



National Pg 3 Kyela villagers enjoy tapped water



National Pg 4 Govt wants fishermen to obey laws



National Pg 6 Prevent cholera outbreak, RC tells DCs



BUSINESS TPA launches digital payment system for revenue collections

REA to spend 711bn/- in 3rd phase to electrify villages in Singida DC

Contour farming brings multiple benefits for farmers on Uluguru Mountains slopes

Minister hails Zanzibar's economic investment drive

Samia meets Mbowe at State House

By Guardian Reporter

President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday received a report on the progress of political dialogue and reconciliation between the ruling CCM and main opposition party, Chadema.

A State House twitter page post accompanied by photos of President Samia together with Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe and CCM vice-chairman (Mainland) Abdulrahman Kinana, said the leaders met at the State House yesterday.

Those who commented on the post saying the meeting was a welcome move, raising concerns on the snail's pace to a new constitution and an independent National Electoral Commission.

Mukhsyn Khamis wrote: "Let the work continue, President Samia is a leader with a patriotic vision for our country; political diplomacy."

Sheshe wrote: "Amongst all, we need an independent National Electoral Commission and a new constitution."

"I am not comfortable with Mbowe's participation in the political reconciliation process," wrote Ray.

They met for the first time on March 4 in the evening, after prosecutors dropped terrorism charges against Mbowe after a drawn-out trial during which he and his three co-accused persons had spent eight months in remand prison.

I am not comfortable with Mbowe's participation in the political reconciliation process

The meeting focused on what next for the political scene, with the opposition leader later giving hints on possible areas of convergence.

"We have agreed that the best way to have political reconciliation is to ensure justice. We have gone through a lot of challenges; we should move forward and do our political activities without causing any harm to the government. We are hopeful that the government will support us in our activities so that everyone becomes happy," he told the party faithful.

The first reconciliation meeting between the top party leaders was held on May 20, at the State House involving a wider attendance than the president and the Chadema leader.



George Simbachawene, the Policy, Parliament and Coordination state minister in the Prime Minister's Office participates at New Year prayers held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday night. Photo: Tegemeo Kastus

'Overcome barriers to employment for people living with disabilities'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government intends to make a further review of workplace facilities and employment strictures to create more access for people living with disabilities.

Patrobas Katambi, the Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities state deputy minister at PMO said here at the weekend that while the law is clear, many employers deny people with disabilities their rights.

He said the Persons with Disabilities Act, No 9 of 2010 clearly stipulates such rights but employers do not adhere to the Act. Some offices do not have friendly infrastructures and equipment for those living with disabilities, he stated.

He was addressing a meeting to discuss challenges facing people with disabilities in public offices, convened by Ikupa Trust Fund and bringing together over 150 persons with disabilities from across the country.

He said the president has directed the ministry to do all the needful to help solve challenges facing PWDs, underlining that the president had approved a 3bn/- fund to renovate colleges of people with disabilities, while another 3bn/- would be directed to build two new colleges in Mwanza and Kigoma.

Local government authorities and other employers need to comply with the law on people with disabilities, he said, noting that failure to do so

New Year: Food security risks, child care, disruptive loan fears

By Guardian Reporter

TOP clerics yesterday urged the public to conserve stock of grain and other staples to survive possible shortages or disasters.

Dr Solomon Massangwa, bishop of the northern central diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) said in Arusha during the New Year crossover service that there is nothing is bigger than making sure that households have enough food stocks during this period.

With hunger, people will not

We have witnessed how some loans affect family development, many marriages have been entering into quarrels due to these loans, they are not helping people to grow economically but many of them push people into more challenges,

be able to engage in economic activities and thus be pushed to violate moral and other laws to enable them to get food. Hunger is a torture that pushes people to perilous migrations, "so we need to learn from the past, use our skills and technology to ensure that we produce and preserve enough food to avoid the impacts that may happen due to climate change," he said.

He referred to the ongoing conflict in central Europe as a major cause of food scarcity and the rapid increase in prices of grain and other staples.

For a nation to survive and achieve its development goals, it has to have the right laws and

TURN TO Page2

TURN TO Page2

BMH adds third weight curbing surgery method

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) has introduced two new methods of weight loss procedures, adding to equipment launched in 2019.

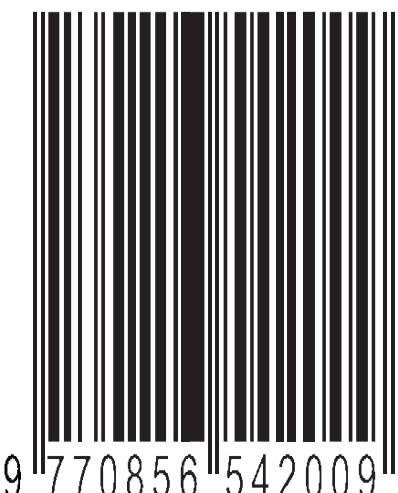
Dr Martine Sindani, a bariatric surgeon at the BMH, said here yesterday that BMH now performs three types of weight loss procedures, the first being weight loss surgery used since 2019, known

as laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG). Weight loss procedure is seen as a solution to reducing the threat of type 2 diabetes and some other medical conditions ignited by obesity. The other procedure is gastric balloon surgery, which involves placing a saline filled silicone balloon in the stomach. There is also gastric band surgery, an adjustable and reversible procedure where a silicone band, the lap band

around the stomach of a person with obesity, where decreasing food intake is conducted by reducing stomach size. The person feels full sooner, he said. The two recent weight loss procedures are temporary, as failing to comply with the conditions set out, like dieting and exercising restores excess body weight, he stated. The balloon and band types of surgery are reversible, he asserted, noting that the

first procedure is permanent as upwards of 75 per cent of the stomach is removed leaving a narrow gastric tube or sleeve. The procedure involves inserting small instruments through multiple incisions in the upper abdomen, he stated, emphasizing that should balance starch foods and take regular exercise to restrain weight gain. Before weight loss surgery is conducted, a medical check-up seeking to find the

body weight index (BMI) is conducted, such that a person with BMI 40kg/m2 and above is put to weight loss intervention such as LSG, expecting to recover within a month for usual routines. The first successful bariatric surgery patient at BMH was Stella Makyao (40) of Sumbawanga District in Rukwanga Region, who told this journalist in a telephone interview that she was doing well, up to the moment.



COVID-19: Morocco bans flights from China

RABAT

MOROCCO has banned travelers from China in a bid to stave off a possible new wave of coronavirus infections.

A foreign affairs ministry statement said over the weekend that the restrictions would be extended to all people arriving from China regardless of their nationality.

The ban will come into force "from 3 January and until further notice", the statement added.

China ended its strict Covid restrictions in December, leading to a spike in cases. With some of the best vaccination rates in the world, Beijing says most of the cases after the reopening have been mild.

Chinese authorities also announced that their borders would reopen for inbound and outbound travel starting January 8th, with travelers needing only to present negative PCR tests.

France, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, like the United States and South Korea, have also announced they would impose a Covid test on travellers coming from China.

The United States will impose mandatory Covid-19 tests on travellers from China beginning on January 5. All air passengers aged two and older will require a negative result from a test no more than two days before departure from China, Hong Kong or Macau. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention also said US citizens should also reconsider travel to China, Hong Kong and Macau.

Meanwhile UK will require a pre-departure negative Covid-19 test from passengers from China as of January 5, the Department of Health said on Friday.

France also will require travellers from China to provide a negative Covid test result less than 48 hours before departure, the health and transport ministries said on Friday.

From January 1, France will also carry out random PCR Covid tests upon arrival on some travellers coming from China, a government official told reporters. Time for China's 'zero-Covid' roller coaster to come to an end.

African scholar upbeat about China's economy amid optimisation of COVID-19 response

NAIROBI

CHINA'S economy has proven quite resilient and innovative, with the outlook for the next year upbeat amid the country's latest optimization of COVID-19 response, a scholar has said.

"There are all indications that China's economic growth will be on an upward trend in the coming year," Cavince Adhere, a Kenya-based international relations scholar, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

The recently concluded Central Economic Work Conference in China has underlined the role of consumption in economic development and the role of innovation in economic transformation, he noted.

The scholar said Africa looks forward to another year of closer economic ties with China, which has been the continent's largest trade partner since 2009.

"China is welcoming more African agricultural produce into its largest consumer market. Fortifying the domestic market while promoting global trade by China will see an increased optimism in the economic recovery of the world," he said.

To better coordinate anti-virus efforts and economic development, China has optimized its COVID-19 response policies dynamically. In its latest move, China announced to downgrade the management of COVID-19 from Jan. 8, 2023, treating it as a Class B infection rather than a more serious Class A infection.

Regarding COVID-19 response, Adhere said China has performed well in coordinating pandemic response and economic and social development.

"China is currently implementing new policies aimed at sustainably overcoming the burden of the pandemic while facilitating renewed opening and integration into the global economy. This is welcome," he said.

"When most economies went into recession, China became one of the handfuls that registered positive economic growth," he said. As the world's manufacturing hub, China was the source of many industrial products that enabled other countries to put up a spirited fight against the pandemic and hoist global commerce, Adhere said.

China's gradual recovery from the pandemic has been a boon for global economic recovery, said the scholar.

In regions such as Africa, he said that Chinese companies remained active, implementing infrastructure and connectivity projects as other countries pulled their workforce from the continent.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (3rd R) unveils a curtain to launch Ruangwa district Police Station in Lindi region over the weekend. Looking on are Home Affairs deputy minister Jumanne Sagini (3rd L), Lindi regional commissioner Zainab Telack (partly hidden 2nd L), Lindi district commissioner Hassan Ngoma (R). Photo: PMO

'Overcome barriers to employment for people living with disabilities'

FROM PAGE 1

is discrimination, elaborating that the government is examining ways to create a fund for direct support of people with disabilities. Hamisi Sekejo, a procurement officer at the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) at Mtera, and chairperson of the work-

ers with disability group, aired several challenges facing PWDs at work. The lack of support equipment and infrastructure in most public offices, negative perception that PWDs should be given light duties or easy tasks, along with lack of database of people with disabilities, their levels of education and expertise hurt their

place in work, he said. Other challenges include the lack of experts to empower PWDs to cope with work environments and the need for allowances for training, seminars and courses, he said, noting that such provisions would enable them pay for upkeep of those who assist them. Stella Ikupa, a deputy

minister for persons living with disabilities at PMO, who is also the founder and executive director of the fund, said the meeting was convened to focus on success and challenges facing PWDs at workplaces. Despite efforts put in place to improve the working environment, PWDs still face several

challenges with infrastructure leading on the list, she said, applauding the government for initiatives to improve the situation. There is also a need to start visiting private sector employers to see how far there is compliance with requirements of the Act, the meeting similarly affirmed.



Forum for women and girls with disabilities Iringa region chairperson Rukia Makweta (R) exchanges views with some members after their meeting aimed to provide feedback for government leaders on infrastructure challenges for the disabled people over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya.

New Year: Food security risks, child care, disruptive loan fears

FROM PAGE 1

strong leadership, which he said was pegged on hard work, while in the Mbulu Catholic diocese, Bishop Anthony Lugwen emphasised child care and protecting them from deliberate acts of harm.

In his New Year sermon, he said parents must do what they can for the proper growth of their children, raising them with morals to become good citizens, echoing concerns raised during Christmas sermons on many youths falling into alcoholism.

In Moshi, Bishop Joseph Minde of Catholic diocese warned those

falling into taking loans that are unhealthy for them. This is a major cause of various challenges in families, he stated.

In a mass at St John-Paul II Parish at Sanya Station, Bishop Minde urged families to take care when taking street loans "as most of them push people into conflicts and even poverty."

"We have witnessed how some loans affect family development, many marriages have been entering into quarrels due to these loans, they are not helping people to grow economically but many of them push people into more challenges," he asserted.

The government needs to inter-

vene in the situation and act upon micro-financial institutions offering loans at high interest rates. At the end of the day they affect people's development instead of lifting them up, he cautioned. He was also concerned with young people going into prostitution as well as widespread marital infidelity, saying the country is facing a big moral crisis among youth.

In Mbeya, Catholic Archbishop Gervas Nyaisonga urged Tanzanians to cherish the existing peace in order to uplift justice, equality and good governance in the country.

The cleric who also presides over the Tanzania Episcopal Con-

ference (TEC), reminded parents and guardians to raise children on an attitude of peacefulness so that they became responsible and moral citizens.

Ask children to observe kindness, humility and forgiveness, he said, insisting that the development of the country and of individuals depend more on maintaining the peace.

Dr Tulia Ackson, Mbeya Urban MP and Speaker of the National Assembly, seconded the archbishop in her remarks, saying people should be careful with their tongues, to shun from saying things which might lead us to peace on the margin.

Samia meets Mbowe at State House

FROM PAGE 1

Abdulrahman Kinana (Mainland) and Abdallah Sadallah Mabodi (Zanzibar), who is secretary to the ruling party central committee for Zanzibar, plus Ideology and Publicity secretary Shaka Hamdu Shaka.

Chadema fielded chairman Mbowe, Zanzibar vice-chairman Said Issa Mohamed, secretary general John Mnyika and a few members of the central committee.

Legal and Constitution Affairs minister George Simbachawene and Attorney General Dr Eliezer Feleshi were also in attendance.

On September 15, when marking World Democracy Day, President Samia promised to spearhead the reconciliation process between political parties by looking at the various factors that affect public political activities.

In November, Chadema vice chairman Tundu Lissu said in his activities in exile that they are likely not to pursue the reconciliation because most issues they are demanding are not implemented.

Last month, when speaking to the Diaspora in the United States, Mbowe said that Chadema will not quit the reconciliation process and the dialogue because the issues they are pushing are for the national interest.

Secondary schools quality controller officers call for curriculum standard

By Guardian Correspondent, Monduli

SECONDARY schools quality controller officers in Arusha and Manyara regions have suggested



“The world is currently facing serious unemployment challenges for young people especially those completing secondary

for the government to improve the current curriculum to focus more on innovations that will enable Form Four and Form Six leavers to be self-employed.

Speaking at a meeting with parents and students at Tumaini Senior Secondary School in Monduli District, Arusha Region, the Quality Controller of secondary schools in the North-west zone (Arusha and Manyara) Efraim Kaaya, said the improvements will help reduce unemployment challenges.

“The world is currently facing serious unemploy-



Zanzibar Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Riziki Pembe Juma (2nd R) receives a book titled 'Fanani' from the author Zainab Alwi Bahroon during the launch in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

ment challenges for young people especially those completing secondary school education levels. Most of them end up staying on streets, with nothing to do to generate income out having jobs to do. Therefore, we see the need for various schools to create an environment for

students in advance to deal with these problems,” he said

Earlier, the director of the school, Bayo Bayo said that the school, which specializes in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, has been preparing its students to be self-employed by teaching

them additional subjects.

He said the skills that students acquire enable them to employ themselves.

According to Bayo, the school has a total of 347 students from Form One to Form Six whereas they are all taught computer lessons.

One of the parents who spoke about the innovation, Gisela Msofe, said that providing education in a practical way has great benefits for students because it prepares them to be self-employed and overcome the problem of employment.

Villagers in Kyela get clean, safe water

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

VILLAGERS in Kyela district, Mbeya region have started to get clean and safe water supply following implementation of the 7.9bn/- Ngana water project which was fully funded by the government.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) manager in Kyela district, Eng. Tanu Deuli said the project was constructed in 1984 meant

to benefit villagers from 25 villages in seven wards. He said the project required expansion following an increased population.

He said that the project has currently been serving six villages only, leaving the 19 villages without water services, thus forcing the government to decide to rebuild it.

“According to its design, it was supposed to be reconstructed after 20 years in

2004. It was not constructed in that year but we are thankful to the government for providing funds to rebuild it,” said Deuli.

Kyela Member of Parliament, Ally Jumbe said the project will benefit seven wards of the district as well as the Kasumulu town at the border between Tanzania and Malawi.

He mentioned the wards that will benefit with the project as Njisi, Kanjunjumele, Ngana, Ikimba, Katumba-Songwe,

Ikolo, Bujonde, and Ngonga.

He thanked the government for allocating funds for the project, noting villagers will no longer experience water woes. He said apart from the 19 villages, the project will benefit other people living in nearby villages.

