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Bishop: Aides can help, sabotage Samia's work

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

Hyena mauls 3-year-old boy to death in Mwanza

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

EMMANUEL Michael, as a three year old child, was on Tuesday evening mauled to death by a hyena.

Wilbrod Mutafungwa (pictured), the regional police commander, said the child was swimming with his siblings at around 6pm in Mwangika village in Kwimba district, Mwanza region.

The hyena sprang from the nearby bush, overpowered his siblings who tried to fend off the fierce beast to save him, with the shocking incident spoiling the festive mood for the villagers, finished with Christmas and looking forward to ushering in New Year.

The child went to the river with elder sister Mary Michael (14) and four others with the elder sister bathing them, when a hyena emerged, flung its paws to grab the smaller child, the sister both in terror and overwhelmed, the police chief noted.

The girl vainly tried to fend off the beast and rescue the little child as the beast grabbed her little brother by the hand and ran away with the screaming child.

Police in the region in collaboration with wildlife units have launched a hunt for the beast, having recovered body parts and clothes of the mauled kid.

"Efforts to search for the animal are underway to ensure it does not cause a similar tragedy to people in the area or the neighbourhoods," he said.

Parents need to take a closer look at children as the deadly animal was still at large, he added.

BISHOP Peter Konki of the Tanzania Pentecostal Church (TPC) has advised senior government officials closely working with President Samia Suluhu Hassan to work diligently and loyally lest they become stumbling

blocks to her efforts.

Addressing the 19th annual meeting of the church at Babati town in Manyara Region, the cleric said the president's aides ought to conduct their duties professionally, easing the president's work in executing key engagements.

He pointed at some strategic projects that the president has undertaken, like the Julius Nyerere hydropower plant, the Msalato international airport in Dodoma and several others.

"My appeal to you is helping the president so that she can

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New cranes being installed at Tanga port following major improvements to remove inconveniences to port users, as captured by our photographer yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Samia to grace end of year prayer meet

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan (pictured) is scheduled to grace an end of year prayer event to be held here late tomorrow at the Nyerere Square grounds.

Bishop Godfrey Mallasy, head of the Tanzania Fellowship of Churches (TFC) and chairman of the event organizing committee, told journalists yesterday that the event is billed to last for the whole night, as a festival of joy and expectation for the New Year.

"We have decided to organise this event to thank God for protecting our country through 2022, where we have enjoyed peace and harmony, contrary to many other countries worldwide," he stated.

With the president gracing the opening ceremony, the event is expected to be attended by wide ranging public officials, along with members of other

Tanga port capacity set to reach 3m tons

By Francis Kajubi, Tanga

ONGOING expansion of the port of Tanga is taking cargo handling capacity of the facility to three million tonnes on completion in four months' time.

Tanga port expansion project which has been done by 82 per cent with a stretch of berths covering 300 meters is targeted at opening up regional logistical activities.

Masoud Mrisha, told journalists at a special visit to witness the construction developments that the project involves reconstruction of two berths covering a total of 450 meters.

Port expansion kicked off in August 2019 with 429.1bn/- allocated for the purpose, with cargo volumes rising from 570,269 tonnes in 2019/20 to 986,000 tonnes during fiscal 2021/22.

Berth expansion raised the number of marine vessels docking at the port, standing at 198 in 2021/22 from 118 in 2019/20, while gross tonnage handled grew by 34 percent from 583,085 tonnes in 2019/20 to 918,981 tonnes in 2021/22, the manager noted.

With a 1.7meters gap from ship deck to offloading platform, double handling of cargo was attracting high operational costs to importers and exporters, he said.

Berths drafts standing at three meters before drilling are now 13 meters deep,

creating a wider turning basin for large vessels. The two berths were built 1914 for the first and the second 40 years later, he stated.

The project involves dredging the entrance channel and the turning basin to 50 meters on the eastern part of the port and 92 meters on the western part, he elaborated.

Sisal, timber, coffee, macadamia and cement are the key products handled at the port, with imports chiefly involving clinker, coal, industrial raw materials, fuel and gas.

The port covers 17 hectares with auxiliary land at Mwambani covering 176 hectares and another 207hectares at Chongoleani, while being linked in operations of Pangani, Kipumbwi, Sahare and Mkwaja minor ports, he specified.

After expansion work is completed in April next year, strategies will be in place for competitive pricing of port services, he observed, highlighting the need for marketing the new facilities with world class shipping lines.

Twenty foot equivalent units (TEUs) containers handled at the port stood at 7,036 mid-2022 from 6,259 by late June 2019 following expansion and renovation.

"During the first quarter of the current financial year 59 vessels carrying 224,547

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Tanga port capacity set to reach 3m tons

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gross tonnage docked, exceeding the target of handling 31 vessels during the period, he further noted.

Passengers using the Tanga-Unguja and Pemba shipping services was rising significantly in the past half-decade, where in 2017/18 they numbered 41,205 and in 2021/22 passenger numbers had increased to 95,973.

In promoting improved port services, liaison officers will be deployed alongside documentaries that will be distributed to the country's missions abroad, he said.

The project is being executed by China Harbour Engineering Co. with consulting work entrusted to the Danish wing of NIRAS A/S global consulting firm, and Anova Consult Ltd of Dar es Salaam.

Bishop: Aides can help, sabotage Samia's work

FROM PAGE 1

achieve her dreams of developing Tanzania and its people," he declared, emphasizing that the president's aides need to play their roles, especially making sure that intended services are delivered at lower levels.

It is necessary for the president's aides to give a chance to the common people to air their views on the performance of the government, he further stated.

Pointing at own projects, he said that ongoing construction of the church at Babati had taken up 99m/- out of the projected 800m/-

budgeted for the project. The building will alter the face of Babati as at present there is no major church complex, he said.

The church was setting up development projects billed to add to its income as presently it has no independent sources of income, he said, elaborating that the church has purchased three acres of land at Msalato in the neighbourhoods of the capital to build a secondary school.

The church had also bought a plot in the central city for the construction of its national headquarters, he added.

Chinese provinces boost China-Africa economic and trade cooperation

CHANGSHA

ALTHOUGH the next China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo is still six months away, an economic and trade delegation from central China's Hunan Province has finished its trips promoting the expo to several African countries in mid-December.

According to local authorities, the Third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo will take place next June in Changsha, capital of Hunan Province. To deepen economic and trade cooperation with Africa, the delegation, organized by the provincial government's commerce department, visited Mozambique, Tanzania and Madagascar from December 10 to 21.

"In just a few years, Hunan has become one of the most active provinces in economic and trade cooperation with Africa," said Zhu Guangyao, head of Changsha Customs.

Data from the customs shows Hunan's trade volume with Africa increased from 15.08 billion Yuan (about 2.16 billion U.S. dollars) in 2012 to 40.39 billion Yuan in 2021, ranking first in the country's central region and the eighth nationwide.

From January to November this year, the number rose 45.5 per cent year on year to 50.94 billion Yuan. And the province has boasted 2,498 foreign-trade enterprises with trade ties with African countries.

Thanks to the country's higher-standard opening up, many Chinese provinces, including Hunan, have seized the opportunities to give full play to their advantages and characteristics, and actively acted as pioneers in trade with Africa.

For instance, Zhejiang Province, a foreign trade powerhouse in China, saw its trade with Africa reach 235.7 billion Yuan in 2020, accounting for 18.2 per cent of the country's total, according to statistics from the Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province.

In the 2022 China (Zhejiang) Forum on China-Africa Economic and Trade Relations, which kicked off on Nov. 21, Zhejiang signed 26 economic and trade cooperation projects with Africa, with a total amount of 57.98 billion Yuan.

Live-streaming e-commerce, a dominant industry in Zhejiang, has become a bridge for China-Africa trade exchanges.

As one of the attempts, the province held an online shopping event promoting African products from April 28 to May 12 this year.

Over 50 special commodities categories from more than 10 African countries were promoted through live-streaming platforms such as Taobao and Douyin.

"We even set up five live-broadcasting rooms in African countries such as South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Tanzania," said Zhao Haoxing, founder of China-Africa Bridge, a cross-border trade service platform in Hangzhou.

According to Zhang Qianjiang, deputy director of the Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province, during the e-commerce event promoting African products, which lasted three months last year, Zhejiang saw 106 live-streaming shows, with a turnover of more than 50 million Yuan.

With the booming trade between China and Africa, more Chinese entrepreneurs are optimistic about the African market.

The target market of Changsha Baohui Import and Export Co., Ltd., a company exporting products including suitcases, shoes, wigs and ceramics, was mainly Southeast Asia, Europe and America at the beginning.

In 2020, after the Hunan Gaoqiao Grand Market, located in Changsha, was designated as China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation Promotion Innovation Demonstration Park, the company saw the prospect of trade between China and Africa and decided to expand its presence in the African market.

"We can easily assemble goods in the park to meet the diverse needs of African customers," said Xie Shengxiang, general manager of the company.

Over the past decade, bilateral trade between Guangdong Province and Africa has grown at an average annual rate of nearly 30 per cent. Many outstanding enterprises from Guangdong have successfully entered the African market, and engaged in trade, agriculture and electricity, playing a significant role in promoting local economic development.

"The Chinese provinces' exploration of economic and trade cooperation with Africa will help broaden and optimize the China-Africa trade cooperation mechanism. It will finally achieve mutual benefits and win-win results," said Zhang Xiaohu, deputy director of the institute of China-Africa economic and trade law at Xiangtan University.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents a special award to the Minister of State in the President's Office, Finance and Planning Dr Saada Mkuya Salum and Zanzibar Revenue Board Commissioner Yussuf Mwenda during the climax of Thanks Giving and Happy Taxpayers month.

Samia to grace end of year prayer meet

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denominations and religious affinities, the cleric affirmed.

He said the country has been showered with endless amazing blessings and thus the prayers of gratitude don't concern just one denomination or religion but touch

the public as a whole.

The event has been organized in cooperation with different churches, he said, with observers noting that independent Pentecostal churches will be the closest branch affiliated with the regular prayer event the church has been holding.

The bishop appealed to Dodoma residents and those in neighboring regions to turn up in large numbers to make that event a success.

The 12 hours celebratory event will be spiced by choirs from a number of places, with well-known Gospel composers lined up to grace

the stage, led by the Unity Praise Team, he said.

The event's theme is 'peace, harmony and prosperity of the country,' a theme that reflects efforts of the church in organizing nation-wide prayers since 1997, he added.



Elim Pentecostal Church in Tanzania Archbishop, Peter Konki, speaks at the 19th special general meeting in Babati district yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

NAIROBI

Kenya's tea exports set for first drop since 2017, after drought, demand slowdown

KENYA'S world-beating tea exports set for first drop since 2017, after drought, demand slowdown Kenya's black tea export volumes are poised to decline for the first time in five years after East Africa's worst drought in four decades stymied crop planting and demand from its top buyers slowed.

Overseas sales fell 22 per cent to 333.4 million kilograms in the first nine months of the year and are on track for the first decline since 2017, according to the Tea Board of Kenya. Production dropped about 2 per cent in the period.

The largest markets for Kenyan tea between January and September were Pakistan, Egypt, the UK and the United Arab Emirates, accounting for 69 per cent of exports.

Reduced supplies, with output dropping in competing producers

including Sri Lanka, helped drive prices and bolstered revenue for Kenya, the world's biggest exporter of black tea. But a lack of investment in increasing yields may hurt the future of the industry that along with horticulture is the East African nation's biggest merchandise foreign-exchange earner.

Investors are being deterred by labor-union opposition to industry plans to deploy tea-picking machines, said Paras Shah, managing partner for Kenya at legal firm Bowmans

"Foreign investors get very scared of this," Shah said. "A lot of these, in my opinion, are perhaps activist-led and the government really needs to streamline and fix these issues

and provide clear direction on the future of labor in the tea and agricultural sectors."

Complicating matters is that a \$5.1 billion plan by buyout firm CVC Capital Partners to purchase Unilever Plc's tea assets across the world has stalled in Kenya. The sale of some of the world's best-known tea brands, from Lipton to PG Tips, included the disposal of Unilever's stake in Kenya's Limuru Tea Plc to Ekaterina Tea Kenya Plc. The transaction has been challenged by Limuru's minority shareholders in the East African nation.

Unilever didn't respond to requests for comment.

Investment in improving yields would help Kenya insulate itself as

climate-driven weather disasters hurt crop output in the region. In the Horn of Africa, to the northeast of Kenya, rains have failed for five consecutive seasons, with the last one having been the driest in 70 years.

Other factors hampering investment include a Kenyan law prohibiting foreign ownership of agricultural land.

"In the last 10 years, there have been two or three attempts to abolish foreign ownership restrictions in the agricultural sector," Shah said. "Those have failed and I think this government should focus on making this sector more attractive by making it easier to invest in."



City militiamen loading motorbikes into a car after seizing them on Samora Street, Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Ruvuma MPs urge govt for more subsidised fertiliser

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

MEMBERS of Parliament (MPs) in Ruvuma region have urged the government to take immediate measures and send the subsidised fertilizer to ward offices so as to make it easy for farmers to access it.

Speaking during the regional consultative committee (RCC) meeting yesterday here, the MPs said that with the current system, many farmers are failing to access the inputs due to long distance and associated expenses during transportation.

Namtumbo MP, Vita Kawawa said that farmers are facing a huge challenge to accessing the fertilizer and it was high time for the government to make the process shorter by sending the input to ward offices.

“Currently farmers are required to travel to regional headquarters to access the fertilizer, this is unfair because they have to dig deep into their pockets so as to transport the fertilizer to their villages, these are expenses that we are giving our

farmers without any reason,” she said.

Benaya Kapinga, (Mbinga rural) said that the situation was intense in many areas in the constituency due to poor availability of the subsidized fertilizer, something which affects farming.

“Farmers have already cultivated their farms and they are waiting to get the fertilizer which they have lost hope on, the farming season nears to its end, and the farmers are stranded,” he said.

Jonas Mbunda (Mbinga urban) wanted the government to take this issue seriously and make sure that farmers are supplied with the essential input so as to continue with their farming as currently most of them are stuck waiting for the fertilizer.

“The current rain pounding in various parts of the region wakes up farmers to start planting but many of them are yet to do so because they haven’t received the fertilizer,” he said.

Jackline Msongozi, (Special Seats) commended the government through the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) for its efforts to promote massive tree planting, something which promotes environmental

conservation and protection of water sources.

“I like how the government has come up with the initiative to promote massive tree planting during the rainy season, because if we will be doing this every season and families planting trees in their areas, it will bring a huge positive outcome,” she said.

She, however called on the government and stakeholders to encourage households to plant fruit trees, something which will increase fruit taking as well as promote healthy living.

Dr Thea Ntala (Special Seats) queried why most of the motorcycles issued by the government to help extension officers reach farmers in villages are not being used as planned.

“We have been informed that the motorcycles are not used as the government was intending for, instead the extension officers have been charging farmers fuel expenses whenever they are visited,” she claimed.

Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Col. Laban Thomas wanted the agricultural officer Onesmo Ngao to respond to the issues raised by the MP and members on the areas of fertilizers and motorcycles.

Ngao responded that farmers have started receiving the fertilizers on time and that everyone who was registered will get the subsidized farming input.

Chamwino grape farmers urge for processing plant installation

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Chamwino

GRAPE farmers in Chamwino district, Dodoma region have expressed concerns over failure by authorities to timely install a wine processing plant at the Chinangali II plantation, saying the delay would automatically result in huge losses.

During this fiscal year the government disbursed 3bn/- to facilitate construction of three ultra-modern wine processing factories in Chinangali (Chamwino), Hombolo and Mpunguzi areas, the move which attracted more farmers to venture into production of the prestigious economic cash crop.

The Guardian visited the Chinangali II plantation—the country’s large grape vineyard—established that farmers are busy planting a total of 600 hectares of wine grapes, the impressive impetus that has been triggered by a plan by the government to install a wine making plant.

“It’s discouraging; the government had already dished out 1bn/- for the installation of a plant here. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa had always been at forefront to motivate farmers to grow grapes to feed the envisaged industries, but we are at crossroads as we do not have any updates,” said David Mwaka, Chairman of the Association of Tanzania Grapes Farmers.

He said delay of the necessary project would automatically see most grapes ending up rotten at the plantation due to the poor market for wine grapes within the country.

“The government opted to construct the

factories to rescue wine grapes farmers from prolonged years of experiencing ‘untold’ loss due to the poor market,” he observed.

Mwaka said that with ten years ahead to the harvesting season, the ministry of agriculture should ‘work round the clock’ to ensure the factories are constructed.

He said through the association they have made a lot of efforts to communicate with responsible officials at the parent ministry, only to receive ‘unsatisfactory’ responses.

“The ministry of agriculture said they have already started processes for construction of the three factories and that they are looking for contractors to undertake the project at required quality,” he added.

As per the envisaged plants, one factory will be installed at Chinangali II area in Chamwino District, to occupy at least 6000 acres, the other in Mpunguzi area (3000 acre) and the last to occupy 4000 acres at Hombolo suburb.

Tanzania is placed second after South Africa for brewing the best wines within the continent, and the country has potential to perform more impressively due to favourable weather that supports grapes to be grown two seasons per year, an endowed climate which does not exist in any other part of the world.

Being the country’s grapes and wine hub, Dodoma region is currently with at least three major wine factories- Aliko Vintage Co. Ltd, Central Tanganyika Wine Company (CETAWICO), and Dane Holding Company (DHC), and five other small scale plants scattered at different locations under ownership of farmers associations.

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TAAIFA YA KAWAIDA NA 7177
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 Katika Wilaya ya Temeke, Kituo cha Jumuiishi Mkoa wa Dar es Salaam.
 MIRATHI NA 2347 YA MWAKA 2022
 Maombi ya Barua za Usimamizi wa Mirathi ya Amina Hamisi Wambura - Marehemu Waziri Kaji Kapenzi - Mwombaji TANGAZO
 (Kanuni ya 8(2) ya Kanuni za Usimamizi wa Mirathi Mahakama ya Mwanzo)

Watu wote wanadai kuwa na uhusiano wowote ya mirathi ya marehemu aliyetaka hapa juu wanafikwa kija na kuhurika shauri hill endapo walitaka kufanya hivyo mnamo tarehe 04 mwezi wa 01 mwaka 2022 kabla huyo mwombaji hajitawiliwa kuwa misimamizi wa Mirathi hiyo.

Zingatia: Endapo kuna yegote mwenye wosia wa Marehemu anawaza kuleta Mahakamani kukaguliwa. Imetolewa leo tarehe 06 mwezi wa Disemba mwaka 2022.

