters  
4 letters  
5 letters  
6 letters  
7 letters  
8 letters  
9 letters

**CLUES:** RAT, EAT, BYE  
MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN  
HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL,  
AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE  
BUCKET, PLENARY, SOMALIA, TEASED  
BROWSER, BULGARE, OMDHAUN  
EMINENCE, DYNAMITE  
CALAMITY,

**CROSSWORD**

**CLUES: Across**

1 the sixth day of the week  
6 bring about or perform  
7 Country of a thousand hills  
10 tala  
11 quite, gentle and submissive  
13 Togo's Capital  
15 fever marked by severe internal bleeding  
17 ethnic group in Chemba district  
19 move towards the land  
20 hinniees  
22 a light meal  
23 a narrow passage of water  
24 connecting two seas

**Down:**

1 a public meeting place and market square  
2 angry  
3 an illicit drinking place in India  
4 man's wide brimmed hat  
5 cannabis  
8 without clothes  
9 let someone do something  
12 remove from a place of danger to a safer place  
14 alkene  
16 legal prohibitions  
18 Russia's Capital  
21 energy, style and enthusiasm  
22 a pigsty

**SOLUTIONS**

**WORD-FIT**

BLOOD SCARE NEAR  
LOME SCARE NEAR  
ARID R WANDAN  
BETEL OASES ENLUEZE  
MANURE MUG AGE BOIS WANA  
SWEAR NEST A T E O N M  
COL GAG READ GATE PUNDIT A  
RAISE ERGO E A ANKARA ARI D  
ODD YAFOK M TONIFY A H  
D E K COMI C I BUYER STEEPLE  
ADRE M KACHIN I BARBARMAN S R  
PAPAYA K ARAB ETHEIPIA D  
AFRAID NLESS

**CROSSWORD**

1 SATURDAY  
6 PERFORM  
7 SWITZERLAND  
10 TALA  
11 GENTLE  
13 LOMBE  
15 MALARIA  
17 CHEMBA  
19 MIGRATION  
20 HINNIES  
22 LIGHT MEAL  
23 STRAIT  
24 Isthmus

**Down:**

1 SQUARE  
2 ANGRY  
3 DUKKAAN  
4 HAT  
5 MARIJUANA  
8 NAKED  
9 LET  
12 REMOVE  
14 ALKENE  
16 PROHIBITION  
18 MOSCOW  
21 ENTHUSIASM  
22 PIGSTY

# RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One Radio One





**MARKET TRENDS**  
**SBL joins gov't to halt deforestation, combat climate change**  
**page 15**

## Five economic activities winning the hearts of banking sector in 2022

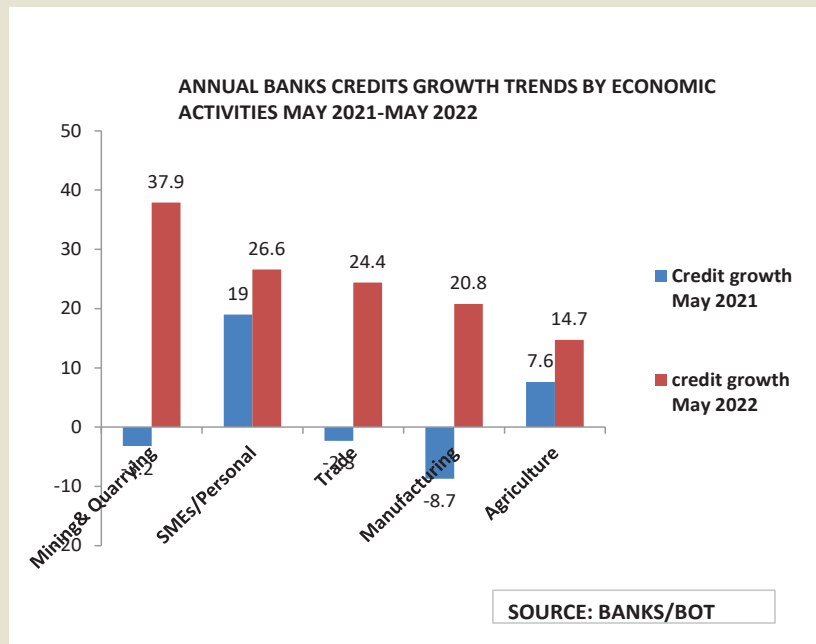
By Guardian Reporter

**M**INERS, small and medium business owners, farmers, traders and manufacturers have continued to win the hearts of banking sector, after recording the strong growth of borrowing internally and externally, pushing smooth recovery of the economy.

Tanzanian economy is currently recovering from the impact of Covid-19, although supply-chain disruption caused by the war in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia are adding up risks to local business activities.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations for the year ending May has shown that credit to private sector, the engine of growth, expanded by 15 percent from 4.7 percent in May last year due to improved business conditions, coupled with supporting monetary and fiscal policies.

The sharp growth of credits recorded on mining and quarrying with 37.9 percent followed by personal (Small and Medium Enterprises) by 26.6 percent, trade by 24.4 percent, manufacturing by 20.8 percent and agriculture



SOURCE: BANKS/BO

by 14.7 percent.

Credits extended to private sector from banking during the year ending May, according to banks and BoT computations reached nearly 24trn/- compared with 21trn/- recorded in May last year.

However, the major outcry of bor-

rowers remain on high interest rates charged by commercial banks on loans, as BoT shows are currently at 16 percent for regular borrowers and 9 percent for farmers.

Lenders are also facing high rate of on-performing loans estimated at 8.5 percent in 2021, higher than regula-

tory benchmark of five percent as well as rising inflation rate which reached 4.4 percent in June this year.

One year before, banks credit to five economic activities were a contraction of 3.2 percent on mining and quarrying, 19 percent on personal (SMEs), a contraction of 2.3 percent on trade, a contraction of 8.7 percent on manufacturing and 7.6 percent on agriculture.

The BoT shows the recovery of credits to three sectors excluding personal and agriculture started in December last year and continued to gain throughout the first quarter of this year.

According to BoT report, personal (SMEs) loans have continued to account for the largest share of banks credits with 38.7 percent, followed by trade with 16.9 percent, manufacturing by 10.3 percent and agriculture by 8 percent.

Externally, according to the ministry of finance and planning, revised private sector borrowing increased from \$5.5 billion in May last year or 22.7 percent of external credits to provisional \$7.7 billion of 27.5 percent of total external borrowing.

The externally borrowed funds among private sector were used on financing agricultural, mining, manufacturing, telecommunication and tourism activities, according to the ministry.

Agricultural activity is currently contributing 26.1 percent of the economy, followed by trade with 8.7 percent, manufacturing by 7.8 percent while mining and quarrying share to the economy is 7.2 percent, according to the minister of finance and planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

Provisional data by the ministry have also shown that exports credit also increased to \$4.4 billion of 15 percent of the share of external borrowing in May this year from revised \$2.76 billion of 10.9 percent recorded in May last year.

However, during its meeting in June 6, this year the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to assess the conduct of monetary policy in March and April 2022, as well as recent global and domestic economic situation cautioned that high commodity price, mainly fuel, resurgence of Covid-19 and supply-chain disruptions caused by war in Ukraine and sanctions on

Russia, increased risks to recovery of domestic economic activities.

Based on the assessment of current and future macroeconomic situation, the MPC approved the Bank of Tanzania to sustain accommodative monetary policy in May and June 2022, in order to continue safeguarding the recovery of economic activities.

This week, CRDB Bank Plc also signed an agreement with Internal Finance Corporation (IFC) for \$100 million loans to be extended to small businesses in Tanzania, to support their recovery, as many were hardly hit by the impact of Covid-19.

A quarter of the loan, according to Abdulmajid Nsekela, the bank's Chief executive officer and Managing Director will be directed to women-owned businesses.

He said women have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, facing economic hardships that directly affect their families and communities' livelihoods.

In Tanzania, an estimated 3.2 million micro, small and medium-sized businesses contribute 27 percent of the country's GDP and employ more than 5 million people.

## Best-performing emerging market fund sounds alarm on debt defaults

LONDON

**MORE** debt defaults are going to roll across emerging markets because countries can't cope with the sudden increase in borrowing costs, according to Man Group, which runs one of the best-performing funds in the industry.

About 10% of dollar-denominated sovereign debt is at a high risk of default, said portfolio manager Lisa Chua in an interview with Bloomberg.

Russia and Sri Lanka have already defaulted this year, and there's now a record 19 developing countries with sovereign debt trading at distressed levels.

Chua, part of a five-person emerging market debt team led by Guillermo Osses that's beaten 99% of peers this year, said the fund was able to avoid some of the risks from Russia's war in Ukraine and steered away from crowded areas of the market.

"Not everyone will be able to roll over their debt in an environment of less abundant

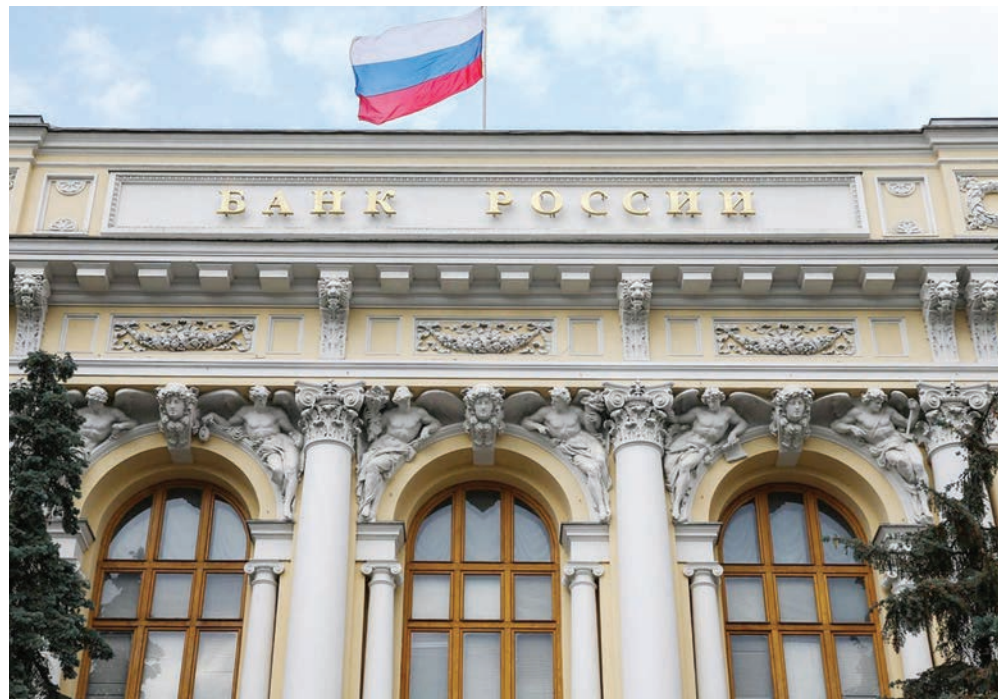
liquidity," said Chua. "We do expect to see more defaults and potential restructurings."

The number of nations with debt yields that indicate investors believe default is a real possibility has more than doubled in the past six months, according to data compiled from a Bloomberg index. At stake is \$237 billion due to foreign bondholders, with the market's focus on countries such as El Salvador, Ghana and Pakistan.

"High-yield, frontier markets that have issued more recently in that grab for yield are at risk," said Chua. "It is worth pricing in more default risk than is currently priced in the market."

Emerging Market Bonds Face \$237 Billion Cascade of Defaults

Man, the world's largest publicly-listed hedge fund with \$151.4 billion under management, topped 99% of its peers with its emerging-market debt fund returning 4.7% this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. By contrast, a Bloomberg in-



Russia Central Bank

dex shows emerging-market sovereign dollar debt lost 20%.

While Chua declined to talk about the fund's performance for legal reasons, she implied in a recent blog that the firm may have dodged the pain felt by holders of Russia's debt after its invasion of Ukraine, pointing to how the country's weak ESG governance

metrics, rich valuations and overcrowded positioning by other players were all potential red flags for Man.

"These issues were warning signs to us early on of potential risk on the ESG side and these risks took center stage as Russia started amassing troops at the border of Ukraine in the months before the invasion," she wrote.

"If market participants were truly concerned about downside risk related to an invasion, they should have also been decreasing positions in Ukraine, but that wasn't the case."