He asked the villagers to protect the project's infrastructures so that it lasts for a longer period as the government has spent too

much money on it.

The project contractor, Suzana Chinoto said they are required to complete the project within a year, but they will work hard to make sure it is completed within schedule.

RUWASA Director, Eng. Clemence Kivegalo directed the officers to properly supervise the project and make sure it is constructed at required standards.

Eng Kivegalo asked the

contractor to install a bigger pipe at the source to avoid rebuilding the project after some years.

“The project is now producing 10 million litres of water but it has the capacity to produce 50 million litres,”

he said, calling upon villagers residing near the water source to avoid damage it thus causing water shortage in coming years.

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
CHUO CHA USIMAMIZI WA FEDHA
THE INSTITUTE OF FINANCE MANAGEMENT
(ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ACT No. 3 OF 1972)



Press Release

Appointment of a New Rector

The Minister of Finance and Planning Hon. Dr. Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba (MP) has appointed Prof. Josephat Daniel Lotto as the Rector of the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) for the period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2023.

Josephat Daniel Lotto is an Associate Professor of Finance and a renowned researcher in Corporate Governance and Financial strategies. He has authored over 50 papers in both local and internationally recognized academic journals published by highly reputable publishing houses such as Wiley&Sons, Taylor&Francis Group, Emerald and Elsevier. Professor Lotto provides advisory services in Risk Management, M&E and Policy issues to a number of clients in both public and private sector. Prior to this appointment Professor Lotto was serving as the Director of Postgraduate, Research and Consultancy at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM); a position he held from February 2017.



Prof. Josephat Daniel Lotto
Rector of the Institute of Finance Management (IFM)

He also serves as a director to various boards in both the public and private sectors.

Prof. Josephat Daniel Lotto received his Bachelor of Geology with Honors from the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) in

2002. He also obtained MBA (Finance) at the University of Dar es Salaam between 2003 and 2005. Josephat pursued a Master of Finance with Distinction from the University of Strathclyde in the UK in 2008 before receiving his PhD (Finance) from the same University in 2012. He is also a Certified Public Accountant with CPA (T).

The Chairman of the Governing Council, Management and the entire Community of The Institute of Finance Management (IFM) congratulate Prof. Josephat Daniel Lotto for a well deserved appointment. We welcome and wish him the best of luck on his new appointment at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM).

ISSUED BY
Public Relations Unit
The Institute of Finance Management (IFM)
30th December, 2022

Women, girls with disabilities raise concern over lack of sign language experts in Iringa

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

WOMEN and girls with disabilities in Iringa region have raised concern over lack of sign language experts at some important areas of community services, resulting in communication challenges for people with hearing impairment.

Speaking yesterday during a stakeholders meeting of the Tanzania Association of the Physically Handicap (CHAWATA), Iringa Region's Chairperson, Rukia Makweta said there are still places such as police stations, markets, churches and hospitals that do not have sign language experts which is an obstacle to communication for the deaf.

She said the association also works to tackle gender based violence against women and girls with disabilities at their workplaces.

"There are many forms of violence, but structural violence against people with disabilities, especially women and girls, is intolerable. We want such kind of violence reduced," said Makweta, adding the association provides education to the society on the issue of violence against women and girls.

Makweta commended the Action on Disability and Development (ADD) International Tanzania for empowering people with disabilities in Tanzania by enabling them

to get their rights.

Community Development Officer, Iringa Municipal Council, Mwan-tumu Dosi said that currently all the constructed buildings must have friendly infrastructure for people with disabilities as well as sign language experts.

Head of the police gender desk in Iringa Region, Lydia Sospeter said that GBV cases against people with disabilities have been reduced. She said the remaining challenge is infrastructures as some places lack facilities for PwDs.

ADD International works to build an inclusive society that understands disability as part and parcel of human diversity and ensures that all development activities benefit all.

It works with 15 local disabled associations across the country. The associations have a total of 58,000 members.

In Tanzania the focus is to tackle exclusion of disabled children from all aspects of education, by working with activists to empower disabled children and their families to access education.

An estimated 60-80 million persons with disabilities live in Africa and the vast majority of them are poor and excluded from opportunities to write and study.



Barrick officials hands over computers and furniture to Police Gender Desk at Oyster bay Police Station in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government clarifies use of solar powered lamps in Lake Victoria

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has clarified that it hasn't halted the use of solar powered lamps during sardines (dagaa) fishing in Lake Victoria and called on fishermen to continue with their activities by adhering to the set laws and regulations.

According to the director of fisheries at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Emmanuel Bulayo, the government hasn't banned the use of the solar lamps but it emphasizes the fishermen to adhere to set laws and regulations when conducting their activities.

Addressing reporters during the

weekend here, Bulayi said in supervising protection of fishery resources adheres to the National Fisheries Policy of 2015, Fisheries Act no 22 of 2003 and its regulations of 2009 and their amendments of 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022.

"So, on sardines fishing, there are rules and regulations that need to be adhered to by fishermen, and these are found in the regulation number 66 of Fisheries Regulations of 2009 and their amendments of 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022.

He clarified that the government through the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) conducted a study on all

solar lamps used for fishing, including those that are run by motorcycle batteries and those that use kerosene and then recommended solar lamps as the best lights that should be used in fishing.

"We then approved that fishermen should use solar lamps in their boat that do not exceed 90 watts which means that each lamp should not exceed 10 watts, this is where fishermen should be very careful and stop violating the set rules and regulations," he explained.

Bulayi said the research findings have confirmed that motorcycle batteries that use 'lead-acid' cause negative impacts to the environment and affect the lake's ecology.

He said: "The government hasn't issued any order to limit the use of solar lamps as it is claimed by many. However, during the stakeholders meeting held in November 2022 in Mwanza Region, apart from other issues, it discussed this issue where it was reported that some fishermen were misusing the lamps, something which goes against sustainable fishing rules."

According to him, the meeting agreed that more education should be given to fishermen on the proper use of the solar lamps and the resolution has started to be implemented and will continue to reach more fishermen.

He further urged all

fishermen in Lake Victoria and the general public to ensure that they continue with their activities but by only using friendly tools that have been approved by authorities as well as adhering to the country's laws and regulations.

On tax exemption in fishing tools, Bulayi said the government has a transparent system on the reliefs and subsidies where he called on solar lamp importers and traders to adhere to the current tax procedures.

He said the government will continue creating a conducive environment to promote sustainable fishing as well as attracting stakeholders to invest in various opportunities in the fisheries sector.

AU special envoy says humanitarian aid, basic services resume in Tigray

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN Union (AU) High Representative for the Horn of Africa Olusegun Obasanjo said the

delivery of emergency humanitarian aid and the resumption of basic services are underway in Ethiopia's conflict-affected Tigray region.

Emergency humanitarian aid is "being widely provided" in Tigray and basic services have started, the former Nigerian president said during his

visit to the region with former Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta to observe the implementation of a peace accord reached between the Ethiopian federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), state-run Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported late Thursday.

Obasanjo commended leaders of both sides for "the good work they did" for the peace agreement, noting that the provision of unfettered humanitarian aid, the resumption of basic services, and the establishment of lasting peace in northern Ethiopia are part of the AU-led peace deal signed on Nov. 2 in South Africa.

It is commendable that electricity, banking, telecommunication, and other basic services have started within a short period of time, ENA quoted the special envoy as saying.

According to Obasanjo, the AU, the people of Ethiopia, and the civil and military leaders of the parties to the conflict in Northern Ethiopia have played "a significant role in bringing about this result."

Kenyatta underscored that air transport, roads, banks, electricity and other services, including humanitarian aid, have resumed operations in the conflict-affected region.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
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INVITATION FOR TENDER

Date: 28th December, 2022

RE: DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF NATIONAL PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE (NPKI) (TENDER NO. AE-020/HQ/2021-22/05)

- This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project, which appeared in Tanzania National Electronic Procurement System (TANePS), dated 1st July 2022.
- The Government of Tanzania has set aside funds for the operation of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) during the financial year 2021-22. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of National Public Key Infrastructure (NPKI).
- TCRA now invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for carrying out Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of National Public Key Infrastructure (NPKI).
- Tendering will be conducted through the International Competitive Tendering specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 - Government Notice No.446 and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Tender Data Sheet.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the tendering document through the national online procurement system (TANePS) accessible via www.taneps.go.tz. A complete set of tendering document in English may be accessed through TANePS.
- Tenderers are required to register on the TANePS and pay tender participation fee indicated in the TANePS to be able to participate in this tendering process.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Security of USD.5,000.00 or any other freely convertible currency in form of unconditional bank guarantee.
- All tenders must be properly filled in and submitted through TANePS at or before **30th January 2023, at 11.00 hours EAT**. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public through TANePS. Tender opening details will be available to the public through TANePS.
- Tenders not received through TANePS shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
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Website: www.tcra.go.tz

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

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Revised Advert shared on 29th December 2022 Change of Submission Date to 13th January 2023)

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Tanzania foreign missions called to explore economic opportunities

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed officials in Tanzania's foreign missions to explore economic opportunities available in their countries to promote trade.

Majaliwa made the remarks when he addressed staff of the Tanzania's High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa where he said it was important for the country's missions to establish business platforms in various sectors.

"Urge the business people and investors to come to Tanzania so that they open ventures and share knowledge," he said.

The PM said embassy officials have to create agreements with countries which will clearly state what is needed and available in those countries and what Tanzania can benefit.

"For example here in South Africa you need to create special business agreements with these countries which will also identify products which are available in Tanzania and are needed most and marketable in South Africa such as Kiswahili," he said.

The Prime Minister said the embassy should also work in attracting tourists from respective countries by indicating the tourists' destinations which are available in Tanzania, mainly Mount Kilimanjaro.

Earlier, when presenting to the PM, acting High Commissioner Peter Shija said Tanzania can benefit from the crop market opportunities available in South Africa namely Rice, beans, fruits and Cashew nuts among others.



Same district commissioner in Kilimanjaro region, Edward Mpagolo, speaks with Ruvu ward residents to resolve unnecessary land disputes. Photo: Correspondent Mary Moshia

Village and ward executive officers ordered to submit financial statements

By Guardian Correspondent, Pangani

PANGANI District Commissioner, Ghalib Ringo has given a seven days ultimatum to village and ward executive officers to post on notice boards their office's financial state-

ments as required by the laws.

He said sharing the revenue collection and expenditure reports with villagers will enhance transparency and promote accountability.

His statement came just days after Goodluck Malilo from Tree of

Hope—a non-governmental organisation working to support various community projects who raised concerns over lack of transparency in income and expenditure at village and ward levels.

Tree of Hope foundation imple-

ments its projects with support from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS). "Leaders should see the importance of posting their financial statements on notice boards to enhance transparency," he said.

Earlier, Coordinator of the com-

munity mobilisation project from Tree of Hope, Goodluck Malilo, said that despite supporting education programmes in the district, ward and village leaders do not convene quarterly meetings with villagers.

He said such meetings are im-

portant for the villagers to discuss various issues related to their development. He said that absence of such meetings leads to the villagers losing trust with their leaders thus failing to provide them with full support.



Mbarali district commissioner in Mbeya region Reuben Mfune (R) hands over a cow and other items to district Prisons officers to celebrate New Year yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Do intensive hygiene to prevent cholera outbreak, RC tells DCs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner Juma Homera has directed district councils to prioritize and conduct intensive environment cleanliness so as to prevent outbreak of epidemic diseases including cholera.

This is after the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) caution on heavy rain in southern highlands regions.

Homera made the directives during the weekend when addressing a news conference on various issues including the TMA weather statement.

He wanted district commissioners to work hard and supervise the assignment by ensuring that intensive cleanliness is conducted in all areas, especially crowded places, citing that during the rainy season, it is easy for epidemics to occur.

He pointed out that cholera is among the serious diseases and that without taking serious precau-

tion measures, it will bring massive negative impacts to people and the economy.

"So if a Cholera case occurs in any district here, the first person to be responsible for this is the District commissioner, so go and supervise this to ensure that our region is clean," he said.

He wanted the leaders to engage citizens in the sanitation plans so as to get joint effort that will facilitate everyone to fulfill his/her responsibility of conducting cleanliness in their home surroundings, streets, markets and sewerage.

Homera said after receiving the TMA weather alert information, he called a special meeting which then agreed that each council should set aside special funds to deal with the impacts which can be brought by the heavy rains.

He said that the safety and security meeting agreed to start taking precautionary measures including setting aside areas to accommodate

victims which can be affected by the heavy rains especially floods.

"We have seen in some areas, where the rain has started bringing challenges, houses and crops in farms have been destroyed and we have extended support to the areas," he asserted.

He said that in Rungwe a number of villages have been affected where houses have been destroyed, banana farms and some schools were also destroyed and we have extended support to restore the areas.

"We however are thankful that there is no harm that has been recorded to humans," he added.

He wanted district disaster committees to strengthen efforts so as to overcome the impacts in their areas.

Mbarali District council has responded to the RC's directives and commended massive environmental cleanliness in various streets of the district.

Watershed agroecological project empowers 400 Kongwa farmers

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

AGRICULTURAL experts from three institutions are working collaboratively to impart farmers in Kongwa district, Dodoma region with best agro ecological practices to overcome negative impacts of climate change.

The initiative which is also working to restore fertile land at the areas through use of friendly agro ecological practices has so far benefited more than 400 farmers.

Among the agro-ecological practices being injected to the farmers include creation of terraces for containing soil erosion, farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) for land restoration as well as tree planting management.

Ashura Dulazi, the researcher from the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Makutupora centre) expressed that students from at least two primary schools and two secondary schools have so far been trained accordingly. "We practically trained the students at the relevant schools on how best to create the Fanyajuu/FanyaChini (FJ/FC) terraces which are the best and friendly way to overcome soil erosion," she informed.

"The training has so far attained fruitful results," the agro pundits expressed, added: "It's very fascinating that the students have positively grasped the relevant knowledge to the tune of creating the FJ/FC at their respective schools, ones to serve as technology hub (TH) for all members from the surrounding communities to learn how best to cheat soil erosion in their plantations."

She further noted that the students have also received useful knowledge over coppicing of pigeon peas.

She disclosed the beneficiary schools as Moleti secondary school, Visumi primary schools, Laikala 'B' secondary school and Laikala 'A' primary school.

Dubbed: 'Enabling a resilient and prosperous community through

Participatory Agro-ecological Practices in Semi- Arid regions of Central zone' the timely initiative under the financial support from the Biovision Foundation is being implemented by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), LEAD Foundation and The International Crops Research Institute of the Semi- Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Kongwa district has potential for the production of numerous key food and economic cash crops but the farmers have for years been failing to harvest enough due to severe effects of land degradation, primarily caused by unfriendly human activities.

Research by the project established that deforestation and overgrazing, as well as poor farming methods were responsible for occurrences of mass soil erosion and soil infertility across the district, leaving aside the natural effects from climate change.

To further improve agricultural performance within the district, the practical-based project is also introducing the beneficiary farmers to improved drought tolerant seeds varieties to assist them heighten crop yields.

As part to ensure the project fetches needed sustainability, it has gone far to the tune of practically training the students at different primary and secondary schools within the beneficiary villages on the best agro ecological farming methods.

The project is benefiting small-holder farmers in the eight villages of Sagara 'A', Sagara 'B', Laikala 'A', Laikala 'B', Mlali, Nghumbi, Lengaji and Moleti.

"In implementing the project, TARI has a role to impart the involved farmers with useful knowledge on natural resources management, specifically in the areas concerning control of soil erosion as well as rain water harvesting through the use of tied ridges and the Fanyajuu/FanyaChini (FJ/FC) terraces," informed Elirehema Swai, the Coordinator for Research and Innovation at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Makutupora Centre).

He briefed that so far, a total of 230 farmers have successfully managed to install the (FJ/FC) Terraces in their farms. "Installation of the useful terraces and tied ridges technologies have helped the farmers in conserving moisture and preventing soil erosion, as well as in restoring soil fertility," he said.

Meanwhile, Peter Ngowi, a senior scientific officer (Natural Resource Management) at the International Crops Research Institute of the Semi- Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) said their role was based on agronomy and provision of the drought tolerant seed varieties.