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REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

EC & I Works for Pit Pumping System

Pre-qualification Criteria

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work | Pre-Qualification Criteria |
|-----|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | NM070/2022 | EC & I Works for Pit Pumping System | i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in Electrical Installation works. ii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 5 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project. iii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided. iv. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment, including facilities and intellectual property v. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel vi. Mining (Local Content) Regulations 2018 compliance. And a valid CRB registration, Class 3 contractor and above. vii. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and regulations. |

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

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.
NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

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

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI **04 January 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

TWIGA Minerals Corporation Limited
 BARRICK NORTH MARA

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REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

Surface to Underground Raise Main Drilling and Casing work

Pre-qualification Criteria

| Reference No. | Description | Pre-Qualification Criteria |
|---------------|---|--|
| 1 | NM71/2022 Surface to Underground Raise Main Drilling and Casing work | i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in SURFACE TO UNDERGROUND RAISE MAIN DRILLING AND CASING WORK ii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in the last 5 years. For each project provide: a description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of the project iii. Demonstrate the proof of possession/hiring the required tooling for deep holes piloting and back reaming to 15-inch diameter size. iv. Demonstrate the capability of the hole Casing as the desired output v. Completion certificates of previous projects with a reference list of Clients, the applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided vi. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment, necessary to execute the intended project. vii. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel to perform the task viii. Local content compliance with valid CRB registration, ix. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations |

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Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI **04 January 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks at the climax of Thanks Giving and Happy Taxpayers month in Zanzibar yesterday.



A cross - section of businesses community listen to Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi during the climax of Thanks Giving and Happy Taxpayers month.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi and his wife, Mariam Mwinyi admire traditional dance from Pemba called Kibati.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents a trophy to Zanzibar Petroleum Limited residence manager Altaf Jiwan at a ceremony held recently in Zanzibar.



Finance and Planning permanent secretary, Dr Juma Malik Akili (L) and Zanzibar ministers listen to the president's speech.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents a trophy to Mohamed Rajab Mzale, local government chairman from Southern Paje district who supported the development of more effective tax system.



Tanzania Livestock Research Institute senior researcher in Tanga region, Walter Mangesho (L) briefs members of House of Representative Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock Committee accompanied by chairman Yussuf Iddi (4th L), Third (R) is Zanzibar Minister for Livestock Shamata Khamis. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

TRA inaugurates new campaign to inculcate culture of demanding receipts among buyers

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has launched a campaign to educate customers on the need to claim the electronic fiscal devices (EFDs) receipts when buying goods in the Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo commercial area dubbed: "Let's go with them and educate them."

Through the campaign, TRA insists the importance for customers to inculcate a culture of claiming receipts when buying anything from the shop outlets.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Regional Manager for Kariakoo Tax Region, Alex Katundu said that tax education has been provided frequently to traders, an issue that has caused many buyers to forget their responsibility to claim receipts.

"Many times we have been giving education to traders about the correct use of EFD machines and now we have come up with a special strategy to educate buyers about their right to claim receipts every time they buy something," said Katundu.

He said that, this exercise will be done by gathering all the buyers who will be found to have bought the product without having a receipt and sent to the TRA Kariakoo office located at Lumumba Street and Kipata, Dar es Salaam for educating them.

"Since these buyers are found in various areas of Kariakoo, so this exercise is done by gathering all those who are found to have bought products but do not have receipts where they are brought here to

the office to educate them and ask them to be ambassadors for others who have a habit of not demanding receipts," explained Katundu.

He said that the education will be provided for free by explaining to the buyers the importance of claiming the receipt to avoid a fine of 30,000/- to 1.5m/-.

One of the customers in Kariakoo area, Elizabeth Kimaro, called upon her fellow buyers who have a habit of not demanding receipts to use their right and responsibility to demand receipts for the development of the nation.



Many times we have been giving education to traders about the correct use of EFD machines and now we have come up with a special strategy to educate buyers about their right to claim receipts every time they buy something

Iringa referral hospital, journalists to sensitise public to donate blood

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Iringa Regional Referral Hospital in collaboration with the Regional Medical Officer (RMO) and journalists in the region have organised a campaign to sensitise blood donation to the hospital which is in dire need of the life serving commodity.

Medical Officer in charge of the Referral Hospital of the Iringa Region, Dr Alfred Mwakalebela said the event is aimed at increasing the hospital's blood bank to avert the

shortage.

He said the move which is scheduled to take place on 01, January next year is aimed at encouraging blood donation as well as increasing blood collection from 57-percent to 100-percent.

Dr Mwakalebela added that blood was an important element in the human body adding that there was need for the society to embrace blood donation tendencies to save lives.

He said the shortage of blood has been a result of depending

on secondary and primary school students who are now on leave.

According to Dr Mwakalebela, normally, the Iringa Region uses around 600 bottles per month, but until December 27, 2022, they were able to get 300 bottles of blood which they got after addressing the matter to the media about the shortage.

Silvanus Kigomba who is a journalist for ITV/Radio One in Iringa, said that they have decided to organize a campaign to mobilize citizens to donate blood after

an outcry from the hospital's management.

He said that what prompted the exercise through 'The Great Southern Highlands Co. Ltd' was after witnessing patients and doctors at the referral hospital complaining of blood shortage. "As journalists, we have every reason to motivate each other and encourage the public to donate blood to ensure that the referral hospital and other hospitals in the region have enough blood..." he said.

Millions risk starvation as worst drought in decades hits Africa

By Corazon Miller

HUGE swathes of land across Southern Ethiopia are dry, cracked and barren. Fields of crops brown, full of wilted vegetation; and on a nearby dusty road lies an animal's skull. The arid landscape is the epitome of drought - the worst the Horn of Africa has seen in generations.

The relentless dry weather and high food prices are undercutting people's ability to grow crops, raise livestock and buy food. It's led to a desperate plea from aid workers

to do more to save the millions of children in the area of dying from starvation.

TearFund's Tim Manson visited the worst hit parts of Ethiopia in the weeks before Christmas, where he heard countless stories of how people were struggling to survive in a land with little water.

"I spoke with a 60-year-old man yesterday and he was telling me that this is the worst drought in his memory," Manson says.

"A lot of rural families have experienced six failed harvests in a row. They are no longer able to feed

themselves."

Another woman recounted how she'd sold her two cattle to make money. The third died from a lack of food. Now her children are going hungry.

Unicef NZ chief executive officer Michelle Sharp says there's no question that it's a matter of life and death. "It shouldn't take tens of thousands of children to die before we sit up and listen," she says.

The war in Ukraine has also compounded the food shortages on Africa's east coast.

"They rely very, very heavily on importing wheat from certain countries, two of these countries are Ukraine and Russia," she says.

"Because of the conflict that's not coming."

Ethiopia's also been affected by war, in the northern region of Tigray. Getting aid into the war torn region has been difficult - till now.

A recent truce has opened up safer access - giving hope to Ethiopians there and abroad that this will see the nation's economic

situation improve.

Dawit Arshak is an Ethiopian community leader in Auckland. The ceasefire has given him optimism about the future of Ethiopia.

"The conflict is almost ended, that makes a big difference for us. We can rejoice, [end of war] that's what we seek.

"Rather than fear, I've got hope, because I've seen very good measures [of progress]."

These measures include efforts by Ethiopia to increase its own grain production to a level where it can export it to neighbouring countries;

and its plans for more renewable energy sources.

But the aid agencies say more global support is still needed to help Ethiopia fulfil its vision of being resilient in the face of the changing climate.

Manson says aid alongside development is key.

"We believe in the importance of humanitarian support, but also long-term initiatives that help people be more resilient," he says.

Sharp says it's a global crisis where "all of us have a role to play".



Mpanda Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority director Hussein Salum Nyemba and acting financial management and administration officer of MUWASA, Justine Wambali appear before Mpanda District Court yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Neema Hussein

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF Cutting/Bevelling and Welding services

REF No. ETJ-BB-PR-EI-GEN-GE-0108

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>BESIX Ballast Nedam Limited, executing Early Services for the Jetty and Load Out Facilities in the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, invites experienced specialist Companies to express their interest for:</p> <p>Cutting/Bevelling and Welding services and Welding machines</p> <p>The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies are partaking in the implementation of the EACOP Project.</p> <p>The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania incl. a Jetty with Load Out Facility for Oil Tankers, near Tanga in Tanzania.</p> <p>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MATERIALS / SERVICES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cutting/Bevelling of Piles Head for Levelling - Welding of Piles to Headstocks for shallow area (Semi-Automatic Weld with Travel Band) - Welding of Piles to Headstock for Deep area (Semi-Automatic Weld with Travel Band) - Welding of Headstock to Steel Trusses for shallow area (Manual Weld) - Preheating works for all connections depends on WPS with Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supply for all necessary welding, cutting equipment and relevant consumables. <p>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company profile with prove of sufficient financial capabilities and sufficient and capable resources. - An experience list with relevant supply history / track record showing minimum of five (5) years' experience in execution similar services of required welding services as per international standards common in the Oil and Gas business or comparable market - List of qualified pipe welders. - List of welding and cutting/bevelling equipment - Company's Quality and HSE plans and certification: ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO 45001:2018), EN ISO 14732, EN ISO 90606-1, ISO 11484, EN ISO 90609-1, EN ISO 10893-8, 10893-11, or equivalent certificates - Compliance with petroleum (local Content) regulation of 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania. - Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is highly recommended. |
|---|--|

Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to procurement@bbnjv.com (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before 14th January 2023, 1800hrs Tanzania Time.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will be evaluated and if selected will be invited, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), to participate in the bidding process.

Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.

More than 170 incidents of sexual abuse reported in November - research

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A TOTAL of 177 incidents of sexual abuse have been reported in November this year, with most victims being children and women.

This is according to a yesterday's report from the Office of the Chief Statistician in Zanzibar that was presented to the media.

Presenting the report, Statistician Ramla Hassan Pandu, said that among the victims, 157 were children equivalent to 88.7 percent. He said of the 157 children, 124 are girls.

She said the number of incidents recorded in November increased from 164 cases reported in October 2022.

She mentioned Urban and West 'B' districts as leading with 47 cases reported in each of them, followed by West 'A' district which had 40 incidents while North 'B' and South districts had three incidents each.

She said rape incidents top the list accounting for 47.5 percent of all the reported cases.

Director of Social Development, Gender and the Elderly in the Ministry of Social Welfare, Siti Abass Ali underscored the need for community members and parents to cooperate in providing sexual and reproductive health education to children.

She said through education such incidences are likely to decrease as children will be aware of the

adverse effects of engaging in sexual relationships at childhood.

She advised the community to embrace the good principles of child upbringing and make close follow up on whatever they are doing especially after school.

Ministry of Social Welfare's Head of Gender and Children department, Halima Abdulrahman Omar said to reduce sexual abuse incidents including rape, the society should invest in providing sexual and reproductive health education.

"Let's consider other people's children as our children; we must invest in education for our children to know how to protect themselves," she added.

Inspector Makame Haji Haji, who is also the Head of the gender desk at police headquarters urged parents to closely monitor their children's behaviour.



Let's consider other people's children as our children; we must invest in education for our children to know how to protect themselves

Severe drought fuels malnutrition, reduces hospital-delivery births in Kenya counties

TURKANA, Kenya

FOLLOWING four successive failed rainy seasons, Kenya is amid the worst drought in 40 years, the UN's women's health agency, UNFPA, said on Tuesday, shining a light on 134,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women who are reported to be acutely malnourished and in need of treatment.

"I have never experienced a drought as bad as this in my life", 28-year-old Akure Ewar told UNFPA.

At seven months pregnant, she complains that she is hungry and often feels dizzy when going about her day.

"The dry seasons have been progressively getting worse over the last three years, but our animals kept us going with milk and meat. This time, they have all perished and left us with nothing."

Forced to migrate in search of water, food and pasture, many are unable to access health facilities for critical maternal health care.

"Before the drought, our health facilities would record an average of 411 deliveries in a month, indicating a skilled birth attendance rate of 70 per cent", explained Maiyo Elphas, a Loima Sub-county public health officer.

"In November 2022, the number was down to 100 births recorded, which represents a very low rate of 24.6 per cent."

Women have been disproportionately affected by the drought in Kenya, which has increased their vulnerability to violence and drastically reduced their access to health centres.

UNFPA Kenya Women have been disproportionately affected by the drought in Kenya, which has increased their vulnerability to violence and drastically reduced their access to health centres.

"Every woman, rich or poor, has a 15 per cent risk for complications around the time of delivery, but almost no maternal deaths occur in developed regions", according to the World Health Organization, explaining the importance of skilled birth attendance, meaning a childbirth assisted by a trained health professional, such as a doctor, nurse or midwife.

The rate of skilled birth attendance was already low in Kenya, a country with a high maternal death rate of 342 per 100,000 live births but the situation is worsening dramatically for those affected by drought.

In Lochoyepet Village, 30-year-

old Losikiria Kuya, who is pregnant with her fourth child often goes for days without food is frequently unable to trek the 10 kilometers to the nearest health center for her ante-natal check-ups.

"Usually when it is time to deliver, my husband will take me to the center on a motorbike, but with him often gone in search of pasture, I have to be ready to fend for myself, if need be", she said.

The drought crisis is not only affecting women's access to essential maternal health care; it is causing serious undernutrition among pregnant women, escalating risks to them and their future babies.

In addition to affecting the development of a fetus, undernutrition also causes a number of problems for pregnant women, including higher risk of sepsis and death.

UNFPA and partners are providing life-saving sexual and reproductive health services that bring services closer to those who need them most.

"During the drought season, we have been carrying out health outreach activities every two weeks where we offer ante-natal and postnatal services, family planning, nutrition and immunization services to the community" Nurse Lobei Dedan Njagi told UNFPA.

During each visit, an estimated 15 to 20 pregnant women receive care.

The severity and exceptional duration of the drought is worsening an already dire situation in Turkana County, which was already reeling from locust infestations and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Projections indicate a possible sixth consecutive poor rainy season from March to May, placing even more women and girls at risk.

UNFPA is appealing for \$113.7 million to fund its Response Plan for the Horn of Africa Drought Crisis 2022-2023 to support the escalating needs of women and girls.



In November 2022, the number was down to 100 births recorded, which represents a very low rate of 24.6 per cent



Members of Fire and Rescue Force carry the body of Benjamin John who drowned in Nyapa river, Geita Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joctan Ngelly

TRA in Iringa collects 16 billion/- in revenue

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Iringa Region has collected 16.4bn/- in the first quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year, surpassing the set goal of collecting 16.1bn/-.

TRA Iringa Regional Manager,

Paul Walalaze made the statement when speaking at an event to thank taxpayers and welcome the year 2023.

He said during the year 2022, TRA in the region received full cooperation from stakeholders, calling for continued cooperation in the coming year to facilitate collection of taxes for the nation's

development.

Walalaze said the successes are due to good cooperation with taxpayers as well as education on the importance of paying taxes.

"I would like to advise taxpayers to make sure they demand for electronic receipts whenever they make purchases. The receipts should include the actual price of

purchased products," said Walalaze noting, demanding Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) will help enhance revenue collections.

He said that TRA will take legal measures including penalties to both, sellers and buyers who will not demand for official electronic receipts. He said they have been providing education from time to time to make people pay taxes voluntarily.

He urged stakeholders to pay income tax by December 31st 2022. He said the taxes are paid in installments whereas the first installments are paid in March, second in June, third in September and the fourth on 31st this month.



Muhongolo street resident Naomi Kusekwa in Kahama district explains on how they are subjected to acts of violence by their husbands during a street-by-street campaign to provide education on gender violence organised by Kahama community development office yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Experts caution public against use of 'Shisha'

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari,

Mtwara

HEALTH experts have warned the public against the mounting use of 'shisha', saying that the situation may push consumers to risk of cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

They sounded the warning here when speaking on an ongoing campaign to educate mass on risk behaviors associated with NCDs in the southern part of Tanzania.

NCDs national coordinator in the Ministry of Health, Dr Goodluck Tumaini said that one inhalation of shisha is equivalent to smoking six cigarettes at once.

Dr Tumaini said that there is an alarming increase in the use of 'Shisha' among Tanzanian youth,

something which calls for strong interventions to fight the vice which is affecting the generation.

He noted that tobacco and its byproducts use was accounting 32 percent of cancer disorders in the country and has contributed to other non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular and respiratory disorders.

He however noted that using shisha has been branded as a classic, modern and civilized way of smoking which puts youth at risk of being non-communicable diseases customers including cancer.

"Our youth perceive using shisha as a civilized way of smoking; they don't care about its side effects. In actual fact one puff of shisha is equivalent to a person who smokes six cigarettes at once

in terms of nicotine accumulated," he revealed.

According to him, shisha has been branded with various test flavors, for example vanilla, strawberry and other flavors, so when someone uses it, they can feel good and comfortable but in reality the product carries a number of side effects.

"Inhaling shisha has become like a fashion now, but people do not think about the side effects. One breath puts someone at risk of getting a wide-range of NCDs as 60 percent of cancer related diseases are caused by improper lifestyle including, tobacco use, bad feeding and sedentary life and he made a call to the public to detach with all risk behaviors."

Dr Ruthguard Kokulinda, anti-tobacco activist, advised the

public that use of tobacco has no benefits and accounted for the nation annually around \$40 million for treatment of cancer related disorders catalyzed by farming, use of tobacco and its product.

"For each \$ that comes from tobacco, 6\$ is spent to purchase medicines to cure tobacco related diseases, so why can we campaign to stop selling and consumption of tobacco," Dr Kokulinda said.

Dr Waziri Ndonde, a sport medicine specialist encouraged the public to conduct body exercises by setting aside at least 30 minutes a day.

"Luxury life kills us, our feeding is poor, yet we don't take physical exercises to make our body fit by releasing poisons and other unwanted materials through sweat," said Dr Ndonde.

Unicef calls upon more journalists to prioritise reporting on children

By **Getrude Mbago**

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has challenged journalists in the country to invest efforts and prioritise reporting on children issues so as to help the group stay safe and achieve full potential.

Deputy country representative of UNICEF, Ousmane Niang made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the 2022 Children Reportage Awards ceremony organised by the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF).

During the awards, three journalists from IPP Media Ltd scooped various awards from different categories. They are Marco Maduhu of Nipashe, Shinyanga Region, Julieth Mkireri (Nipashe-Coast Region) and Anna Sombida of East Africa Television (EATV).

According to her, despite the good job which has been done by journalists in investigating, digging and reporting sensitive issues conserving children welfare, more need to be done to intensively promote children rights and protection in the country.

"Journalists have to put children issues among the top agenda during your reportage so as to enable the children to fulfill their full potential wherever they are. We appreciate those who have been spending their time researching and unveiling issues that affect children's progress, something which makes it easy for the public to know but also authorities to act," he said.