Following the effects of the invasion, from higher inflation to food supply disruptions, countries with pegged or heavily managed currencies may now struggle to adjust to economic shocks to pay back external debt, Chua said.

Such concerns have already led investors to pull \$48 billion from global emerging-market debt funds in the first half of 2022, according to Bank of America Corp. citing EPFR Global data. For the coming months, Chua is cautious, but sees opportunities to add higher-quality assets if default fears cause a broad selloff.

The yields offered on riskier emerging-market debt are already at a two-year high, giving investors 1% for every month for taking the risk. Major economies from Mexico and Brazil to Indonesia have also withstood the turbulence so far.

"The focus needs to be on risk reward, mitigating downside risk, and not just blindly buying beta and yield," Chua said. "We are entering a new regime where investors need to be much more focused on alpha generation, country selection."

## Spain hits banks and utilities with windfall tax

MADRID

**SPAIN** became the largest euro-zone country to impose a windfall tax on banks in a sign of European governments' search for funds to lessen the painful impact of price rises.

The move by Socialist prime minister Pedro Sánchez – which the government said was designed to limit banks' gains from rising interest rates – triggered sharp falls in the stocks of Spanish banks.

Shares in CaixaBank, Bankinter and Sabadell fell by about 10 percent after the levy was announced while those of Santander and BBVA, the country's two biggest banks by market cap, dropped by nearly 4 percent.

The bank levy came without warning and drew strong criticism from analysts.

"This is a crude form of populism. The government argument is that banks are benefiting from rising interest rates," said José Ramón Iturriaga, an analyst at Abante Asesores. "But there was no state compensation during the long period when rates were negative."

Among other measures, the government plans to use the funds raised to build 12,000 homes in Madrid, make most state railway journeys free between September and December, and provide €2bn in scholarships for over-16s.

Sánchez, who leads a coalition government with radical left lawmakers, said a similar tax would be levied on energy utilities as part of the package aimed at protecting the less well-off from the impact of inflation and soaring energy prices.

"We are asking big companies to ensure that any exceptional benefits obtained during the current circumstances are channelled back to workers," Sánchez said in the opening address of a three-day state-of-the-nation debate.

Inflation in Spain rose to a 37-year high of 10 percent in June, up from 8.5 percent in May.

## DTB set to spend Sh350m on new Kenyan branches

NAIROBI

**DTB** Group is investing a total of Sh350 million to open 20 new branches in Kenya this year as part of its expansion plan.

The lender has opened three branches and the remaining 17 will be established in the coming months.

"The capital expenditure for the 20 branches is Sh350 million. We are investing in both our digital platforms and physical branches to give customers hybrid services," said Alkarim Jiwa, chief financial officer at DTB.

The three branches recently opened are in Imara Daima

(Imara Mall), Kamakis (Viashla Business Centre) and Kahawa Sukari (Ruhan Plaza) which pushed DTB's physical branch network in Kenya so far to 64.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed bank will have more than 80 branches once all the new outlets have been established.

Mr Jiwa said branches still play an important role in banking despite more than 90 percent of transactions migrating to digital platforms.

The branches are important in terms of acquiring retail customers, solving their issues and offering them advisory services, among others.

DTB is also investing \$30 million (Sh3.5 billion) in digital services including Internet banking over two years. Investments in such platforms has intensified in the banking sector and is seen as a means to enhance efficiencies, grow scale and improve convenience for clients.

"As a tier-one bank, we are keen on increasing our market presence as this underpins our growth strategy. The investments we are making are not only a show of the bank's financial strength but also a sign of commitment to creating more convenience for our customers," DTB chairman Linus Gitahi said.

Chief executive Nasim Devji said the bank's move to continue expanding its branch network is a testament to its confidence in the Kenyan economy.

"As DTB, we remain optimistic about Kenya's economic recovery. We are, therefore, making strides to be closer to our customers to support them to attain their personal and business goals," said Ms Devji.

Other big banks that are also opening more branches in the country are Co-op Bank and NCBA Bank Kenya.

The sector, overall, has gone slow on physical expansion as uptake of apps, mobile, Internet and agency banking grows.



DTB finance director Alkarim Jiwa



# Bank of China sees liquidity more than ample

BEIJING

**L**IQUIDITY in China's interbank market is more than "reasonably ample," the head of the central bank's monetary policy department said Wednesday, an indication that further rate cuts are unlikely.

The 7-day reverse repurchase rate is at around 1.6%, lower than the costs of short-term policy loans the People's Bank of China provides via its daily open market operations. Zou Lan said at a briefing in Beijing.

He was referring to a key interbank borrowing rate. The rate on the PBOC's 7-day loans for lenders is at 2.1%.

That suggests "liquidity has stayed slightly more than reasonably ample," Zou said in answer to a question on whether the central bank will continue to cut interest rates or the amount of cash lenders must keep in reserve.



The PBOC has taken a cautious easing path this year, refraining from cutting policy rates since January. It has instead relied more on structural measures to support targeted sectors such as the property industry, small firms and infrastructure projects,

and has pushed banks to lend more. Credit jumped more than expected in June due to a rebound in bank loans and record government bond sales.

Governor Yi Gang recently signaled monetary stimulus will likely focus on boosting credit rather than cutting in-

terest rates for the rest of this year, amid concerns over rising inflation and ongoing capital outflows as overseas central banks started tightening. All 18 economists polled by Bloomberg expect the PBOC to hold the rate on one-year policy loans steady on Friday.

Zou said Wednesday that the PBOC is keeping a close eye on domestic inflation as well as shifts of monetary policies in major economies. The Chinese central bank has taken preemptive measures to offset the impact of changes in the external environment on cross-border capital flows and continues to base its policy making mainly on domestic issues, he said.

With the economy showing early signs of recovery in June as Covid outbreaks and lockdowns eased, the PBOC has slashed its liquidity injections in the daily open-market operations since the start of July. That's sparked speculation that it's moving toward normalizing interbank cash conditions. Previously it kept liquidity flush from April as the virus spread, creating a glut of cash that wasn't able to make its way to the real economy.

Still, "arduous efforts" are needed to stabilize the economy, which continues to face "relatively big uncertainty" in the second half of the year. Zou said.

The PBOC will strengthen the implementation of already-announced policies such as the structural measures and the 1.1 trillion yuan in additional policy bank funding for infrastructure, while it has also reserved "sufficient" policy room and tools to tackle "unexpected new challenges," he said.

# Govt gets 1.9trn/- since year 2019 from agreements with Barrick Gold

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has since September 2019 to date received a maximum of 1.94trn/- (\$832million) from Barrick Gold Corporation following joint venture agreements signed by the two parties in January 2019 through Twiga Minerals Corporation Limited.

Briefing journalists at the weekend in North Mara mines on the company's performance for the first half of 2022, President and Chief Executive Officer Mark Bristow said the money is equivalent to 42 percent of the overall economic contribution since assuming operational control of North Mara and Bulyanhulu in September 2019.

"During the period under review the company has paid US\$896million to local suppliers, an equivalent of 45 percent. It has paid salaries amounting US\$169million equivalent to eight percent and another US\$98million was paid in dividend plus loan repayment making a total in-country investment stand at US\$2billion," said Bristow.

According to him, just for the first half of 2022, the mining company has paid US\$158million in taxes, royalties and levies. It has paid the government US\$42million in distributions through dividends and shareholders loan repayments.

Barrick has so far paid US\$210million to local registered suppliers. The company has committed US\$6 for every ounce of gold by its two mines in the country on improving healthcare, education, infrastructure and access to potable water in the host communities.

A further US\$70million has been committed for investment in value-adding national projects, including mining-related training, skills development and scientific facilities at universities, as well as road infrastructure.

Barrick through treasury has so far received US\$140million from Barrick Gold Corporation since it sealed a new deal in January 2019 by the mining company.

In February 2019, the government entered a win-win agreement with Barrick after a business shake-up on export of gold concentrates had exploded.

In the agreement, Barrick is required to pay the treasury a sum of US\$300million. Prior to the agreement, the government had in 2017 handed a \$190 billion tax bill - about four times the country's gross domestic product - for underreporting output.

Speaking of the two mines' future operations plan for North Mara, he said the company continued to stretch and improve its operations to exceed last year's record underground performance.

"With North Mara the key focus on investment will be on latest technologies such as Mmulti-lite during replacement cycles and an emphasis on preventative maintenance on the legacy underground fleet during this transition," said Bristow.

For Bulyanhulu, he said the underground operations continue to increase output to be further bolstered by the arrival of the replacement fleet at the end of quarter two.

## HOW TO REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF FRAUD IN MOBILE BANKING

**M**obile banking has changed the way we bank. Managing your money has never been easier as now you can do banking transactions anywhere, anytime, thanks to alternative channels like mobile banking. The rapid adoption of digital banking channels, especially mobile, is forcing banks to rethink customer experience and processes. Because of the lower cost of banking, most customers are choosing mobile banking over traditional banking channels. While mobile banking seems like the obvious future of banking because of lower costs, and increased convenience, this convenience and accessibility are opening new doors to people who are always looking for vulnerabilities to exploit the customer's financial data for their gains.

So, the big question today is this: is mobile banking safe for baking transactions? Mobile banking is generally secure but the main challenge is from the customer side as most consumers do not understand the technology their bank is using but need to feel confident that their financial data is protected. I have not seen any research data in Tanzania regarding security concerns of mobile banking but, 73% of non-users of mobile banking in the US Federal Reserve Board Survey cited security concerns as a common

reason for not using mobile banking. The primary responsibility of the safety of mobile banking is with a bank: the bank must ensure that its mobile banking app has adequate fraud prevention built-in to maintain the trust and safety of its customer's data. The secondary responsibility of ensuring mobile banking frauds are limited is with the customer: customers must play their part to mitigate the risks of someone breaching their data. In this article, I will share a few things that customers and banks can do to mitigate the chance of falling victim to mobile banking fraud.

- **Multi-Factor Authentication** - Having a single password methodology to access a customer's account is not recommended because passwords can be easily broken by fraudsters. Multi-factor authentication adds another layer of defence by requiring the user to submit something else other than the login password. For example, a bank can require additional login information such as facial recognition scanning option, biometric ID such as fingerprint, and special generated one-time passwords to ensure that only authenticated person can access your data. In addition, make sure your phone is

always locked when not in use and makes sure your phone's browser does not automatically input your passwords or usernames for you. Also, it is recommended to change your Online or Mobile Banking password at least every 90 days. I would suggest changing your password frequently to help you maintain confidentiality.

- **Choose and Act Wisely** - One of the basic routes for fraudsters to access your information is through phish links, unofficial apps, and non-secure networks. Therefore, don't follow links in any emails that claim to be from your bank. If you want to do your banking, it is widely advised to go to your bank's website directly and not otherwise. In addition, download your bank's app only from the direct official app store or your bank's website as fraudsters are capable of developing similar apps that contain malware and invite you to download them through emails or text messages. Furthermore, makes sure that you are connected to a secured network when you are conducting transactions through mobile banking, hence preventing

unauthorized user(s) from accessing your data. So, the usage of public Wi-Fi hotspots for mobile banking should be avoided.

- **Subscribe for Mobile Notification** - It is very important to subscribe to mobile notifications because they will alert you quickly of any suspicious transaction. For any transactions that are done through mobile banking, you will get a notification that helps you monitor your transactions closely. Also, through mobile notification, the bank will alert you of the unsuccessful login attempts to your mobile banking account which helps you to stay vigilant. So if you haven't subscribed to mobile banking notification already, do it now.

Criminals are increasingly turning into mobile fraud as traditional channels have become more protected. In the world of mobile transactions, criminals are constantly preying on customers and banks to exploit vulnerabilities, hence fighting mobile fraud requires speed and flexibility from both banks and customers.

*Written by Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA  
Seasoned Banker  
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BANKING&amp;FINANCE

# SBL joins govt in fighting deforestation and climate change

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is already making significant progress toward fulfilling its international climate change commitment, which it made last year at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.

The country is at the forefront of championing the global agenda of combating climate change and its effects on the country.

The government is making strides to secure funding in critical sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and forestry in order to end deforestation by 2030.

And, in the race to protect the country from its devastating effects, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) has become more attuned for many years to supporting the initiative.