"For years, farmers in Kongwa district used to apply landrace seeds, and other 'low-yielding' varieties to the tune of realising poor crop yields, hence a need to introduce them to improved varieties," he stated.

Giving vivid example, he detailed that the dry spell experienced from mid-March 2022 on wards left many farmers who had grown maize in their fields with nothing as opposed to farmers who had planted improved varieties of sorghum (variety macia), maize (variety Tumbi 105, Situka) and pigeon pea (Mali) issued to farmers for planting by the Biovision watershed project.

Winnie Saigodi, a beneficiary farmer from Moleti village who owns and manage an acre of inter-cropped field of sorghum (macia variety) and pigeon pea (mali) expressed her gratitude for the good work that the project is doing in extending validated agro-ecological technologies from plot level to landscape level. "My farm was completely destroyed by massive soil erosion caused by both water and wind but now my land has been restored and I am grateful for the good agro-ecological technologies that the project has taught me such as planting of shelterbelts which have tremendously been solved by fuel wood," she expressed.

Research depicts that, if not timely contained, climate changes will have significant impacts on Tanzania's rain-fed agriculture and will increase poverty and food insecurity, among others.

RUT equips Dodoma youth to obtain loans

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based NGO Reaching the Unreachable Tanzania (RUT) is implementing the youth economic empowerment tailor-made project, which has already benefited youth in four wards within the capital city.

With the ceiling target to empower a total of 800 youth in Mtumba, Iyumbu, Dodoma-Makulu and Nzuguni wards of Dodoma capital city, the project has so far managed to mobilize youth to form special groups and register to the Ten Percent Management Information System (TPMIS), the vital portal to enable them to access the loans meant to support the youth as disbursed by the government through municipalities across the country.

The project dubbed: "Promote Youth Financial Inclusion" two-year based project that aims to reduce the unemployment rate among youth communities in the fast-growing city of Dodoma.

According to RUT's Project Coordinator, Benjamin Masongi, throughout the project which kicked off in September last year, a total of 17 youth groups have so far been formed, out of which four groups have been officially registered in the TPMIS portal, while the remaining groups are in the process to be connected the same.

"The focus is to impart the beneficiary youth with useful knowledge on how professional to apply and acquire capital loans from the 4 percent budget share disbursed by the government through council's revenues for empowering the youth."

"Above that, the project will also major its focus to train the beneficiary youth over skills on the development of sober business plans evaluation and monitoring, in order to assure they stand a promised side to realize enough profit and thus, manage to repay their loans on framed time," he unveiled.

“The focus is to impart the beneficiary youth with useful knowledge on how professional to apply and acquire capital loans from the 4 percent budget share disbursed by ...

According to him, the project's vision was also to increase the commitment of local government officials to supporting the youth in their areas of jurisdiction.

"We're also working to sensitize and influence local leaders to expand their commitment and willingness in the execution of existing laws and policies that address the financial needs of youth," he added.

Vitus Msangazi, RUT chief executive officer (CEO) explained that through the capacity-building-oriented project, the intention is to sensitize the beneficiary youth to form a productive group, at least 12 groups, in order to stand a better side to acquire the loans, but also to effectively venture into profitable economic projects.

"We have decided to introduce this project after conducting thorough research and establishing that most of the youth in Dodoma are conducting pretty business with no good profit, among others due to poor access to capital loans needed to help them expand their executions and profits," he observed.

According to him, to achieve the intended goals, the project will train the beneficiary youth in computer literacy as well as the application of other online platforms, added: "Most capital loans services are now available through online portals hence the need to educate the youth on relevant applications."

Msangazi expressed that consideration will also be given to females

as well as the youth with different forms of disabilities.

"Consideration will be given to the youth who have already formed groups and are conducting different business, we're not much interested to deal with the fresh youths that are not doing any business," he added.

Apart from assisting the youth to acquire capital loans, he briefed that through the project RUT will monitor to assure the youth are running profitable businesses to help them escape from the shackles of poverty, but also manage to re-fund their loans.

RUT is a national voluntary-based non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 2016 by a group of young public health and community development specialists and got official registration in 2018. RUT works in the communities to address women and girls' health related issues including but not limited to Sexual and Reproductive Health, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Gender Based Violence (GBV), Climate Change, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Chronic and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

With its headcount in Dodoma Region, the NGO has already implemented some key projects, including a project against the prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Dodoma region, a key initiative that reached at least 963 people.

With a crucial mission to improve Sexual Reproduction Health (SRH) for women and adolescent girls, the target of the project was to deliver to at least 3,550 potential populations (women and girls) but also to ensure at least 3,550 victims of FGM are reporting and seeking psychosocial support from relevant authorities.

The initiative which fetched impressive outcomes was implemented in the wards of Thawi, Mnenia Itololo and Busi in Kondo districts, while in Kongwa it was based in Chamkoroma, Chitego, Lenjulu and Kongwa wards.



**JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA UJENZI NA UCHUKUZI
MAMLAKA YA USIMAMIZI WA BANDARI TANZANIA**



TAARIFA KWA UMMA

KUHUSU UTARATIBU WA KUFANYA MALIPO KWA MZIGO AMBAO UPO KWENYE MAENEYO YALIYOKUWA CHINI YA KAMPUNI YA TICTS NA AMBAO UTAPITISHWA KATIKA GATI NAMBA 8 HADI 11 ZA BANDARI YA DAR ES SALAAM KUANZIA TAREHE 1 JANUARI 2023

Mamlaka ya Usimamizi wa Bandari Tanzania (TPA) inautaarifu umma, wadau na wateja wa Bandari ya Dar es Salaam waliopo ndani na nje ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania kwamba; kuanzia tarehe 01 Januari, 2023, shughuli zote za uendeshaji wa Kitengo cha Makasha cha gati namba 8 hadi 11 za Bandari ya Dar es Salaam zitakuwa chini ya TPA baada ya Mkataba na Kampuni ya Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited (TICTS) kufikia ukomo wake tarehe 30 Septemba 2022 na kukabidhiwa TPA tarehe 31 Desemba 2022.

Kutokana na mabadiliko hayo, kuanzia tarehe 01 Januari 2023, kila mteja mwenye mzigo wake katika eneo ambalo lilikuwa chini ya usimamizi na uendeshaji wa Kampuni ya TICTS na ambaye ataleta mzigo kupitia gati namba 8 hadi 11 za Bandari ya Dar es Salaam, atatakiwa kufanya malipo yote ya gharama za huduma za Bandari (Port Charges) kwa kutumia mwongozo wa gharama bandari (port tariff) uliokuwa wa Kampuni ya TICTS kupitia Benki kwenye akaunti zilizooneshwa kwenye Jedwali hapa chini.

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UAUT obtained The Certificate of Full Registration (CFR) from Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) since 2012.

PROGRAMME NAME: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (BSC - CEIT)

VACANT POSITIONS

1. ASSISTANT LECTURER (1 POSITION)

Qualifications

- Holders of Master's degree with a GPA of 4.0 or above and a GPA of 3.5 or above for Bachelor degree majoring in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Information and Communication Technology, Electrical Engineering, Telecommunications Engineering or a related field
- Working experiences in Higher Learning Institutions
- Teaching language proficiency

Duties

- Undergoing training to PhD level
- Undergoing induction course in pedagogical skills for those who had none before
- Conducting lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical for undergraduate programmes
- Assisting senior staff in practical sessions, seminars and tutorials
- Preparing case studies
- Working in cooperation with senior members on specific projects
- Supervising special projects for undergraduate students
- Mentoring junior staff in all relevant academic matters
- Participating in curriculum development
- Participating in developing and managing of various university projects
- Undertaking research and publishing research results
- Preparing teaching manuals and compendia
- Attending/organizing workshops, conferences and seminars
- Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

2. LECTURER (1 POSITION)

Qualifications

- Holders of Doctor of Philosophy with a GPA of 4.0 in Master Degree or above and a GPA of 3.5 or above for Bachelor degree majoring in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Information and Communication Technology, Electrical Engineering, Telecommunications Engineering or a related field
- Working experiences in Higher Learning Institutions
- Teaching language proficiency

Duties

- Conducting lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical for undergraduate programmes
- Carrying out field supervision
- Mentoring junior staff in all relevant academic matters
- Participating in curriculum development
- Participating in developing and managing of various university projects
- Undertaking research and publishing research results
- Undertaking consultancy
- Preparing teaching manuals and compendia
- Supervising undergraduate student's projects
- Attending/organizing workshops, conferences and seminars
- Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

PROGRAMME NAME: BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

VACANT POSITIONS

1. SENIOR LECTURER (1 POSITION)

(i) Qualifications

- Holders of PhD and a GPA of 3.5 (Upper Second class) or above at Bachelor degree and 4.0 or above for Master degree majoring in Marketing.
- At least 4 years of teaching experiences after attaining PhD.
- Publications in International Journals which on assessment produce 3 points.
- Teaching language proficiency
- Ability to plan and promote the vision of the University
- Leadership and management ability

(ii) Duties

- Mentoring junior staff in all relevant academic matters
- Designing and developing curricula
- Managing of institutional projects and activities
- Developing new courses and programmes
- Writing teaching manuals, compendia and books
- Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

2. ASSISTANT LECTURERS (2 POSITIONS)

(i) Qualifications

- Holders of Master's degree with a GPA of 4.0 or above and a GPA of 3.5 or above for Bachelor degree majoring in Marketing.
- At least 4 years of working experiences in Higher Learning Institutions
- Teaching language proficiency

(ii) Duties

- Undergoing training to PhD level
- Undergoing induction course in pedagogical skills for those who had none before
- Conducting lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical for undergraduate programmes
- Assisting senior staff in practical sessions, seminars and tutorials
- Preparing case studies
- Working in cooperation with senior members on specific projects
- Supervising special projects for undergraduate students
- Mentoring junior staff in all relevant academic matters
- Participating in curriculum development
- Participating in developing and managing of various university projects
- Undertaking research and publishing research results
- Preparing teaching manuals and compendia
- Attending/organizing workshops, conferences and seminars
- Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

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Tanzania needs sunflower sector development strategy

The sunflower seed is the seed of the sunflower. There are three types of commonly used sunflower seeds: linoleic (most common), high oleic, and sunflower oil seeds. Each variety has its own unique levels of monounsaturated, saturated, and polyunsaturated fats. The information in this article refers mainly to the linoleic variety.

For commercial purposes, sunflower seeds are usually classified by the pattern on their husks. If the husk is solid black, the seeds are called black oil sunflower seeds. The crops may be referred to as oilseed sunflower crops. These seeds are usually pressed to extract their oil. Striped sunflower seeds are primarily eaten as a snack food; as a result, they may be called confectionery sunflower seeds.

With an annual output of around 350,000 tonnes of sunflower oilseeds, corresponding to about 90,000 tonnes of oil, Tanzania is one of the top ten sunflower oilseed producers in the world.

Sunflowers are grown all over the country, mostly by small-scale farmers. Therefore the development of the sunflower oil sector has a great potential for improving livelihoods and the welfare of relatively poorer households.

The Dodoma region in the country's central zone is a major producer, accounting for over 20 per cent of national production. About half of the region's farmers are engaged in sunflower oil production, but few small-scale producers have realized the full potential of this sector, either in terms of improved quality or higher volumes. Among the factors contributing to low productivity and quality are inadequate machinery and limited or no access to value-added services and markets.

Since 2012, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in collaboration with Tanzania's Ministry of Industry and Trade, has been working to upgrade and modernise the country's agro-industry and improve the competitiveness of locally processed goods, including sunflower oil, on national and international markets.

Within the framework of the industrial upgrading and modernization project, a team consisting of UNIDO international experts and trained national consultants have provided enterprises with diagnostics services and assistance with implementing upgrading plans.

Micro- and small-scale oil producers in Dodoma were advised to form a cluster, invest in common facilities to store, clean and refine sunflower seeds, and to take joint marketing actions in order to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of their businesses. To this end, the project is currently helping relocate processors operating in residential areas to the Chamwino industrial park. The project has also enabled producers to access affordable technology for sunflower oil refining. Recently, UNIDO teamed up with the country's Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) to help small businesses acquire modern machinery for refining and processing products. This has helped increase the competitiveness of the products and lead to a rise in incomes.

Farmers who have been using the now available technology to process their sunflower oil, said that the new machinery had helped them produce more refined oil, and as a result, they customers are happier and their product now had a chance to compete on a broader market.

Mutual respect and tolerance fundamental to all religions

Religion is usually defined as a social-cultural system of designated behaviours and practices, morals, beliefs, worldviews, texts, sanctified places, prophecies, ethics, or organisations, that generally relates humanity to supernatural, transcendental, and spiritual elements; however, there is no scholarly consensus over what precisely constitutes a religion. Different religions may or may not contain various elements ranging from the divine, sacred things, faith, a supernatural being or supernatural beings or "some sort of ultimacy and transcendence that will provide norms and power for the rest of life".

Religious practices may include rituals, sermons, commemoration or veneration (of deities or saints), sacrifices, festivals, feasts, trances, initiations, funerary services, matrimonial services, meditation, prayer, music, art, dance, public service, or other aspects of human culture. Religions have sacred histories and narratives, which may be preserved in sacred scriptures, and symbols and holy places, that aim mostly to give a meaning to life.

Religions may contain symbolic stories, which are sometimes said by followers to be true, that may also attempt to explain the origin of life, the universe, and other phenomena. Traditionally, faith, in addition to reason, has been considered a source of religious beliefs.

There are an estimated 10,000 distinct religions worldwide. About 84 per cent of the world's population is affiliated with Christianity, Islam,

Hinduism, Buddhism, or some form of folk religion. The religiously unaffiliated demographic includes those who do not identify with any particular religion, atheists, and agnostics. But many of the religiously unaffiliated still have various religious beliefs. A portion of the population mostly located in Africa and Asia are members of new religious movements. Scholars have indicated that global religiosity may be increasing due to religious countries having higher birth rates in general.[14]

The study of religion comprises a wide variety of academic disciplines, including theology, philosophy of religion, comparative religion, and social scientific studies. Theories of religion offer various explanations for the origins and workings of religion, including the ontological foundations of religious being and belief.

There is no gainsaying on religious tolerance in Tanzania. The cohabitation of people of different religious backgrounds with each going about their activities unperturbed by the other is testament to how Tanzanians freely worship their God.

Be they Muslims on Friday, Seven Day Adventist on Saturday or other Christian bodies on Sunday, the sacred days are given utmost respect by the population likewise the laws and authorities of the land. Even beyond worshipping separately in their corners and carrying out other religious activities in view of advancing the gospel within and without the country, religious bodies have occasionally showcased the values of togetherness.



Agenda for 2023 in Nigeria !

By Ray Morphy

On Sunday, Nigeria will like the rest of the world enter the year, 2023. A New Year is always an opportunity to make new plans, make new projections, while taking cognisance of the progress or lack of it of the old year.

This self-appraisal has become customary for individuals and is also expected of forward looking states and nations!

Every reasonable nation must continue to strive to do better from year to year. In Nigeria, there are so many things we must change, so many pitfalls we should strive not to carry over to 2023. As a nation and as a people, we must strive to do better in 2023. We must seek to correct the pitfalls of the last years so that our country will once again be a good place to live in unlike now where everyone wants to migrate.

The areas where efforts must be concentrated upon are economy, health care, education and infrastructure. The security situation is another major area that must be tackled if 2023 will turn out to be better for Nigeria. Indeed, the outgoing year had been terrible one for Nigerians.

The World Bank had cut Nigeria's 2022 growth forecast to 3.1 per cent from a previous forecast of 3.8 per cent. The World Bank said that the revision was due to slow economic growth in the third quarter compared to the year earlier. The nation was dragged down by the oil sector and a weak performance in other critical areas of the economy. Last month, the IMF cut Nigeria's 2022 real GDP growth forecast down to 3 per cent from 3.4 per cent earlier, citing weak oil production and the adverse effects of recent flooding.

Nigeria's inflation rate jumped from 20.77% in September 2022 to 21.09% in October 2022 as the country battles with soaring food prices. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Consumer Price Index (CPI) report for October, noted that food inflation was 23.72% in October 2022, from 23.34% in September 2022.

The National Bureau of Statistics, NBS said that 133 million (63 per cent) Nigerians are suffering from multidimensional poverty, with children constituting more than half of poor people in the country.