He noted that in 2020, the country had 28 million, but the number will double to 59 million children by 2050, something which brings alert from the government and stakeholders to put strong strategies to protect the group and ensure its welfare.

Naing further said that malnutrition/stunting among children has declined by almost one-third and this is a great progress when the government and stakeholders are increasing efforts to completely address the problem.

He said that the government through the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) in collaboration with partners such as UNICEF and others is implementing a gender-responsive simplified birth registration programme that aims to reach all under-five children across the country.

Under the system, children are registered and given birth certificates at a short time in ward offices and health centres compared to the previous time

when parents had to travel to reach district officers to get the service.

"Due to these efforts Tanzania is now a champion in Africa on child registration as it has raised childbirth registration from 17 percent in 2013 percent to 65 percent this year," he added.

He also commended the winners of the awards for the job well done by investing their time in searching and reporting children issues.

Deodatus Balile, TEF chairman commended UNICEF for supporting the initiative to ensure that Tanzanian newsrooms increase reporting of children issues so as to strengthen protection of the group.

"My plea to you journalists is to create a culture of reporting on children issues, prioritize the agenda and specialize in the area so as to bring a joint impact and make our children safe," he said.

He said that the initiative to promote reporting on children issues commenced in 2017 and this is the fifth year of working with UNICEF to achieve the intended goals.

"Journalists from various newsrooms have been spending much of their time investigating and reporting issues that affect children positively or negatively to further remind authorities and the society to take appropriate measures," he said.

He further reminded journalists to continue campaigning for the review and amendment of the Marriage Act, 1971 as it affects girl child development.

Other journalists who scooped awards for their consistent reporting on children issues include Tumaini Msowoya from Mwananchi, Faraja Masinde of Mtanzania Digital Anold Kailembo of Radio Kwizera, Aidan Mhando of Channel 10, Shua Ndereka of Mwiwata Radio from Mbeya, Vicky kimaro of Habari Leo, Judith Ferdinand of Majira, Sabina Martin of Chai FM Radio and Stansilaus Lameck of Dar 24.



My plea to you journalists is to create a culture of reporting on children issues, prioritize the agenda and specialize in the area so as to bring a joint impact and make our children safe

Over 50 killed in ethnic clashes in South Sudan's Jonglei region

JUBA

AT least 57 people were killed and more than a dozen others injured during recent ethnic violence in South Sudan's eastern Jonglei region, a local official has said.

Armed groups of youths from the Nuer ethnic group attacked members of the Murle ethnic group in the Greater Pibor administrative area, Greater Pibor's information minister Abraham Kelang said.

South Sudan, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, has been blighted by political and communal violence and clashes over cattle and land disputes for decades.

Kelang said the fighting started on Sunday when armed youths from Jonglei attacked Lanam village.

He said members of both groups were killed while 17 people on the Murle side were among the injured.

Murle community youth association chairman David Ngro condemned the fighting and urged humanitarian groups to intervene.

"We also call on the central government and the government of Jonglei State to take action to stop this act of genocidal nature aimed towards the Murle tribe," he said on Wednesday.

Jonglei State information minister John Samuel Manyon

also condemned the fighting and ordered state youth to withdraw immediately.

And he called on the national government in Juba to intervene, saying the situation is out of the local state's control.

"This is a cycle of violence that has been going on for many years, and we want that support from the national (government) and our partners to see the solution in ending (it)," Manyon said.

The Jonglei youths also attacked a military barracks. Military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Lul Ruai said the "rebellion" would be dealt with accordingly.

Recently, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan warned about reported mobilisation of armed Nuer youths in the Greater Jonglei area. It said that could trigger violent attacks that could undermine recent peace gains achieved through a rapprochement between the leaders of Jonglei state and Pibor area.

In March 2020, similar fighting between the two communities displaced thousands.

Insecurity remains rife across the landlocked East African country despite the formation of a transitional government in February 2020, which reinstalled Riek Machar as the country's first vice president.



A nursery trees vendor who declined to mention his name sells seedlings to customers in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Rwanda accuses Congolese warplane of violating its airspace

KIGALI

RWANDA has accused neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo of violating its airspace by flying a fighter jet over its territory.

The accusation comes amid growing tensions between the two after Kinshasa accused Rwanda of

backing the rebel M23 group which has resumed fighting in eastern DRC.

In a statement tweeted on Wednesday, Kigali said: "The authorities in the DRC seem to be emboldened by consistent coddling by some in the international community who repeatedly heap

blame on Rwanda for any and all ills in the DRC, while ignoring the transgressions originating from the DRC."

The United Nations and the United States have also said that they believe Rwanda backs the M23 group.

It is composed mainly of ethnic

Tutsis, as is Rwanda's government.

In November Kinshasa apologised after one of its fighter jets - which was unarmed - briefly flew over Rwanda. It said the over flight was an accident and that the plane had been on a reconnaissance mission.

Kinshasa has yet to respond to Wednesday's alleged over flight.



Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited workers in Muheza District, Tanga Region loading poles to supply power in the villages yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

South African innovator manufactures off-road wheelchairs

JOHANNESBURG

AN invention by a young entrepreneur in South Africa is helping improve mobility for wheelchair users. Ernest Mongezi Majenge is known as the wheelchair doctor. He refurbishes old wheelchairs and turns them into stair friendly, off-road transportation. It takes Majenge 24 hours to put together all the parts needed for each mobility product.

"The secret of the wheelchair are the wheels. The wheelchair has

been there for years but we only changed the wheels which has star wheels. We can also transform it to have the normal circle wheels that you can use it on a flat surface. It is a two in one wheels," said Ernest Mongezi Majenge, 911 The Wheelchair Doctor.

Majenge's off-road wheelchairs have already hit the international market with France being the first country to take in orders. In a year's time, he hopes to manufacture 10 000 wheelchairs.

"So far we have in a day we can

manufacture four wheelchairs and it depended on the order we get since it is a new start-up company. On the ruby side, there were 5 that were sold in France and in South Africa there were only four," he said.

While innovation in manufacturing wheelchairs is a step forward for promoting mobility, a hurdle for some manufacturers and consumers is the price tag.

"Obviously we want strong durable wheelchairs but we don't want to pay the cost of them so

we would like innovation to bring the cost down and when it comes to maintenance with whatever innovations come, it needs to be easy to maintain and parts must be interchangeable," said Ari Seirlis, QuadPara Association Board member.

In South Africa, wheelchairs can cost anything between 200 to over 10 000 US dollars. Innovators like Ernest Mongezi Majenge believe that there is a market for more affordable high quality wheelchairs.

With climate change disasters, global solidarity acutely vital

Each passing day in the lives of human beings there is an element of solidarity involved, either neglected or observed, or as some may say, observed in the breach. When a person overcharges in a transaction, or steals public funds knowing he risks nothing in that act, it is contempt for human solidarity that is at issue, as a child may die untreated due to lack of drugs or funds, etc. Stressing human solidarity is to stress that our being human incurs responsibilities on one another, that we often underestimate.

A United Nations chronicler says that the UN General Assembly, on 22 December 2005, by resolution 60/209 identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values that should underlie relations between peoples in the 21st century. It is to see solidarity as the cornerstone of civilisation quite simply, especially for the world stage where global human rights is what underlines institutional practices. In that regard it decided to proclaim 20th December of each year as International Human Solidarity Day. It is now generally seen to be reflected in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Agenda, centred on people and planet welfare.

Some of the things that we in Tanzania know by heart are globally driven agenda since the United Nations system came into being and its institutions sketched out over 70 years ago. The UN is underpinned by human rights and supported by a global partnership determined to lift people out of poverty, hunger and disease where ignorance is often an aspect of poverty in like manner as hunger. Global climatic change is making hunger a result of catastrophe rather than poverty, for solidarity actions rather than economic reform formulas, conditional aid or strategically

advantageous actions.

Designing a workable matrix in this situation will not be easy, as the UN chronicler says the world order must be built on a foundation of global cooperation and solidarity, where a clear element is to celebrate our unity in diversity. There are forms of diversity that are relatively capable of being taken on board, like plausible limitations on democratic expression, but when girls are expelled from school or university in a systematic way, global solidarity is pushed to the brink. It is to compel to rethink the issue of the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty eradication, but in way that is disconnected from gender equality and women's rights.

The chronicler highlights that solidarity is identified in the Millennium Declaration (at the end of 1999) as one of the fundamental values of international relations in the 21st century. Those who either suffer - or benefit least - deserve help from those who benefit most, thus the challenge of growing inequality needs strengthening of international solidarity to overcome. Large scale and often perilous migratory waves are such danger.

Still, it is not easy to see the world changing its ways, including political strife or mass disaffection when relatively scarce resources are generally extended to others for use. The step child or the 'beggar thy neighbour' mentality still pervades in much of what we do, and solidarity as such is fairly limited. Still the world has made much progress in that direction, for instance the way things changed here during the fifth phase, that wanton government spending on bureaucratic perks, travel, meetings etc was contempt for the social needs of the poor. Rectifying that situation was a sea change in governance and accountability, a salutary act of solidarity.

We ought to mobilise public opinion to development problems

In 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, the Paris Agreement on climate change entered into force, addressing the need to limit the rise of global temperatures.

Governments, businesses and civil society together with the United Nations mobilised efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030. Universal, inclusive and indivisible, the Agenda calls for action by all countries to improve the lives of people everywhere.

During a workshop involving Members of Parliament in Dodoma, the United National Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Coordinator, Alvaro Rodriguez Alvaro, warned however that if Tanzania wants to benefit more from the new plan, it should encompass the new plans and targets in its local development designs.

He noted it was good that the SDGs come at a time when the country has just started implementation of the second Five Years Development Plan (FYDP).

"Progress was made during the implementation of Millennium Development Goals. What need to be done now is ensure that we make SDGs part of Tanzania's development strategy," he said.

Though the targets were not attained fully, but the implementation process left behind a number of valuable lessons on how the countries including Tanzania can tackle the challenges as they roll out Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), crafted as a vehicle to continue with what was not achieved through MDGs.

SDGs, otherwise known as Global Goals, are also regarded as 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development. It includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change by 2030.

In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly decided to institute a World Development Information Day coinciding with United Nations Day on October 24. The General Assembly had the object of drawing the attention of world public-opinion each year to development problems and the necessity of strengthening international co-operation to solve them.

The day was further recognized as the date on which the International Development Strategy for the Second Nations Development Decade was adopted in 1970.

On May 17, 1972, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) proposed measures for information dissemination and for the mobilization of public opinion relative to trade and development problems.

These became known as resolution 3038 (XXVII), which the UN General Assembly passed on December 19, 1972. This resolution called for introducing World Development Information Day to help draw the attention of people worldwide to development problems.

A further aim of the event is to explain to the general public why it is necessary to strengthen international cooperation to find ways to solve these problems. The assembly also decided that the day should coincide with United Nations Day to stress the central role of development in the UN's work. World Development Information Day was first held on October 24, 1973, and has been held on this date each year since then.

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After 43 years of negotiations, Security Council reforms move at the pace of a paralytic snail

By Thalif Deen

THE reform of the Security Council, the most powerful body at the United Nations, has remained a never-ending political saga.

According to the President of the General Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary, 43 years have passed since the question of Security Council reform first appeared on the UN agenda.

"It has been 17 years since world leaders expressed their support for the so-called 'early reform' of the Council, calling it an essential element of the overall effort to reform the United Nations".

"And it has been 13 years since the General Assembly launched an intergovernmental negotiations (IGN) process", he added.

But a lingering question remains: Will reforms be ever achieved in the lifespan of the United Nations, which has made significant contributions as a humanitarian relief organization but remains deadlocked as a political body, outliving its usefulness?

After more than four decades, the reform process has been at a virtual standstill - or perhaps moving at the combined pace of a paralytic snail and a limping tortoise.

Pointing out the deadlock, Kőrösi said there are groups of Member States who are very much for the expansion of the permanent and non-permanent membership. There are others who favour expansion only - of non-permanent memberships.

And then, there are countries that favour the preservation of existing veto rights, while others would like to abolish all veto rights.

There are also countries supporting the expansion of non-permanent memberships with similar veto rights or reformed veto rights compared with the one today, he pointed out.

"It would be intellectually very easy to suggest a solution but it's not my role. I cannot step out of my role. So, it will be the responsibility of Member States to iron out a compromise".

"As we stand, compromises are not on the horizon," he declared.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics, University of San Francisco, who has written extensively on the politics of the Security Council, told IPS given that the veto-wielding members of the Security Council have a strong stake in maintaining

the status quo, it is hard to imagine that these latest efforts at reform will be any more successful than previous attempts.

This can only hurt the credibility of the United Nations, whose enforcement mechanisms will continue to be trapped in a 1945 worldview, he noted.

"It was the Soviets who primarily abused their veto power during the first quarter century of the United Nations. During the next four decades, it was the United States which emerged most frequently as the lone dissenting vote blocking scores of otherwise unanimous Security Council resolutions".

During the past decade, he pointed out, it has been Putin's Russia which has emerged as the greatest obstacle to unity.

In almost every case, the negative consequences of vetoes by Washington and Moscow have most seriously impacted not each other, but peoples of the Global South.

"It is a travesty that while only 16% of the world's population is white, 80% of the permanent seats in the Security Council are held by majority white countries," said Zunes.

Currently, the 15-member Security Council is composed of five permanent members (P5) - the US, UK, Russia China and France, armed with veto powers, along with 10 non-permanent members, without veto powers, elected for two years, on the basis of geographical rotation.

Meanwhile, the contenders for permanent seats include India, Japan, Germany and Brazil - with or without vetoes.

Africa seeks two seats, and the countries staking their claims include Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt. But the 55-member African Union is now seeking a seat of its own. Last week, Algeria made a case for a permanent seat on behalf of North Africa.

David M. Malone, Rector of the United Nations University and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, told IPS: "I fear Security Council reform involving permanent seats - rather than working methods, and perhaps some variations on elected seats, with some of these perhaps becoming semi-permanent with or without vetoes - is likely to be blocked for as long as the UN is around, not least precisely because the world has changed so much that each of the P-5, with the possible exception of China, has something

to lose, if even modest reform on composition occurs".

Adding more vetoes is likely to make the Council even less effective than it is now, and likely slower, he pointed out.

"The reason I put my comment this way is that each of the P-5 has its own reasons for not wanting further competition in terms of power within the Council", he said.

France may fear the emergence of the idea of an European Union (EU) seat, if the debate gets serious. For the UK, more permanent seats would simply devalue its own, which is a rare jewel (at least in terms of self-image) in the crown after BREXIT.

The US already finds it very hard to get its own way, said Malone, a former Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations.

Nobody wants more Russias, particularly at the moment. And China, while formally supporting more permanent seats for countries of the Global South has, noticeably, done nothing concrete to help make this happen.

"The circumstances generating a new multilateral dispensation representing the global community in the sphere of security are likely to arise only after a global catastrophe, just like the UN's creation was an outcome of World War II".

And who really wants another World War II type disruption of the current global order, even recognizing the gross equity deficit in the Security Council's current disposition? he asked.

"As I've observed (and, for my country, at times, on and off played a role relative to) the Council for slightly more than thirty years, I've come to think of the Security Council reform issue (as it pertains to composition, rather than to, say, working methods) as a parlour game greatly enjoyed by delegates and observers of the UN."

They so enjoy it because they know the score is bound to be a nil-one in the final reel.

So, the debate is gratis and gratuitous, however good the intentions of a number of delegations may be, said Malone author of The UN Security Council in the 21st Century (as co-editor; 2015, Lynne Rienner Publishers) and the second edition of Law and Practice of the United Nations (co-authored graduate textbook; 2016; Oxford University Press).

Martin S. Edwards, Professor and Chair, School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton

Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, told IPS since President Biden opened the door on this, it makes every bit of sense to rise to the moment.

"But it also means that the window here is narrow, as he will soon have to focus on reelection. And we know that the UN is not going to be a focus in a Republican administration. So, the time for serious dealing is now."

Recognizing US domestic constraints is important for a second reason as well. What many do not understand is that for the P5, these proposals require ratification, he said.

For the US, that's a 2/3 vote in a polarized Senate. It is difficult for me to imagine circumstances that would cause Republican Senators to give President Biden a win. And delay on the part of countries will again cause that window to close, Edwards noted.

Many countries are seeking the perfect at the expense of the good. For example, if the issue is representation, then is pursuing a veto really needed?

"Countries have spent several years trying to delegitimize the veto, so it makes little sense to ask for it. Rhetorically, no one wants to propose anything less, and this also makes it difficult to find a deal: you either have a veto or you don't".

Some of these proposals are clearly self-serving, said Edwards.

By itself that's not a bad thing, but since the goal of the African countries was to develop a common negotiating position - the Ezulwini Consensus - it would be a shame for African countries to try to break it.

"To me, there are two questions about that consensus, which is two permanent seats and two elected seats for Africa. Can Africa live with less? And then what does the rest of the SC look like?"

The P5 countries were accorded veto power because of their status as both great powers and the victors in World War II. They continue to exercise that power even though they do not represent the changing global demographic composition or realities of current geopolitical power.

Moreover, whereas the Council was bestowed with the powers to maintain peace and international security with enforceable mechanisms, it has generally failed to reach consensus on enforcing some of its own resolutions, declared Edwards.

By Greg Nicolson

SOUTH African comedian, writer, producer and global superstar Trevor Noah, who hosted 'The Daily Show' in the US for seven years, recently left the award-winning TV programme, bowing out gracefully on his own terms. He is Daily Maverick's Artist of the Year, 2022.

Trevor Noah was almost set up to fail at The Daily Show. He started as a correspondent on Comedy Central's late-night programme in 2014 and became the host within a year.

Jon Stewart, the icon, sat at the desk for 16 years and was a permanent feature of American political satire. No one could fill Stewart's shoes, let alone a relative unknown from South Africa. But Noah had his own plans.

He hosted The Daily Show for seven years before calling it quits and shooting his last episode in December. In his own words, he started as "this random comedian nobody knew - on this side of the world" but he exceeded expectations and eventually left on his own terms, announcing his departure while filming, without even telling his crew.

In the rarefied world of American late-night shows, the idea of a black, foreign (in this case meaning anyone not from the US or the UK) host doesn't - or didn't - exist. After he took the job Noah spoke of being part of "a new young generation of comedians of colour, in a space where our parents didn't have a voice that was recognised". He started to remake the show in his own image, as an outsider looking in on US politics and society, achieving major celebrity status while striving to remain

Trevor Noah - South Africa's funnyman marks the end of an era... on his own terms



Trevor Noah speaks at the 64th annual Grammy Awards in Las Vegas on 3 April 2022. (Photo: David Becker / Getty Images for The Recording Academy)

relatable.