Through its mother company, Diageo, SBL is implementing a 10-year roadmap to limit and completely eradicate greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2030 to combat climate change and revitalize a safe green future for the next generations in Tanzania.

Moreover, to combat climate change, SBL has strengthened its effort to halt deforestation by planting more trees in the country.

Recently, SBL planted thousands of trees in Dodoma to protect the region against a semi-arid climate with warm to hot temperatures throughout the year, and in line with the President's remarks, Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan recently echoed to all the residents and stakeholders to make Dodoma, the government's capital, evergreen.



**Serengeti Breweries Limited managing director Mark Ocitti waters a tree planted at the Miremba National Mental Health Hospital in Dodoma. Looking on (right, in cap and jacket) is Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde. The event was organised by Habari Development Association, a Dodoma-based NGO, in partnership with SBL, in an effort to make Dodoma green and curb aridity. PHOTO/COURTESY**

For the second year in a row, the company began planting trees in Kongwa district in 2021, and this month they prepared for Miremba National Mental Health Hospital,

where thousands of trees were planted in collaboration with government leaders, military, prison officials, and residents to combat aridity.

The SBL Managing Director Mark Ocitti was quoted as saying, "SBL and our parent company, Diageo, view environmental protection as a critical component of the suc-

cess of our manufacturing process'.

"Therefore, our tree planting in Dodoma is part of these efforts, which strive to plant millions of trees throughout the country," Ocitti added, "We have done similar initiatives in 2019 where we planted thousands of trees in the Same and Moshi districts to contribute to the effort to increase vegetation cover around Mount Kilimanjaro."

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Anthony Mavunde (MP) thanked SBL for its support, noting that trees and plants have a special relationship with people and that human society cannot thrive without them.

"As we kick-start our campaign with SBL, let us today denounce indiscriminate deforestation as the primary cause of climate change, which has presented humanity with the most severe environmental challenges to date, including adverse effects on food production, water availability, wildlife, and human health," he said.

"Let us all be inspired by the idea of planting trees

wherever and whenever we can, not just in Dodoma. I also encourage other organizations to launch more environmental initiatives," he said.

Additionally, Human Development Association, General Secretary Bernard James rallied behind SBL's environmental conservation initiative while landing his organization's commitment to preserve and spread tree planting spirit in the capital.

Tanzania is amongst the few countries affected by the adverse effects of climate change. In that regard, it has joined the noble course to combat adversity. The government has taken (and still is) legislated steps to make environmental conservation a top and priority across policy areas, such as in the National Environmental Policy (1997) and the Environmental Management Act (2004).

Striking a balance between environmental conservation and human development is a key to ensuring the life safety and fulfilling the people's social and economic sustainable needs.



# Africa-focused fintech rises \$2m to scale cross-border payments

ACCRA

THE remittance inflows to sub-Saharan Africa over the past decade have been on an upward trajectory since 2020; last year, it increased by more than 6% to \$45 billion.

However, the steady rise of remittance inflows to the region hasn't made this activity cheaper. According to the World Bank, sub-Saharan Africa remains the most expensive region to send and receive money; sending \$200 costs an average of 8% in fees compared to a global average of about 6%.

Analysts from the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide say a factor that affects these rates is transparency among remittance providers.

According to the initiative, a lack of transparency around rates and fees reduces competition as consumers continue to use incumbents because "they are not aware of and cannot compare services, fees, and speed of their existing remittance service against other products."

"One way to solve this would be to make an aggregator of cross-border and remittance platforms. Zazuu, a U.K.-based and Africa-focused fintech that does precisely this by offering

customers various remittance options, is announcing that it has raised \$2 million in a new venture round.

Financial systems in the U.S. and the U.K. do not favour migrants, particularly African ones. For many, performing certain financial activities like building one's credit history or sending money back home can be difficult.

With a migrant base of 800,000 people (most of whom are based in the U.S. and the U.K.) sending money home yearly, Nigeria is sub-Saharan Africa's largest recipient of remittance inflows at over \$17 billion.

Zazuu founders have Nigerian heritage; thus, they could relate very well

to this problem. In an interview with TechCrunch, Zazuu CEO Kay Akinwunmi said he and his co-founders started the company in 2018 after experiencing such institutional biases as Africans living in the diaspora.

"We've experienced this. Seeing my mom send money and the friction there is pretty much the story of millions of Africans and migrants sending money," said the founder who launched the company with Korede Fanilola, Tola Alade and Tosin Ekolie. "Africans in the diaspora, whether you're sending money to another side of the world or trying to get a loan here in the U.K., are at a disadvantage."

Also, the remittance space has become fragmented. There's been an increase in remittance products over the past couple of years, with the entrance of digital upstarts such as NALA, Lemonade Finance and Chipper Cash joining the likes of WorldRemit, Remitly and Western Union, legacy platforms Africans primarily used to carry out remittance activities.

To help users search these various money transfer options in their region and compare rates and fees, Zazuu initially launched as a chatbot in 2020, informing users of the daily remittance rates of various platforms via Facebook and Telegram groups.

"We looked at the typical African customer to understand their behaviour, and we noticed a fascinating trend," Akinwunmi said. "We realised that Africans have this pathological behaviour, which is, we love to shop around, to compare our choices and try different options before we finally make a decision."

According to the CEO, the initial product helped dispel customers' preconceived notions about which service had the best rates as they got introduced to new providers. "Ial wellbeing for African immigrants across the world," said the chief executive.

# Liquid Cloud edges the cloud-based solutions for businesses

By Guardian Reporter

IT wasn't even 10 years ago that cloud technology felt like a slice of fringe tech that many businesses saw as unnecessary in the face of their own sprawling on-prem IT infrastructure.

Today, cloud is a booming industry in which organisations continue to push the boundaries of what is possible and provide new and improved solutions for critical problems - and the best part is - it is available to everyone no matter how big or how small.

Year after year, we have witnessed cloud leveling the playing field, unlocking access to resources and technologies previously reserved only for those who could afford to buy, own and manage it.

With the proliferation of global cloud service providers like Microsoft Azure, the utility of cloud has become endless, however, there are cloud adoption challenges that many African businesses face beyond the financial.

These can include technical concerns such as latency and access to international bandwidth and a wave of new regulations calling for sensitive data to remain within the borders. This is driving a divide between countries that have access to Hyper-Scale Public cloud providers in their country and those that don't.

David Brooks (pictured), Senior Specialist, Product Management at Liquid Cloud and Cyber Security reveals how African cloud challenges are being overcome at a local level.

He notes that the allure of cloud technology like Microsoft Azure is that it can become a tech equaliser between startups and large organisations. Resources can be accessed in real-time by the hour, making development and testing more



efficient and reducing the need for large capital-intensive hardware expenditure.

The premise of cloud is that everything you need is stored on a server, preferably in your region of operation. In Africa, this is seldom the case as data centres are few and far between.

Microsoft has set up two ma-

major data centres where it houses local servers in Johannesburg, South Africa. Four years ago, the entire continent was utilising servers in Western Europe. That meant all of Africa was subject to high latency.

While this is not particularly damaging, the pace of technological evolution is demanding

much faster turnaround times when it comes to computational power. It has now become critical for many businesses and industries that rely on real-time applications or live streaming, including banking, diagnostic imaging, navigation, stock trading, weather forecasting, collaboration, research, ticket sales, video

broadcasting, online gaming, and more. This list continues to grow.

Local servers provide lower latency, but they can also help businesses comply with evermore popular data privacy regulations being enforced in numerous African states - some more stringent than others. In most cases, there is an element of Data Sovereignty or the requirement to "keep data within the borders". This poses unique challenges to organisations looking to adopt Cloud technologies while not having a Hyper-Scale cloud provider like Azure in their country.

Solving for local data needs

Brooks says Azure stack offers the perfect solution to this problem by filling the gap and bringing resources closer to end-users. Simply put, it provides the ability to bring Azure Cloud resources to a server hosted at an organization's offices or in a local data centre.

Yet, the setting up and running of one's own server defies the point of cloud as this is exactly what most businesses were trying to avoid in the first place. Luckily, companies like Liquid teamed up with Microsoft Azure to establish what we call Liquid Azure regions.

# AfDB promises: We'll empower SMEs owned by women, youths

By Francis Kajubi

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has pledged to work closely with both the government and the private sector in empowering small and medium enterprises particularly those owned by youths and women.

The pledge was declared by Dr. Patricia Laverley, Tanzania AfDB Country Representative at a special engagement meeting with the CEO Roundtable (CEOrt) held on Tuesday evening in Dar es Salaam.

At the meeting that brought the two parties with the intention of discussing post-Covid-19 wayward strategies, Dr Laverley said that youth and women empowerment is one of the bank's priorities in its plans towards enabling African countries to realize the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

"Following the unprecedented challenges posed by Covid-19 and ongoing global conflicts, countries have experienced adverse impacts on socio-economic growth, and are now building back better and on the path to economic recovery," she said.

She asserted that different institutions are needed in place to play key roles in aiding these recovery efforts, and are committed to supporting the government in the achievement of development goals.

"The AfDB has been pivotal in helping the continent overcome various economic challenges, providing access to finance, addressing priority areas and, in a region known for its predominantly youthful population, leading initiatives that make a difference in the lives of young people," she said.

Helping to drive the bank's transformation agenda for Tanzania, Dr. Laverley said the bank spearheads efforts to achieve its 'High 5s' in Tanzania, a strategic vision of the AfDB's 5 priority areas that are intended to support African countries' achievement of the SDGs.

She further noted the high 5s are to light up and power Africa; feed Africa, industrialize Africa, integrate Africa, and improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.

In this case, she asserted, the overarching objective of the AfDB aligns with the CEOrt purpose of aiming to spur sustainable economic development and social progress.

This meeting is part of the organization's monthly engagements to facilitate dialogue on issues critical to Tanzania's sustainable development.

The CEO Roundtable Chairman David Tarimo said that it was important to learn from Dr. Laverley's vast insights, and explore how the private sector can support the country's efforts to foster accelerated growth and development that is sustainable in the long run.

"As part of the organization's purpose to propel growth and prosperity, the CEOrt is pleased to welcome Dr. Patricia to deliver the bank's pledge on the topic 'Driving Africa's Economic Recovery'."

The CEOrt considers AfDB as a key partner towards achieving the SDGs through empowerment of different social-economic groups' women and youth in particular," said Tarimo.

BANKING & FINANCE

# Alliance One pays 86bn/- to farmers this year alone

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO'S Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Limited (AOTTL) has paid a total of 86bn/- to tobacco growers contracted to them in various regions across the country. The Managing Director of the company, Ephraim Mapoore, disclosed this yesterday when Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Martin Shigella toured the factory to launch the crop processing season.

The official said the 86bn/- was spent in purchasing of 22million kilograms of tobacco for this year crop season.

He said the monies were paid to 11,000 growers who are from more than 150 primary societies spread over five tobacco regions in the Mainland.

"We have paid a total of 86bn/- to 11,000 tobacco growers from across the country, as a company we are more than committed to seeing to it that we transform the lives of our farmers and their families," he said.

According to Mapoore for the past five years the company has been using 26.5bn/- on salaries and personal cost every year, 11.6bn/- as employment taxes every year, adding that the company has been contributing 1.718bn to pension funds yearly.

The MD said as part of corporate social responsibility the company has been actively involved in education, health and environment projects as well as contributing towards Uhuru Torch rallies in all the 15 districts in which they have their presence.

"It is also good to note that for two consecutive years National Social Fund (NSSF) has awarded our company as the best employer from the agricultural sector," he elaborated adding that the company has 350 permanent workers and 3000 seasonal workers.

Outlining the challenges of the company its daily operations, he cried foul for the unreliable power supply at the factory no water connection from Moruwasa. He said they currently depend on their own water wells and dam.

He also said AOTTL needs a dedicated power line as the company uses 600 liters of diesel as 31percent of power is from generator, he said due to lack of dedicated power line to the company electricity supply (Tanesco) is losing significant revenue.

On his account the RC who is relatively new in the region congratulated the company which started operating in



The Managing Director of Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Ltd, Ephraim Mapoore, elaborates a point to Morogoro RC Marthin Shigella (R) when he toured the Morogoro based to launch the crop processing season for this year PHOTO/Guardian Correspondent

1998 with well over 30 years, congratulated the company for being in the forefront in creating direct and indirect job opportunities to people within the region.