This means that two out of every three Nigerians are poor and experience just over one-quarter of all possible deprivations in terms of health, education, living standards, and work and shocks. The NBS disclosed



this in the 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index, MPI, Report.

The survey was a collaborative effort between the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the National Social Safety-Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), therefore no one can doubt the report's authenticity and credibility.

The number of unemployed individuals in the country hit 23m in 2022, a report by Jobberman in collaboration with Young Africa Works and Mastercard Foundation showed. In the report titled, "Unmasking the Barriers to Women's Participation in Nigeria's Labour Market," Jobberman stated that Nigeria's active population was 122m out of a total population of over 200m.

The above figure of the unemployed Nigerians is bigger than the population of The Gambia and Senegal combined together which is about 19.6million and 74 per cent of the total population of Ghana. Ghana has a total population of 31million in 2021. These army of unemployed Nigerians are partly the reason the country is insecure.

About 1,743 Nigerians were reportedly killed in the first quarter of 2022 owing to insecurity, according to the data sourced and analysed by TheCable Index, the data and research arm of TheCable.

According to the online newspaper, the figure surpasses the number of civilians reportedly killed in the first month of Russia-Ukraine war. TheCable Index analysed and reviewed daily media reports published between January and March 2022 as well as data sourced from the Council on Foreign Relations. From the data reviewed, TheCable Index found that an average of 19 Nigerians died daily in various violent attacks reported in the media from

January to March 2022. At least 7,222 Nigerians have been killed and 3,823 abducted as the country witnessed 2,840 incidents of insecurity between January 1 and July 29, 2022. Also, no fewer than 1,499 people were injured during the various attacks witnessed in 505 local government areas in the country. These were contained in a data obtained from the Nigeria Security Incidents Tracker by Beacon Consulting.

The above scenarios are Nigeria's reality in 2022 and more. It does not have to be our reality in 2023, a year that holds so much promise. We have to admit that our politics is broken and we need to fix it.

The New Year being an election year provide perfect opportunity to fix our politics. We have allowed the money-bags to take over our politics.

This is largely because the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has failed in its responsibility of monitoring spendings by political parties, while the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) as well as the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and the Department of State Services (DSS) turned blind eye as politicians with alleged looted funds bought the tickets of political parties by bribing party delegates with millions of United States dollars. If not checked they are warming up to buy votes in order to win in 2023.

In 2022, our economy is in dire straits. The managers of our economy have failed woefully. Our country is now unattractive to both local and foreign investors. We fell badly in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The fall started in 2015. 2013, it was \$5.56billion; 2014, \$4.69billion; 2015, \$3.06billion; 2017, \$2.41billion; 2018, \$0.78billion; 2019, \$2.31billion; 2020, \$2.39billion; 2022, \$1.535billion.

Nigeria's fiscal position worsened in the first four months of the year

as the cost of repaying debt surpassed the government's revenue in the first quarter of 2022. According to details of the 2022 fiscal performance report for January through April, Nigeria's total revenue stood at N1.63 trillion while debt servicing stood at N1.94 trillion, showing a variance of over N300 billion. Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed warned that urgent action is needed to address the nation's revenue challenge and expenditure efficiency at both the national and sub-national levels.

With its current N44.06trillion total debt stock as of September 2022, Nigeria has spent N3.04trillion to service external and domestic debts in nine months of 2022, representing an increase of 23.4 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY) from N2.46 trillion reported in nine months of 2021, the Debt Management Office (DMO) data revealed, recently. A breakdown of the N3.04 trillion debt service payments revealed a total N2.15trillion was used by the federal government to service domestic debts in nine months of 2022. You can see that Nigeria is in a debt mess and needs a leadership that would rescue it from debt enslavement in 2023 and set our economy on the part of growth and development.

Our education sector is in shambles. We have over 20 million out of school children, which is a recipe for future disaster in form of insecurity.

University students was at home for the greater part of 2022, thanks to the federal government that failed to meet its obligations to the university teachers who went on strike for eight months. Who in his reasonable mind was surprised when Nigeria was missing in the list of 12 most advanced countries in Africa based on Global Innovation Index? The report published in Yahoo News listed the 12 most advanced countries in Africa and their ranking in Global Innovation Index in 2022 to include: 12. Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 109; 11. Republic of Zimbabwe, Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 107; 10. United Republic of Tanzania Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 103; 9. Republic of Senegal, Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 99; 8. Republic of Namibia, Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 96; 7. Republic of Ghana, Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 95; 6. Arab Republic of Egypt, Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 89; 5. Republic of Kenya, Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 88; 4. Republic of Botswana, Global Innovation Index (2022) Ranking: 86; 3. MAY NIGERIA REBOUND

Benedict XVI, the pope whose resignation shook the Catholic world, has died at 95

By Bloomberg

BENEDICT XVI, who shocked the world's 1.2 billion followers of the Roman Catholic Church when he became the first pope to resign in almost six centuries, has died. He was 95.

Benedict XVI passed away on Saturday at 9:34am in his residence, the official Vatican News agency said on Twitter. The public will be able to pay respects to Benedict from January 2 when his body will be on view in Saint Peter's Basilica, the Vatican said.

"With sorrow I inform you that the Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, passed away today at 9:34 in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican."

Benedict relinquished the leadership of the church in 2013, saying that he no longer had the "strength of mind and body" to fulfil his duties. He was succeeded by Argentinian Pope Francis the following month and took the first title of pope emeritus.

The end to Benedict's almost eight-year papacy capped a tumultuous period for the church, which had come under attack for doing little to punish paedophile priests and covering up evidence of widespread child abuse.

As a German cardinal then known as Joseph Ratzinger, Benedict XVI was elected as pope in 2005 following the death of John Paul II. Succeeding such a charismatic, revered pope – John Paul II was swiftly put on the path to sainthood – wasn't going to be easy even under normal circumstances. But crimes kept buried during his predecessor's time would loom large during Benedict's papacy.

There were allegations of sexual violence by Catholic clergy in Australia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, the US and elsewhere. As the media uncovered court records of the church's mishandling of sex crimes dating back half a century, Benedict faced questions over why he had failed to act on past warnings.

Under John Paul II, he had occupied one of the most important jobs in the church – defending Catholic doctrine and investigating crimes such as claims of sexual abuse. As a high-ranking cardinal and head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he had been in a position to probe the allegations.

Groups representing victims of abuse demanded his abdication. The scandal plunged the papacy



Pope Benedict XVI at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, 28 February 2013. (Photo: Reuters / Tony Gentile / TPX)

into what Swiss theologian Hans Kueng called "its worst crisis since the Reformation". Benedict apologised to victims of abuse and to their families but was criticised for not turning his words into action.

On 28 February 2013, Benedict became the first pontiff to step down since Gregory XII in 1415. He moved from the Vatican to the papal summer residence south of Rome, later settling at a former convent within the Vatican walls.

Church Doctrine

Following his resignation, even some of his detractors recognised that Benedict had inherited a mass of problems that were difficult to manage – especially for a shy intellectual whose main contribution was his writing on church doctrine.

Benedict's "books and encyclicals often went beyond the strictly dogmatic and contained novel and bold reflections on the moral, cultural and existential problems of our times", Nobel laureate and self-proclaimed atheist Mario Vargas Llosa wrote in a column published in Spanish daily *El País*.

German Chancellor Olaf

Scholz said on Twitter the "world is losing a formative figure for the Catholic Church, a pugnacious personality and an intelligent theologian".

Biographer Peter Seewald argued that Benedict was a good man placed in difficult circumstances and that he had helped guard against fanaticism within the church by articulating a relationship between science and religion.

"He is not far off being the most widely read theological teacher worldwide, with editions of his books published in the millions," Seewald said in a 2017 interview with the *Catholic World Report*.

He added: "In my opinion, Joseph Ratzinger is one of the most misunderstood personalities of our time."

But criticism of Benedict continued through his last years.

Munich Cases

A Vatican-commissioned report released at the start of 2022 found that he failed to respond adequately to four confirmed abuse cases reported within the Munich archdiocese when he was its leader from 1977 to 1982.

In one of those cases, the report found, the future

pope knowingly opened his archdiocese to a priest who had been convicted of sexual abuse in a criminal court. "Archbishop Cardinal Ratzinger, through his behaviour in this case, unilaterally gave priority to the interests of the church and priests over the interests of the injured party," said the report compiled by German law firm Westpfahl Spilker Wastl.

In response to the report, Benedict denied any personal misconduct but said he was pained by "the abuses and the errors that occurred" while he was a leader within the church.

"Each individual case of sexual abuse is appalling and irreparable," he wrote. "The victims of sexual abuse have my deepest sympathy, and I feel great sorrow for each individual case."

Joseph Ratzinger was born on 16 April 1927, in Marktl am Inn, near Germany's border with Austria. The future pope dreamed of a life in the priesthood since the age of five when the archbishop of Munich, Cardinal Michael von Faulhaber, visited his kindergarten class. Faulhaber himself ordained Ratzinger as

a priest in 1951.

Hitler Youth

Under the Nazis, the future pope joined the Hitler Youth, which was obligatory at the time, though he was a silent dissenter and skipped all meetings, according to biographer John Allen Jr. He was drafted into the German army and later deserted at 16.

His early brush with Nazism would dog his papacy. The UK tabloid *The Sun* was the first to resurrect his past and ran a story with the headline "From Hitler Youth ... to Papa Ratz" when he succeeded John Paul II. As a young priest, he espoused a progressive theology until the student revolutions of 1968 instilled a distrust of the political left and a shift to a more orthodox stance.

He studied philosophy and theology in Munich and Freising and taught at several universities, then became archbishop of Munich in March 1977 and cardinal three months later.

'Moral Relativism'

Benedict was the first German pontiff since Victor II in the 11th century and the oldest cardinal elected since

Clement XII, who was also 78 when chosen in 1730.

Benedict spent years penning by hand his philosophical take on the life of Jesus Christ in a three-volume work. He was an enemy of "moral relativism" and considered it his main job to resist the changes sweeping modern society.

"We are moving towards a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognise anything as for certain and which has as its highest goals one's own ego and one's own desires," he said a day before the conclave of cardinals met to elect him pope.

Unsurprisingly, Benedict maintained the church's orthodoxy on homosexuality, marriage for priests and an expanded role for women in the church. He also tried to continue his predecessor's efforts to reach out to other religions, often with mixed results that tested relations with Jews and Muslims alike.

His comments on the Prophet Muhammad in a 2006 lecture sparked condemnation in Muslim countries, forcing Benedict to make several apologies. In 2009, he outraged the Jewish community when he failed to chastise a Holocaust-denying UK bishop.

Until the end of his tenure, Benedict argued it would be a mistake to compromise on ideology to make the faith more accessible to modern societies. Yet he did review the church's stance on contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, adopting a more practical attitude. In 2010, Benedict said condom use could be justified in "single cases", for example by sex workers, as a necessary "humanisation of sexuality".

Betrayed by his own butler, Benedict was forced to deal with the 2012 revelation of suspected dishonesty and political infighting in what became known as the Vatileaks scandal. The massive dump of stolen correspondence portrayed the Vatican as corrupt and Benedict as a frail leader undermined by his all-powerful second-in-command, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

It took months for the pontiff to respond, and then only to remark that the "gratuitous" coverage of the events by the media had "brought sadness to my heart". Benedict pardoned his valet, who confessed to leaking the memos to a journalist.

(With assistance from Andrew Davis, Alessandra Migliaccio, Chiara Albanese and Agatha Cantrill.)

Syllabus analysis: The magic for effective teaching and learning

By Thomas Lyimo

TEACHING profession involves a number of documents that a teacher needs to consult so as to be efficient. It is by understanding the exact task to be done regarding those documents that the labour of a teacher can be meaningful.

It is not the teacher who prepares those documents but responsible institutions. Unluckily, examination results are the common measure of the understanding of pupils and teacher's performance. For a creative teacher, analysis of the syllabus is more than a must in order to ensure that pupils perform well in exams and exhibit skills.

The environment from which the documents such as syllabuses are prepared is different

from the school environment and hence a need to make analysis so as to ensure their feasibility. Experience of a teacher is an asset when it comes to syllabus analysis.

A syllabus which results from curriculum and which enables preparation of a scheme of work and lesson plan is at the centre of teaching and learning processes and there are some educationists who believe that a well written syllabus can enable a creative and experienced teacher to teach with very little support of books. This conviction makes it wrong to devalue the importance of syllabus analysis.

The aim of syllabus analysis is to improve teaching and learning processes. Effective teaching preparation and it is

advised that a teacher should use more time in preparing a lesson than time in teaching that particular lesson. Good lesson preparation demands knowledge of time available for every content to be taught and that is what syllabus analysis offers.

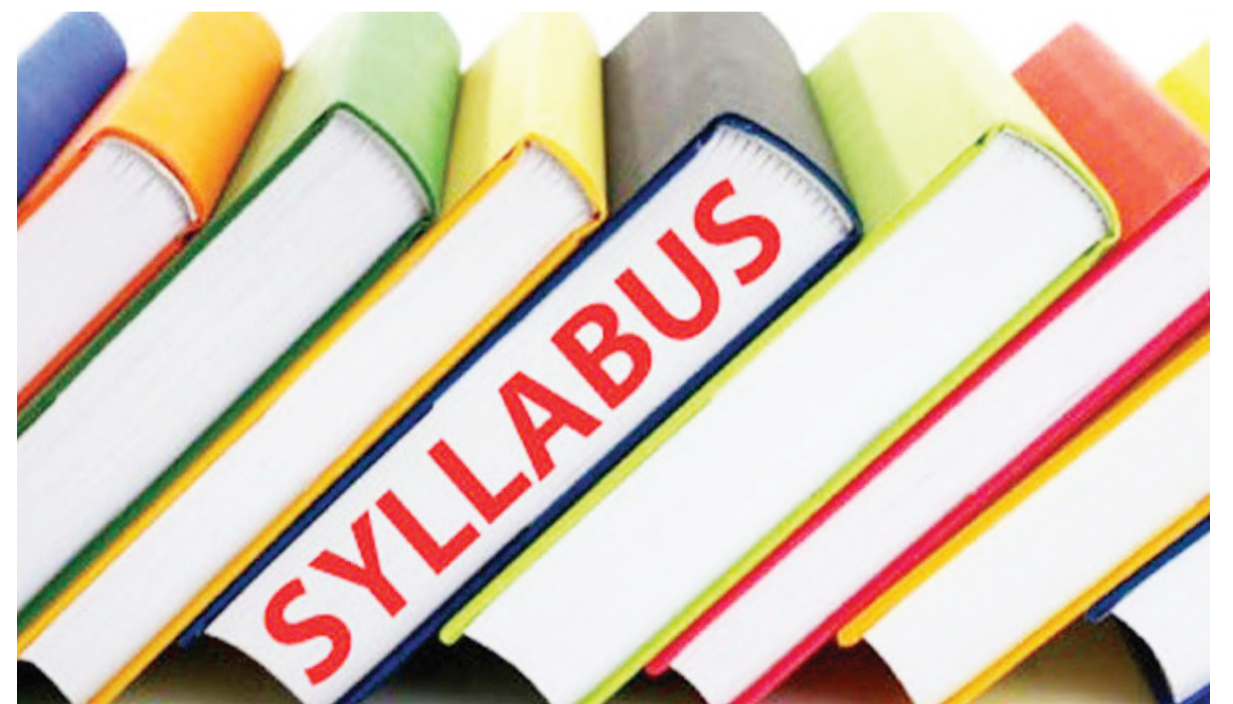
It is common to find that a syllabus indicates a number of periods which do not coincide with the actual number of periods that can be obtained from the school academic calendar. This necessitates syllabus analysis so as to give the teaching and learning processes a practical framework.

If a teacher spares time to do syllabus analysis, they will be in a position to accomplish the following: One is covering content on time. Syllabus analysis enables a teacher to allocate periods per

topic with relevance to timeframe. This assures the teacher that all contents have a space within the academic timetable for a particular year.

As a result, the teacher won't be in a risk of excluding some contents that are to be covered. A syllabus may indicate a number of periods that go beyond the actual time available. We should not forget of typing errors which also exist due to imperfect nature of human beings. Syllabus analysis can correct that weakness.