Some of his segments went viral, like when he said Donald Trump was "the perfect African president", comparing him to Jacob Zuma and former president of The Gambia Yahya Jammeh, and he regularly interviewed the world's top celebrities. The guest list for some of his final shows included Roger Federer, Gabrielle Union, Will Smith, Iman, Barack Obama, Nas, Jordan Peele and Thuso Mbedu.

'Talk to black women'

He was criticised for not being as funny or insightful about US politics as Stewart or some other late-

night hosts. But, broadcasting from his New York apartment during the Covid-19 lockdown, he delivered unparalleled takes after the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests that balanced genuine insight with humour on the country's most challenging issues.

In his final show, he said: "I always tell people, 'If you truly want to learn about America, talk to black women'. Because, unlike everybody else, black women cannot afford to fuck around and find out. Black people understand how hard it is when things go bad - especially in America, but in any place where black people exist, whether it's Brazil or South

Africa... wherever it is, when things go bad black people know that it gets worse for them. But black women in particular, they know what shit is."

He remained appreciative, even thanking those who hate-watched the show - every viewer boosts ratings. "I remember when we started the show, we couldn't get enough people to fill an audience. And then I look at this now. I don't take it for granted. Ever. Every seat that has ever been filled to watch something that I'm doing, I always appreciate because I know the empty seat that sits behind it.

"I've loved hosting this show. It's been one of my greatest challenges.

It's been one of my greatest joys. I've loved trying to figure out how to make people laugh even when the stories are particularly shitty on the worst days."

Noah refused to be pigeonholed while leading The Daily Show and continued to perform stand-up gigs, unusual for a comedian in his position. While balancing a demanding TV schedule he released a bestselling book, *Born a Crime*, and filmed multiple Netflix specials. In an affront to the American system, he's spoken of wanting to move away from political satire.

"If you start conversations with politics, people have very few ways

to connect because it's one of the more divisive topics we have. In my humble opinion, that's part of the problem in America: politics has become like sports and everyone is engaged in it, so there are fewer and fewer cultural touch points that people share now," he recently told The Hollywood Reporter.

"In my comedy, especially in this period of time, I want to share with an audience the idea that we can have more grace for each other and we can understand that people can make mistakes and good people can do bad things - and that doesn't necessarily mean we have to define them as just bad or just good. I think life is a lot more... complicated."

Having finished up at The Daily Show, Noah has said he wants to continue travelling and performing, but experience rather than just visit cities across the world. He also plans to spend more time with family in South Africa and will perform shows in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria in August and September 2023. DMI68

How we chose the People of the Year winners

In the past, Daily Maverick journalists decided who they thought warranted the title of Person of the Year, but for the second year running, we have asked readers to vote for their preferred choice, with the proviso that we still have the final say. Choosing the annual winners is a labour of love because that's what it takes to get a bunch of DM editors to decide whether they agree or disagree with the choices of 13,000 readers. Over the next few days, we shall republish online all the results in various categories. - Heather Robertson, DM

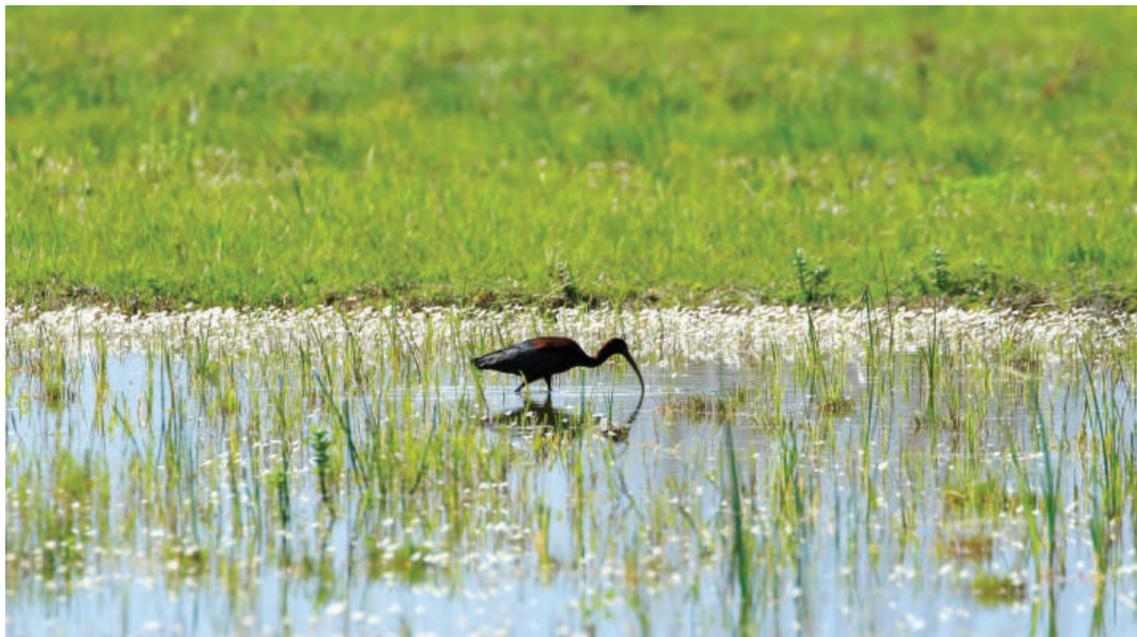
We've lost nearly 90 pc of wetlands globally due to encroachment

By Telesphor Magobe

THE 'Living Planet Index (LPI) 2022: Building a Nature-Positive Society' released in October shows a significant drop in monitored wildlife populations between 1970 and 2018 - that is in 48 years. It contains both increasing and declining trends and uses data for species that have been monitored at least twice at any time since 1970, which is considered the baseline year.

The LPI 2022 tracked changes in about 32,000 populations of 5,230 species including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Data collected during the surveyed period and its analysis help scientists understand the health trend of ecosystems.

According to LPI 2022, between 1970 and 2018 there was a 69 per cent decline in monitored wildlife populations worldwide and freshwater species declined by 83 per cent. Cycads (palm-like seed-bearing plants found in tropical and subtropical regions) were the most threatened species and coral reefs were declining fast, followed by amphibians during the surveyed period. Scientists suggest



that increasing heat waves and droughts resulting from higher global temperatures threaten many species.

As a result, 75 per cent of the earth's ice-free land surface has been changed by humans, mainly to create farms for food production. About 90 per cent of wetlands have been lost globally and 100,000 square kilometres of forest is lost per year (equivalent to about one football pitch every two seconds). Scientists also suggest that one million species are threatened with extinction

in the coming years and natural processes are disrupted.

However, there is solace in new fish species to end this year 2022 and start the New Year 2023 with. At least 838 new fish species and 11,011 new populations have been added to the database since the 2020 Living Planet Report (LPR). The new data has led to a substantial increase in the number of fish species included (29 per cent, +481 species) and has improved coverage for previously underrepresented areas.

The LPR suggests that

based on 6,617 monitored populations, representing 1,398 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish, the freshwater LPI provides an indication of the status of freshwater habitats.

In 2022 the LPI included at least 32,000 species populations, which translate into 11,000 more species populations than in 2020, the largest increase yet in the number of populations between two editions of this report.

The increase is partly attributed to an increase in the sourcing of data in languages

other than English, with work by WWF-Brazil and the University of Sao Paulo Collecting Data in Portuguese. Their efforts have facilitated the inclusion of 3,269 populations of 1,002 Brazilian species (575 of which are new to the database) included in the LPI.

WWF's LPR is published every two years, providing a clear picture of how species populations are faring across the world and giving an indication of overall ecosystem health.

Despite the solace found in

the new fish species, the LPI 2022 shows human activities have considerably contributed to the decline in the number of wildlife species populations. For instance, illegal fishing and extraction of coral reefs have led to the destruction of fish habitats and low fish production. There are also other human activities that have led to biodiversity loss.

"This decline in wildlife and wild places is mostly due to human activities such as deforestation, large-scale farming, pollution and construction of buildings and transport networks. Such activities prevent the living system from working as we need it to in order to provide for the needs of the growing human population. The LPI is one of many different indicators that confirm that biodiversity is declining," reads part of the LPR.

Sir Robert Watson from Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research says one million plants and animals are threatened with extinction. "At least 1-2.5 per cent of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fish have already gone extinct, populations and genetic diversity have decreased and species are losing their climatically determined habitats."

European Union's Co-

pernicus Service says the earth has warmed by 1.2° Celsius since pre-industrial times and current human activities and political pledges will fail to prevent it warming more than 2°Celsius. Studies show that beyond 1.5° Celsius global warming will cause huge problems for people and nature.

In 2022 the United Nations Human General Assembly recognised that everyone, everywhere, has a fundamental human right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Fulfilling this right is no longer an option, but an obligation.

"Implementing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment means taking a rights-based approach to the interconnected crises that are preventing people from living in harmony with nature - the climate emergency, the collapse of biodiversity, and pervasive pollution."

It is against this background that every person, everywhere across the world is required to participate in the creation of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment without which life will turn into hell for each one of us. So, let's take care of nature if we want nature to care for us.

From Jacob Zuma to Elon Musk and Helen Zille, here's who we hope will turn over a new leaf in 2023

By Rebecca Davis

At this time of year, many of us give thought to what we could do differently in the next 12 months. Here are DM168's New Year's resolutions for public figures who need them.

Elon Musk
In 2023, I will come to terms with the reality that being a billionaire engineer does not mean I have a flipping clue about how to control the world's most feral social media platform. I will graciously step away from Twitter and return my focus to the establishment of space colonies and putting chips in people's brains. Also, even though I had such a miserable childhood in my homeland of South Africa, I will give serious thought to donating loads and loads of money to good causes there, such as Gift of the Givers.

Jacob Zuma
I know I say this every year, but this year I really mean it. The year 2023 is when I will finally just embrace my retirement and fade peacefully from the public consciousness. I won't give any more weird press conferences fronted by Jimmy Manyi. I'll stop claiming that I fixed load shedding, only for Cyril to break Eskom again. I will immediately cease my attempts to prosecute journalists and I will never again announce my availability to run for national office. Instead, I will sit on my stoep at Nkandla, enjoying the view, having a nice cup of tea and teaching my grandchildren how to play chess.

Cyril Ramaphosa
I will check all my furniture for money. I'm talking every couch, armchair, ottoman, every damn footstool. I will also look under carpets, in drawers, inside tissue boxes and behind picture frames. I will personally root around, in and under every piece of upholstery I own to make sure there are no further millions in foreign currency stashed away that I or a member of my staff may have somehow forgotten to inform authorities about. In response to popular demand, I will also post more pictures of my pet husky on Instagram.

Helen Zille
I know I say this every year, but this year I really mean it. The year 2023 is when I will finally just embrace my retirement and fade peacefully from the public consciousness. I will recognise that the DA is capable of making decisions without me, even if those decisions are definitely the wrong ones, in my opinion. I will hand over coalition negotiations to someone else and let them mess it up on their own. I will no longer undermine the party's stated policy direction with my rage-filled Tweeting binges. Instead, I will sit on my stoep in Rondebosch, enjoying the view, having a nice cup of tea and teaching my grandchildren how to play chess.

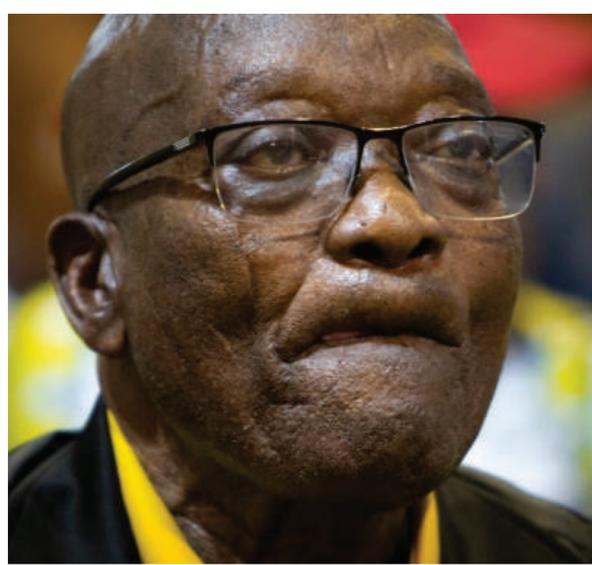
Busisiwe Mkhwebane
New Year, new me! 2023 calls for a career



Elon Musk on the red carpet for the 2022 Met Gala, the annual benefit for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, in New York on 2 May 2022. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Justin Lane)



Helen Zille



Jacob Zuma

to do differently in 2023 is as follows: we're going to stop complaining about unwanted media attention on our family while simultaneously releasing nonstop media projects about our family on the biggest platforms in the world. We see now how that seems a bit irritating, all things considered. We also recognise that we have a jolly nice life indeed in our California mansion with a full-time staff retinue, so we resolve to stop acting as if we are heroic political prisoners in exile. We are, in fact, quite #blessed.

The Eskom Saboteurs
We've had a lot of fun cutting important pipes and unscrewing critical valves and snipping indispensable wires at our nation's power stations. We've really enjoyed deliberately damaging bits of infrastructure so that our tjomies have to be called in to fix things at a hefty price and we end up taking home a tasty piece of the pie. But we're done with all that now. In 2023, we're going to realise that sabotaging Eskom is literally treason and we're going to stop f**cking doing it. We will also hand ourselves over to the authorities to submit to whatever the 2022 version of a public flogging is in a liberal democracy.

Vladimir Putin
My New Year's resolution is to stop trying to compensate for the size of my tiny manhood by annexing sovereign territories. In 2023, I will seek different ways to prove my masculinity. These might include playing video games; digging a really big hole; improving my golf handicap; more ice fishing; leaving snarky comments on Russian Reddit. All of these will be more personally fulfilling in terms of manifesting my virility than my half-baked Ukrainian invasion, which I will end forthwith. I will also never send another ship bearing sinister cargo to Simon's Town, South Africa, as I recognise that there are few forces more powerful than old people with binoculars and a lot of time on their hands.

Rassie Erasmus
I promise to swap my iPhone for a Nokia 3310, and whenever I get the urge to tweet I will play Snake instead.

DM

change. After being impeached by Parliament, I will hand over all my Public Protector official stuff to my successor in a totally cordial and non-sabotage way, taking care not to shred any important documents. I'll stop tweeting about being victimised by the Ramaphosa administration and post lots of pictures of sunsets with inspirational quotes instead. Having established that any involvement in the legal profession is not

for me, I will do a TEFL course and go teach English in Guangzhou.

Janusz Walu
As soon as I am permitted to do so by the authorities, I will board a plane to Poland - economy class, indirect flight, seat right next to the toilets - and never set foot in South Africa again. When back in Poland, I will ignore the overtures of neo-Nazi groups and

football hooligans wanting to celebrate me as a hero. I will not know about them, anyway, because I vow not to own a smartphone or communicate via the internet in any way. I will live out the rest of my days in silence as much as possible, talking only to complain about the terrible Polish weather.

Harry and Meghan
The main thing we're pledging

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

Climate crisis in Africa exposes real cause of hunger

By William Moseley, Harare

IN the waning hours of the year's biggest climate change conference - COP27 - we learned of a deal to create a loss and damage fund.

This is essentially a source of finance to compensate poor countries for the pain they are incurring because of climate change. An often-cited example of such suffering is the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa region, which has put some 22 million people at risk of severe hunger.

While some have heralded this agreement as long overdue climate reparations, others point out that the loss and damage fund does nothing to address the root causes of climate change - fossil fuel emissions.

Here I seek to raise a different concern: this approach glosses over the fact that the types of food production systems that the global community has fostered in Africa leave the poorest more exposed and vulnerable to climatic variability and economic shocks.

These food production systems refer to the ways people produce, store, process and distribute food, as well as the inputs into the system along the way.

Historically smallholder and women farmers have produced the lion's share of food crops on the African continent. Over the past 60 years, global decision makers, big philanthropy, business interests and large swaths of the scientific community have focused on increased food production, trade, and energy intensive farming methods as the best way to address global and African hunger.

This approach to addressing hunger has failed to address food insecurity on the continent. Moderate to severe food insecurity affects nearly 60 percent of Africans today. It has also resulted in food systems that are now more vulnerable to climate change.

The idea that the solution is to produce more dates back to the colonial period. It is bad for the global environment, highly vulnerable to climate and energy shocks, and does not feed the poorest of the poor.

I approach this topic as a nature-society geographer who has spent his career studying agricultural development approaches and food systems in west and



southern Africa. Through this work, I have come to see agro-ecology as more accessible to the poorest.

Each time there has been a global food crisis, variations on the formula of increased agricultural production, trade and energy intensive farming methods have been the favoured solution.

These include the first Green Revolution of the 1960s-1970s, commodity production and trade in the 1980s-1990s, the New Green Revolution for Africa and public-private partnerships in the 2000s-2010s.

Many scholars now understand that food security has six dimensions, of which only one is addressed by food production.

Looking at all six dimensions reveals the complex drivers of hunger.

These include food availability whereby local production and net imports, access - the ability of households to acquire food that is available, utilisation - the cooking, water and sanitation facilities needed to prepare healthy food, stability of food prices and supplies over time, sustainability - the ability to produce food without undermining the resource base as well as agency - people's ability to control their food systems, from production to consumption.

While forced labour was employed in some instances, head taxes became the preferred strategy in many cases for facilitating commodity crop production. Forced to pay such taxes in cash or face jail time, African farmers begrudgingly started to produce cash crops, or went to work on nearby plantations.

Loss of risk management practices

Accompanying the transition to commodity crop production was a gradual loss of risk management practices like storage of surplus grain.

Many farmers and herders in Africa have had to deal with highly vari-

able rainfall patterns for centuries. This makes them some of the foremost experts on climate change adaptation.

Farmers would also plant a diverse range of crops with different rainfall requirements. Herders moved across large areas in search of the best pastures.

In the name of progress, colonial regimes often encouraged herders to be less mobile throughout East Africa.

They also pushed farmers via taxation policies to store less grain in order to maximise commodity crop production.

This opened up farmers to the full, deadly force of extended droughts, a situation that is well documented in northern Nigeria.

Many problematic approaches have continued in the post-colonial period.

Various international and national policies and programmes have encouraged African farmers to produce more crops, using imported seeds, pesticides and fertilisers in the name of development or hunger alleviation.

Even though African farmers may be producing more, they are left exposed to the ravages of variable climatic conditions.

Agro-ecology and the way forward

Agro-ecologists can offer a different way forward.

They seek to understand the ecological interactions between different crops, crops and the soil and atmosphere, and crops and insect communities.

They seek to maintain soil fertility, minimise predation from pests and grow more crops without using chemical inputs.