He said the tour to AOTTL is implementation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan instructions that all government leaders including RCs and DCs should be paying visits to investors and solve their problems.

"We will settle these two problems immediately, of power and water and by seeing to it that we agree with Moruwasa and Tanesco on payment cost and terms," he noted.

As for the pending tax disputes with TRA, he promised to communicate with the tax collecting body (TRA) advise them how best to reach an amicable conclusion in line with the President's directive recently in Kagera

Region, where She we ought to open a new page by scrapping old and controversial taxes.

"We need to support these factories which are key in ensuring that we increase the capacity of processing the crop from the current capacity of 70,000 million Kilograms to well over 150,000 million Kilograms in line with the mission and vision of the six phase government," he said.



## WORLD

## WHO: COVID-19 pandemic 'nowhere near over'

GENEVA

THE ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is "nowhere near over" as the number of new cases worldwide has risen by 30 percent in the last two weeks, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday.

"I am concerned that cases of COVID-19 continue to rise – putting further pressure on stretched health systems and health workers. I am also concerned about the increasing trend of deaths," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told journalists here on Tuesday.

According to Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO Health Emergencies Program, the recent increase in the number of newly re-

ported COVID-19 cases has been largely driven by Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5, and by the lifting of public health and social measures. Recent changes in testing policies have also been hindering the detection of new cases and the monitoring of the evolution of the virus, he said.

Last Friday, the WHO's Emergency Committee concluded that the virus remains a public health emergency of international concern and warned of several interlinked challenges.

For instance, though Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 continue to drive the new waves of infections, hospital admissions and deaths around the world, surveillance – including testing and sequencing – has dropped significantly, making it increasingly difficult to assess the im-



World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks at a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on March 11, 2020. File photo

port of variants on transmission and the effectiveness of countermeasures.

"New waves of the virus demonstrate again that COVID-19 is nowhere near over," and "the virus is running freely and countries are not effectively managing the disease burden based on their capacity,"

Tedros said.

He urged governments to deploy tried and tested measures like masking, improved ventilation and test and treat protocols, while regularly reviewing and adjusting COVID-19 response plans based on the current epidemiology and also the potential for new variants to appear.

## Biden en route to Israel for high-stakes Middle East visit

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE



US President Joe Biden arrived in Israel yesterday to kick off a high-stakes trip to the Middle East dominated by efforts to persuade Gulf allies to pump more oil and bring Israel and Saudi Arabia closer together.

Biden (pictured) will spend two days in Jerusalem for talks with Israeli leaders before meeting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday in the West Bank.

Afterward, he will take a direct flight from Israel to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia – a first for an American president – on Friday for talks with Saudi officials and to attend a summit of Gulf allies.

US officials say the trip – Biden's first to the Middle East as president – could produce more steps toward normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia, historic foes but also two of America's strongest allies in the turbulent region.

"We're making steps gradually toward that end," said an Israeli official. "The fact that President Biden visits Israel, and from here will fly directly to Saudi Arabia encapsulates a lot of the dynamics that have been evolving over the last months."

Biden's trip aims to promote regional stability, deepen Israel's integration in the region.

"This trip will reinforce a vital American role in a strategically consequential region," US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Monday.

Biden, under pressure at home to bring down soaring gasoline prices that have damaged his standing in public opinion polls, is expected to press Gulf allies to expand oil production to help bring down gasoline prices.

## Pressure over Saudi visit

A centerpiece of Biden's visit will be talks in Jeddah with Saudi leaders including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, accused by the US intelligence community of being behind the 2018 murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The meeting is a reversal of Biden's previous position of making Saudi Arabia a "pariah" for the Khashoggi death. How the White House handles the optics of the meeting and whether photos will be released of it will be closely watched.

Aides say he will bring up human rights concerns while in Saudi Arabia, but he has nonetheless drawn fire from a wide array of critics.

"Biden needs the Saudis to increase their oil production to help keep global energy prices in check," wrote Washington Post publisher Fred Ryan in an opinion piece on Tuesday. "The trip sends the message that the United States is willing to look the other way when its commercial interests are at stake."

Biden will make brief remarks on Wednesday at an arrival ceremony in Israel and he will receive a briefing from Israeli defense officials on the US-supported Iron Dome defense system and a new laser-enabled system called Iron Beam.

He will pay his respects at Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to Holocaust victims in World War Two.

Israel has been jolted by internal political strife with previous prime minister Naftali Bennett's coalition collapsing in June.

This has left Yair Lapid as caretaker prime minister until new elections are held later this year, and Biden will meet with him. The pair will hold a joint news conference on Thursday.

Biden will also meet past prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, now the opposition leader.

## Outreach to Palestinians

Biden's talks with Abbas will mark the highest level of face-to-face contact between the US and the Palestinians since then-president Donald Trump took a tough approach to the Palestinians upon taking office in 2017.

Tensions are high between Israel and the Palestinians over the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in May. Her family, having accused the US of providing impunity for Israel over her killing, has asked to meet Biden during his trip to the region this week.

The Palestinians, while appreciating the resumption of ties under Biden, want him to make good on pledges to reopen the US consulate in Jerusalem.

They also want the US to remove the Palestine Liberation Organization from the US list of terrorist organizations, preserve the historic status quo in Jerusalem and curb Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank.

Israeli officials said Biden's visit will include what they called the Jerusalem Declaration on the US-Israel Strategic Partnership.

Agencies

## Chinese envoy identifies 4 areas to promote UN peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS

A Chinese envoy on Tuesday identified four areas where efforts are needed to promote strategic communications in UN peacekeeping.

Strategic communications can help the world know more about peacekeeping, and help peacekeeping better serve the world. The UN secretary-general's Action for Peacekeeping initiative includes strategic communications in the toolbox, which is an important measure to enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers and improve the performance of peacekeeping operations, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations.

China believes that to enhance strategic communications, there is a need to work on four areas, he told a Security Council open debate on the key role of strategic communications for efficient peacekeeping.

First, creating stronger partnerships.

The United Nations should enhance communications with the host country, troop- and police-contributing countries, and regional organizations, so as to share information, align goals, and coordinate activities. Of all the stakeholders, the host country is the most important one. The United Nations should continue to improve communications with host countries, heed their opinions, address their concerns, and seek their support. The Security

Council should create the mandate of a peacekeeping mission in a reasonable manner based on the needs of the host country. Missions should also improve their communications with local communities to gain public understanding and support.

Second, better protecting the safety and security of peacekeepers.

Peacekeepers are faced with more and more serious safety and security challenges. There is a need to enhance security information exchanges between missions and host governments and improve the situational awareness and risk prevention capacities of missions. In areas where many forces conduct operations, the host governments could consider creating an information-sharing mechanism to avoid misunderstanding or misjudgment.

As the second-largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget and a major troop contributor, China has always been committed to peace through concrete actions

Third, facilitating effective mandate implementation for peacekeeping operations.

Restoring peace in the host country is the primary responsibility of a peacekeeping operation. A mission should, based on thorough communications with the parties concerned and relevant regional organizations, promote the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and communication. Military means alone cannot fulfill the mandate to protect civilians. Missions should im-



Members of China's 5th peacekeeping infantry battalion to South Sudan take a military exercise in South Sudan, on Jan 4, 2019. File photo

prove communications with local communities so as to be able to detect and address security risks as soon as possible to effectively prevent conflicts and better protect civilians.

Fourth, improving strategic communications capacity-building.

The UN Secretariat will soon update the strategic communications public information policy. China hopes that the Secretariat will take this opportunity to integrate strategic communications into all components and units of peacekeeping operations, and in the process, keep close communications with stakeholders.

The Secretariat should include strategic communications in the training for peacekeepers to help

them get a deeper understanding of local cultures and the situations of the host countries so as to more closely facilitate the implementation of the priority national policies of these countries.

As the second-largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget and a major troop contributor, China has always been committed to peace through concrete actions. China has included strategic communications in its training system and has provided peacekeepers from dozens of troop-contributing countries with targeted training. China will continue to work with peace-loving nations to contribute to the maintenance of world peace and security, said Zhang.

Xinhua

## Poland nervous about leak of plans of dismembering Ukraine – Russian intelligence chief

MOSCOW

POLAND is seeking to conceal its expansion to Western Ukraine and is taking nervously the leak of its plans of dismembering Ukraine, director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service Sergey Naryshkin said on Tuesday.

"Information coming to the Service indicates a nervous reaction of Poland's leadership to the fact that its plans of dismembering Ukraine have come in the public eye," the Service's press bureau quoted him as saying.

In his words, Warsaw obviously hoped that amid the tough geopolitical standoff neither

Kiev nor Washington no Moscow would notice its preparations for seizing Ukrainian territories. "Poland hoped that when the conflict in Ukraine reaches a phase of diplomatic settlement, the sides will have to recognize 'Poland's expansion' as an accomplished fact. Now, following the leak of sensible information the Polish leadership has to quiet concerns of its NATO and EU 'friends,'" Naryshkin said.

Now, Warsaw hopes to correct the situation by means of wide propaganda. Think tanks and the mass media controlled by the govern-

ment have been instructed to stage a media campaign to disguise Poland's actions toward strengthening its positions in Ukraine and refute "rumors." According to the information of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, it is planned to focus on creating an image of "collective participation" of all Ukraine's neighbors in Kiev's affairs. For these ends, Warsaw plans to cooperate more closely on the Ukrainian problem with Hungary and Romania to hide behind them in order to implement its plans.

"Warsaw seems not to see that its 'secret'

ambitions and complexes have been a source of taunting and irritation for its 'patrons' for years.

By the way, the unclassified documents of the Foreign Intelligence Service have an articulate characteristic given by British Foreign Secretary John Simon back in 1935, who said that the Polish government's childish policy of prestige was hindering peacebuilding in Europe and suited neither its political, nor financial, nor military position," the press bureau added.

Agencies

## Community with shared future for mankind unveils secret to sustainable development

THE National Museum of Archeology, Anthropology and History of Peru is the largest and oldest museum in Peru. Boasting a history of 200 years, it houses more than 100,000 precious artifacts that mirror the entire history of the country.

On November 21, 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan joined the closing ceremony of China-Latin America Cultural Exchange Year hosted at the museum and visited the exhibition "Long Distance Separates No Bosom Friends - Treasures of China" when he was attending the 24th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru. They were accompanied by then President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru and his wife Nancy Lange.

For Ivan Ghezzi Solis, then director of the museum, President Xi's visit to the museum is still fresh in his memory to-

day.

"It was early summer in the southern hemisphere. The bright yellow walls of the museum were glaring under the sun. The Chinese folk song 'Song of Yimeng Mountain' and the Peruvian folk song 'El Cóndor Pasa' reverberated there," Solis recalled.

The job of Solis entailed reception of foreign dignitaries. "President Xi was quite different. He was great but amiable, which made me realize that I was receiving a leader who would have an impact on the course of human history," Solis told People's Daily.

"In front of a set of comparison images, President Xi introduced to President Kuczynski the origin of the character

"mu" on oracle bone script," Solis said.

According to him, jade wares in the Neolithic Age, Tang Dynasty (618-907) three-color glazed potteries, and porcelain mirroring the close bond between the East and the West established through the ancient Silk Road were displayed at the exhibition.

"Pointing to a Terracotta Warrior, President Xi told President Kuczynski that it was from Shaanxi, the cradle of the Chinese civilization and also his hometown. Pride was all on his face," Solis said.

The Terracotta Warrior from China was the most glorious exhibit at the exhibition, Solis told People's Daily.

"Terracotta Warriors are a world heritage, and I've read materials about them.

President Xi introduced to us some special details. He said each of the Terracotta Warriors is unique though they were made in moulds. He has well studied Chinese history," Solis noted.

"President Xi said it calls for both economic development and cultural prosperity to realize our great dreams. What he said triggered my reflections and made me see that I was facing a man who was not only a politician, but also a leader with profound understanding of Chinese history and world civilization," Solis said.

Solis believes that the value put on history and culture by a national leader will unquestionably improve the cultural cohesion of the country he leads and lay

a solid foundation for the country's solidarity and prosperity.

China has a splendid civilization, and Peru is also proud of its Inca culture. On the same day when President Xi visited the museum, he delivered an important speech titled Sailing Forward to Build a Bright Future of China-Latin America Relations at the Peruvian Congress. "When speaking of Peruvian civilization and history, President Xi had accurate points and data basis, which made it hard for me to believe that the speech was delivered by a foreign leader," Solis said.