Another is reduction of unnecessary information from notes. It is not a must for a teacher to grasp all that is in a book and include it in notes. There are other points that pupils can read on their own. Syllabus analysis enables a teacher to leave behind what is less



important when preparing lesson notes from different books. It also enables teachers to put their work in a time perspective and hence careful of what to include and exclude in notes.

Also, syllabus analysis enables the teacher to balance speed in the coverage of content. Putting the teaching work in a time perspective enables a teacher to move with the notion of time and hence eventually accomplish teaching of the content. A teacher knows exact amount of time for

certain topic or sub topic. If a teacher has not done syllabus analysis, they may extend time for coverage of a certain topic and hence failure to complete a syllabus in due time.

Syllabus analysis enables a teacher to answer questions from quality assurance officers. A teacher may be industrious in making sure that pupils understand the contents but if they cannot give a clear account on the way they organize their work, it becomes a challenge which can

cause an embarrassment as well. Therefore, doing syllabus analysis enables teachers to defend their position as professionals.

For a teacher to claim to be professional, they must do things which portray professionalism. One of the things which portray teaching professionalism is syllabus analysis. A teacher is an analyst.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

The year of reporting dangerously – over 60 journalists and media workers killed in 2022



By Neesa Moodley

INTERNATIONAL Press Institute (IPI) research reflects that 66 journalists and media workers were killed in 2022. In many cases, investigations into journalists' killings stall because of a lack of political will, as the truth might implicate those in power or bring corrupt systems to a fall.

The past year has seen the highest number of journalists and media workers killed globally since 2018. International Press Institute (IPI) research reflects that 66 journalists and media workers were killed in 2022, a steep increase from the 45 journalists killed in 2021, 49 in 2020 and 51 in 2019.

Leading factors included the Russian invasion of Ukraine, where eight journalists and media workers, including Ukrainian and foreign reporters were killed in the line of duty or because of their journalistic profession. The IPI report states that up to four more Ukrainian journalists and media workers may have been killed by Russian troops in connection with their profession but these cases are unverified.

Many of the journalists were killed while covering the war on the front lines. Under international law, deliberately targeting journalists working in a conflict zone constitutes a war crime.

"This year has again demonstrated the critical and dangerous role of journalists covering wars. Without them, we would only hear from the military," says IPI executive director Frane Maroevi.

Globally, there were 39 targeted killings of journalists in 2022, meaning they were murdered due to their work. Seven journalists were killed while covering armed conflicts, two were killed while covering civil unrest, and two lost their lives while on assignment. In the remaining cases, the circumstances and motives behind the killings remain unconfirmed, but

Journalists protest against the death of Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh in front of the Israel consulate, in Istanbul, Turkey, 12 May 2022. (Photo: EPA-EFE / SEDAT SUNA)



Media members protested after the murder of journalist Antonio de la Cruz, in Victoria City, Tamaulipas, Mexico, 30 June 2022. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Alfredo Pena)

work-related killings could not be ruled out.

The deadliest place for journalists: Mexico

Fourteen journalists were killed in Mexico in the deadliest year for the country's media since 2017. Those reporting on corruption, local politics and organised crime seem to be most at risk. The high number of deaths is in addition to 15 cases of missing journalists in Mexico, as documented by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

Natalie Southwick, CPJ's programme coordinator for Latin America, says Mexico consistently features on CPJ's Global Impunity Index, which highlights countries where journalists are murdered and their killers go free.

"As a result of the spiralling violence and impunity, entire



Journalists who were killed in 2022 include (from left) Aye Kyaw, (Myanmar), Mantas Kvedaravicius (Ukraine) and Shireen Abu Akleh, (Palestine). (Photos: ipi.media)

regions of the country have now become so-called silenced zones, where journalists are no longer able to do meaningful critical or investigative reporting," she says.

The CPJ reports that although Mexico's Federal Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists provides dozens of protective measures,

including camera systems, bulletproof vehicles, panic buttons, police protection and the relocation of journalists at extreme risk of violence, the system is inundat-

ed with problems including poor training, insufficient staff and resources and inadequate coordination with state authorities. The shortcomings mean that while the protection exists on paper, it is woefully inadequate in reality, as borne out by the murder of journalist Lourdes Maldonado in January while she was under the protection programme.

The IPI notes that Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has become known for his verbal attacks on journalists and, in February, he aggressively rejected a resolution by the European Parliament condemning the rise of violence against the press in Mexico.

"The horrific slaughter of journalists in Mexico shows that the criminals are in control, as they can act with impunity," says IPI executive director Frane Maroevi. "The Mexican government has to act now to protect journalists who are risking their lives and to reinstate the rule of law, ensuring justice for those who were killed."

In Haiti, gang violence and political unrest were key factors in the deaths of eight journalists. At least two journalists, Amady Wesley and Wilguens Louissaint, were burned alive by gang members on the outskirts of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince.

In many cases, investigations into journalists' killings stall because of a lack of political will, as the truth might implicate those in power or bring corrupt systems to a fall. Impunity has a chilling effect on press freedom, weakening democracy, preventing journalists from reporting on certain topics, and encouraging more violence towards the media.

"It is outrageous that journalists are killed because they are bringing us information that someone wants to hide. It is unacceptable that families are losing their loved ones and that the public is denied information simply because someone wants to hide the information, because someone is killing the messengers," Maroevi concludes.

2022 was the year limited democracy was formally accepted as new normal

By Guardian Correspondent

MAJOR changes in a political system at times come unnoticed, where for all intents and purposes the political systems and provisions of law or the constitution remain the same, but the usage has radically changed. Rising expectations during 2021 that the country may revert to its traditional democratic format, from 1992 to 2015, were in for a surprise during 2022, that there is no wellspring for that change in CCM, and even in broader society. The status of political parties in law or in the constitution remains the same but the content of their activity is a regulated matter.

There is hence a new reading of the Political Parties Act of 1985 (with subsequent amendments) where the Act has an appendix of regulations pronounced as policy and don't need legislative approval as they fall under the powers of the president. These regulations include what the opposition intends to speak at political rallies, and how they will be guiding their adherents or crowds generally on what to do next. It is a situation where the government refrains from using the police against rallies to extract a vow of good conduct which key opposition parties don't violate.

So far the tone of stakeholders is to seek that political activity be freed and at most retain the ritual asking for a permit from the police, despite that many will say they were being refused a permit for no plausible reason. That all the same is in the past as at present the political system, in the sense in which it is supervised by those in authority, are disinclined to respect constitutional provisions on rallies as taken for granted with the presence of political parties. That right is now made conditional upon a code of conduct that has so far not been extracted especially from the main opposition party, Chadema. Its virtual *raison d'être* is tied up with chaotic pushing.

That is why 2022 was at once a year of promise for reworking the manner in which democracy functions, with a view to restoring the usual parameters of the system, namely political parties that are free to organize and meet with the people. That is the minimum a legal framework accepting multiparty politics ought to accept, but it remains nonetheless valid that under certain circumstances it will be demanded what the parties will be doing, once freedom is extended to them. Here the shoe pinches and its implications aren't just on the opposition but also the ruling party.

Anyone looking at the recent electoral congress of the ruling party will quickly notice that those obtaining the highest number of votes to join the National Executive Committee weren't treasured for their astute loyalty to the current chairperson. These elements of sentiment have little expression in the public arena for the simple reason that political rallies are proscribed, in which case allowing such gatherings isn't just helpful for opposition parties but also for factional expression within the ruling party. In that case the rule about regulating political rallies isn't just what authorities are doing to opposition as it is often believed.

When this dimension is added to the matter, chances that authorities give in easily on the matter are severely limited, since it would also free negative forces within the ruling party, which is unacceptable. This also explains the substance of what happened in the wake of radical alteration of party politics in the early years of the fifth phase government, and incidentally people got used to the new norm, on a developmental effectiveness premise. It is a rationale that opposition parties will find it hard to erode, that chaotic multiparty routines are more important than cohesive systems and clear modes of accountability, in a government that listens.

When President Samia came to office and inaugurated her engagement with 'let the work continue,' as the response to greeting the people in the name of the United Republic, this wasn't an empty formula or mere sloganeering. The manner in which work was organized during the fifth phase was a cohesive modality which is being kept and protected, namely sharply cutting down sleaze in government expenditure, starting strategic development projects. If this is the bonus for not holding rallies to denounce what the government is doing, the public can afford it.

That is why multiparty activists, who wish to be accepted as human rights activists, will find it difficult to raise the civic temperature sufficiently to bring about a wholly new atmosphere of strenuous respect for old fashioned political rallies where opposition parties - and especially Chadema - can say anything they want. That mark has been crossed during the fifth phase but multiparty activists delude themselves with the idea that the fifth phase was simply a disaster. It was on the contrary a hard-line experiment of interpreting the laws, succeeding by legitimizing this stringency with a development drive plus crushing sleaze with vim and vigour.



China moves to hasten agriculturature in Uganda

WAKISO, Uganda

ON a hot December day in the Wakiso district in Uganda's Central Region, 56-year-old Chinese agriculture expert Chen Taihua, gazing at the fish ponds at the Chinese-built agriculture center, was deep in thought of how lessons learnt back home can be implemented in rural Uganda to pull millions of people out of poverty.

As a breeze from the nearby Lake Victoria gave a cooling effect to the midday heat, Chen could not help but talk about the abundance of water

and arable land that Uganda has.

While feeding the fish, Chen said in a recent interview that in this abundance lays Uganda's wealth, which if properly harnessed, can improve the livelihood of Ugandans.

Chen is treading a path that other Chinese experts have taken in supporting Uganda, where over 70 percent of the population derives its livelihood from agriculture, according to figures from the country's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

Chen, who is part of a team of Chinese agriculture experts

that arrived in the country about two months ago, is part of the building bricks.

China, through a tripartite agreement with Uganda and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, sent a team of experts to the east African country to share experiences with small-holder farmers on how best to improve production using appropriate technologies. The cooperation is under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Program which is now in the third phase in Uganda.

The first and second phases, according to MAAIF,

facilitated technology transfer and enabled improvements in the production and productivity of the crop, livestock, and fisheries sub-sectors.

During the phases, the Chinese hybrid rice variety and Chinese foxtail millet variety were introduced to farmers. The rice yields about 10 tonnes per hectare compared to improved and local varieties which yield 3.5 and 2.5 tonnes per hectare respectively, according to MAAIF. The foxtail millet variety, meanwhile, yields about 5 tonnes per hectare as compared to local and improved finger millet

varieties grown in Uganda which yield 1 and 2.5 tonnes per hectare, respectively.

During the implementation of the first two phases, a 220-million-U.S.-dollar China-Uganda Agricultural Cooperation Industrial Park was established in the central part of the country.

Zhang Xiaoqiang, head of the Chinese agriculture team for the third phase said the team is aiming to move local farmers to look at agriculture in a commercial way instead of subsistence. Zhang said the Chinese technicians will transfer knowledge and skills to the farmers through agriculture extension workers.

"In the third phase, we want to promote investment in the agriculture industry, high-quality products, and bring them to the Chinese market. We also encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Uganda, and to bring all their value chain," Zhang said.

Peter Muyimbo, the coordinator of the third phase on the Ugandan side, said the phase has been designed to commercialize agricultural production with a target of increasing exports to the Chinese market. He said during the phase, Chinese experts and technicians will interact with local farmers, sharing their experiences and best practices.

"We are going to upscale production in Chinese hybrid rice, foxtail millet, and production of livestock where we are dealing with goat production, especially the big ear goat. We shall also have embryo transfer especially in dairy production, we shall also have feeds," said Muyimbo.

He said during the implementation of the phase, Uganda will draw lessons from China on how it has ensured food sovereignty and also ended extreme poverty. "We would like to copy and learn this from the Chinese people."

Beekeeping value chain training benefits hundreds of farmers in northern Tanzania

By Beatrice Philemon

OVER 300 beekeepers from Muheza, Korogwe and Same districts in Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions respectively have benefited from the training on beekeeping value chain.

The training was on management of bee colony, honey value addition, honey processing, packaging and marketing was made possible by Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) with funding from the European Union (EU).

Simon Lugazo, TFCG's government liaison and capacity building officer revealed this recently in Morogoro municipality when speaking on the sidelines of the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) themed: 'Involve women and youth to improve forest conservation and cope with climate change'.

The beneficiaries were from 20 groups formed in the three districts—Muheza, Korogwe and Same. The groups of farmers are in villages of the three districts, which are in honey production.

"As TFCG, we're very proud for what has been achieved in those areas because the training has changed people's fortunes as of now some of the beneficiaries build modern houses, sending children to school from primary to university level,



Halima Juma speaks at the just-ended 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) on how TFCG has helped her to transform her life through forest conservation and beekeeping project.

improve their livelihoods; this was not the case before," said Lugazo.

Halima Juma is among 300 people who have benefited from the trainings, who described TFCG as an eye-opener for her life.

So far she has been able to produce 137 litres of honey from both stinging and stingless bees and selling it in their localities.

The production capacity is very small because of drought in their localities, she said.

She has been able to make ten modern beehives for honey production, bee wax

and other bee products, plant indigenous trees and flowers at home to help the honey bee collect nectar and pollen from most flowering crop species belonging to many different plants for honey production.

The money she gets from selling honey, she has been able to build modern house, purchase sofa sets for her house and open men's hair salon near home, pay school fees for her children, connect power to her house, feed her family, something that was not the case before.

Before TFCG intervention,

life was not good, we used to stay in grass house, sitting on a three-legged stool or mat, she said.

"I'm thankful for the TFCG training, right now, I can harvest honey and sell it in different areas within the village and other areas to raise income," she said.

She has been able to transfer knowledge to other villagers, teachers and students at Kauzeni and Churwa primary schools on how to establish tree nursery and management, how to plant tree seedlings so that can sell it to earn cash,

improve health status and environmental conservation activities.

Halima and her colleagues have received five modern beehives from TFCG and establish Juhudi group with a total of five members to enable them engage in honey production for business purpose, environmental conservation, improve biodiversity and forests conservation.

The project beneficiary lauded TFCG for introducing the training in the village that in turn has helped her and other villagers to transform their life, calling TFCG to assist them to obtain more training especially on entrepreneurship skills, how to make beeswax, bee venom and other bee products to helps them raise their income.

The journey started in 2011 when Halima joined TFCG program in Muheza village where she acquired a number of skills—how to start beekeeping project, honey bee colony management, how to prepare special area for apiculture, honey value addition, marketing, how to place beehives in a suitable place to attract or keep bees for honey production, honey bee products.

Others includes how to catch a bee species and keep it modern hives, how to search honey bee colony and carry it as well as how to establish tree nurseries to earn cash and environmental conservation.

Costly rolling blackouts 'game changer' for Cape Town's small and medium businesses



By Tamsin Metelkamp

People enjoy the sun and the waves at Muizenberg Beach in Cape Town. (Photo: Tamsin Metelkamp/Daily Maverick)

CAPE Town is having a bumper holiday season after the Covid pandemic, but rolling blackouts continue to present a challenge for small businesses seeking to capitalise on boosted tourist numbers. Daily Maverick engaged with local business owners about how outages are affecting their day-to-day operations.

After two years of Covid-related uncertainty and restrictions that spelled disaster for the tourism industry, Cape Town is finally experiencing a bumper holiday season. It's a welcome development for those businesses who cater to the travellers' market.

The bumper season means a greater number of flights and cruise ships coming into the city, according to James Vos, mayoral member for economic growth and tourism at the City of Cape Town.

Between 7 December 2022 and March 2023, 1.6 million two-way aeroplane seats to Cape Town are expected to be available, with 191 international flights landing in the city per week. This will generate about R8-billion in tourism spend. During the same period, about 75 cruise ships are expected to dock. "From my conversations with tourism operators throughout the City, our attractions and hotels are reporting fantastic numbers and occupancy. In some cases, fully booked and even surpassing pre-Covid figures," said Vos.

However, one factor continues to undercut the lucrative opportunities that come with the summer months - rolling blackouts. As the country heads into New Year's weekend, frequent power outages are an ongoing feature of the South African experience.

Apart from a brief respite on Christmas Day, there have been rolling blackouts throughout the festive period. This week, Stage 3 rolling blackouts have been implemented from 5am to 4pm each day, followed by Stage 4 rolling blackouts from 4pm to 5am. In Cape Town, where outage stages are one below the national level, this means Stage 2 and 3 rolling blackouts.