Agro-ecologists often collaborate with and learn from farmers who have developed such practices over time and are in tune with local ecologies.

This combination of experiential knowledge and formal science training makes agro-ecology a more decolonial science. It is also more accessible to the poor because there is no need to buy expensive inputs or risk becoming indebted when crops fail.

The fact that agro-ecological farming is less expensive has not been lost on the business community.

They would lose out substantially if conventional farming approaches were no longer associated with hunger alleviation.

Furthermore, those in the agricultural sciences who have supported

productionist approaches to hunger alleviation also see agro-ecology as a threat as it could lead to a decline of prestige and research funding.

There are signs that the global community may be on the cusp of a major shift in thinking with regard to food systems, climate change and hunger.

A global food crisis has led some to question why previous solutions have not worked.

We also now have an emerging, more decolonial science of agro-ecology that is increasingly accepted within the United Nations system.

It is backed by a powerful social movement that refused to back down when corporate agricultural interests tried to hijack the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

There is a new set of leaders within some African governments who understand what agro-ecology offers.

The ravages of climate change and hunger do not occur in isolation, but are part of the system we have built.

That means we can build something different.

The current crisis lays bare this problem and the right combination of new ideas, resources and political will can solve it.

LNG: The pride of place in sixth phase investment breakthroughs

By Guardian Correspondent

WHILE the big talk in the country since 2019 at the least is the building of the standard gauge railway (SGR) the biggest awaited project isn't even the Julius Nyerere hydropower project but the liquefied natural gas plant (LNG) set for Lindi Region, and now basically wrapped up for moving to the work stage. Negotiation for completion of an investment agreement was done roughly within one year, as President Samia Suluhu Hassan issued the crucial directives only in November 2021. It isn't something that was rushed into the moment the sixth phase started.

On the contrary, the

project came up in rectifying what wasn't going right in the country's investment atmosphere, and at least two other projects stand out which failed to make progress under the fifth phase and now look brighter. These are the Bagamoyo port project and the Kawe and Morocco upmarket flats and business complex project of the National Housing Corporation (NHC). Its former CEO was restored to his position to finish the job, amid grumbling from fifth phase stalwarts.

Still by comparison the LNG project dwarfs the two others by far, and in its economic rationale and income projection for the country it is a far more important project than the two fifth phase



megaprojects that are arguably at the heart of national pride at the moment. The standard gauge railway product was vital only because it was a bout of fresh air from interminable mismanagement of the meter-gauge railway, and not because it was overwhelmed. That situation similarly implies that project economics put right side up would have favoured systematic revamping of the old railway network, especially for internal needs, to start with.

The reason the hydropower project and the standard gauge facility succeeded to take off was twofold, first the cleaning up of the fifth phase on wasteful public expenditure, and then massive investable cash around the world as many countries are sagging in civil war and instability. With few acceptable out-

lets for countries that aren't excessively in debt and face little instability, Tanzania comes out rather positively, and even within limited foreign investment conditions as in the fifth phase, the deal was clinched. Still, budgetary savings can be said to have been of greater use for education, health and road infrastructure than the loan-tied projects.

Where greater dexterity with foreign investors and massive pushing of regulatory agencies for the project to take off was LNG, while Bagamoyo port was somewhat more susceptible to bilateral diplomacy. LNG is a more complicated project as it has little or no sovereign investment element, so the land owner, the government, works out the matter with an oil and gas company having its partners and a board of directors. The

gains to be obtained from the LNG project are way above any prospective gains from SGR as that depends on the needs of our neighbours and shifting transportation modality locally, chiefly from road haulage to rail networks.

A preliminary evaluation says that LNG will bring upwards of \$7bn annually into the economy, with government revenues slated at upwards of \$2bn if these sums are right. There is a real prospect that gas exports overtake all other sectors in their importance to the economy, removing gold from the pivotal position, as well as tourism that has steadily gained as a foreign exchange earner in recent years. The gas economy factor is likely to be a revolution, but it also risks taking the country to chaos as infighting for control of the state would

take diametrically unheralded proportions. It would dwarf the contention in 2013 on natural gas 'leaving' Lindi.

Another aspect that is yet to be substantially appreciated is that even the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, where the sovereign stakeholder element is somewhat noticeable compared to LNG, was not exactly on the ground by the time the sixth phase took off. Many of us were singularly surprised at the work that seemingly had to be done during the sixth phase for the two countries (and participating firms from France and China in particular) to sign what were billed to be final protocols for the work to start. It is not entirely evident that this stage of the negotiations would have been rapidly tied up with a fifth phase bent.

What is noticeable is that in implementing the wish to tie up investment accords for the three or so projects, the president has run against diverse opposition, where the local parameter was high for the Bagamoyo port, a sort of public debate on the issue. The same can be said of the NHC real estate projects, while LNG contention was located within the regulatory framework, application of procedure or formulas that the foreign investor could not stand. The fourth phase attempted to tidy up the Bagamoyo port investment deal but it was still embryonic by the time the fourth phase was over. The fifth phase dropped it, largely looking askance at LNG save for ritual reminders that it is an important project, and just had no inkling for the NHC 'skyscraper' designs, tuned more to a development and production focus of JNHPP and SGR. LNG, NHC or Bagamoyo port are inconceivable amid hostility with the private sector, as its component in the projects is predominant, not sovereign loans.

GOVERNMENT TO BOOST ROAD NETWORKS IN SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS' REGIONS

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will continue improving road infrastructures in southern highlands to connect the regions with the port of Mtwara, Works and Transport Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has said.

Prof Mbarawa said constructing the roads at tarmac level will facilitate transportation activities, promote the production of agricultural crops as well as tourism.

Speaking at the signing ceremony for construction of the 96.2km road from Isyonje-Kikondo to Makete and a section of Kitulo-Iniho road (36.3km), Minister Mbarawa said that the government aims to connect Mtwara, Ruvuma, Njombe regions with Mbeya via Makete.

He said improvement of the roads would promote economic opportunities in the regions.

"The government is determined to improve road infrastructures, especially in areas with high food production. Let me assure you that better infrastructures are coming, you will be able to transport your agricultural crops with no transport challenges," Prof Mbarawa.

He asked the Tanzania National Road Agency (TANROADS) to fully supervise the contractor—M/S China National Aero-Technology Engineering Corporation so that the roads are constructed at required standards.

TANROADS Chief Executive Officer, Eng Rogatus Mativil said that construction of the roads will involve weighing bridges at Igalala village for purposes of controlling vehicles that carry cargo beyond



their capacity.

He asked drivers and residents to comply with the laws and protect road infrastructures.

Makete Member of Parliament, Festo Sanga thanked the govern-

ment for providing funds for the project as its completion will connect Makete District with Mbeya Region.

Sanga added the roads will also promote tourism at the Kitulo

National Park and increase the value of various crops produced in Njombe Region.

Njombe Regional Commissioner, Anthon Mtaka called upon Tanzanians to take advantage of

the infrastructures to invest in Makete District.

More than 69.7bn/- are expected to be used in the construction of the roads which are expected to be completed after 36 months.

Rwandan moto-taxi riders embrace business boom on Chinese-built roads

KIGALI

ON a chilly December morning, Emmanuel Niyoyita, a motorbike taxi rider in the east African country Rwanda, is busy cleaning his motorbike with a wet cloth while patiently waiting for a passenger.

While waiting for business around the Kicukiro trading center located along the road connecting the capital city Kigali to Bugesera District in Eastern Province, Niyoyita said he is among a growing number of riders of motorbike taxis, locally also known as moto-taxi, that offer ride services for passengers from the Sonatube roundabout in Kigali to the Akagera bridge in Bugesera District.

He said thanks to Chinese companies' involvement in the nation's transport sector development, the improved road transport system has become a major boost to the fast-growing commercial motorist business because the roads are of high quality, which makes it easy to travel from one location to another.

"Every day, I wake up early in the morning between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. because many passengers travel from Bugesera to Kigali and vice versa for business. The road has been upgraded by the Chinese company. There are no potholes anymore. It is now a seamless ride from Kicukiro trading center to Nyamata Town in Bugesera District," Niyoyita told Xinhua in an interview.

"We make a lot of money from transport fares because many passengers, including foreigners and tourists, prefer moto-taxi to public buses," Niyoyita said.

He said there are times when he also rides on the Kigali-Bugesera road for pleasure because the road provides comfort and beautiful scenery.

As Niyoyita is still waiting for a passenger, numerous motorbike taxi riders in red and green helmets can be seen busy hurtling among the heavy traffic on the road.

"The Chinese are good at road construction, and you can see how the roads are strong, smart, and of standard quality. The roads are big, which allow smooth flow of traffic, and this has attracted many moto-taxis to operate on these roads," said Samuel Twagirangungu, another moto-taxi rider.

He said he makes profits because driving on these Chinese-built roads from one place to another takes the shortest possible time since the roads provide a smooth ride, enabling him to transport as many passengers as possible in one day.

Niyoyita and Twagirangungu are among a growing list of motorbike taxi riders in Rwanda, especially in Kigali, whose lives have been improved by operating moto-taxis due to high demand from customers. According to the Rwanda Federation of Taxi-Moto (RFTM), there are about 46,000 moto-taxi riders registered in the country, with 26,000 of them operating in Kigali.

"The roads have become the symbol of China-Rwanda relations because we are seeing many roads in Rwanda constructed by the Chinese. The Chinese are smart and faster in their job," Daniel Ntaganda, the chairperson of the RFTM, told Xinhua.

He said the federation is registering more moto-taxi riders due to a good transport network system and an increase in the number of businesses that depend on moto-taxi for the transportation of people and goods.

In Rwanda, Chinese firms such as the China Road and Bridge Corporation, and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, among others, are active in the nation's road construction, especially in Kigali and other major towns.

Relief in Zanzibar, as two water projects accomplished

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Water Authority (ZAWA) director Dr Salha Mhammed Kassim has said that completion of two water projects constructed with a 92.18bn/- loan from India's Exim Bank and the COVID-19 relief fund will help reduce the challenge of water scarcity.

He made the statement yesterday when talking to journalists at his Kinazini Zanzibar Office. He said that 64 deep wells have already been constructed for purposes of increasing water access amongst residents.

He said the projects will benefit residents of the West Urban Region in Unguja and nearby regions because of its capacity. He said that currently the project has reached 68 percent and is expected to be completed early next year.

"Our technicians are working day and night to complete the project by March next year. We are working to ensure it is completed within schedule," he said.

Kassim said the water project implemented with the COVID-19 relief funds (32.2bn/-) will include construction of 38 deep water wells.

He said that the project is going to contribute to increased water availability in Unguja and Pemba as more people will have access to clean and safe water. He said contractors are finishing construction of storage facilities.

He said that work on the 38 wells has already been completed and residents are expected to start fetching water as soon as the project is handed over to the government in March next year.

He said water availability in Zanzibar has increased from 55 percent to the current 66 percent, noting completion of the projects will increase the availability of water to 88 percent.

"We are determined to ensure

that Zanzibar residents get access to clean and safe water," said Kassim, adding they are planning to import modern water pumps which will be installed at all the wells.

He said plans are to make sure

that water users use the service and pay their bills electronically. He said water meters will be installed to each of the customers to ensure they pay bills according to their monthly water usage.



WATER FIRMS TO SUBSIDISE WATER CONNECTION FEE FOR LOW-INCOME EARNERS

KAKAMEGA, Kenya

FIVE water firms in Kenya will undertake a program to connect water to low income earners at a subsidized tariff through a five-year social connection policy initiative starting 2023.

Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company (KIWASCO) has been identified as a mentor to those companies, supported by the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA).

The companies are Kakamega County Water and Sanitation Company (KACWASCO), Kiambu Water and Sewerage Company (KWCL), Amatsi Water Services Company (AWASCO), Ololaiser Water and Sewerage Company (OWSC) and Mombasa Water Supply and Sanitation Company (MOWASSCO).

Kisumu Water was selected as a mentor in the program after successfully implementing another ongoing pro-poor policy program. It will receive equipment that will be used during the program period.

Pro-poor policy involves the provision of water and sanitation services to low income earners mostly in informal settlements who cannot afford to pay for water and sanitation services conventionally.

The social connection and the pro-poor policies are efforts made by water companies as required by the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) to provide access to water as required by the Kenyan constitution and towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), Access to Water and Sanitation



for all.

KACWASCO has been implementing the Pro-poor policy in the informal settlements of Kakamega by establishing Water Kiosks and ablution blocks in the mapped out areas to enable low earners get affordable but quality water and sanitation facilities.

In Mumias, KACWASCO through support from Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) has constructed 122 Safisan toilets. According to WaterFund, Safisan toilets are meant to provide clean and hygienic management of human excreta from human contact.

Speaking to KNA, the acting CEO of KACWASCO Christabel Ashiono said the

company will construct more safisan toilets in mapped out pro-poor areas in Kakamega, Shitoli, Shinyalu among other areas of coverage. The company will additionally put up Yard taps in densely populated areas for use by members of the public in the pro-poor policy program areas.

Water is a basic right for everyone and you realize if we were to treat everyone the same, some of the people will not access this service. As per the regulation, we need to subsidize services to ensure the people in those low income areas, the pro-poor areas, get water," she noted.

Ashiono said that the pro-poor areas lie in the four areas and five schemes that

the water company has been licensed by WASREB to serve through provision of Water and Sanitation services.

The Company covers Kakamega area, Mumias Area, Shitoli area and Shinyalu area and Tindinyo, Muranda, Lumakanda, Malava and Butere Schemes. It serves a population of 30 000 customers, with customer cleanup exercises ongoing.

The Company has a capacity to produce 33 000 liters of water per day, with Tindinyo treatment plant being the largest with a capacity to produce 16 000 liters of water per day. The Nambacha water treatment plant is supposed to be producing 15 000 liters of water per day.

"We are not producing to the maximum at the moment per day whereby instead of 33000 litres per day we are actually doing 21000 litres. Tindinyo scheme being the leading scheme in production produces 13 000liters and Nambacha plant 5000 liters of water," she pointed out.

Tindinyo serves Shitoli, Murhanda, Shinyalu and Kakamega area.

"Malava and Butere areas rely on boreholes and bulk water supply from Sibowater and Sanitation Company (SIBOWASCO) which is in Siaya county that serves part of the Butere scheme," she disclosed.

Ashiono noted that the water company will partner with Lake Victoria North Water Works Development Agency (LVNWWDA) for a bulk water supply project from River Nzoia to supply areas that are not covered. The company cannot reach all parts since most of its water is pumped through gravity.

"We are additionally finalizing the construction of a 250 cubic metres water tank at Malava, a project supported by WaterFund. The Malava project is aimed at increasing the storage to add to the existing 50 cubic meters' water tank," she added.

She also said that the construction of a 5-million-litres capacity water tank in Lirhanda will enable the company to serve its customers within Kakamega town and its environment on a 24-hour basis and minimize water rationing. The area has been relying on two tanks at Milimani estate which have a capacity of only 2, 250, 000 litres.

Stakeholders seek collaboration on energy sustainability in Africa

By Kingsley Jeremiah, Abuja

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Chair in Energy for Sustainable Development and other global stakeholders are canvassing for leeway to address the energy crisis in Africa.

The stakeholders, including the African Union have insisted that knowledge sharing remains a key factor to build capacity in the continent and ensure that Africa enjoys sustainable energy.

They stated this at a programme organised by the UNESCO Chair in Energy for Sustainable Development at the Po-licechnico di Milano, Italy, Emanuela Colombo.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) had noted that over 600 million people, standing at 43 per cent of the total population, lack access to electricity, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

In a programme of the European Union and African Union where Colombo engages in diverse multidisciplinary and transnational research and projects, the continents are on collaborations, leveraging on partnerships and sharing know-how, facilities, innovative teaching and learning methods between EU-AU universities.

Assistant Director General for Education, UNESCO, Stefania Giannini, had noted the need for education in improving energy sustainability on the continent.

Speaking at the programme themed, 'Science Diplomacy: EU-AU University Collaboration for Just and Sustainable Transition', Giannini noted that COVID-19 and the current war in Ukraine has validated the need to collaborate and co-create a better future.

She noted that the development, which could be championed through higher or university education, must be designed to address the society's pressing needs amidst climate change challenges and energy poverty. According to her, knowledge must not be seen as a commodity but something that should be shared across borders in the interests of the common good. Colombo, on her part, stated that energy remained a key sector where technology is needed.

"But we really need to understand what is the long term impact: positive and negative on the use of energy in different ways," she stated.

Colombo said education must therefore be designed in a manner that students would understand how to go beyond technological development. She noted that the peculiar challenges in Africa must be understood when dealing with energy transition, considering the current level of raw material.

Africa has potential to produce €1 trillion worth of green hydrogen by 2035 - report

By Emmanuel Addeh, Abuja

AFRICA has the potential to produce €1 trillion worth of green hydrogen a year by 2035, allowing it to export the fuel and boost local industry, a study backed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) has revealed.

According to the study carried out in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the International Solar Alliance, by harnessing the world's best solar energy resource, a number of countries on the continent could produce the much-needed fuel.

The product is made by splitting water using renewable energy, at a cost of less than €2 a kilogramme by 2030, the EIB and its partners said.

Demand for the clean-burning fuel is surging as the world looks for alternatives to climate-warming fossil fuels and as Europe seeks to lessen its dependence on Russian natural gas.

Supplies of natural have proved unreliable due to the political tension created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The researchers listed Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania, Namibia and South Africa as major production hubs, but said that Nigeria also has huge potential.

It stated that while plans to produce the fuel are most advanced in those nations, a number of other countries ranging from Algeria to Nigeria and Mozambique have the capacity to start production.

Egypt would be the biggest producer at 20 million tonnes per annum, second would be the Southern African hub with 17.5 million tonnes while Morocco and Mauritania could together produce 12.5 million tonnes.

About half of that, equivalent to 15 per cent of Europe's gas needs, could be available for export, the researchers said.

"Harnessing Africa's solar energy to produce 50 million tons of green hydrogen a year by 2035 can help secure global energy supply, create jobs, decarbonise heavy industry, enhance global competitiveness and transform access to clean water and sustainable energy," the added.

The "Africa's Extraordinary Green



Hydrogen Potential" report represents the first detailed research of the feasible development of green hydrogen across the continent.

"Africa has the best solar energy in the world and transforming solar power into green hydrogen can strengthen energy security, cut emissions and pollution and decarbonise industry and transport.

"Africa has the best renewable energy in the world and scaling up production of green hydrogen can transform access to low-cost electricity and clean water. Unlocking Africa's green hydrogen potential will require close cooperation between public, private and financial partners.