In the speech, President Xi stressed equality, mutual benefit and common development, which have all helped

China and Latin America deepen their cultural exchanges, Solis added.

The National Museum of Archeology, Anthropology and History of Peru is in cooperation with many Chinese museums. Together, they have presented a number of exhibitions to the people in both countries.

Solis told People's Daily that he agrees with President Xi's view that museums should not be made monotonous.

"Diversity is a basic feature of the world and what makes human civilization beautiful. To recognize cultural diversity envisions us a brighter future, and mutual learning between civilizations drives human progress. From this point of view, President Xi's vision to build a community with a shared future for mankind exactly unveils the secret to sustainable development," Solis explained.

People's Daily



## Formation of volunteer unit to take part in special operation inspires respect – Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin respects the formation of a volunteer unit in Russia's Far Eastern Maritime Territory for the participation in the special military operation in Ukraine, Russian presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

"Naturally, we are respectful and very positive," he said in reply to journalists' questions.

"This initiative deserves the highest esteem," he said, adding that it is "exclusively a voluntary initiative."

Touching on the region governor

Oleg Kozhemyako's participation in training volunteers, Peskov said he hopes that he won't neglect his region. "The region is very big and very important," he noted.

The press service of the Maritime government said earlier that a Tiger volunteer unit was being formed on the basis of a naval infantry brigade to take part in the special operation in Ukraine.

On Saturday, the region's governor, Oleg Kozhemyako, visited the Gornostai firing range, where volunteers drilled shooting skills, and joined them in the drills.

## Zimbabwe enlists AfDB help to clear external debt arrears

HARARE

THE Zimbabwean government has enlisted African Development Bank (AfDB) president Akinwumi Adesina to help the southern African nation clear its long-standing, huge external debt arrears amounting to 13.5 billion U.S. dollars.

Adesina arrived in Zimbabwe on Monday to kick start his engagement process with Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa and other senior government officials including Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube.

Apart from meeting Mnangagwa and Ncube on Tuesday, the top AfDB official also met several African and G7 ambassadors and representatives of international financial institutions accredited to Zimbabwe.

Adesina accepted a request in February by the Zimbabwean government to serve as the country's arrears clearance and debt resolution champion among international financial institutions and bilateral creditors.

According to the AfDB, discussions between Adesina and Zimbabwean officials were expected to center on potential areas of technical assistance that the AfDB will provide to the Zimbabwean government.

Speaking at a joint press conference after meeting Mnangagwa, Adesina said he gladly accepted the role because of his firm belief in Zimbabwe's economic potential.

"I came here to listen, to understand and appreciate what needs to be done to get where we need to. I will not work alone but will work closely with President Mnangagwa, Finance Minister Ncube, development partners, multi-lateral partners and the international community. I am very optimistic that working together we will be able to get there," Adesina said.

Zimbabwe has tried unsuccessfully in the past to clear its huge external debt arrears through various strategies, with the last debt arrears clearance plan, dubbed the Lima plan agreed with global lenders in Peru in 2015, going off the rails.

The Zimbabwean government has

since drawn up a new arrears clearance strategy that it hopes will succeed with the help of the AfDB president.

In 2015 and under the Lima plan, Zimbabwe cleared its 15-year debt arrears to the International Monetary Fund amounting to 108 million U.S. dollars, but this has not moved the IMF to release new loans to Zimbabwe, arguing it has to clear arrears with other international financial institutions and bilateral creditors and also implements a strong reform agenda.

Zimbabwe also owes the World Bank, AfDB, European Investment Bank, Paris Club and other bilateral donors billions of U.S. dollars.

peaking at the same press conference, Zimbabwean Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said Zimbabwe needed to clear its debt arrears in order to achieve its goal of becoming an upper-middle-income economy by 2030. "What we have done so far is to begin token payments to the AfDB, the World Bank, EIB and all 17 Paris Club members.

But what needs to be done is to implement the full roadmap for arrears clearance and for this to work well we need a champion and I am pleased to say that (Dr) Adesina has agreed to be the champion to cajole all partners around the world for us to be able to implement our arrears clearance strategy," Ncube said.

Adesina said Zimbabwe deserved to be supported to clear its debt arrears because it had suffered economic hardships for a very long time and had continued to be a reliable and committed shareholder of the AfDB and also making token payments towards servicing its external debt.

"It's time to reintegrate and re-dynamize Zimbabwe not only into the international financial institutions but also to open space for it to play its critical role within the South African Development Community (SADC) region," Adesina said.

Adesina was optimistic that Zimbabwe's arrears clearance and debt resolution strategy will succeed despite Western sanctions on the country.

Xinhua

## Kenya, UNICEF deploy therapeutic food to avert childhood malnutrition

NAIROBI

KENYA'S Ministry of Health and the UN children's fund (UNICEF) on Tuesday commenced deployment of ready-to-use therapeutic food to four drought-stricken counties to help avert severe malnutrition among children.

The consignment of highly nutritious food commodities valued at 30 million shillings (253,915 U.S. dollars) is part of joint efforts to mitigate the adverse impact of the current drought cycle on children's health and nutritional security, UNICEF said in a joint statement issued in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Among the semi-arid counties to benefit from the supply of ready-to-use therapeutic food to prevent childhood malnutrition includes Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, and Isiolo, located in northern Kenya and grappling with an acute dry spell.

Through UNICEF funding, the ministry of health has been able to procure, warehouse and provide last-mile delivery of highly nutritious and ready-to-use food items such as milk to 25 counties grappling with childhood malnutrition.

Terry Ramadhani, the CEO of Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA), said the provision of life-saving therapeutic foods sourced from local manufacturers will help reverse stunting among children in the current drought cycle. Ramadhani

added that Kenya has leveraged partnership with multilateral institutions to boost nutritional support for children in 23 arid and semi-arid counties currently affected by drought.

She disclosed that since 2015, the medical supplies agency has distributed UNICEF-supported food commodities to over 2,200 health facilities in arid lands, realizing zero childhood deaths due to malnutrition.

According to Ramadhani, the last distribution cycle of therapeutic foods recorded a more than 75 percent cure rate for previously malnourished children in arid and semi-arid counties.

Kenya's acute malnutrition rate has also reduced from 26 percent in 2016 to the current 20.1 percent in the semi-arid counties due to the availability of life-saving food items, Ramadhani said.

Statistics from National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) indicate that as of June, 4.1 million Kenyans were in dire need of food assistance amid escalating drought occasioned by four consecutive failed rainy seasons. In addition, 942,000 children aged 9 to 59 months were acutely malnourished in the drought-affected counties, while 134,000 pregnant and lactating women in the drought hotspots were severely malnourished and requiring treatment, according to NDMA.

## Eight candidates make cut in race to succeed UK PM Johnson

LONDON

EIGHT Conservatives will fight it out to succeed Boris Johnson as party leader and British prime minister after winning enough nominations from their colleagues to go through to the first round of voting on Wednesday.

Only two hopefuls failed to secure the 20 necessary nominations, leaving a wide field of candidates seeking to win the backing of the party with promises of tax cuts, honesty and serious government - a contrast to Johnson who was forced to announce he would resign after a series of scandals.

Former finance minister Rishi Sunak is the bookmakers' favorite, and among those he will be taking on are his successor Nadhim Zahawi and foreign minister Liz Truss in what is becoming an increasingly bitter and divisive contest.

The next British leader faces a daunting in-tray while support for the Conservatives is also falling, polls show.

Britain's economy is facing rocketing inflation, high debt, and low growth as people grapple with the tightest squeeze on their finances in decades. All of this is set against a backdrop of an energy crunch exacerbated by the war in Ukraine which has sent fuel prices soaring.

As the contest intensifies, rival campaigns stepped up private criticism of each other and pointed to either financial or other questions hanging over their opponents.

Sunak kicked off his campaign by portraying himself as the serious candidate, promising "grown-up" honesty "not fairy tales", seeking to contrast himself with the extensive tax cuts pledged by most



British Conservative Party Member of Parliament Rishi Sunak launches his campaign for the Conservative Party leadership, in London on Tuesday. AP PHOTO

of the other candidates.

"It is not credible to promise lots more spending and lower taxes," Sunak said, saying tax cuts could only come after soaring inflation was tackled.

As finance minister, Sunak set Britain on course to have its biggest tax burden since the 1950s after he oversaw a huge rise in government spending during the coronavirus pandemic, and most of the other hopefuls have turned their fire on him by saying they would oversee cuts immediately.

'Dirty tricks'

Sunak has the widest support among colleagues who have publicly expressed their view.

Penny Mordaunt, a junior trade minister who is also heavily tipped,

topped a poll of Conservative party members and she too has tried to strike a more measured tone on tax, saying that now is not the time to cut government spending.

"The others will obviously try to secure votes, they will try to put up flares for particular caucuses," she told LBC radio. "This is not the time to be making radical tax policies and promises."

Attorney General Suella Braverman; the former health and foreign minister Jeremy Hunt; Tom Tugendhat, chair of parliament's foreign affairs committee; and Kemi Badenoch, a former junior minister who is scooping up support on the right wing of the party, are the other candidates to enter the first round of the contest.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps earlier became the first candidate to end his bid, throwing his support behind Sunak, while Home Secretary (interior minister) Priti Patel announced she would not be standing.

Foreign Secretary Truss received the backing of two ministers closest to Johnson - Nadine Dorries and Jacob Rees-Mogg - who have both been critical of Sunak.

Dorries accused Sunak of using "dirty tricks" to manipulate the leadership contest, with votes being loaned to Hunt's campaign because they view him as easier to beat.

Sunak's team did not respond to a request for comment.

The 1922 Committee of Conservative members of parliament which is organizing the contest says the field will soon be whittled down with repeated votes in the next few weeks, with the final two then selected by the fewer than 200,000 party members by July 21.

The winner, and Britain's new prime minister, will be announced on Sept 5.

Meanwhile, the opposition Labor Party said the government was "running scared" after it blocked an attempt to call a confidence vote in Johnson on Wednesday to force him from office immediately.

The government said Labor was trying to "play politics" and it would allow Labor to call a confidence vote if the wording of the motion was changed to remove reference to Johnson.

## Hong Kong Palace Museum opens to public

THE Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM) opened to the public on July 3 to mark the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

The museum was welcomed by Hong Kong citizens with high expectations. More than 40,000 tickets were reserved within eight hours on the first day of the public sale.

"When I was a child, I very much wanted to see the grand palaces in Beijing," said Muk Ka-chun, a teacher from Pui Kiu Middle School. Eager to see the cultural relics collected by the Palace Museum, he said he would take his students to the museum as soon as possible.

The HKPM is the first collaborative project launched by the Palace Museum outside the Chinese mainland. It was an outcome of the cooperation between the Palace Museum and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKDA).

Outlined in China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the HKPM represents a creative combination between traditional Chinese culture represented by the Palace Museum, and Hong Kong's modernity and internationalization. It is a milestone of mainland-Hong Kong cultural cooperation that will further promote exchanges, enhance mutual learning and tighten the people-to-people bond.

The sophisticated and elegant golden structure in the shape of an ancient square tripod, which sits by the sea in Tsim Sha Tsui, is expected to become a new cultural landmark with world-class influence.

The seven-storey museum occupies some 13,000 square meters and houses nine galleries. Its design was inspired by the collections and architectural styles seen in Beijing's Palace Museum, illustrating its cultural features in a way that combines Chinese and Western culture with both the ancient and the modern.

The construction has won 19 awards for its outstanding performance in engineering, safety, and environmental protection, demonstrating a high level of China's construction competence.

On July 2, a total of 914 cultural relics from the collection of the Palace Museum in Beijing were displayed at seven galleries of the HKPM. Most of them were exhibited in the special administrative region for the first time and 166 were first-class cultural



Photo shows the Hong Kong Palace Museum. File photo

relics recognized as national treasures. It was the largest and highest-level cultural relic exhibition of the Palace Museum outside of the mainland since its establishment in 1925.

Respectively presented in seven galleries, thematic exhibitions cover paintings and calligraphy works from Jin (265-420), Tang (618-907), Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1271-1368) Dynasties, collections of the Forbidden City, emperor and empress portraits of Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and traditional crafts. Besides, 13 precious art objects from the Louvre in Paris were also exhibited in Gallery 9 themed horse culture, in order to highlight the mutual learning between China and other civilizations.