The City of Cape Town is currently able to limit rolling blackouts in its supply areas by building up reserves from operations at the Steenbras [Dam]

hydro pumped storage scheme, said Vos.

In a respite for New Year celebrations, rolling blackouts will be suspended from 4pm on 31 December 2022 until 5am on 2 January 2023, when stage 2 would be implemented until further notice, according to a Friday announcement by Eskom.

Daily Maverick engaged with small business owners in and around Cape Town to find out more about how rolling blackouts are impacting operations during the holiday season.

'For small business, it's a killer' - Nelson Da Silva

Majestic Café, in the coastal tourism suburb of Muizenberg, has been operating for 85 years. It has withstood rough patches before, but none quite like the present, according to owner Nelson Da Silva.

"We had Covid and then you know, the beaches were shut, so you can imagine what that does to our business here," he said. "Then we had Omicron hit last season, so we never had the season we were anticipating.

"Just when things start to pick up, we're hit with load shedding... Stage 1, Stage 2, you can still make it, but once you get to Stage 6, then it's a game changer."

While generators are marketed as a solution, they are noisy, expensive and only able to support so many appliances. According to Da Silva, a 6.5 kVA generator supports one electric fryer.

"We run the kitchen just with one genny [generator], but it's such a horrible thing to run, and you have to restrict the menu because you can't make everything," he continued.

Da Silva has been unable to stock impulse ice cream products - single-serving ice cream options, such as Magnums that cater to impulse-buying tendencies - because once they soften during rolling blackouts, they don't freeze again.

"You don't want to buy too much chicken because everything can spoil. Especially when we go to Stage 6 - we had one Saturday here, four-and-a-half hours, which was just unbelievably horrible," he said.

"It's easy for big business to ride this, but for small business, it's a killer."

'Load shedding shut down the sewage plant' - James Bowden
Lagerchinos restaurant has been in Muizenberg since 2010.

According to James Bowden, manager of the restaurant, rolling blackouts had a big impact on operations when it came to screening recent Fifa World Cup and rugby games.

"We don't own a generator, so we've had to hire our generators. Obviously, that takes off a lot of our profit margin for the day," he said.

"We've been looking at [investing in a generator] for the past year. It is expensive. If you're going to get a big kVA 5 generator for the whole restaurant, it's upwards of R60,000."

The restaurant currently has an inverter that runs its basic systems, such as the point-of-sale equipment.

"Because the load shedding shut down the sewage plant... we lost quite a bit of business in the first two weeks of season in December," said Bowden, referencing the recent closure of Muizenberg Beach.

Muizenberg Beach was closed on 12 December due to an electrical failure at Clifton Road sewer pump station, caused by a faulty ultrasonic device, according to a media release by the City of Cape Town. The public was advised to avoid contact with the water, as exposure could result in gastrointestinal issues.

The City re-opened the section of the beach between Muizenberg Pavilion and Sunrise Beach on 16 December.

Rolling blackouts were identified as being to blame for the sewage spill, with prolonged outages under higher stages of load shedding taking a toll on sewage infrastructure, according to a TimesLIVE report.

"Without [a generator] we would definitely have had to close down as a business" - Candice Horn

The Commons, a vegetarian café and live music venue in Muizenberg, opened during the Covid-19 pandemic. Candice Horn, owner of the establishment, told Daily Maverick that she has been looking forward to the holiday season.

"We haven't had a proper busy season, I've never experienced it, and I'm definitely getting an

experience of it now," she said.

While staff at The Commons are largely used to rolling blackouts, running a live music event off a generator is very stressful, continued Horn. It requires a team of people to ensure things run smoothly.

"[It's] also just the cost factor... we've had to get a backup UPS System to keep the internet running. As a café that runs by day, we have to have the internet going," she said.

The café has lost equipment to rolling blackouts, with electrical surges causing printers, fridges and other appliances to blow. The resultant costs add up to thousands of rands.

"Even buying a generator for us was a huge expense that we actually couldn't afford, and we had to take cash from ourselves, basically, to get the generator," said Horn.

"We don't regret that at all because we really need it. We wouldn't have been able to function without it; we would definitely have had to close down as a business."

To Pringle Bay
"It really is quite a terrifying balancing act" - Teri Seward-Case

Businesses in other Western Cape towns are facing many of the same challenges as those in Cape Town. In some cases, these are compounded by supply chain issues.

In October, Teri Seward-Case took over La Galerie restaurant - in Pringle Bay, a coastal village in the Overberg region of the Western Cape.

"We are about 40 minutes from Cape Town, maybe half an hour from Somerset West and Strand, which has a main supply point, and the whole supply chain has been impacted [by rolling blackouts]," said Seward-Case.

"So, when you're asking for something, you have to give them an extra day or two's notice because they simply will have their own problems to contend with. But if you're dealing with something perishable, you don't have that luxury. It really is quite a terrifying balancing act."

Persistent outages take a toll on staff as well, as they are unable to use equipment as they usually would, she continued. Blackouts at 8am mean that some staff have to begin the work day earlier in order to prepare key goods such as croissants and muffins.

"We've tried to make sure that our systems are running as best we can. We've got two generators, so we've had an electrician support us with how best to load our generators with our appliances," explained Seward-Case.

"When you try and get too many things on one circuit, it doesn't work and things will trip. And we uncovered the hungrier appliances very quickly."

Seward-Case has shifted many elements of the restaurant's kitchen onto a gas system, and has plans to convert the coffee machine - one of the more power-hungry appliances - to gas-based.

"We're committed to making the business work - 20 families are dependent on that income, and we've got a social responsibility here," she said.

"It's shocking that the public has to pick up the tab for this mess. The ruling government inherited one of the world's most efficient power delivery systems and they have managed to bring it to its knees... with somehow no accountability."

To Backup Power

"All our Airbnb owners realise the importance for people... to be able to use the internet" - Elmarie Horak

For CapeHolidays, a Cape Town accommodation agency that markets and manages the properties of Airbnb owners, backup power options are a priority for holiday accommodation. Elmarie Horak, owner of the company, advised that all Airbnb hosts should invest in backup systems.

"We've got inverters in 99% of our properties. Obviously, there's a cost involved to get all of that, but all our Airbnb owners realise the importance for people coming on holiday to be able

to use the internet during load shedding - a lot of them work remotely as well even when on holiday," she said.

"We haven't got enormous backups but we've got inverters with double batteries so it helps them through load shedding."

Those few CapeHolidays properties that do not have backup power options are definitely affected when it comes to bookings, continued Horak.

"I had an enquiry today [about] one of the properties where people want to work remotely for the whole month of February, and just because we haven't got that backup for them, they decided they'll go somewhere else," she said.

"We're very upfront with people, so it's in all our descriptions, so people are aware before they book a property whether we've got that backup or not."

A search through South African Airbnbs shows that some have taken to putting notes such as "No load shedding" in property descriptions.

'Smaller businesses... are forced to adjust their operations' - James Vos

Many larger businesses in tourism and affiliate industries are able to mitigate the effects of rolling blackouts through renewable energy solutions or the use of generators, according to Vos.

"It is, sadly, smaller businesses and tourism operators who do not have such resources and are forced to adjust their operations," he said.

"From my daily engagements with businesses in factories and boardrooms, I've seen how their production lines are affected and there have been tough conversations around how they cope. Often, they are forced to divert budget from things like hiring more staff to taking measures to keep the lights on."

The national picture

South African Tourism has not yet conducted a full economic impact study of rolling blackouts on the national tourism sector, according to spokesperson Thandiwe Mathibela. South African Tourism is the tourism-marketing arm of the South African government.

"Unfortunately, load shedding is affecting all spheres of the economy and society, and the tourism sector is not spared from this," said Mathibela.

"We do know that smaller businesses that do not have enough funds and resources to raise the additional capital needed to have these backup systems are the hardest hit and sadly these are also businesses that are trying to still recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic."

According to Mathibela, the Department of Tourism is offering some relief to businesses in the sector through the Green Tourism Incentive Programme (GTIP), a resource efficiency grant-funding mechanism that encourages privately owned tourism enterprises to adopt responsible tourism practices.

"The programme assists graded enterprises to reduce the cost of investing in energy- and water-efficient operations, which will lower their cost of operations and facilitate increased competitiveness and operational sustainability in the tourism sector," she said.

BUSINESS

REA to spend 7.11bn/- in 3rd phase to electrify villages in Singida DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Rural Electrification Agency (REA) plans to spend 7.11bn/- in the third phase to electrify villages surrounding Singida District Council which are yet to receive the essential service.

Nicolaus Mushi, REA's acting Planning and Research officer revealed this during the launching of the third phase of rural electrification which was held at Kitope Darajani Ward which is expected to cover 34 villages in 9 wards.

He said the project, which is expected to benefit more than 2000 residents in the district, will involve construction of a 40.5 kilometer middle and lower level grid expected to complete by 2024.

Moshi said the contractor for the project was Central electrical international Limited from Dar es Salaam adding that it was time for the people in the district to make use of the available projects.

The acting Regional Commissioner for Singida Pascal Muragili said most villages in the outskirts of Singida have been

sidelined due to lack of the essential commodity which also made them miss services like education and medication timely.

"The programme has come at the right time because this is going to change the picture of the villages because this will mean services will be taken closer to the people," he said.

Muragili hailed REA for the new openness which has been visible during implementation of the project saying this will also reduce the costs of connections in houses.

"Electricity connection will cost 27,000/- and upon completion will be handed over to Tanesco, I urge everyone of you to ensure you connect your houses during the implementation process because this is the chance," he said.

A representative for the area's MP Moses Ikaku said his office will make sure the infrastructure was protected to ensure the people's benefits.

The Mayor for Singida Yagi kiaratu said earlier that people were complaining of lacking electricity adding that the project will change life in the district as it will stimulate economic activities.



Singida wind power projects take shape, house heard

Minister hails Zanzibar's economic investment drive

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTER of Home Affairs Hamad Masauni has hailed the revolutionary government of Zanzibar for the investment it has made on the newly built 'Terminal 3' at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport.

Minister Masauni made the remarks after conducting an impromptu visit together with the Minister in the Second Vice President Hamza Hassan Juma and other senior government officials from the Union and revolutionary government of Zanzibar.

Apart from congratulating the government of Zanzibar, he also hailed the Immigration department for the job well done which he said was in line with government priorities.

"What the government of Zanzibar has done here is commendable, this is interesting and will help in attracting tourists here in Zanzibar and mainland because it will increase the number of people visiting Tanzania," he said.



Hamad Masauni

The minister also took time to speak to various travelers both local and international who were waiting for flights saying there has been great improvement in terms of services at the airport.

In his remarks, the Minister in the Second Vice president of Zanzibar Juma said despite the challenges that have been emerging, the airport authority has been working in collaboration with others to address them.

The Commissioner General for Immigration Dr Anna Makakala assured Tanzanians that the department will continue to carry out reforms to ensure the services offered are of global standards.

The Minister conducted the tour after a one day meeting with senior officials of his ministry, security institutions and special departments of the revolutionary government of Zanzibar and others.

TPA launches digital payment system for revenue collections

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) has launched the digital payment system which was enabled by CRDB Bank Plc.

Speaking during the launch of the system on behalf of the CRDB Bank Group managing director, the managing director of CRDB Congo Jesca Nachiro said the experiences the bank has on operating payment system has enabled them to advise TPA to install the system for improving efficiency in collecting revenue, as well as simplifying customer experience in payment.

Nachiro thanked TPA for selecting CRDB Bank as partner in installing and operating the system, which will enable customer to make payment conveniently wherever they are all around the world.

"We proud to see the bank involvement in establishing this system and being the first bank to be connected to the system. We hope that this system will revolutionise TPA payment system by enabling their customers to make payment wherever they are in the world," she said.

She said the new system will also curb cheating and misinvoicing problems to customers. Nachiro said the new system will also enhance TPA payment system because will enable to smooth foreign exchange transactions.

"Given that TPA is serving many countries, this new system will smooth services provision as customer will no longer

need to go to the bank branches for payment," she said.

TPA director general Prasad Mbossa said the new installed system will simplify port management because will enable all payment to be conducted through a control number, which will centralise revenue collection.

He said the new system will record each payment stage the customer is performing.

Mbossa thanked CRDB Bank for its involvement in establishing this system, which is connected worldwide through Visa and Mastercard networks.

He said Visa and Mastercard is important in international business transactions and the new system will simplify port management system in general.

He said the new system is expected to reduce bureaucracy which was being experienced earlier, noting that TPA is expected to open a new services centre for customers, who have been facing digital challenges in payment.

Speaking during the launch of the system the President of Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA) Edward Urio thanked CRDB Bank for collaborating with the government for revolutionising digital payment system.

"This system is expected to revolutionise port services not only locally but also internationally and all countries served by the port," he said.

He further said all financial services providers in Tanzania and elsewhere in the world have been connected to the system.



CRDB Bank Congo Managing director Jesca Nachiro speaks during the launch of the new payment system in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Contour farming brings multiple benefits for farmers on Uluguru Mountains slopes

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

SMALL-scale farmers along the slopes of Uluguru Mountains in Morogoro Municipality got positive results from contour farming—a practice of tilling sloped land along lines of consistent elevation in order to conserve rainwater and to reduce soil losses from surface erosion.

Uluguru Mountains form part of the Eastern Arc Mountains, a chain of mountain ranges found in Africa's east.

The farmers are from Mlimani, Bigwa and Kilakala wards benefiting from the contour farming project which is being run under the coordination of the Morogoro Municipal Council and facilitated by the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF).

Shabani Charles, project coordinator told reporters who visited the farmers to see the movements carried out by EAMCEF in collaboration with the Municipal council in preserving the environment of Uluguru Mountains.

Saidi Juma is one of the farmers in Mlimani Ward who are doing contour farming in Uluguru Mountains. He said through the farming venture has got positive results, which made him move in terms of development for the past three years.

In the past, Juma said



that soil and fertiliser were washed away by the rains, thus causing the land to bare with nothing that can support his crops, hence ended up with little productivity, but also pollution on water sources down streams.

"Since I started contour farming, my field has been fertile enough. I grow strawberries that I used to harvest not more than six kilos in my garden, but now I get more than double the yield," said Juma.

Saidi Ngoma of Mlimani ward said that members of the dairy goat farmers' association were trained on the correct dairy goat production methods and later were given goats that there is a procedure to give to each other every

time they give birth and that the goats also give them milk, is for food and income. Ngoma who is a group chairman said that apart from food and income, farmers also get manure which is good for organic farming.

Rosemary Boniface, EAMCEF project officer said that the fund is aimed to ensure that people are involved in the conservation of Uluguru Mountains, which are part of the Eastern Arc that is loaded with resources and biodiversity.

"So, EAMCEF has been providing people around those areas with environment-friendly projects that will enable them to increase their income and get rid of the culture of entering the areas reserved for

harvesting available resources," she said.

Rosemary explained that EAMCEF has invested in a contour farming project in the area of the mountain ranges to protect the water sources that are relied upon to direct water to the Mindu dam which is the main source of water for the residents of Morogoro Municipality.

The EAMCEF official said that the fund has enabled fruit projects for some of the primary and secondary schools of the municipality to prepare a generation that cares about the environment as well as beekeeping projects using modern hives for some villages bordering the Uluguru Nature Reserve which has helped to a large percentage to reduce

the incidents of burning in the mountain.

"But EAMCEF has also been giving money to Uluguru Nature Reserve to improve the tourism infrastructure, clean the borders to avoid the invasion of citizens, and increase the patrol involving the conservation staff and the citizens," said Rosemary.

Being a trust fund, EAMCEF was established and functions as a long-term and reliable funding mechanism to support Community Development, Biodiversity Conservation, and Applied Research Projects, which promote the biological diversity, ecological functions, and sustainable use of natural resources in the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania.

Shipping petroleum to reduce fuel prices by over 30 percent



Journalists and staff members of Mahathi Infra Uganda, the company which has established a fuel terminal in Kakuu Entebbe, witnessing the maiden arrival of MV Kabaka Mutebi II from Kisumu.