"The new Africa's Extraordinary Green Hydrogen Potential study outlines what can be achieved and what needs to be done. The EIB is pleased to work with African and international partners to enable large scale green hydrogen to become a reality," said the Vice President of the EIB, Ambroise Fayolle.

According to the Director General, International Solar Alliance, Dr Ajay Mathur, solar technology has provided the cheapest electricity.

He added that it will cost below €2 per kg in several African countries by 2030, much lower than the current mass assumption of €5 and a stark contrast to the \$60-70 paid for an oil

barrel.

"Thanks to this low-cost electricity and decreasing electrolyser costs, the next step is providing access to a clean fuel, cheaper than all the current fossil fuels. It will enable us to decarbonise the power sector and most hard-to-abate sectors - fertilisers, steel manufacturing, and refineries," the group noted.

The comprehensive analysis carried out in recent weeks by international consultancy CVA suggests that large scale green hydrogen investment can accelerate decarbonisation by enabling large scale African energy users, such as fertiliser and steel producers, to use green hydrogen.

CONSTRUCTION

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS AND BUYING OFF-PLAN IN SOUTH AFRICA – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Lutfiyya Kara

PROPERTY developments in South Africa are growing, and buying off-plan from these developments is becoming a popular choice. This helps developers to finance the project, as having pre-approved sales allows them to obtain the necessary funding for the construction, and this form of purchasing can also save the purchaser money as transfer duty is not applicable.

“Buying off-plan is essentially purchasing a unit within a sectional title or erf within a home cluster scheme prior to it being erected and built,” says legal firm Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr.

“The responsibility then lies with the developer and builder to complete the building to your satisfaction and on time. When buying off-plan, the developer will provide you with draft plans of what the property will possibly look like.”

As the draft plans are not final, there may be a need for the builder and developers to deviate from the draft plans, but they will always need to seek the purchaser's approval should the deviations impact them, the firm said.

“As with anything in life, there are some risks to be aware of when deciding to buy off-plan, but these risks decrease as construction nears completion. Therefore, the purchase price of units will usually be lower at the beginning of construction and then increase towards the end of construction.”

Risks of buying off-plan

The rule of thumb is: do your background work before committing to buying off-plan, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr said.

“Ensure that the developer is reputable. Speak to various estate agents and ask whether you can obtain confirmation from them as to other developments completed by the developer and possibly do internet searches on the developer to try and ascertain whether other developments done by them were successful.

“Once you have established that the developer is reputable, even if there are some defects within the building, you can rely on them to fix the problems. A dependable developer will ask the purchaser to inspect the building's finishes and fixtures within the first few specified days of occupation and then to provide the developer with a list of defects so that they may be fixed.”

Some of the things to have a look at as



possible defects are all taps and showers are in working order, cupboards open well and are installed correctly, tiles are laid straight, plugs and electrical work are in working order, there are no scratches, cracks or marks on the walls, the walls are straight, and the roof and patios are sealed.

The National Housing Consumers Protection Measures Act was enacted in 1998, and under this legislation the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) was established.

Its mandate is to protect the interests of purchasers by ensuring that builders comply with the prescribed building industry standards. It thus protects purchasers from unscrupulous builders who deliver sub-standard houses, bad workmanship and the use of poor quality material.

“The NHBRC holds all builders who register with them accountable and holds them to a wide range of requirements before they can commence building. One of these requirements is that

a Certificate of Enrolment needs to be obtained before the foundations of the development are laid.

“To fulfil this requirement, each builder must provide the approved building plans of the development as well as a specification schedule of the actual construction to be done and the building materials the contractor intends to use. The approved plans, together with the developer's building contract must be supplied to purchasers before the construction commences.”

The NHBRC further inspects all enrolled homes at key stages of construction to insure against poor workmanship and to allow them to issue a non-compliance to the builder should that be the case, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr.

“The NHBRC also provides purchasers with warranty cover for any minor defects which are identified within the first three months of occupation, roof leaks identified within the first year of occupation and cover against major structural defects within the first five years of occupation.

“Should the builder be unable or unwilling to rectify the defects, the NHBRC can rectify them, following the completion of a complaint procedure by the purchaser.”

Recourse for defects

The reality though is that most defects and signs of deterioration only make themselves apparent within a couple of years after the buildings have been constructed. What happens then?

The Sectional Titles Act 95 (STA) provides that a body corporate may institute legal action against a developer by way of a special resolution with the support of at least 75% of all owners in the scheme.

The body corporate then needs proof that the workmanship was poor and that sub-standard materials were used in the construction process.

“This route is a costly one as litigation is not cheap. The glaring truth is also that the STA places responsibility on the body corporate to maintain and repair any exterior damages to the buildings

within the scheme by means of having the owners of each unit pay their respective levies, and the owners of the units are then left to repair any internal damages to their specific unit,” Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr said.

Another pitfall is having the developer promise to complete the construction within a specified time period only to have that time pass without the purchaser being able to take occupation of their unit and construction still being far from completed, the firm said.

“Here again, a purchaser's recourse would be to approach the NHBRC for relief and appropriate action to be sanctioned against the builder. The specification schedule mentioned earlier should also be constantly monitored and updated to ascertain timeously whether there will be any delays and for these to be communicated to all parties involved.”

Benefits of buying off-plan

However, there are also many positive sides to buying off-plan besides saving on the transfer duty payments, including that only a small amount of cash needs to be paid upfront, usually between 10 to 15% of the purchase price, to reserve the unit.

“The payment of the balance of the purchase price (if paying cash) will only be due on completion and it is also possible to finance the purchase through a loan with a bank,” Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr said.

“Although no transfer duty is paid to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) with these types of sales, it does not mean that SARS does not “get a slice” – rather the developer pays value-added tax on the transaction as they are considered to be selling “goods” as part of the stock in their business.”

Units bought off-plan usually appreciate in value by the time transfer is effected, which is an attractive feature for investors and first-time buyers, the firm said.

“Often, purchasers are given the freedom (with a few restrictions) to choose their own internal fittings and finishes for their units, but such options are developer specific and purchasers would need to enquire with the developer if such options are available.

“Although buying off-plan is not for the faint-hearted, once you have ascertained that you are working with a reliable team of builders and developers, it can bring you excellent results.”

Lutfiyya Kara is the senior associate at Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr.

Dubai Land Department launches new strategic plan 2026

DUBAI

DUBAI Land Department (DLD) launched its new strategic plan and vision, shaping the features and landmarks of its directions until 2026.

The new strategy will be rolled in three phases, and involves DLD's employees, partners and customers in designing the department's strategic plan for the next phase.

The first stage is the launch of quick-gain initiatives to ensure that DLD adapts to the proposed changes. The second stage is empowerment by working to empower the real estate sector and DLD alike and providing the necessary support to implement the transformation smoothly. The third stage is achieving sustainable impact by expanding the scope of influence to reach a global real estate system.

DLD's announcement of the updated strategy took place during a time when the UAE is cementing its mark on global comprehensive and sustainable development through notable achievements at all levels.

The strategy, in its final form, is the result of continuous efforts by various team members at DLD to ensure the best results that are compatible with current and



future global developments and practices. The new strategy also constitutes a qualitative addition that would enhance the contributions of the real estate sector to Dubai's GDP, in addition to supporting the objectives of the other sectors and strategic directions.

The efforts made while preparing the new strategic plan revealed a number of pioneering and proactive ideas, most prominent of which were five main pil-

lars. The first is a pioneering real estate model, by enhancing the sector's readiness and sustainability, and ensuring effective governance of the real estate sector. The second pillar is being a real estate innovation incubator by fostering a globally attractive real estate sector and harnessing technology to enable real estate solutions development. The third pillar is a data-driven sector, by maximising the added value of sector data and raising aware-

ness, trust and transparency in the real estate sector. The fourth pillar is Agile DLD, to cultivate a flourishing digital ecosystem, enhance DLD's operations and improve corporate governance efficiency, and foster partnership with public and private sectors. The fifth and final pillar is Exceptional Journeys 2.0, through which the focus is on shifting to employee-first culture, refreshing DLD identity and enhance its position, and move to a proactive

and 'human'-focused approach.

The strategic initiatives have also been identified, classified according to the ease of application and priority matrix, so that the team members will work to ensure their implementation in the best possible way, in cooperation with various partners and customers. This constitutes an incentive and support for the transformation and transition of DLD from the current situation

to the future situation, as these initiatives are distributed over the five pillars mentioned, to contribute to providing everything that would play a pivotal role in developing the ambitious strategic plan, providing sustainable and forward-looking solutions, and addressing the opportunities and challenges that these pillars include, in addition to setting strategic performance indicators, that DLD seeks to support the sectors' goals and strategic directions.

The development of DLD's updated strategy was presented to ensure the best results and outputs, according to four fundamental principles, the first principle being sustainable impact by directing DLD's efforts towards achieving evolution and sustainable development in the real estate sector. The second principle is local adaptation by adopting global practices and adapting them to the unique features and needs of the real estate market in Dubai. The third principle is global leadership by developing a plan to position Dubai as a role model in the real estate sector. The fourth principle is cooperation and harmonisation by adopting a participatory approach that includes all stakeholders and those concerned with DLD's plan.

WORLD

Rwanda says Congo fighter jet briefly violated its air space

KIGALI

RWANDA'S government said on Wednesday that a fighter jet from Democratic Republic of Congo briefly violated its airspace, the latest accusation to fly between the two countries whose relations have frayed this year.

Congo, Western powers and United Nations experts accuse Rwanda of backing M23 rebels in eastern Congo, who have seized several towns and villages in offensives this year.

Rwanda denies any involvement, saying the allegations are a tactic to cover up Congo's security failures. In July Congo's president and his Rwandan counterpart agreed at a summit in Angola's capital, Luanda, to de-escalate tensions, but the M23 rebels continued to advance.

In November an unarmed Congolese warplane briefly landed at a Rwandan airport while on a reconnaissance mission near the border, in what Congo said was an accident.

"These repeated violations are against the spirit of Luanda and Nairobi peace ini-



Rwanda's government spokesperson Yolande Makolo addresses a news conference on the transfer of asylum seekers from Britain ahead of their arrival in Kigali, Rwanda Jun 14, 2022. REUTERS

tiatives," Rwanda government spokesperson Yolande Makolo said in a statement.

"The authorities in (Congo) seem to be emboldened by consistent coddling by some in the international community who repeatedly heap blame on Rwanda for any and all ills in (Congo), while ignoring the transgressions originating from (Congo)," Makolo added

Congo's government and army spokesmen did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

On Friday the M23 rebels withdrew from a small portion of territories they had seized, as part of what they described as a goodwill gesture in a ceasefire brokered by East African regional leaders.

Agencies

Xi makes key speech at meeting of criticism of Political Bureau

BEIJING

THE Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting of criticism and self-criticism from Dec 26 to 27.

The meeting was themed on fully implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era; developing a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and establishing the guiding role of the thought; strengthening the consciousness of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership; staying confident in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics; upholding Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and upholding the Party Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership; and uniting and leading Party officials in implementing with great effort and determination the major decisions and plans made at the 20th CPC National Congress.

At the meeting, the Political Bureau summarized achievements and examined inadequacies in the work of the Political Bureau; in taking the lead in upholding Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and upholding the Party Central

Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership; in taking the lead in enhancing cohesion and forging the Party's soul with Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era; in taking the lead in upholding and strengthening the Party's overall leadership; in taking the lead in upholding the people-centered development philosophy; in taking the lead in carrying forward the fighting spirit; and in taking the lead in implementing the political responsibility of full and rigorous Party self-governance.

The Political Bureau conducted analysis according to Party spirit, and carried out criticism and self-criticism at the meeting.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, presided over the meeting and delivered an important speech.

Before the meeting, all bodies concerned made preparations carefully. Members of the Political Bureau held talks with relevant leaders, listened to their opinions and suggestions, and wrote outlines of their speeches. Focusing on the themes of the meeting, members of the Political Bureau made their speeches one by one at the meeting, carried out self-examination and self-criticism according to the Regulations of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on Strengthening and Safeguarding the Centralized and Unified Leadership of the CPC Central Committee, and the Implementation Rules of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on the Central Party Leadership's Eight-



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, presides over a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and delivers an important speech on Dec 27, 2022. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

point Decision on Improving Conduct, in an open and honest manner.

The meeting proceeded in serious and lively atmosphere, and achieved expected results.

The speeches of members of the Political Bureau focused on six key points. First, while having a deeper understanding of the long-term guiding significance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, they said that they would use it to arm their minds, guide their practice, and advance their work.

Fourth, while having a deeper understanding of the Chinese characteristics, essential requirements, major principles and strategic decision of socialist modernization in comprehensively promoting Chinese modernization, they said that, in the face of arduous tasks and risks, they would dare to fight, take responsibility, perform their duties for the Party and do their bit for the people.

Fifth, while having a deeper understanding of the leading officials' role as a bellwether in exercising full and strict governance over the Party, they said that they would be strict in

self-reform, and consciously set an example for the whole Party in obeying regulations and disciplines.

Sixth, while having a deeper understanding about staying alert and determined to tackle the special challenges that a large party like ours faces, they said that they would conscientiously fulfill the political responsibility for full and strict governance over the Party.

It was stressed at the meeting that this year was an extremely important year in the history of the Party and the country, and we successfully held the 20th CPC National Congress and drew up a grand blueprint for comprehensively building a modern socialist country.

In the face of an international environment featuring high winds and choppy waters and the challenging and arduous tasks of reform, development and ensuring stability at home, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has united and led the whole Party and the Chinese people to tackle the challenges head on, having fully implemented the requirements of containing the epidemic, stabilizing the economy, and ensuring safe development, coordinated both domestic and international situations, the epidemic prevention and control with economic and social development, as well as coordinated development with security, strengthened macro-control, and responded to the impact of factors exceeding expectations, thus ensured overall economic and social stability, according to the meeting.

Xinhua

Twitter outage hits thousands of users globally

JERUSALEM

TWITTER Inc suffered a major outage on Wednesday, leaving tens of thousands of users globally unable to access the popular social media platform or use its key features.

Downdetector, a website that tracks outages through a range of sources including user reports, showed more than 10,000 affected users from the United States, about 2,500 from Japan and about 2,500 from the UK at the peak of the disruption.

Reports of Twitter outages fell sharply by Wednesday evening, according to the website.

Twitter did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The social network's status page shows that all systems are operational.

During the outage, some users were unable to log in to their Twitter account via desktops or laptops. The issue also affected the mobile app and features including notifications.

Others took to Twitter to share updates and memes about the service disruption, with #TwitterDown trending as a hashtag on the social media site.

Some attempts to log in to Twitter from the desktop prompted an error message saying: "Something went wrong, but don't fret – it's not your fault. Let's try again."

Twitter CEO Elon Musk tweeted he was still able to use the service.

"Works for me," Musk posted in response to a user who asked if Twitter was broken.

The outage comes two months after Musk's \$44 billion takeover of Twitter, which has been marked by chaos and controversy.

Hundreds of Twitter employees quit the social media company in November, by some estimates, including engineers responsible for fixing bugs and preventing service outages.

Other big technology companies have also been hit by outages this year. In July, a near 19-hour service outage at Canada's biggest telecom operator Rogers Telecommunications shut banking, transport and government access for millions.

Telecom services restart in key rebel-held city in northern Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

TELECOMMUNICATION services have restarted in Mekele, the rebel-held capital of northern Ethiopia's Tigray region, an official said on Wednesday.

Frehiwot Tamiru, chief executive officer (CEO) of the state-owned telecoms operator, Ethio-Telecom, said a successful phone call was made Wednesday after more than a year of communication blackout caused by the northern Ethiopia conflict.

"The restart of telecommunication services in (Mekele) has enabled 61 bank branches to re-enter into service," the state-owned Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) reported, quoting Tamiru as saying.

Tamiru also said the state firm has managed to rehabilitate 981 km of telecommunication fiber lines, resulting in 27 cities and towns across the region managing to receive telecommunication services once again.

Earlier on Wednesday, Ethiopia's flag carrier, Ethiopian Airlines, resumed flights to Mekele two days after a delegation of Ethiopian government officials visited the city, the first time since the conflict erupted in November 2020.

The latest developments came after a permanent cessation of hostilities agreement signed on Nov. 2 between the Ethiopian government, and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which now controls parts of the northernmost region.

The deal also includes restoration of law and order, withdrawal of foreign and non-Ethiopian army forces, restoration of services and unhindered access to humanitarian supplies.

Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation, has seen a devastating conflict between government-allied troops and forces loyal to the TPLF for the past two years, which left thousands dead and millions more in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Xinhua

China to downgrade COVID-19 management to Class B

CHINA will downgrade management of COVID-19 to Class B and cancel quarantine requirements on inbound travelers from Jan. 8, 2023, China's top health authority announced recently.

In a statement released late Monday, the National Health Commission (NHC) renamed the Chinese term for COVID-19 from "novel coronavirus pneumonia" to "novel coronavirus infection," and manage the disease from Class A to Class B in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Disease.

Additionally, it said that COVID-19 will no longer be included in the quarantinable infectious disease management following the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law of the People's Republic of China.

The new term better accurately describes the current disease characteristics as the Omicron variant becomes the global dominant strain, which includes declin-



A medical worker injects the COVID-19 vaccine for a resident in Guiyang, southwest China's Guizhou province, Dec. 9, 2022. (Photo by Zhao Song/People's Daily Online)

ing pathogenicity and only a few cases showing pneumonia-like symptoms, said a document released by the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19 on the same day.

The decision was made after China's COVID-19 control reached a new stage as the virulence of the virus dropped, the document added. Considering its vaccination rate, medical resources and experience in prevention and control, China has the right conditions for downgrading the management.

According to the document, the country will no longer implement quarantine measures for infected individuals, and stop tracking close contacts or designating high-risk and low-risk areas. It will provide classified treatment for COVID-19 cases and promptly modify medical care policies.

The document further clarifies that starting from Jan. 8, China won't conduct

any quarantinable infectious disease control measures for inbound persons and imported goods. Passengers entering the country still have to take nucleic acid tests 48 hours before departure.

The country will gradually resume passenger entry and exit at sea and land ports, as well as outbound tourism in an orderly manner. Arrangements for foreigners to visit China for work, business or other purposes will be improved and the required visas will also be facilitated, the document added.

Following the adjustment, China will keep track of the spread of COVID-19 and strengthen the health monitoring of special groups such as the elderly. Appropriate steps will also be implemented to ensure adequate medical resources and lessen the impact on economic and social development, said the authorities.

People's Daily

Rwandan moto-taxi riders embrace business boom on Chinese-built roads

KIGALI

ON a chilly December morning, Emmanuel Niyoyita, a motorbike taxi rider in the east African country Rwanda, is busy cleaning his motorbike with a wet cloth while patiently waiting for a passenger.