At a thematic exhibition on ceramics staged in Gallery 3, 160 highlights from the 360,000 ceramic works collected by the Palace Museum were dis-

played. It was the first time the Beijing museum has displayed such a sizable exhibition of its ceramic collections in Hong Kong.

The exhibits were fabricated from the Longshan culture (about 3000 to 1900 BC), a late Neolithic civilization to the reign of Emperor Guangxu (1875-1908) in the Qing Dynasty, including the five famous porcelains during the Song Dynasty, as well as ceramics in the imperial kiln of Jingdezhen, east China's Jiangxi province in the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing Dynasties.

A masterpiece of the Qiantang River tidal bore drawn by artist Li Song in the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279) is expected to be exhibited at the HKPM soon. The painting was collected by the Palace Museum with help from Hong Kong in the 1950s. Hong Kong has made remarkable contributions to the protection of Chinese cultural

relics lost overseas, and many paintings and calligraphy works that are considered national treasures were returned to the motherland thanks to the efforts of Hong Kong patriots.

Li Qun, Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism and head of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, told People's Daily that the HKPM enables Hong Kong citizens to enjoy the beauty of cultural relics and experience the profound Chinese culture from a close distance, and will enhance the cultural confidence of the Hong Kong society.

"This is a gift from the motherland to Hong Kong," said Louis Ng Chi-wa, director of the HKPM. The museum both showcases traditional Chinese culture and enhances the sense of recognition of Hong Kong citizens, especially the younger generation, he noted.

The museum is a window for spreading Chinese culture overseas, and will help Hong Kong build itself into a center for cultural and art exchanges and contribute to Chinese-foreign cultural communication, he said.

People's Daily



## SPORT

## Simon Msuva rules out return to Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN midfielder Simon Msuva has said it is still too early for him to say whether he will return to his former outfit, Yanga, this season despite successfully winning the case against Wydad Athletic Club of Morocco.

Msuva is linked with a move back to Yanga, with the club's rival, Simba SC, also being linked with a move for the footballer in this transfer window, as the sides are shaping up for the next season's Premier League, Azam Sports Federation Cup, and CAF Champions League.

Msuva revealed he intends to return to Yanga in his football career but at the moment it is difficult to prove it, given he has plans to continue playing football outside Tanzania.

He said he loves and appreciates Yanga and recognizes the club's contribution to his life, but he does not think it is the right time for him to return to the club.



Simon Msuva

## LeBron critical on his show of US efforts to get Griner home

By DOUG FEINBERG

LeBRON James is publicly criticizing the United States' handling of WNBA All-Star Brittney Griner's case in a trailer for an upcoming episode of his television show: "The Shop: Uninterrupted."

Griner is on trial in Russia for drug possession. She pleaded guilty last week and will appear again in court on Thursday.

"Now, how can she feel like America has her back?" James said in the trailer. "I would be feeling like, 'Do I even want to go back to America?'"

James tweeted Tuesday night that his comments in the trailer weren't intended to be critical of the U.S. efforts to get Griner back.

"My comments on 'The Shop' regarding Brittney Griner wasn't knocking our beautiful country," he said. "I was simply saying how she's probably feeling emotionally along with so many other emotions, thoughts, etc inside that cage she's been in for over 100+ days! Long story short #BringHerHome"

It's unclear when the show was filmed, although in the trailer it is mentioned that Griner had been in Russia for more than 110 days, which would have been nearly five weeks ago as she was detained on Feb. 17.

During the weeks since day 110, in addition to the trial beginning and the guilty plea, Griner's wife Cherrille has had a phone conversation with President Joe Biden. Biden also received a letter from Brittney Griner on July 4 and sent a letter back to her, which she was given in court last week.

There is also no mention of other detained Americans in the trailer.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, speaking later Tuesday after his league's

The midfielder stated: "I do not want to disappoint Yanga's fans, one day I will return to serve them as it was the case in the past, at the moment I am very much thinking about playing outside Tanzania."

"I still want to play abroad, I still have the strength to play abroad," the footballer said.

Msuva stated: "I have met many Yanga leaders and they have strongly influenced me to join the outfit, Simba SC leaders have also been persuading me but the truth is that I plan to play abroad."

This week world soccer governing body, FIFA, instructed the 2021/2022 CAF Champions League's champion, Wydad Athletic Club, to pay Tanzanian midfielder Msuva more than the US \$ 700,000 (over 1.6bn/-).

FIFA issued the order to Wydad Athletic Club after completing a dispute that has been raging between the outfit and Msuva for more than six months.

However, Wydad Athletic Club was the first to file a lawsuit against Msuva, believing the player had an opportunity to respond to allegations that he terminated his contract with the outfit for no reason.

The Moroccan club though turned into the one that has been asked to pay the player his dues.

Msuva later filed a lawsuit against Wydad Athletic Club, demanding payment of his dues which he did not receive for a long time from the African football giants.

The midfielder signed a four-year contract with Wydad Athletic Club and was forced to terminate the contract in December 2021 due to salary arrears as well as signing fees.

Msuva served Yanga from 2012-2017 before moving to Morocco to join Difaâ El Jadida where he served from 2017-2020 and then to Wydad Athletic Club.

The midfielder played for Azam FC from 2010-2011 scoring 11 goals in 35 games and later moved to Moro United an outfit he played for from 2011-2012 scoring 15 goals in 37 games.

board of governors meeting in Las Vegas, reiterated that the NBA and WNBA are "doing everything in our power" to bring Griner home.

"I'm accepting that the administration is doing everything they can right now," Silver said. "There are some seriously complex geopolitical issues here. And I'm sure as invariably as they are more focused on Brittney, there are other families who are of course concerned about their loved ones who are being held against their will in Russia right now. ... There are very difficult issues that the Biden administration has to face in terms of what's appropriate."

Washington hasn't disclosed its strategy in the case and the U.S. may have little leverage with Moscow because of strong animosity over its actions in Ukraine. The State Department's designation of Griner being wrongfully detained moves her case under the supervision of its special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, effectively the government's chief hostage negotiator.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said Washington will continue to work for the release of Griner, as well as other Americans held by Moscow, including former Marine Paul Whelan.

"We will not relent until Brittney, Paul Whelan, and all other wrongfully detained Americans are reunited with their loved ones," he tweeted last week.

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Monday that former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson had been in contact with the National Security Council, but wouldn't comment on "his travel or what he intends to do" amid reports that Richardson plans to travel to Russia and work on Griner's release.

James' show will air on Friday.

## Caravans B side sails through to 2022 DC SiSi Cup 30 Overs Div B tournament final

By Guardian Reporter

YOUTHFUL all-rounder Johnson Nyambo showcased his batting prowess to guide Caravans B side to the 2022 DC SiSi Cup Division B 30 Overs tournament final with a comprehensive 76-run drubbing of K&P Constructions outfit in the semi-final held in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Caravans B side dominated the K&P Construction side in the tournament's semi-final clash which was played at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue, with six of the eventual winners' players putting meaningful displays with the bat.

Due to rain, the match's overs were reduced to 25 and the K&P Constructions side elected to field first once the squad had won the toss.

Caravans B squad went on to register 140 runs dropping eight wickets in the allotted 25 overs, with Nyambo's 40 runs (39) being the most notable performance at the crease.

The youthful player, deployed at top-order, was ruthless at the crease, blasting four fours in the impressive performance, ending 10 runs short of a half-century.

His solid game pushed to 106 runs after 20.3 overs, when he was dismissed by K&P Constructions squad's Venkateswararao Katru



Caravans B side's cricketer Karimu Athuman (L) is presented with the Man of the Match prize by an umpire upon completion of the 2022 DC SiSi Cup 30 Overs Division B competition's semi-final between the cricketer's club and K&P Constructions side that took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

delivery, leaving Caravans B side with seven wickets taken.

K&P Constructions side's Nassor Zahoro went for a catch to dismiss Nyambo from Katru's bowling, seeking to foil Caravans B side's batting onslaught.

Lakshmikanth Sukavasi, K&P

Constructions squad's skipper, finished with an impressive bowling figure having recorded 4-0-7-2.

Sukavasi was ultimately the pick of the bowlers when the side fielded.

Prireshkumar Patel too had two wickets, and fellow bowlers, Mohammed Simba, Katru, and

Gulam Yassin ended with one wicket each for the K&P Constructions side.

In return, the Caravans B team came out with all guns blazing in the second innings, disallowing the K&P Constructions squad to cement a solid partnership.

The batting unit found the going tough, ending with 64/10 in 13.3 overs of the 25 over-encounter.

Wickets fell at regular intervals and the K&P squad's batting unit was knocked over for the score, falling 76 runs short of the target.

They were dealt a blow in the opening four overs, losing two crucial wickets as reliable cricketers Simba and Naga Gurijala made their way back with poor scores.

The openers could not reach two-digit figures, given Simba posted three runs and fellow opener Gurijala was dismissed whilst being six runs short of a two-digit figure.

The K&P Constructions squad kept on dropping wickets, Zahor that came on at number three was one run short of a two-digit figure in yet another short stint with the bat.

Caravans B outfit's bowler, Karim Athuman's impressive 5-0-27-5 earned him the Man of the Match prize.

Athuman ruthlessly cleaned up the K&P Constructions squad's top-order, frustrating the club's efforts to get off to an impressive start in the chase.

Nyambo piled misery for the opponents' batting unit, as the cricketer recorded three wickets giving away 15 runs.

Caravans B side is now awaiting an outfit that the former will take on in the final.

## Soccer enthusiasts downplay importance of having foreign-based footballers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A person will become very surprised hearing Tanzania's football fans discuss various issues especially when it comes to domestic players playing abroad.

The football fanatics normally look at the issue with squinting eyes.

It depends on what an individual wants at that moment, he/she is not talking about what should be real, many people are just blabbering on this conversation.

I have several times heard fans ask each other why Yanga's midfielder Feisal Salum does not go outside Tanzania to play football, I just laugh, considering this often happens when Salum does well.

Sometimes it happens when soccer fanatics count senior national football squad players who are based outside Tanzania.

The soccer lovers count with their fingers and realize that there are few footballers, as opposed to other African nations.

After that the followers start asking each other, why is Salum not playing outside the country? It is a simple question though it has many answers.

Where will he play outside the country? Europe, Asia, or here in Africa? According to Wikipedia Salum is 24 years old.

It is hard for Salum to go to Europe, outfits in the continent are buying players and then selling them, this aspect is known as resale value.

A footballer should have a great profile to be bought directly by European sides at Salum's age.

The outfits need a soccer player earlier to nurture him. For example, Samatta went to Europe at the age of 23 because his profile was extremely impressive.

He had just been voted the best African footballer playing



Yanga's offensive midfielder Salum Abubakar (L) negotiates his way past Polisi Tanzania winger Kassim Haruna as the sides locked horns in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League tie that was held in Dar es Salaam on June 22. Yanga won 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

in the continent.

He was immediately the top scorer in the CAF Champions League and his club emerged as the showpiece's winner.

Salum, otherwise, does not have an impressive profile that could guarantee the player an opportunity to ply his trade in Europe, how will he move to the continent straight away?

Soccer fanatics are probably talking about Salum playing in South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, or countries that have the best leagues in Africa, otherwise, the European dream for the midfielder does not exist.

The midfielder may play for lower-tier clubs in Europe. This ridiculousness of Salum playing in Tanzania for 24 years is contributed by every side in football.

Has Salum ever planned to play outside? I do not think so but I think soccer lovers also did not understand Nigerian

tactician Emmanuel Amunike when he told Tanzania's soccer lovers that Salum could play for Spain's football big gun, Barcelona.

Amunike was talking about how we could prepare a 10-year-old Salum, since then footballer has never aspired to ply his trade in Europe.

From then on, no one around him advised him well and, then, Minister for Finance Mwigulu Nchemba was relieved when he facilitated Salum's transfer from Singida United to Yanga.

Nchemba has continued to brag about the move and finds pleasure in Parliament after the attacking midfielder scored a spectacular goal to steer Yanga to victory over Simba in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup last-four stage clash.

Why could Salum not have looked for an outfit that he could play for in Europe when he was 19 years old?

However, I just remind soccer enthusiasts that despite Salum's prowess, playing outside is not easy.