KAMPALA

THE Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has said shipping petroleum products from Kenya by water will reduce fuel pump prices. “We are looking at a reduction in transport costs by 30 to 50 per cent. The cost of petroleum transportation is quite high by road with a cubic metre going by \$40 (Shs148,000) and yet by ship its \$20 to \$25 (Shs74,000-92,000)

per cubic metre. The ultimate reduction in costs translates to reduction in the fuel pump prices” explained URA’s acting assistant commissioner in charge of the field services customs department, Geoffrey Balamaga. Mr Balamaga remarked on Friday after the maiden arrival of MV Kabaka Mutebi II with fuel from Kisumu to Bugiri, Bukasa, Wakiso district fuel terminal. “Previously, we have been clearing about 300 to 400 tankers per day at

our borders with Kenya at Malaba-Busia. Petroleum dealers will now have to seat down and review accordingly because this facility has reduced the cost of transport logistics,” he noted. Mr Balamaga said the maiden trip had a trial test of 1.1 million litres of fuel which in the consequent trips will see the vessels bring in its full capacity of 4.5 million litres of petroleum products. “Uganda consumes 7 million litres of petroleum products daily. MV Mutebi

will address many challenges faced by truck drivers and transport 4.5 million litres of petroleum products that are transported by 150 trucks on the road in just one trip,” he said. According to authorities, MV Kabaka Mutebi II left Uganda on December 21, 2022 to collect fuel for the first time from Kisumu. “It set off from Kisumu to Uganda on December 28 with the travel time approximately 17 hours. It reached Uganda at 6:30am on December 29, 2022,” observed Mahathi infra

Uganda Limited project manager Dinesh Donadi. Mr Dinesh said a terminal in Uganda will become a hub for the trucks that have been transporting fuel from Kisumu to pick it from Bugiri to different parts of Uganda and neighboring countries like Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and South Sudan. “By shifting from road to water based transport system, there should be a reduction of 50 percent in the fuel rates,” he remarked on Saturday. According to Dinesh, the company will commer-

cially launch operations in the second week of January 2023 after the required tests have been completed. For the captain of the vessel, Debashish Kumar, the maiden voyage of the fuel vessel went on smoothly without any hazards from Kisumu to Uganda. “We will make two trips a week and this is the perfect vessel for this lake. We can go a maximum of 2.5 nautical miles on this lake. We have a depth of 3.5 metres to 4 metres. It is good to have a low depth vessel for this lake,” he said.

Why over 55,000 litres of milk not recorded daily

KIGALI

MORE than 42,000 cows from 10,000 farms from the six most producing sectors of Kayonza District produce more than 75,000 litres of milk, official District statistics indicate. However, as noted, only 20,500 litres are recorded at milk collection centres in the District, each day.

As reported, informal selling of milk brings about a difference of more than 55,000 litres, daily. The situation hinders the attainment of the required target, at least 100,000 litres of milk needed from the district by Inyange Industries, officials say.

Dairy farmers, including Martin Murindabigwi, blame the situation on a number of factors.

“Some milk suppliers stopped supplying milk to the collection centers due to a number of reasons such as poor transport systems, lack of trust among farmers and collection points due to the previous bad record of missing payments to farmers,” Murindabigwi said.

“Lack of market has also been an issue because milk collection centers could not afford the quantities we have to offer, hence, the informal trading of milk. We request Inyange Industries to assure us of a stable market and ask milk collection centers to collect our produce from the farms. I believe if this is done, it will increase the quantity of milk received at the centres.”

Frida Murungi, a member of Mwili Milk Collection Center, indicated that absentee land owners and cattle keepers have a hand in the fact that milk centres don’t get supplied.

“The milk, instead of being sold in a proper way, you find that employees who take care of the cattle decide to sell the milk in a way that does not follow the right channel. We are urging the cattle owners to monitor things carefully so that milk collection centres are properly supplied with milk.”

Kayonza District Mayor, John Bosco Nyemazi, said: “Dairy farmers should change their mindset and instill professionalism in their business; including formal trading of milk. Kayonza District Mayor, John Bosco Nyemazi, said: “Dairy farmers should change their mindset and instill professionalism in their business; including formal trading of milk.”

“We urge farmers’ cooperatives to work closely with milk collection centers and third parties in the business to increase productivity and limit quantities of milk sold informally.”

Nyemazi noted that the current situation not only hinders the attainment of required targets, but also the quality of milk distributed through informal trading might not be good for consumers’ health.

Nyemazi said Inyange is in the process of signing contracts with milk collection centres to collect the milk. Currently, it is noted, they are only working with one out of the five milk collection centres in the entire district. Farmers agreed to use available opportunities including government subsidies to avail bailer machines, water management systems at their farms and proper use of the farms.

The Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Dr Solange Uwituzze said: “RAB is in discussions with milk collection centres to have private veterinarians who will facilitate the process, these private veterinarians will form cooperatives and have required training from RAB, hence a decentralized service delivery to milk producing farmers.”

Taxman eyes billions earned by foreign traders gets on hedging

NAIROBI

THE Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) will from January go after the billions being made by foreign traders profiting from Kenyan-based derivatives, as the taxman casts its net beyond borders.

Gains accruing for foreigners from the financial derivative contracts will start attracting 15 percent withholding tax.

Currently, only local companies that have bought derivative contracts – which include options, swaps, futures, and forward contracts – to protect themselves against financial loss due to price fluctuations have been paying the 15 percent withholding tax on their gains.

According to an analysis by Bowman, a British-based law firm, the move is also a response by the government to earn revenue from the increased use of hedging by local entities caused by the need to navigate the volatile international markets due to the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe.

Local companies that have bought derivative contracts to hedge against market fluctuations include banks, airlines, oil importers and cement manufacturers.



Times Tower in Nairobi, the headquarters of Kenya Revenue Authority.

Analysts say the move would widen the tax revenue base by bringing into the tax bracket gains from financial derivatives derived from the Kenyan market.

However, analysts have questioned the ability of the KRA to monitor such complex financial transactions, with the Treasury Cabinet Secretary Njuguna Ndung’u expected to publish regulations to usher in the new tax measure.

A hedge is a trade that targets reducing the risk of adverse price movements in another asset, for example a stock, interest rate, fuel or exchange rate. “It is a little tricky to tell

who is signing what with whom. And when they do, whether those losses or profits will be accurately measured so that these taxes can be imposed,” said Deepak Dave, a financial expert.

“Additionally, the charge to tax gains derived by non-resident persons from financial derivatives could be one way of promoting equity because such gains are taxed on resident persons,” said audit firm KPMG in an advisory on the Finance Act, 2022.

The Act defines financial derivative as a “a financial instrument the value of which is linked to the value of another instrument underlying the transaction

which is to be settled at a future date.”

Normally, when you hedge, which is a type of derivative, you take the opposite position in a related security or in a derivative security based on the asset to be hedged.

In the case of banks, which hedge against the weakening of the shilling, they will take a bet that the currency will weaken in the future and will be paid should the depreciation happen.

Airlines, such as Kenya Airways, have also been known to hedge against a surge in the price of fuel, a major cost component in the airline business.

So, when the price of

jet fuel increases in the international market, the airline is compensated.

However, hedges turned sour when prices of jet fuel started going south in mid-2014 as a result of increased supply from the US and decreased demand as the Chinese economy contracted.

Because Kenya Airways lost the bet, it was forced to pay out more to foreign traders who had taken a position that the price of jet fuel would drop.

Such companies, however, did not pay taxes on these gains, with the government now keen to benefit from such earnings. Mr Dave, however, does not think the country has

the capacity to track these complex transactions, given the different rules for disclosure in different countries.

“Frankly, I don’t know if our audit firms would know how to track these stuff (derivatives),” said Mr Dave.

“So, it would be very interesting to hear from KRA, how exactly they plan to enforce all these things. Who is going to provide the expertise? Where are the systems, the analysis and calculations?” he asked.

However, derivatives at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) are exempted from the new tax measure.

WORLD

World welcomes 2023 and leaves a stormy year behind

JERUSALEM

THE world welcomed the new year with a packed party in Times Square and fireworks soaring above European capitals, while hoping for an end to the conflict in Ukraine and a return to post-COVID normality in Asia.

It was a year marked by the Ukraine crisis, economic stresses and the effects of global warming. But it was also a year that saw a dramatic soccer World Cup, rapid technological change, and efforts to meet climate challenges.

After 2023 descended upon Asia, Africa and Europe, New York rang in the new year in typical style as thousands corralled themselves into pens under pouring rain in Times Square, waiting hours for the ball to drop. A 12-foot (3.7-meter) geodesic sphere made of

Waterford crystal triangles slid down a pole atop a 25-story building to mark the calendar change.

Meanwhile, millions watched the accompanying musical acts and countdown on television from dry and warm living rooms around the world.

Tommy Onolfo, 40, a mechanic from nearby Nassau County, said he wore a diaper during his drenched, 14-hour wait in Times Square, as security measures require spectators to deprive themselves of all comforts to maintain a front-row view.

"I'm a lifeguard in the summer so I'm not afraid of water at all," Onolfo said. "I have my bathroom thing down to a science. I haven't had to use the diaper yet. It's just in case."

Earlier, across the Atlantic, fireworks saw in midnight in the British capital.



Onlookers watch as confetti fills the air to mark the beginning of the new year, in Times Square, New York City yesterday. AFP

The celebration, which London's mayor had branded the biggest in Europe, also referenced Queen Elizabeth II, who died in September, the red and white of England's soccer team, and the rainbow colours of the LGBTQ Pride event, which had its 50-year anniversary in 2022.

Elsewhere in Europe, fireworks exploded over the Parthenon in Athens, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, where crowds gathered on the Champs-Élysées avenue to watch the French capital's first New Year fireworks since 2019.

But, like many places, the Czech capital Prague was feeling the pinch economically and so did not hold a fireworks display.

"Holding celebrations did not seem appropriate," said city hall spokesman Vit Hofman.

Earlier, Australia kicked off the celebrations with its first restriction-free New Year's Eve after two years of COVID disruptions. Sydney welcomed the New Year with a typically dazzling fireworks display, which for the first time featured a rainbow waterfall off the Harbour Bridge.

Ring in 2023, Xi stresses hard work, unity to make tomorrow's China a better place

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Saturday stressed hard work and unity, and called on the young generation to shoulder their responsibilities to deliver China's ambitious blueprint for the future.

Giving his New Year Address to ring in 2023, Xi lauded the country's economic performance, COVID approach and sci-tech breakthroughs over the past year.

The nationally televised and livestreamed speech delivered in his office in central Beijing is the tenth of its kind since Xi became the Chinese president in 2013.

Reviewing the past year, Xi first commended the successful 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which drew an ambitious blueprint for building a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization.

On the Chinese economy, Xi said it has remained the second largest in the world and enjoyed sound development, adding that GDP for the whole year is expected to exceed 120 trillion yuan (about 17 trillion U.S. dollars).

"Despite a global food crisis, we have secured a bumper harvest for the 19th year in a row, putting us in a stronger position to ensure the food supply of the

Chinese people," Xi said.

He also praised the country's poverty elimination and rural revitalization efforts, and tax and fee cuts and other measures to ease the burden on businesses, as well as active efforts to solve the most pressing difficulties of high concern to the people.

Xi said China has put the people first and put life first all along since COVID-19 struck.

"Following a science-based and targeted approach, we have adapted our COVID response in light of the evolving situation to protect the life and health of the people to the greatest extent possible," said the president.

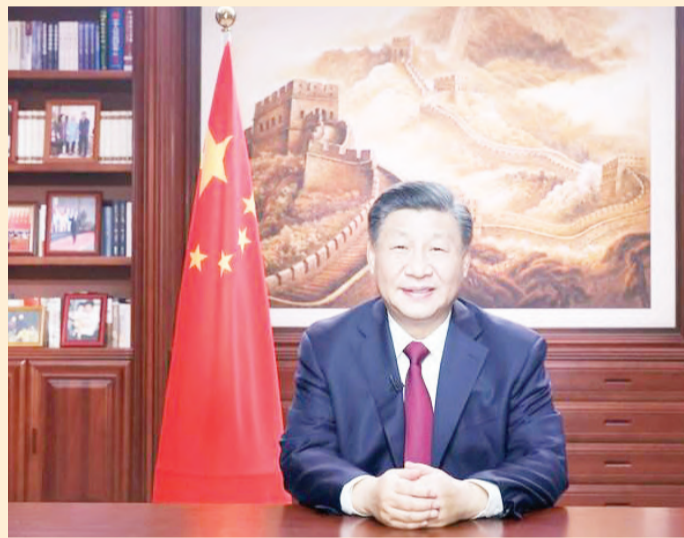
"With extraordinary efforts, we have prevailed over unprecedented difficulties and challenges, and it has not been an easy journey for anyone," he said.

Noting that China has entered a new phase of COVID response where tough challenges remain, Xi called on the Chinese people to make an extra effort to pull through. "Perseverance and solidarity mean victory," he said.

He also took a moment to remember late Chinese leader Jiang Zemin.

"Comrade Jiang Zemin passed away in 2022. We pay high tribute to his towering achievements and noble demeanor, and cherish the great legacy he left behind," Xi said.

"We will honor his last wishes and advance the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era," he added.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a New Year address Saturday evening in Beijing to ring in 2023. Xinhua

TODAY'S CHINA

Xi said today's China is "a country brimming with vigor and vitality," citing some of the milestone achievements in the past year, including the Olympic Winter Games, China's manned space missions and space station, the 95th founding anniversary of the armed forces, the third aircraft carrier Fujian, the homegrown large passenger aircraft C919, and the Baihetan hydropower station.

Calling today's China "a country brimming with vigor and vitality," Xi said the Chinese economy enjoys strong resilience, tremendous potential and great vitality, and the fundamentals sustaining its long-term growth have remained strong.

"As long as we stay confident and strive for progress while maintaining stability, we will realize the goals we have set," Xi added.

"On my visit to Hong Kong earlier this year, I was deeply glad to see that Hong Kong has restored order and is set to thrive again," he said.

"With determined implementation of 'one country, two systems,' Hong Kong and Macao will surely enjoy long-term prosperity and stability," he added.

Xi also hailed China's national character, which has been demonstrated in coping with natural disasters and accidents, and will be a source of confidence for the country.

On the close link between today's China and the world, Xi said

the country cherishes peace and development and values friends and partners as it has always done.

MAKE TOMORROW'S CHINA A BETTER PLACE

Vowing to make tomorrow's China a better place, Xi said the country will perform miracles through hard work.

"Long as the journey is, we will reach our destination if we stay the course; difficult as the task is, we will get the job done if we keep working at it," he said.

Xi said China will be a country that draws its strength from unity.

"Ours is a big country. It is only natural for different people to have different concerns or hold different views on the same issue," he said.

"What matters is that we build consensus through communication and consultation," he added.

"The people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are members of one and the same family. I sincerely hope that our compatriots on both sides of the Strait will work together with a unity of purpose to jointly foster lasting prosperity of the Chinese nation," said the president.

Voicing expectations of the younger generation, Xi said for China to develop further, young people must step forward and take on their responsibilities.

Youngsters should keep their country in mind and cultivate keen enterprise, he said. Xinhua

Putin's New Year address: Year of major steps and fight for Russia's future

MOSCOW

THE outgoing year has been a year of "difficult, necessary decisions, major steps" towards Russia's full independence, and now the country is fighting for its future, President Vladimir Putin said in his New Year's address to Russian citizens on Saturday.

The head of state addressed the people of the country standing next to the military, not against the backdrop of the Kremlin as usual. As Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov explained to reporters, the address was recorded at the headquarters of the Southern Military District.

TASS has collected the key statements of the New Year's address of the President, which lasted nine minutes and became the longest in history.

Results of the year

"It was a year of difficult, necessary decisions, major steps towards gaining the full sovereignty of Russia and the powerful consolidation of our society".

The "truly pivotal, fateful events" of 2022 have become a milestone laying the foundation for the common future of Russians and their true independence: "This is what we are fighting for today".

"It was a year that put a lot in its place, clearly separated courage and heroism from betrayal and cowardice, showed that there is no higher power than love for one's family and friends, loyalty to friends and comrades, devotion to one's Fatherland".

Western aggression

The West has been lying about peace for years, but in fact it was preparing for aggression: "And today it is openly admitting this, no longer embarrassed. They are cynically using Ukraine and its people to weaken and split Russia".