While waiting for business around the Kicukiro trading center located along the road connecting the capital city Kigali to Bugesera District in Eastern Province, Niyoyita said he is among a growing number of riders of motorbike taxis, locally also known as moto-taxi, that offer ride services for passengers from the Sonatube roundabout in Kigali to the Akagera bridge in Bugesera District.

He said thanks to Chinese companies' involvement in the nation's transport sector development, the improved road transport system has become a major boost to the fast-growing commercial motorist business because the roads are of high quality, which makes it easy to travel from one location to another.

"Every day, I wake up early in the morning between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. because many passengers travel from Bugesera to Kigali and vice versa for business. The road has been upgraded by the Chinese company.

There are no potholes anymore. It is now a seamless ride from Kicukiro trading center to Nyamata Town in Bugesera District," Niyoyita told Xinhua in an interview. "We make a lot of money from transport fares because many passengers, including foreigners and tourists, prefer moto-taxi to public buses," Niyoyita said.

He said there are times when he also rides on the Kigali-Bugesera



Didier Ndobahariye is one of 25,000 motorbike taxi drivers in Kigali

road for pleasure because the road provides comfort and beautiful scenery.

As Niyoyita is still waiting for a passenger, numerous motorbike taxi riders in red and green helmets can be seen busy hurtling among the heavy traffic on the road.

"The Chinese are good at road construction, and you can see how the roads are strong, smart, and of standard quality. The roads are big, which allow smooth flow of traffic, and this has attracted many moto-taxis to operate on these roads," said Samuel Twagirumungu, another moto-taxi rider.

He said he makes profits because driving on these Chinese-built roads from one place to another takes the shortest possible time since the roads provide a smooth ride, enabling him to transport as many passengers as possible in one day.

Niyoyita and Twagirumungu are among a

growing list of motorbike taxi riders in Rwanda, especially in Kigali, whose lives have been improved by operating moto-taxis due to high demand from customers. According to the Rwanda Federation of Taxi-Moto (RFTM), there are about 46,000 moto-taxi riders registered in the country, with 26,000 of them operating in Kigali.

"The roads have become the symbol of China-Rwanda relations because we are seeing many roads in Rwanda constructed by the Chinese. The Chinese are smart and faster in their job," Daniel Ntaganda, the chairperson of the RFTM, told Xinhua.

He said the federation is registering more moto-taxi riders due to a good transport network system and an increase in the number of businesses that depend on moto-taxi for the transportation of people and goods.

In Rwanda, Chinese firms such as the China Road and Bridge Corporation, and the China Civ-

il Engineering Construction Corporation, among others, are active in the nation's road construction, especially in Kigali and other major towns.

These roads are designed and constructed according to Chinese standards. Apart from providing comfort to motorists, Chinese companies have also provided employment opportunities to many Rwandans. The roads constructed in Kigali are part of the Kigali Infrastructure Project (KIP) to build a 215-km road network and several bridges by 2024, Merard Mpabwanamaguru, City of Kigali's vice mayor in charge of urbanization and infrastructure, told local media recently. More than 70 percent of Rwanda's national highways and municipal roads were built by Chinese contractors, according to last year's data from the National Institute of Statistics in Rwanda.

Xinhua

'PR gimmick': Russian diplomat lambasts Kiev's 'bizarre' peace bid at UN

MOSCOW

THE Kiev regime's proposal for holding a "peace summit" at the UN is insane and a PR gimmick by Washington, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a news briefing yesterday.

"What we're talking about is convening a kind of 'peace summit' on the UN platform on February 24, on the day of the special military operation's anniversary. According to the Kiev leaders' plan, it would contribute to the implementation of [Ukrainian President Vladimir] Zelensky's bizarre speculations, which he presented in the form of a 'peace formula,'" Zakharova said. We regard this insane notion as another PR gimmick by Washington, which has recently been trying to portray the Kiev regime as a peacemaker," she maintained.

Zakharova stressed that the very idea of letting Russia participate in such a summit only in the event of its complete and unconditional surrender was a sure sign of Kiev's waning strength.

"There are no other plausible explanations. They have already reached a point where they come up with ever more crazy ideas and cloak them in some kind of international legal garb, but the end gain they pursue is the same - to survive without admitting the obvious," she emphasized.

On Monday, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba said that Kiev intended to call what he described as a "peace summit" at the United Nations by the end of February. He invited UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to act as a moderator. Guterres expressed his readiness to broker such negotiations.

Agencies

Canada, others seek formal arbitration with Iran over downed jet

OTTAWA

CANADA, Britain, Sweden and Ukraine on Wednesday called on Tehran to settle a dispute over accountability and reparations for the downing of an airliner by Iranian forces nearly 3 years ago through arbitration under the rules of the 1971 Montreal Convention. All four countries as well as Iran are signatories of the convention, an international treaty which requires states to prevent and punish offences against civil aviation. If the countries cannot settle their dispute within six months, Iran can be taken to the International Court of Justice.

Most of the 176 people killed when Iran shot down the Ukrainian jet near Tehran in January 2020 were citizens from those four countries, which created a coordination group that seeks to hold Iran to account. "We ... have taken concrete action today to ensure that our efforts to hold Iran to account for the unlawful downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 can progress to the dispute settlement phase," the countries said in a joint statement. "In particular, we have requested that Iran submits to binding arbitration of the dispute ... pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation of 1971," they said.

Direct talks with Iran broke down



Relative and friends of the flight crew members of the Ukrainian 737-800 plane that crashed on the outskirts of Tehran, lay flowers at a memorial inside Borispol International Airport outside Kyiv, Ukraine, Jan 8, 2020. File photo

earlier this year, when the coordination group said its attempts to resolve the matter through negotiations had been "futile."

Iran says Revolutionary Guards accidentally shot down the Boeing 737 jet and blamed a misaligned radar and an error by the air defense operator at a time when tensions were high between Tehran and Washington.

At the time, Iran was on edge about pos-

sible attacks after it fired missiles at Iraqi bases housing US forces in retaliation for the killing days before of its most powerful military commander, Qassem Soleimani, in a US missile strike at Baghdad airport.

Ottawa has said a special Canadian forensic team charged with examining all available information about the incident found no evidence that the downing of the plane had been premeditated. **Agencies**

UN halts some Afghan programmes after women aid worker ban

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations said on Wednesday that some "time-critical" programs in Afghanistan have temporarily stopped and warned many other activities will also likely need to be paused because of a ban by the Taliban-led administration on women aid workers.

UN aid chief Martin Griffiths, the heads of UN agencies and several aid groups said in a joint statement that women's "participation in aid delivery is not negotiable and must continue," calling on the authorities to reverse the decision.

"Banning women from humanitarian work has immediate life-threatening consequences for all Afghans. Already, some time-critical programs have had to stop temporarily due to lack of female staff," read the statement.

"We cannot ignore the operational constraints now facing us as a humanitarian community," it said. "We will endeavor to continue lifesaving, time-critical activities ... But we foresee that many activities will need to be paused as we cannot deliver principled humanitarian assistance without female aid workers."

The ban on female aid workers was announced by the Islamist Taliban-led administration on Saturday. It follows a ban imposed last week on women attending universities. Girls were stopped from attending high school in March.

"No country can afford to exclude half of its population from contributing to society," said the statement, which was also signed by the heads of UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the UN Development Programme, and the UN high commissioners for refugees and human rights.



Four major global groups, whose humanitarian aid has reached millions of Afghans, said on Sunday that they were suspending operations because they were unable to run their programs without female staff.

The UN statement said the ban on female aid workers "comes at a time when more than 28 million people in Afghanistan ... require assistance to survive as the country grapples with the risk of famine conditions, economic decline, entrenched poverty and a brutal winter."

The UN agencies and aid groups - which included World Vision International, CARE International, Save the Children US, Mercy Corps and InterAction - pledged to "remain resolute in our commitment to deliver independent, principled, lifesaving assistance to all the women, men and children who need it."

The Taliban seized power in August last year. They largely banned education of girls when last in power two decades ago but had said their policies had changed. The Taliban-led administration has not been recognized internationally.

Agencies

AS China optimized its epidemic response measures and enhanced efforts to help enterprises tide over difficulties, the country has witnessed higher efficiency in the resumption of work and production, as well as a steady rise in the business volume in the logistics sector.

In Beijing, many enterprises have recovered their transport and production capacity; in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, tech firms are working to grasp the opportunities of digital transformation, and unicorn firms are striving for better development; in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, over 95 percent of the enterprises above designated size in the equipment industry have resumed production.

They reflect the recovering vitality of market entities, as well as the strong resilience, potential and vitality of the Chinese economy.

The recent annual Central Economic Work Conference stressed lifting market

China works to vitalise market entities

confidence, implementing policies centering on market entities, improving the way of policy implementation, and enhancing the timeliness and precision of policies.

To promote economic recovery, and achieve effective improvement in quality and reasonable growth in quantity, it is necessary to boost market confidence, fully release the society's potential for innovation, unswervingly deepen reforms and further stimulate market vitality and social creativity.

In the past decade, China has made historic achievements and witnessed historic changes in its economic and

social development, and has shifted its focus to high-quality development.

During this period, the number of registered entities in the Chinese market increased from 55 million to 163 million, which has laid a solid micro-foundation for the stable, healthy and sustainable development of the Chinese economy.

In order to ensure the operations of market entities and promote economic development, China has unveiled a package of policies to help enterprises tide over difficulties, including value-added tax credit refund and supportive measures for small-

and medium-sized enterprises.

Besides, the country also promoted reforms, such as the reform separating operation permits from business licenses, and systematically establishing a top-level design policy framework for fair competition, which created a sound market environment for the healthy development of market entities.

The online retail sales of physical goods grew by 6.4 percent year on year in the first 11 months of 2022, which demonstrated the resilience of the Chinese consumption market.

In the same period, the to-

tal added value of industrial enterprises above the designated size registered 3.8-percent year-on-year growth. Industrial production maintained stability in general and new growth drivers kept expanding.

China boasts the world's biggest middle-income group and stands as a consumption market that sees the brightest prospects in the world, which lays a solid foundation for the prosperous development of market entities.

The country will enhance its macro-regulation, build a market-oriented and world-class business environment governed by a sound legal

framework, so as to foster synergy for high-quality development through expanded and upgraded domestic demand and high-quality supply.

China's economic development still enjoys broad prospects in the long run, and is expected to improve in general in 2023. The massive market entities in the country will definitely embrace better development and realize stronger and more sustainable development.

Respecting market laws, implementing policies centering on market entities, boosting confidence for development and practically assisting enterprises to tackle challenges, China has the confidence and capability to constantly enhance the vitality of its economic and social development, help market entities gain a bigger role in the course of Chinese modernization, and achieve long-term and stable economic development.

People's Daily

The Guardian

SPORT



FILE - Singer Theophilus London attends The Shops at Target event at the IAC Building on May 1, 2012 in New York. London's family has filed a missing persons report with Los Angeles police and are asking for the public's help to find him. According to a family statement released Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, by Secretly, a music label group that has worked with the rapper, London's family and friends believe someone last spoke to him in July in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

Family files missing persons report for Theophilus London

LOS ANGELES

The family of rapper Theophilus London filed a missing persons report with Los Angeles police this week and are asking for the public's help, saying he hasn't been seen in months.

London's family and friends believe someone last spoke to the musician in July in Los Angeles, according to the family's statement released Wednesday from Secretly, a music label group that has worked with London.

London's relatives have been trying to determine his whereabouts over the last few weeks and filed a police report earlier this week, the statement said.

Officer Annie Moran, an LAPD spokesperson, confirmed Wednesday that a report for London had been taken. A department news release said London was last seen in the Skid Row area on Oct. 15, and his family has lost complete contact with him.

"Theo, your Dad loves you, son," his father, Lary Moses London, said in the family's statement. "We miss you. And all your friends and relatives are searching for you. Wherever you are send us some signal. No matter what we will come get you son."

London posted prolifically on Instagram, but his last posts also came

in July.

London, 35, was born in Trinidad and Tobago and later raised in the Brooklyn borough of New York. He was nominated for a 2016 Grammy for best rap performance for a featured spot alongside Paul McCartney on Kanye West's "All Day."

London has frequently collaborated with the artist now known as Ye, who produced and guested on 2014's "Vibes." London would often post updates on Ye's "Donda" and "Donda 2" on Instagram, even saying that he was "promoted to tackle media duties" on Ye's behalf for the month of February.

London himself has released three studio albums – 2011's "Timez Are Weird These Days," "Vibes" and 2020's "Bebey." He recently was a featured artist on Young Franco's "Get Your Money," released this past September – the month before he was last seen.

While "Vibes" was a Warner Records release, "Bebey" was released on London's own label, My Bebe Records.

"I wanted to see what a sense of family is, a sense of me having a plot of land, building a house on my own land, instead of sleeping at a hotel for the rest of my life," he told Complex of branching out on his own in 2020.

AP

As he turns 38, LeBron is clear: He still wants title shots

MIAMI

IT was 2006. LeBron James wasn't even midway through his first stint in Cleveland. He made the playoffs for the first time, was already a globally recognized star and well on his way to becoming the game's best player.

As a 21-year-old, he averaged 30.2 points.

Fast forward 16 years. He's left Cleveland, gone to Miami, won two championships, gotten married, became a father of three, gone back to Cleveland, won another championship, left for Los Angeles, won a fourth championship with the Lakers, still a giant star, still in the best-player conversation.

As a 37-year-old, he averaged 30.1 points.

James turns 38 on Friday, midway through his 20th season. Nobody in NBA history has averaged so many points as a 37-year-old. Not even close. Karl Malone averaged 23.2 points at that age, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar averaged 20.2 and Julius Erving averaged 20.2. There have been 150 players in NBA history who played at 37; the average scoring clip of the other 149 was 8.3 points per game.

Yet here is James, simply not slowing down. He averaged more points at 37 than he did at 22. Or 23. Or 24. Or any other age over the last 16 years.

"I know how feverishly he works on his game," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "Just being in the gym, seeing him in the gym ... you know, he's not just out there playing his own individual game of H-O-R-S-E. He actually works on the shots and just being ready to be able to strike from any zone or any distance."

James is closing in on passing Abdul-Jabbar for the NBA career scoring record – they're separated by only 574 points – and he's as prolific a scorer as he's ever been.

"I do know how much I put into the game," James said. "I know how much I put into my body, into my mind, and all of those things. But I kind of surprise myself sometimes, just at the level. When you look at the history of the game... doesn't seem like many have



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James goes up for a dunk against Chicago Bulls. (Agencies)

played at this level for this many years and this many miles and things on their resume."

Not many. If any. Not at 37, anyway.

He averaged not just the 30.1 points, but 8.5 rebounds and 6.2 assists during this lap around the sun. Only six players at that age averaged more rebounds, only four players – Steve Nash, Chris Paul, Jason Kidd and John Stockton, four of the best point guards ever – averaged more assists at 37.

At his current pace, James could catch Abdul-Jabbar for the scoring record by early February. And he doesn't intend to stop playing anytime soon, either, so that record might be way out of reach by the time James is actually done.

"He constantly works at his craft," said Miami coach Erik Spoelstra, the only coach to win more than one championship with James. "So, he's going to continue to develop new skills to put in his toolkit. He doesn't get bored with that process. You can tell. He's like a computer. When he sees another player work on something, or do something in the game, he says, 'Oh, I

want to try that.' ... He never gets bored with that."

He has, however, gotten bored with losing.

The Lakers are 14-21 and are without perennial All-Star big man Anthony Davis, who remains out with a foot injury with no timetable for his return. They're mired near the bottom of the NBA and need a big rally in order to avoid missing the playoffs for a second consecutive season. Since James and Davis led the Lakers to the 2020 NBA title, the team hasn't won a playoff series; it went out in the first round in 2021, and didn't make it in 2022.

James is averaging 27.8 points, 8.1 rebounds and 6.6 assists this season. He's never finished a season with averages that high in all three of those categories – not even in any of his four MVP seasons.

And, right now, it seems like it's going for naught.

"I don't want to finish my career playing at this level, from a team aspect," James said. "I want to still be able to compete for championships because I know what I can still bring to any ball club with the right pieces."

He'll be a 38-year-old All-Star when the game rolls around in February; only five other players have been in that game at 38 or older. The Lakers are only three games out of the last play-in tournament spot, so it's not like there's no hope for this season.

But he's not playing for All-Star longevity marks, or the chance to squeak into the playoffs, or even scoring records. He doesn't know how much longer he wants to play, but knows what he still wants to do.

"I'm a winner. And I want to win," James said. "I want to win and give myself a chance to win and still compete for championships. That has always been my passion, my goal since I entered the league, an 18-year-old kid out of Akron, Ohio. I know it takes steps to get there. And once you get there, you know how to get there."

"Playing basketball at this level just to be playing basketball, it's not in my DNA. It's not in my DNA anymore. So, we'll see what happens. We'll see how fresh my mind stays over the next couple of years."

AP

Analysis: Doncic, Jokic set the pace; wild MVP race looming

BY TIM REYNOLDS

LUKA Doncic had 60 points and 21 rebounds and 10 assists on Tuesday, a stat line never seen before in NBA history. Nikola Jokic had 41 points and 15 rebounds and 15 assists on Sunday, a stat line that was managed on only two other occasions.

Two amazing games without a single dunk.

The two best players in the NBA right now – and likely the current frontrunners in the MVP race – do not play with LeBron James' strength and force, or with Michael Jordan's acrobatic creativity, or with Wilt Chamberlain's ability to just overmatch anyone who dared to stand near his path. They do not put on the shooting and dribbling display of a Stephen Curry, or glide from one end of the floor to the other like Giannis Antetokounmpo, or make scoring look as easy as Kevin Durant

does.

Doncic and Jokic do it differently. They dominate by making the game get played at their pace. They do what they want, when they want, almost always making the smartest play. Play off them, and they shoot the midrange or the 3. Play up on them, and they'll use their bulldozing ability to create just enough space for a move or the right pass.

"He's special," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said of Doncic's latest masterpiece. "The history of the game is written by the players, and that was written again ... Luka doing something that's never been done before. It's hard to do."

Forget the numbers for a second. Consider how Doncic got Tuesday's game into overtime. The Mavericks were down by nine with 27 seconds left in regulation. No team in the last 26 years – since play-by-play records of games began



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) celebrates scoring the game-tying basket in front of teammate Christian Wood (35) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks in Dallas, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022. The Mavericks won in overtime 126-121. (AP Photo)

getting tracked digitally – had outscored an opponent by nine points in the last 27 seconds of a fourth quarter, according to SportRadar.