Has anyone ever seen how many good players come to play at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and play here on the continent?

Many issues can facilitate a player to play in Europe,

competitiveness in the continent's leagues is intense.

What is so significant about Burkina Faso midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki? Why is he still in Africa? I remind football enthusiasts that if they see a player play outside the continent, then it is not easy.

Let us not brag too much here, we think it will be easy for domestic players to play outside.

An individual might try to ask Mbwana Samatta what did the footballer do to achieve success in Europe but then the supporters ought to turn to the other side of the coin.

Recently I was watching Simon Msuva being interviewed at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

He claimed that he had been followed by all famous clubs in Tanzania that were hunting for his signature.

So far Msuva has neither team nor direction, when fans hear this they rejoice that their squads are in the running to get Msuva's signature.

I just remind soccer fanatics that these are not new fans, they are the ones people meet in either entertainment areas or coffee shops often querying why Salum is in the country.

They forget that the topic is just the same, they want Msuva to come back home, a player who is not new because he has the best statistics on the national team.

They forget that Msuva's greatest contribution comes from the well-developed football at CAF Champions League's winner, Wydad Athletic Club of Morocco, after turning out for Difaâ El Jadida.

They forget that Msuva has improved after going to play in the Moroccan Premier League.

As for Salum, they talk about wanting to see the

midfielder move to Europe, while they Msuva to return. Sometimes Tanzanians are strange people.

People should not forget that they are the same Tanzanians who rejoiced after hearing that the then Yanga midfielder Ibrahim Ajibu has rejected the deal to go to DR Congo's TP Mazembe and instead signed for Simba.

Tomorrow a person must not be surprised to see them ask each other why Geita Gold FC's George Mpole is not going to play abroad.

It just depends on when will the fanatics air the query, there is a registration period and there is a time for the national team camp.

A Tanzanian who understands well where setbacks are in football cannot be very happy for Msuva to return to the country.

He cannot wish for midfielder Novatus Dismas to return to play in the country instead of continuing to move forward.

When Dismas left Israel and moved to Belgium in this transfer period, domestic fanatics were delighted but the enthusiasts are to be thrilled when either the player or other foreign-based player return to play for either Simba or Yanga.

Some fanatics are bound to be happy once they hear forward Kelvin John, now in Belgium, has returned to play for either Simba or Yanga.

No one can imagine why John failed to follow in Samatta's footsteps to play in UEFA Champions League.

Just because he has moved to a side I am supporting then I am counting on seeing the performer steer his outfit to CAF Champions League's group stage.

They forget that Msuva has improved after going to play in the Moroccan Premier League.

As for Salum, they talk about wanting to see the



## Ten Hag on first United rout: We made mistakes

BANGKOK, Thailand

ERIK ten Hag says he will not get carried away with Manchester United's 4-0 win over Liverpool in his first game in charge after seeing "mistakes" in his team's performance.

United kicked off their tour of Thailand and Australia with a resounding win over Jurgen Klopp's side thanks to goals from Jadon Sancho, Fred, Anthony Martial and Facundo Pellistri.

Ten Hag said afterward he was pleased with the result but insisted there was plenty of room for improvement and pointed to Klopp's decision to play three different teams for 30 minutes each as a key reason behind the result.

"Of course we are satisfied today because I think that was a team with a great spirit and we know we are just starting and things went wrong, clearly," he said. "We did the press, we made some mistakes in pressing, we conceded some chances, but also we created a lot."

"I think our team played brave, played proactive. We have to work really hard to cut out the mistakes, but of course we are happy with the first game."

"I have seen a lot of mistakes. You would not say [when you look] at the result but, be honest, Liverpool plays in three teams."

"They were not at their strongest so we have to not overestimate this result. We have to [be careful]."

Ten Hag picked a strong team to start the game at the Rajamangala National Stadium and made 10 changes at half-time.

Fred's goal was the pick of the bunch after the Brazil midfielder chipped Alisson from the edge of the box. The one downside of the night for United was an injury to David De Gea, which forced him off in the second half.

"I know we have good players," added Ten Hag. "Now we have to construct a team and we started the first game now, so I am happy with the first game."

"I have seen some really good things and I think what you see is we have a lot of creativity and speed up front, so we have potential."

While United next head to Melbourne to play Melbourne Victory and Crystal Palace, Liverpool travel to Singapore, also taking on Palace.

"The result is there, we have to accept it," said Klopp following the defeat to United. "We could have scored our goals as well and the goals we gave away were almost assists."

"I saw a lot of good stuff but the game came too early. Mistakes happen in football. It was so open and it was pretty clear where we made the mistakes." (Agencies)

PSG reject chance to sign Ronaldo - sources

PARIS  
CRISTIANO Ronaldo was offered to Paris Saint-Germain by his agent Jorge Mendes, but the French champions rejected the possibility of signing the Manchester United forward, sources told ESPN.

Ronaldo, 37, wants to leave Old Trafford in search of Champions League football in the coming season, only a year after rejoining the club and with another year on his contract.

Mendes discussed the availability of the No. 7 with PSG sporting director Luis Campos and club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi. The super agent is very close to both of them after having worked for many years with Campos before his arrival in the French capital this summer.

He has also handled numerous contracts for his players with Al-Khelaifi, including PSG's most recent signing Vitorinha, who joined from Porto.

Sources added that PSG don't feel that Ronaldo is the right signing at this moment and that the club doesn't have enough space in their wage bill to pay him.

From a sporting perspective, there are also concerns that there isn't room for him in the team, with new manager Christophe Galtier wanting to start a season with using a back three.

The former Nice coach may already struggle to find ways to play Neymar, Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe together in his preferred formation, so a move for Ronaldo would not make sense.

PSG are not the first club to say no to Ronaldo this summer. Bayern Munich also turned down the chance to take on the former Real Madrid and Juventus star, while Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel is not keen either, despite a meeting between Mendes and new Blues owner Todd Boehly to discuss the Portugal international's future.

In addition to Ronaldo's desire to play in the Champions League in the upcoming campaign, the six times Ballon d'Or winner is also said to be unhappy with the lack of transfer activity from United so far this summer.

However, Manchester United's new manager Erik ten Hag insisted the club wants Ronaldo to remain with the team as recently as Monday in a press conference before the Red Devils' 4-0 friendly win over Liverpool on Tuesday in Bangkok during their preseason tour.

"We are planning for Cristiano Ronaldo for the season and that's it," Ten Hag said. "I'm looking forward to working with him. I have read [that he wants to leave], but what I say is Cristiano is not for sale, he is in our plans and we want success together."

"I spoke with him before this issue came up. I had a conversation with him and I had a good talk. That is between Cristiano and me. What I can confirm is we had a really good conversation together."

Ronaldo, who has been granted time off to deal with a family issue, did not travel to Thailand as part of the tour.

(Agencies)

## How Sterling became one of Premier League's best attackers

By Ryan O'Hanlon, ESPN.com writer

WHEN you think of the defining Pep Guardiola players, it obviously starts with Lionel Messi.

In four years together with Barcelona, they won three LaLiga titles and two Champions League trophies. Messi was the individual genius who took Guardiola's ultra-organized collective to never-before-seen heights. During their time together, there was no question over who was the best player in the world. While they slipped up in LaLiga once and in Europe twice, Messi won the Ballon d'Or in each of the four years he worked with Guardiola.

Who would be next, though? There's Sergio Busquets, a Guardiola-esque avatar at the base of midfield for those great Barca sides. Maybe Xavi or Andres Iniesta, but they both existed in outsized form before and after Guardiola arrived. At Bayern, same goes for the likes of Philipp Lahm, Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery, who all hit new levels under their new manager but also won the Champions League the year before he came to Germany. Manuel Neuer, perhaps, was the most symbolic Guardiola figure at Bayern, a goalkeeper known and beloved for all of the things other than saving shots.

However, Guardiola has now coached Manchester City for longer than he has either of those clubs, which brings us to this: after Messi, Raheem Sterling has been involved in more goals in all competitions (scored and assisted) under Guardiola than any other player. And that number will remain stuck at 186 for the foreseeable future, as City are set to let Sterling move to Chelsea for a £47.5 million transfer fee any day now.

Yet, Sterling as a defining Guardiola player doesn't feel right, does it? After all, if it were true, would City be willing to let him leave? Still, nothing about Sterling's career really feels right because we'd never really seen anything like him before.

"Leaving Liverpool... The first thing that Sterling did that he wasn't sup-



Raheem Sterling is set to have played for Chelsea, Man City and Liverpool. (Agencies)

posed to: demand that he be paid, age be damned.

Sterling became a full-time starter for Liverpool at the age of 17 and then turned into a full-on star in 2013-14. Frequently deployed in the No. 10 role -- behind Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge, ahead of Philippe Coutinho, Jordan Henderson and Steven Gerrard -- Sterling scored nine goals and added five assists in the Premier League as Liverpool finished second and nearly won the whole thing.

The following year, after Suarez left for Barcelona, Sturridge went down injured, and new arrivals Mario Balotelli and Rickie Lambert just didn't cut it, Sterling almost single-handedly salvaged Liverpool's season when Brendan Rodgers decided to play him as a standalone striker. A late-season surge toward the top four fell short, but he ended the year with the same number of goal involvements as the previous one (seven goals, seven assists).

He wasn't yet 20, and Sterling was already both a consistent goal provider and a tactical Swiss Army knife. He played as a No. 10, as a striker, as a false No. 9, out on the wing, and even as a wing-back. Counting only minutes played as a teenager since 2009, Sterling leads all Premier League players in the following:

- Goal contributions: 25
- Take-ons: 186 (97 more than second place)
- Passes into the penalty area: 351 (57 more than second place)

- Touches in the penalty area: 293 (60 more than second place)

Players who are that good at that age tend to become great. And Sterling knew it. Rather than looking himself into a contract based purely off his current on-field value, he and his advisers decided that he wanted to be paid what he would likely soon be worth in the future. Within the traditions of club wage structures back in 2015, this just wasn't done. Young players were paid less than veterans because, well, because that's how it had always been done.

Negotiations with Liverpool broke down and Sterling moved to Manchester City for £49 million (making him the most expensive British transfer of all time) in the summer of 2015, just a few months before Jurgen Klopp arrived at Anfield.

"A new archetype... The second thing that Sterling did that he wasn't supposed to do: become a goal-scoring winger who couldn't shoot."

Since joining Manchester City in 2015, he has scored 88 non-penalty goals in the Premier League. The only players with more:

- Harry Kane: 133
- Jamie Vardy: 102
- Sadio Mane: 101
- Mohamed Salah: 100
- Son Heung-Min: 92
- Sergio Aguero: 89
- He has also assisted 42 goals. The only players with more:
- Kevin De Bruyne: 85
- Christian Eriksen: 66
- Riyad Mahrez: 48
- David Silva: 47
- Andy Robertson: 47
- Son Heung-Min: 46

- Mohamed Salah: 46
- Trent Alexander-Arnold: 46
- Roberto Firmino: 46
- All in all, it adds up to 130 non-penalty goal involvements, behind only:
- Harry Kane: 172
- Mohamed Salah: 146
- Kevin De Bruyne: 138
- Son Heung-Min: 138
- Sadio Mane: 136
- Jamie Vardy: 134

Since Sterling joined City, he has been one of the most prolific players in the Premier League -- all while the club reestablished itself as the dominant side in England, winning the title in four of his eight seasons with the club. He has also added 24 non-penalty goals and 17 assists in 68 Champions League matches. Over the past five years, City have been the most consistent club in the world, and with Sterling playing some 70% of the minutes, he has been a massive part of making that happen.

But even though that's true, it's not necessarily obvious. Picture the prototypical goal-scoring winger in your head, and it's someone like Robben or Ribery -- impossible to ignore, piecing together highlight goal after highlight goal as they cut in from the sideline, turn defenders into traffic cones, and rocket the ball in at the far post.

Sterling, though, has rarely done that. Take a look at all of his goals for City in the league:

Despite playing most of his minutes on either the left or right wing, almost all of his goals have come from within the center of the goal frame, and almost none of them from that classic inverted-winger hotspot on the edge of the penalty area. In fact, since Guardiola took over at City in 2016, Sterling has scored 27 goals from inside the 6-yard box, five more than any other player. Remember: This is a winger we're talking about.

Thanks to that distribution of shots, Sterling has developed a reputation as a bad finisher, but I'd argue that's only because we haven't seen many players like him before: non-strikers who get all their goals from high-value areas. Since he's rarely taking low probability shots, he's rarely finishing the kinds of low-probability shots we tend to associate with good

finishing.

Instead, he's constantly getting on the end of, say, 60% chances, which don't look impressive when you score them and look pretty bad when you miss. And you're going to miss a lot of 60% chances when you get a lot of 60% chances. That's not to say that Sterling is a particularly good finisher -- the six goal-scorers ahead of him have all scored at least 10 more goals than their expected goals (xG) totals -- but he's not a particularly bad one, either, with 88 goals from 83.46 xG since joining City.

"So why let him go? The third thing that Sterling wasn't supposed to do: become a devastating attacking winger who didn't need to touch the ball."

With Liverpool, Sterling would dribble by defenders left and right, breaking through the opposition midfield to unlock the next phase of build-up play or find a way to fly past a full-back and create a goal. He was everywhere, an ever-present blur, moving at a faster frame-rate than everyone else on the field.

At City, he has dribbled the ball way less often and been way less involved in working the ball up the field. His shot profile suggests an elite understanding of how to occupy valuable space -- and that's true of the rest of his game, too.

Per the site FBref, Sterling rates in the 95th percentile for wingers in the Big Five leagues for progressive passes received per 90 minutes. Rather than moving the ball up the field himself, he's now finding the space further up the field so a teammate can move the ball up to him. And then he rates in the 98th percentile among all wingers for touches inside the penalty area. He still carries the ball and takes defenders on -- 79th percentile and 80th percentile respectively -- but they're smaller, not-as-breathhtaking movements. He either receives a forward pass in the final third and then drives it into the box on his own, or finds premium space inside the box to become a passing option.

Since 2015, Sterling has taken 1,681 touches in the opposition penalty area. The only players with more? Just kidding, there aren't any ...

Target runs are runs in

which you receive a pass, disruptive and space-creation runs are runs in which a pass is played elsewhere, and potential runs are runs when the pass isn't completed -- all adjusted for the potential value of the run based on a number of factors including field and defender positioning. This past season, Sterling ranked in the 80th percentile or above (mostly above) among players at his position for almost every kind of run tracked by Twelve.

What makes Sterling a harder player to appreciate is also what makes him such a valuable player to people who are in the business of winning games: he doesn't need the ball. On top of that, his ability off the ball should create space for everyone else. While Chelsea had a hard time fitting striker Romelu Lukaku into their already-established mode of play, that shouldn't be an issue with Sterling. His skills today mean that he can fit with just about anyone. Every top team needs an attacking outlet and a guy who can navigate the penalty area.

Why would City let him go? It's not like he hasn't been tempted by a move before. Remember when in February 2020 he appeared on the cover of Spanish newspaper Diario AS with a Real Madrid jersey draped over his shoulder ... right before City were about to play Real Madrid?

Plus, City did just sign Erling Haaland, another mostly off-ball player who, if everything goes according to plan, will lead the Premier League in goals scored inside the 6-yard box over the next five years. On top of that, they got seven great years from Sterling and are getting a large fee in return for a player who turns 28 in December.

Since 2009, Sterling has played the most Premier League minutes of any player before his 28th birthday (24,173). Maybe the age cliff will come for him sooner than others, or maybe not; second on the list of outfield players is Liverpool's Henderson, who's still going strong at an elite level at 32, while third is ex-Stoke defender Ryan Shawcross, whose career basically ended at 30 due to injury.

## 'Really happy': Thai fans of Man Utd, Liverpool paint Bangkok red

BANGKOK

AFTER the rains came the red wave, as tens of thousands of jersey-wearing fans surged into Bangkok's Rajamangala Stadium to witness Manchester United and Liverpool's pre-season clash on Tuesday night.

The renovated stadium -- boasting a newly laid pitch that was hastily covered to protect it during a down-pour ahead of the match -- is hosting the Premier League titans for the latest chapter of one of the oldest rivalries in English football.

For Thai Termjit 'Ip' Trunghitvilas, proudly wearing her Liverpool shirt, it was a dream come true.

"It's my first ever time seeing them play," the 36-year-old, who has supported the team for the past three decades, told AFP.

With tickets starting at 5,000 baht (\$140), fears

over filling the 51,000 capacity stadium -- with scattered reports ahead of the match of cut-price tickets -- seemed borne out by swathes of empty upper tiers in the stands.

Trunghitvilas paid 15,000 baht (\$420) for her ticket, snapping up her seat on the first day the tickets went on sale.

"It's a lot of money," she admitted, but added it was worth it to see her favourite player Mohamed Salah in person.

While Salah was on the bench as the match started, Manchester United's superstar Cristiano Ronaldo was not on the trip as speculation mounted over his future at the club.

But United fan 'Paht' Siripanchleul, 25, said he was still overjoyed to be at the stadium to see his favourite players, as pre-season football tours by Europe's top clubs return to Asia for the first time since the pandemic.

"I'm really happy they are doing this tour, it's important for the fans," he said.

As night fell the crowd was warmed up with a pyrotechnic show from K-pop star Jackson Wang and a performance from popular Thai singer Mili -- who

shot to international fan after eating sticky rice and mango at the Coachella music festival in the United States.

The thousands of fans who were present roared as the teams emerged, with Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp drawing the biggest

screams.

And once the whistle went for the kickoff, at 8:00pm (1300 GMT), the crowd did their best to show it wasn't quantity but quality that counted as the polluted night air reverberated with chants, frenzied clapping, screams and

cheers.

"I love Liverpool so much," said 29-year-old accountant 'Air' Nantaporn, who couldn't stop beaming and giving thumbs-up gestures. "It's a good day for me, I hope".

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

How Sterling became one of Premier League's best attackers

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**5 EATV THURSDAY**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 WEEKEND MOVIE (r)  
13:30 Kall za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
14:30 Ujenzi (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:30 #HSHIAG  
17:00 SSELEK  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNews  
18:30 Bongo Hits  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 NIRVANA  
21:30 TOP 10  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa (r)  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

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**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



Christina Shusho

## Gospel artist urges women to discard negative stereotypes

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIAN gospel singer Christina Shusho has urged her fellow women to put away the stereotypes that have it that all men are rude.

The popular musician insisted women should, instead, realize that many men are good.

Christina stated in her video that she has posted on social media, acknowledging it is true that there are men who are abusive and have all kinds of bad habits, but not all of them have such behaviour.

"Let's help each other to get rid of this notion that all men are like that, they are fierce, there are though men that are gentle," the artist noted.

"There are hooligans but there are also good and gentlemen, there are those who are uneducated and there are academics," she disclosed.

She said in that context, it is wrong for women to embrace the notion that all men are unfit.

The singer, therefore, urged women to avoid giving up when looking for fiancés, adding they should make sure they are looking for them seriously.

She told fellow women: "But let me also remind you that if you want something better, start with yourself, if you want something good, start with yourself."

The singer said she knows there is much knowledge that women come across including that which prevents them from getting engaged, by believing the concept that has it that all men are not faithful.

"I am here to encourage my fellow women, do not think that all men are like that, the killer you met is the only one, not all men are like him, when we meet in our forums we lie to each other via that notion," she said.

The singer moreover urged women to prepare themselves psychologically by recognizing that the men they will meet are not angels but human beings as is the case for others, they have limitations.

# Simba SC leadership confirms Ghanaian midfielder Augustine Okrah deal



Augustine Okrah

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA SC's rebuilding phase continues as the club has confirmed the much-anticipated signing of Ghanaian attacking midfielder Augustine Okrah from Bechem United.

The 2020/21 Premier League champions announced the midfielder that had in the past turned out for Sudan's Al Hilal and Al Merreikh, on Wednesday afternoon, with the speedy and skillful midfielder reportedly signing a two-year deal.

"A great player befitting the status of playing for a big team like Simba SC. Augustine Okrah is a 'Red'," a part of the club's official confirmation of the much-anticipated signing of Okrah read.

The 28-year-old attacking midfielder that also turns out for Ghana's national squad, Black Stars, becomes the latest Simba SC signing.

The side had unveiled striker Moses Phiri from Zambia's

Zanaco FC, goal-getter Habib Kyombo from Mbeya Kwanza FC, and midfielder Nassoro Kapama from Kagera Sugar, and Nigerian defensive midfielder Victor Akpan from Coastal Union.

Okrah was a standout performer in the recently concluded Ghana Premier League season.

He finished the competition as the third-highest scorer with 14 goals as Bechem United finished third on the log behind Asante Kotoko and Medeama FC.

Okrah was also instrumental for Bechem United having helped them reach the final of the Ghana Federation Cup as he scored a screamer in

the semi-final against Aduana Stars.

He was the top scorer of the Ghana Premier League in the 2013/14 season with 16 goals during his first stint with Bechem United.

Okrah later moved to the Swedish side BK Hacken on loan before joining Sudanese giants Al Merreikh the follow-

ing year.

He crossed the carpet to join rivals Al Hilal Omdurman after a season.

The experienced midfielder has also played for NorthEast United in India and the Egyptian side, Smouha SC.

While Simba SC is set for a huge campaign of rebuilding as new head coach Zoran Maki looks to stamp his authority on an underperforming squad, Okrah is expected to slot into the first team to provide goals and assists from the wide areas.

Simba is expected to make more announcements regarding player movement at the club with the club reportedly agreeing on personal terms with Central African Republic striker Caesar Manzoki and Ugandan midfielder Bobosi Byaruhanga.

The Simba SC squad will head to the Egyptian city of Ismailia ahead of their upcoming training camp and pre-season fixtures which will span over two weeks.

The club is touring Egypt with an almost full squad and head coach Maki leading the way.

The club will return on August 5 for the annual Simba Day festival before facing age-old rivals Yanga in the Community Shield, which serves as the season's curtain raiser, on August 13.

Simba will represent Tanzania in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, a tournament they have set the objective of reaching the semi-finals for the first time since 1974.

## Kagere's manager lifts lid on striker's next move

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

**PATRICK** Gakumba, the manager of Simba SC forward Meddie Kagere, has broken his silence on the footballer's next move amid rumours the Rwandan attacker is seeking to move away from the side.

Rwandan Gakumba defended the footballer, maintaining the latter is still playing for Msimbazi Street club.

Kagere is said to be on the verge of leaving Simba SC, based on his performance in the just-ended season.

The Rwandan forward did not perform well, as was the case in the previous two seasons when he landed at the club.

However, Gakumba said that his player will continue to be part of the former Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions for next season.

Gakumba said Kagere still has a good chance of playing football for Simba SC and next season he will improve tremendously given he will coordinate

with newly recruited footballers and score goals.

Regarding the striker's age, the manager said age is a number and he does not think it is the right issue that could be used to judge his player.

The manager revealed: "Kagere is not leaving Simba, he is a good player although the age is catching up on him, it is however not a problem, age is just a number."

"Last season the team was bad, not that Kagere's form dropped, they should just improve the club," he pointed out.

Kagere signed for Simba SC in the 2019/20 season from Gor Mahia of Kenya, playing for the first time in the Mainland Premier League.

The muscular attacker scored 23 goals and, in the following season, the performer scored 22 goals.

In another development, Simba SC leadership has clarified why there were no sponsors' logos on the club's banners at the press conference held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.



Meddie Kagere

Simba SC had convened a press conference to introduce the club's new head coach Zoran Manojlovic.

The outfit further used the conference to publicly

announce a pre-season training camp slated to be held in Egypt from tomorrow.

Simba SC Information and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally said the

absence of sponsors' logos on the posters at last Tuesday's meeting did not mean anything bad, other than respecting the terms of the contracts.

Ahmed said Simba SC's

contract with the main sponsors SportPesa has expired since they finished the 2021/22 Premier League last season and negotiations for signing another contract is in progress.

He said if talks between Simba SC and SportPesa go well, they will sign a new contract before the start of the new Premier League season, the Azam Sports Federation Cup, and the CAF Champions League.

The official revealed: "There was no main sponsors' logo on the banners because we have terminated the contract with SportPesa Company, it expired after the Premier League ended."

"We are still in talks to find out whether we can continue with them," the official pointed out.

The absence of the main sponsors' logo on Simba SC banners had raised many questions among Tanzania's football stakeholders, with many questioning many issues about the incident.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