The Mavs did it, with a Luka Miracle finishing it off. Down by three with 4.2 seconds left in regulation and at the

foul line, Doncic made the first free throw and intentionally missed the second. The Knicks botched two tries at controlling the rebound, Doncic leaped for the ball and shot a 10-footer all in the same motion. It went in, the game went to overtime and history

was made.

"I guess I was kind of lucky," Doncic said.

Being prepared to take advantage of an opportunity is how players make their own luck. That's also how 60 points and 21 rebounds and 10 assists happen – it isn't getting lucky. Nor

was a 41-15-15 effort by Jokic to get a Christmas win over Phoenix.

It's hard to win the MVP award, harder still to win it twice and Jokic is going to find out how difficult it is to win it three consecutive years. Doc Rivers has said many times that play-

ers like Jordan or James would have more MVP's if not for voter fatigue and people simply getting tired of the same person winning every year. He's right, and Jokic will probably have to deal with some of that when the ballots get sent in next April.

But he's obviously earned serious consideration. So has Doncic, obviously. So has Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, whose monster season so far includes a 59-point, 11-rebound, eight-assist, seven-block game in November. So has Jayson Tatum, who has Boston looking very much like a team poised to win an 18th NBA championship.

The numbers are just absurd, everywhere. Scoring is up in the league, again. Entering Wednesday there were 51 players averaging more than 20 points per game. More than half of them won't be going to the All-Star Game, be-

cause there's only 24 spots in said game.

On average, somebody has a 40-point game every night the NBA plays now. There have been 70 such games so far this season. There were 119 in the entirety of the 2021-22 regular season; this season, the league is on pace for 168 of them this year. Big nights have never seemed to come this easily.

And Doncic and Jokic are making them look easier than anyone else.

They each have seven triple-doubles already; nobody else has more than three. Doncic is averaging 33.6 points, 8.7 rebounds and 8.8 assists; since assists started getting tracked, nobody has ever ended a season averaging so much in all three categories. Jokic goes into Wednesday averaging 25.3 points, 11 rebounds and 9.5 assists; only Oscar Robertson has ended a year with those kind of averages.

AP

Morocco threatens to skip African soccer tournament

RABAT, Morocco

AFTER its sensational World Cup performance, Morocco's national soccer team might boycott the African Nations Championship next month because of a diplomatic dispute with tournament host Algeria.

The Moroccan Football Federation said its team will only compete if there is a direct flight from the Moroccan capital Rabat to the Algerian city of Constantine, where Morocco's games are scheduled to be played.

Moroccan military and commercial aircraft have been barred from Algerian airspace since the two neighbors severed diplomatic ties last year. Their dispute is linked to multiple issues, including the contested Western Sahara, a territory that Morocco annexed in 1975 and that Algeria-backed Sahrawis have long sought independence for.

The Moroccan federation said in a statement Tuesday that it had written to the African Union about procedures for African sports events and "facilitating the conditions of the participating teams."

In its letter to the AU, the Moroccan federation demanded that the national team be able to fly directly to Constantine on a private aircraft of Royal Air Maroc, the official carrier of Morocco's national teams.

Algeria's government has not responded publicly to the demand.

The African Nations Championship involves players for local clubs and runs Jan. 13 to Feb. 4. Morocco is scheduled to play against Sudan, Madagascar, and Ghana in the group phase.

Morocco became the first African or Arab nation to reach the semifinals of the World Cup in this year's tournament in Qatar.

AP

England captain Williamson feared period pain could have wrecked her Euros

LONDON

ENGLAND captain Leah Williamson feared severe period pain could have scuppered her hopes of leading the team to victory at this year's women's European football Championships.

The 25-year-old Arsenal defender suffers from endometriosis, a condition so painful it can lead her to collapsing onto the bathroom floor when she has a period.

In an interview with Women's Health magazine, extracts of which were published Wednesday, Williamson said: "Before the Euros I had a concussion, which they say can really impact your next period, and it was bad -- like, really bad."

"You know when you're on the bathroom floor and literally like, 'I can't move'. When it's too late to take the tablets because I'm, like, in it now."

Endometriosis is a long-term condition where tissue similar to that lining the womb grows in other parts of the body, such as the fallopian tubes and ovaries.

Period and pelvic pain, together with excessive bleeding, are among the symptoms of a condition that is also capable of leading to infertility.

Williamson recalled how stressful a bad period made her feel became before last year's game between England and Norway.

"I was like, 'It cannot happen'. Like, I actually won't be able to play," she said.

Williamson added: "I'm pretty sure if men had periods we would have figured out a way to stop them by now without doing any damage."

The Euro 2022 final victory over Germany at Wembley in July marked England's first major football trophy since the men's 1966 World Cup triumph at the London ground.

Williamson said victory had left her a fear she would spend the rest of her life chasing feelings of similar elation.

"I don't see how it could have been topped," she added.

"The only thing I'd love to do is go back and watch it from the stands. As the final whistle went, my grandma just put her head on my mum's shoulder and went, 'She did it.'"

Williamson also said the high profile that came with the success of the England women's team was a double-edged sword.

"I love it because we can reach so many people," she said before adding: "I hate the fame and that side of it."

Williamson, however, explained: "If you're not prepared to (be famous as a professional women's footballer) you're doing a disservice to the game and all those women that had to pretend to be boys to be able to play."

"I understand that I stand on the shoulders of those people."

Two-goal Haaland returns to haunt Leeds in Man City win

LEEDS, England

ERLING Haaland lamented not scoring five times in the city of his birth as the Norwegian struck twice in Manchester City's 3-1 win at Leeds to lift them back up to second in the Premier League.

Haaland spent his early years in Yorkshire as his father Alfe Inge played for Leeds, but showed no mercy as City got their title challenge back on track.

Pep Guardiola's men moved to within five points of Arsenal at the top of the table as they bounced back from a shock defeat to Brentford before the World Cup.

Haaland now has 20 Premier League goals in just 14 appearances since joining City, but was still left unsatisfied after failing to beat Illan Meslier with three one-on-ones.

"I could've scored five, that's the truth," Haaland told Amazon Prime. "We win, that's the most important thing."



Leeds United's Pascal Struijk, left, challenges for the ball with Manchester City's Erling Haaland as Leeds United's goalkeeper Illan Meslier makes a save during the English Premier League soccer match between Leeds United and Manchester City, at Elland Road Stadium in Leeds, England, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022. (AP Photo)

You see Arsenal at the top now, we have to hunt them, but for me as a striker, I could've scored a couple more.

"That's life, I have to practise more."

Haaland should have made his mark inside 45 seconds as he was denied by a fine save from Meslier when clean

through.

That set the tone for a first half of frustration for City as a series of glorious chances came and went.

Meslier won another battle with Haaland, while two glaring misses from Jack Grealish left Guardiola with his head in his hands.

However, Leeds crucially failed to hold out until half-time on level terms as the visitors finally made their dominance count in first half stoppage time.

Kevin De Bruyne opened up the Leeds defence for the opener and when Riyad Mahrez's shot was parried by Mes-

lier, Rodri swept the rebound into the net.

Grealish made some amends for his earlier misses by creating the second with a smart interception and unselfish pass for Haaland to roll into an empty net.

The City star acknowledged his Leeds past by refusing to celebrate, but

it did not stop him adding a second on the night from another Grealish cutback.

"I have to say, it's a really special moment in my career," Haaland said of playing at Elland Road.

"It was in my craziest fantasy I could think of to be at Elland Road and score for Manchester City against Leeds."

Leeds remain perilously poised just two points above the relegation zone, but did at least get a goal to show for their efforts when Pascal Struijk headed in from a corner 17 minutes from time.

Haaland did at least spare the home side his fourth Premier League hat-trick with an uncharacteristically weak finish with just Meslier to beat once more.

At the other end Joe Gelhardt's curling effort was inches away from setting up a grandstand finish.

But a two-goal margin of victory was the very least City's display deserved as they leapfrogged Newcastle into second in the table.

Mbappe delivers for PSG as Neymar is sent off

PARIS

KYLIAN Mbappe scored an injury-time penalty to seal a 2-1 win for Paris Saint-Germain over Strasbourg in Ligue 1 on Wednesday before admitting he will never get over France's World Cup final defeat to Argentina.

Mbappe was back in action 10 days after scoring a hat-trick in the final but then seeing the South Americans win in a penalty shootout.

PSG had Neymar sent off for two yellow cards as the Brazilian made an unhappy return to action following his country's elimination in the World Cup quarter-finals.

Captain Marquinhos had put the hosts ahead with an early header but the Brazilian defender scored an own goal after 51 minutes as some of PSG's stars appeared to be suffering a post-Qatar hangover.

Neymar picked up a yellow for a petulant flick in the face of a Strasbourg player and then earned another for a blatant dive in the penalty area just after the hour.

Mbappe had been a constant menace for PSG but was unable to find the target with two clear-cut chances.

But deep into second-half injury time he was brought down in the penalty area and converted the winner from the spot in the 96th minute.

After the game, Mbappe said of the World Cup defeat: "I think I'm never going to get over it."

"As I said to my teammates, there is no reason why the club should pay the price for the failure of the national team, they are two very different situations," he added.



PSG's Neymar, front left, discusses with Referee Clement Turpin after being shown a red card during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Strasbourg at the Parc des Princes in Paris, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022. (AP Photo)

ed. Argentina superstar Lionel Messi was absent from the PSG lineup after his World Cup-winning exploits.

The victory put PSG eight points ahead of Lens, who must beat Nice on Thursday to keep up.

PSG also announced that their 30-year-old Italian midfielder Marco Verratti has extended his stay at the club until 2026.

In other games, Lille beat 10-man Clermont 2-0 thanks to an Angel Gomes penalty and a late settler from Mohamed Bayo deep in time added on.

Lyon thrashed Brest 4-2 away from home as they push for the European places.

- Memories of Thierry Henry -

France may have had a glimpse of the future earlier on Wednesday when 17-year-old Monaco forward Eliesse Ben Seghir secured all three points in a 3-2 win over

Auxerre on his Ligue 1 debut.

Thierry Henry was two months younger when he scored his first double for Monaco against Lens aged 17 years and 8 months back in 1995, but the brilliance of Ben Seghir's brace brought back memories of the Arsenal and France star.

Ben Seghir, who does not turn 18 until February, came on as a second-half substitute for Wissam Ben Yedder, who had scored from the spot just before half time but was replaced anyway.

The newcomer unleashed his first

goal within 12 minutes with an unstoppable shot to put Monaco 2-1 up.

He then delivered a solo effort to savour, delivering a curling winner from outside the box to make it 3-2.

After the final whistle the Monaco players led Ben Seghir to be serenaded by the away fans on a night that will live long in the teenager's memory.

The win lifts Monaco up to fifth place on 30 points.

Ben Seghir grew up in Saint Tropez but is of Moroccan origin and

has yet to decide who he will represent internationally though he has turned out for the France under-18s.

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe said he will never get over the disappointment of losing the World Cup final after the France star scored the winner on his return to action for Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday.

"I think I'm never going to get over it," Mbappe said, speaking 10 days after he scored a hat-trick in the final against Argentina which the South Americans won in a penalty shootout.

Mbappe said he had been through some "difficult times" since the defeat but he showed few signs of the setback in Qatar as he won and converted a 96th minute penalty to give PSG a last-gasp 2-1 win against Strasbourg on Ligue 1's resumption following the World Cup break.

"As I said to my teammates, there is no reason why the club should pay the price for the failure of the national team, they are two very different situations," 24-year-old Mbappe said.

"It does me good to come back with a win and to have a link with the club, the supporters and my teammates."

Neymar, who was left in tears after Brazil were knocked out by Croatia in the quarter-finals of the World Cup, was sent off for two yellow cards in PSG's victory.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Two-goal Haaland returns to haunt Leeds in Man City win

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Seven volleyball teams confirm their participation in Mapinduzi Cup

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SEVEN volleyball teams have so far confirmed to participate in the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup ahead of its official opening on January 5.

According to the Zanzibar Volleyball Association (ZAVA)'s Technical Committee chairman, Burhan Ali, the teams are from Tanzania Mainland and the Isles.

Ali named the teams as Polisi Zanzibar, KVZ and Nyuki as the men's teams while KVZ, JKU and JKT will play in the ladies category.

"Everything is in place as we expect more teams to submit their confirmation before the end of this year. We expect to see more teams from the Mainland this time," he said.

The chairman urged other teams wishing to compete to confirm their participation before the deadline on January 3.

He said previously the deadline was December 27, this year before extending it to January 3.

He said JKT were the first team from Mainland to confirm their participation in the tournament held especially to commemorate the Zanzibar Revolution which is marked annually on January 12.

5 EATV THURSDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 WEEKEND MOVIE (I)
13:30 Kall za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
14:30 Ujuzi (I)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Ubungu Kids (I)
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 NIRVANA
21:30 TOP 10
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (I)
23:05 EATV SAA 1

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
11:00 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

Zimbabwean forward seals move to Fountain Gate Princess

By Correspondent Ismail Tano and Agencies

ZIMBABWE national women's football team forward Privilege Mupeti has become the second local player to complete a move to Tanzania after sealing a move to topflight side Fountain Gate Princess.

The 25-year-old striker joins the Serengeti Light Women's Premier League side from Zimbabwe Women's Premier League club Black Rhinos Queens.

Fountain Gate Princess club, which was formerly known as Tanzanite Queens, is one of the top football clubs in the East African country and is based in Dodoma City, the capital of Tanzania.

Fountain Gate Princess announced the signing of Mupeti on their official Instagram page.

The club is affiliated with Fountain Gate Football Club, which play in the Tanzanian Championship League formerly known as the First Division League.

Mupeti has featured for both the Young Mighty Warriors and Mighty Warriors.

She becomes the second Mighty Warriors player after Danai Bhoobho to be signed by a Tanzanian club.

Bhoobho joined Simba Queens on a two-year contract from Harare City Queens in July last year.

Mupeti scored three goals in the last four qualifiers for the AWCON 2022 finals played in Morocco, having netted against Eswatini in the previous round.

The diminutive forward is also a member of the Zimbabwe National Army.

Simba hope to end the year on Yanga's coattails



Simba striker Augustine Okrah fights for the ball with Young Africans goalkeeper Djigui Diarra during their NBC Premier League match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 22. Simba SC drew 1-1 with their bitterest rivals. (Agencies)

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA Sports Club's strikers will need to keep their scoring touch to ensure the side stays in the NBC Premier League title race as the Msimbazi outfit host Tanzania Prisons in the evening.

In the absence of the injured club top scorer Moses Phiri, John Bocco and Augustine Okrah stepped up last weekend's 3-1 victory over KMC that saw Juma Mgunda's men stay six points behind in-form league leaders Young Africans.

However, with the reigning champions playing Mtibwa Sugar tomorrow, Simba can cut the gap to three points heading into the new year.

They have won 12 games so far in the league and with 40 goals scored, they are the highest scoring team in the league.

Looking ahead to the team news, with the exception of Phiri, every other player should be available for the hosts.

The KMC game came too soon for new signing Said Ntibazonkiza, so the Burundian international midfielder has more chances of featuring here in some capacity.

Ahead of the game, Simba spokesman Ahmed Ally called upon fans to attend the game in order to end the year on a high note and break the attendance record.

"The game against Tanzania Prisons will be our last this year. There are things we want to do in this match, first of all we want to invite the fans to come to the stadium in large numbers.

"Simba fans should come to the stadium in large numbers because it is the last game of the year. For somebody who has never come to the stadium this whole year, he should make an effort to at least attend this one game.

"Also, we need to break the gate collections record

in this match. We know that games between Simba and Yanga or Simba and Azam or Yanga and Azam in Dar always have good gate collections, but matches between Simba and other teams have less.

What we need in this match is to break the gate collection record that we have earned all year in games involving Simba and other teams," he said.

On the other side, a healthy four points still separates the 11th-placed Prisons from the drop zone, so the visitors to Benjamin

Mkapa Stadium will enter 2023 above the dotted line no matter what transpires in this fixture.

But this calendar year will not be looked back on too fondly by the club which only escaped relegation through the play-offs with Championship side JKT Tanzania.

On a brighter note, Prisons can certainly be encouraged by a string of draws away from home. They have claimed ten points from eight away matches this season, with their last result in Dar a narrow 1-0 loss to Young Africans on December 4.

In head-to-head stats, Simba and Prisons have met in 21 league matches since 2009/10.

The Msimbazi Reds have claimed twelve wins compared to four for Wajelajela, while five matches have been drawn.

The Dar side has claimed eight wins from ten home matches in the rivalry, suffering zero defeat in the process.

When the teams met earlier this season, at Sokoine Stadium in September, Simba came out on top with a 1-0 hard fought victory thanks to a late goal from Jonas Mkude.

Dodoma Jiji target rebound against Kagera Sugar

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

DODOMA Jiji will be looking to get back to winning ways in their last game of the year when they host Kagera Sugar at Jamhuri Stadium today evening in the NBC Premier League.

They are on a two-game losing streak. The Capital City boys were beaten by high flying Singida Big Stars on Boxing Day, whilst Kagera Sugar drew a third consecutive game at home.

Dodoma Jiji begin this round of games in 12th place on 18 points while the visitors are in 6th place on 24.

They conceded back-to-back defeats following their 2-1 win over Mbeya City earlier this month to move back closer to the relegation zone.

Head coach Melis Medo is adamant Dodoma Jiji are better than what their lowly league position suggests, stating "things will click" for the team, but that needs to happen relatively soon to avoid an unexpected relegation battle this season.

Furthermore, Dodoma Jiji have by no means been impressive in the final third so far in the competition.

They have scored 12 goals in 18 league outings so far and they have only found the back of the net four times in the last five matches.

Kagera will enter this tie on the

back of a positive thread in the league. They are undefeated in seven subsequent NBC Premier League matches.

Nevertheless, they had huge problems with their defence in the last three games. Despite remaining unbeaten, deep down coach Mecky Mexime will have been disappointed with their collapse in the latter stage of those games which saw them squander a two-goal lead against Azam and Geita Gold, even though he said he was impressed with the result afterwards.

Although the sequences of draws will be deemed disappointing in some quarters, they have kept Kagera Sugar ticking along and in the top seven of the table.

January Jabir was on target once again, bagging his fifth goal of the season. He will no doubt be the main threat to Dodoma Jiji's goal in the final game of the year.

In head-to-head stats, Dodoma Jiji and Kagera Sugar have met in five league matches since the 2020/21 season.

The Bukoba-based have claimed one win while four games have been drawn. The City boys side has yet to win in the rivalry.

When the teams met earlier this season, at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in September, they played out a goalless stalemate.

It was a second successive draw. Last season both games ended in draws as well.



Melis Medo

Flexibles by David Chikoko