The Western elites hypocritically assured of their peaceful intentions, including the settlement of the conflict in the Donbass, but in fact "in every possible way encouraged the neo-Nazis".

This year, the West declared a "real sanctions war" on Russia: "Those who started it expected the complete destruction of our industry, finances, and transport. This did not happen, because together we created a reliable margin of safety".

About military operation participants

"Russian servicemen, militias, volunteers are now fighting for their native land, for truth and justice. For guarantees of peace and security for Russia to be reliably provided. All of them are our heroes, it is the hardest time for them now".

The authorities will provide all necessary assistance to the families of those participants in the operation who died on the battle field: "We will do our best to help the families of our fallen comrades raise their children, give them a decent education, and get a profession".

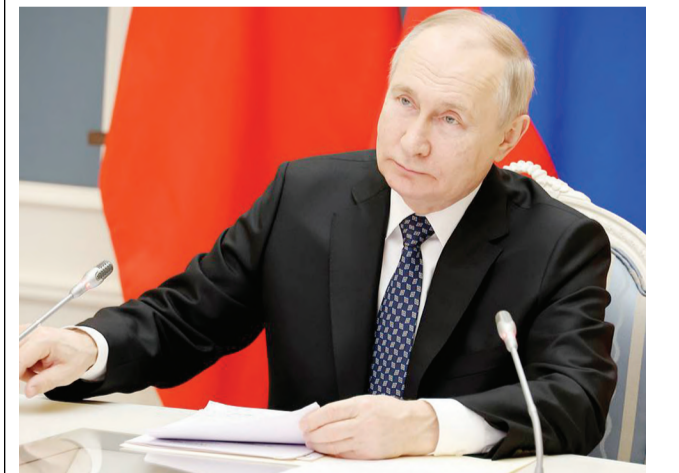
Putin thanked the military for their valiant service and congratulated "all personnel of the armed forces" on the New Year: "Our entire vast country is proud of your fortitude, resilience and courage, prayers and hearts of millions of people are with you. And at the New Year's table there will definitely be toasts in your honor".

Fighting for the future

Now "the most important thing is the fate of Russia," its defense is "a sacred duty to ancestors and descendants." "We have always known, and today we are again convinced that the sovereign, independent, secure future of Russia depends only on us, on our strength and will!".

Russia's struggle for its interests and its future will become "an inspiring example for other states in their striving for a fair multipolar world order".

Russians must believe that their country will remain "great and independent" and will "only move forward and win".



Agencies

LUGANSK

UKRAINIAN troops are continuing attempts to break through the line of engagement but Russian forces have been successfully deflecting them, acting head of the LPR Leonid Pasechnik said in an interview with TASS on Saturday.

Russian forces in control while Ukraine tries to break through defenses – LPR leader

"The situation at the line of engagement remains rather difficult and complicated. The enemy continues the attempts to break through defenses and storms the positions of our defenders but these attempts by Ukrainian Nazis fail. Our ser-

vicemen are in control of the situation on the frontline, they deflect the enemy's attacks and protect the borders," the LPR leader said.

On Tuesday, LPR People's Militia officer Andrey Marochko said that the Ukrainian

army continues to deploy additional units in the vicinity of Kremennaya and Svatovo in the LPR. According to him, the Ukrainian units are mostly reinforced by the servicemen who were trained abroad and foreign mercenaries. Addi-

tionally, according to his information, the Ukrainian army suffered major manpower losses near Kremennaya and Svatovo. Ukrainian middle-ranking officers explain to their commanders that this situation was triggered by inclement weather conditions.

Preferential tax policies give boost to innovative development of enterprises

ENTERPRISES play a principal role in innovation. They are also the primary driving force for innovation.

Today, the research and development (R&D) expenditure of Chinese enterprises accounts for over 70 percent of all R&D expenditure of China.

To give full play to the guiding and supporting role of key high-tech enterprises and build a sound environment for micro-, small-, and medium-sized tech firms, China has rolled out a series of preferential tax policies, encouraging enterprises to increase R&D expenditure and foster new growth drivers.

Netstar, a software developer in north China's Hebei province, is currently developing a low-code development platform. "It is the

tangible benefit brought about by preferential tax policies that encouraged us to expand investment in new technologies and products," said Dong Aijun, chairman of the company.

In 2022, China raised the ratio of additional tax deductions on small- and medium-sized tech firms' R&D costs to 100 percent.

Dong said the higher ratio is great news for enterprises. "Our 2022 R&D expenditure is estimated to reach 18 million yuan (\$2.58 million). Thanks to the increased ratio, an additional 4.5 million yuan will be deducted from taxable income. The corporate income tax is determined by enterprises' profit, and with this extra part of expenditure, we'll pay less corporate income tax," Dong noted.

"We'll use the money saved to make more innovations, introduce more talents, and develop new products and services that better meet the demand of our clients, so as to make our products more competitive," Dong told People's Daily.

Capital shortage remains a severe challenge for the continuous innovation of tech firms, especially small- and medium-sized ones. The additional tax deduction for R&D expenses allows enterprises to expand their R&D expenditure and pay less tax, and encourages them to enhance their efforts in innovation.

There was also good news for enterprises planning to purchase equipment and instru-

ments. "We planned to purchase 51.2 million yuan of automation equipment the next year. With the new policy, we decided to make the purchase in the fourth quarter of 2022, as it would save a big sum of money," said Wang Qiang, who heads the accounting department of a precision parts manufacturer in Jincheng, north China's Shanxi province.

Wei Hujun, an official with the tax office of Jincheng Economic and Technological Development Area, told People's Daily that according to a previous policy, high-tech firms purchasing new equipment worth less than 5 million yuan would be entitled to a one-off deduction of total purchase costs from taxable income. Now with the new policy, all

equipment purchased by high-tech firms in the fourth quarter of 2022 are eligible for the deduction, and will be 100 percent deducted from enterprises' taxable income, Wei added.

He said this encourages high-tech firms to upgrade equipment and better commercialize their technological outcomes.

Besides, China has also rolled out measures that offer tax preference for enterprises that sponsor non-profit scientific institutions, universities, and government-based natural science funds, which both alleviates capital pressure for these enterprises and supports the innovation in basic research of scientific institutions.

Strengthened cooperation with China supports Zimbabwe's socioeconomic development

HARARE

CHINA continued to spread its footprints across Zimbabwe in 2022, with major investments in infrastructure, mining and industry taking place on a huge scale, further cementing the bilateral relations.

China has stood by the mantra "actions speak louder than words" and rallied behind the Zimbabwean government's efforts to uplift the livelihoods of its citizens.

While many projects were undertaken through platforms such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), others were done through private enterprises attracted by the vast opportunities Zimbabwe presented.

A brand-new Parliament Building donated by the Chinese government through China Aid was completed during the year.

The new Parliament Building, which is a combination of Chinese construction finesse and traditional Zimbabwean architecture and is nestled on a hill due north of Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, will be officially handed over to the Zimbabwean government at a date yet to be announced.

Legislators, however, had their first feel of its comforts – away from the congestion of the current building in the city center – in November when President Emmerson Mnangagwa opened the last session of the current Parliament there.

China also remained the cornerstone of Zimbabwe's largely successful fight against COVID-19 by donating millions of doses of vaccines and providing protective clothing and ventilators.

The vaccines were donated within the ambit of FOCAC. As a result of



The file photo shows a batch of COVID-19 vaccine donated by China arriving at Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Dec. 20, 2021. File photo

the donations, Zimbabwe managed to contain the pandemic to a great extent, limiting the number of cases to under 260,000 infections and about 5,600 deaths since March 2020.

Mnangagwa also commissioned in Harare a new pharmaceutical warehouse also funded by China Aid, which has boosted the country's drug storage capacity.

Bilateral relations between China and Zimbabwe were raised to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, further enhancing the win-win relationships that China espouses with its partners.

The expansion of Zimbabwe's largest airport – the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport – is progressing under a concessionary loan provided by China Eximbank and is due for completion in 2023. The expansion, which is being done by China Jiangsu International, will allow the airport to grow its passenger handling capacity to about 6 million a year from the current 2.5 million.

In mining, a life-changing development is taking place at Manhize in Mvuma, Midlands Province, where the 1-billion-U.S.-dollar Manhize Iron and Steel Plant is being set up by Dinson Iron and Steel Company (DISCO), a subsidiary of global steel producer Tsingshan Holdings Group.

This has set Zimbabwe on course to be one of the global leaders in steel production. DISCO is slowly turning the once sleepy mining town of Mvuma into a modern one, with ancillary infrastructures such as housing, schools, health centers and social amenities being developed.

The integrated project encompassing mining, processing and beneficiation will employ up to 6,000 workers and will also facilitate skills transfer as the resident Chinese engineers collaborate with local staff.

Around 14,000 other upstream and downstream jobs will be created from the project, which will initially produce about 600,000 metric tons of steel

per year.

Production is projected to reach 5 million metric tons per year over time, thus contributing significantly to boosting the local economy and turning the country from being an importer to an exporter of iron and steel.

According to trade promotion agency ZimTrade, Zimbabwe has been importing iron and steel products and their articles worth more than 300 million U.S. dollars per year. Another major mining project being undertaken by Chinese investors is Huayou Cobalt's Arcadia Lithium Mine, just outside Harare, which is expected to start exports on a larger scale in 2023 with projections of earning 500 million U.S. dollars a year from 2 million U.S. dollars in 2017.

Zimbabwean economist Paul Musodza said Chinese investments were changing lives in countries fortunate to have attracted them. "This year alone witnessed private Chinese investments pour into Zimbabwe on major mining and industrial projects worth millions of dollars.

These short-term projects contribute strongly to the country's forex reserves. Some are long-term projects that are employing hundreds of Zimbabwean workers," he said in an interview.

"It is in this regard that China wishes to work with the government of Zimbabwe in fully strengthening the financial services markets between the two countries to benefit both countries' industries."

While undergoing its own rejuvenation, China has pledged to make new contributions to humanity's well-being and continue to share new opportunities with the world.

Musodza said a wealthier China provided an expanded market for Zimbabwe and the world in general. Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Monica Mutsvangwa during the year also called for more cooperation between China and Zimbabwe anchored on FOCAC principles, noting that Zimbabwe found FOCAC to be the only viable way in the face of sanctions imposed on the country by the West.

130 mln Arab population in poverty - UN survey

BEIRUT

A survey released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on Friday said that poverty affects one-third of the Arab region's population, excluding the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Libya.

Dubbed "Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region," it said that "poverty, measured against national poverty lines, increased to affect 130 million people in Arab countries."

The survey expects a further rise in poverty levels in the next two years, reaching 36 percent of the population in 2024.

Moreover, the Arab region registered the world's highest unemployment rate in 2022 at 12 percent, said the survey, adding that there may be a very slight decrease in 2023 to 11.7 percent, owing to post-COVID-19 economic recovery efforts.

It expects the region's economy to grow by 4.5 percent in 2023 and 3.4 percent in 2024.

Ahmed Moumni, the lead author of the survey, said that GCC and other oil-exporting countries will continue to benefit from higher energy prices, while oil-importing countries will suffer from several socioeconomic challenges, including rising energy costs, food supply shortages, and drops in both tourism and international aid inflows.

Moumni noted that oil-exporting Arab countries should diversify their economies away from the energy sector by investing in projects that generate inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Xinhua

Lula returns to office in a troubled, divided Brazil

BRASILIA

LEFTIST leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will be sworn in as president of Brazil on Sunday under tightened security in the Brazilian capital following threats of violence by supporters of his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro.

The ceremony in Congress begins at 3 pm (1800GMT), after which Lula will go the Planalto palace to don the presidential sash before a crowd of 30,000 supporters, while some 300,000 are expected to gather to celebrate on Brasilia's esplanade.

Lula, 77, narrowly defeated Bolsonaro in October to win an unprecedented third presidential term after a hiatus that saw him spend a year and a half behind bars on corruption convictions that were later overturned.

In his previous years as Workers Party (PT) president from 2003-2010, the former union leader lifted millions of Brazilians from poverty during a commodity boom that buoyed the economy.

Now, he faces the daunting challenge of improving Brazil's stagnant economy while also uniting a country that has become painfully polarized under Bolsonaro.



Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva attends the closing session of the thematic group of the transition government in Brasilia, on Dec 13, 2022. AFP

"A lot is expected of Lula. He'll have the difficult mission to restore normality and predictability in Brazil, and above all to rapidly deliver results that improve the quality of life for its inhabitants," said Creomar de Souza, director of Dharma Political Risk consultancy in Brasilia.

Bolsonaro left Brazil for Florida on Friday, avoiding having to hand over the sash to his rival, whose victory he has yet to recognize, while also removing himself from any immediate legal risks related to his time in office.

His supporters have protested for two months that the election was stolen and called for a military coup to stop Lula returning to office in a climate of vandalism and violence.

One supporter was arrested for making a bomb that was discovered on a truck

laden with aviation fuel at the entrance to Brasilia airport, and confessed he was seeking to sow chaos to provoke a military intervention.

Authorities have deployed 10,000 police and troops to reinforce security at Sunday's celebrations and search participants, who cannot bring bottles, cans, flag masts or toy guns. Carrying firearms by civilians has also been temporarily banned.

Organizers said delegations from 50 nations and 19 heads of state and governments, including the king of Spain, have confirmed their attendance.

On Friday, before flying to Florida, Bolsonaro delivered a teary address to the nation in which he condemned the bomb plot as a "terrorist act" but praised protesters camped outside army barracks across the country.

Netanyahu says Israel not bound by 'despicable' UN vote

RAMALLAH

ISRAEL condemned and the Palestinians welcomed on Saturday a United Nations General Assembly vote asking the International Court of Justice to provide an opinion on legal consequences of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

The Friday vote presents a challenge for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (pictured), who this week took office at the head of a government which has set settlement expansion as a priority and which includes parties who want to annex West Bank land on which they are built.

"The Jewish people are not occupiers in their own land nor occupiers in our eternal capital Jerusalem and no UN resolution can distort that historical truth," Netanyahu said in a video message, adding that Israel was not bound by the "despicable decision."

Along with Gaza and East Jerusalem, the Palestinians seek the occupied West Bank for a state. Most countries consider Israel's settlements there illegal, a view Israel disputes citing historical and Biblical ties to the land.

The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) also known as the World Court, is the top UN court dealing with disputes between states. Its rulings are binding, though the ICJ has no power to enforce them.

The UN General Assembly asked the ICJ to give an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's "occupation, settlement and annexation ... including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem."

Members of Netanyahu's new government have pledged to bolster settlements with development plans, budgets and authorization of dozens of outposts built without permits.



The cabinet includes newly created posts and restructured roles that grant some of those powers to pro-settler coalition partners, who ultimately aim to extend Israeli sovereignty to the West Bank.

Netanyahu, however, has given no indication of any imminent steps to annex the settlements, a move that would likely shake up its relations with Western and Arab allies alike.

The Palestinians welcomed the UN vote in which 87 members voted in favor of adopting the request; Israel, the United States and 24 other members voted against; and 53 abstained.

"The time has come for Israel to be a state subject to law, and to be held accountable for its ongoing crimes against our people," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose Palestinian Authority has limited self-rule in the West Bank.

Basem Naim, an official with Hamas, the Islamist militant group that controls Gaza, said it was "an important step toward confining and isolating the state of occupation (Israel)."

Agencies

AT a dust-free smart factory of TCL China Star Optoelectronics Technology Co., Ltd. (TCL CSOT) in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, production lines were operating with high efficiency to produce spare parts for the 11th-generation ultra-high-definition displays.

"The factory is larger than the total area of six football pitches and it produces tens of thousands of display panels every day, achieving intelligent manufacturing in many production processes," said Chen Shengzhong, senior vice president of TCL CSOT.

Chen said that in the past, more than 100 workers were needed to detect internal circuit defects of a display screen, but nowadays the efficiency has increased 15 times thanks to the introduction of an intelligent quality check system.

"The intelligent fault detection system is more accurate, and only 10 workers are needed to assist the system in the detection," Chen added.

As a powerhouse in China's electronic infor-

Shenzhen fosters competitive digital industrial clusters

mation manufacturing and the software and information technology service industry, Shenzhen nurtures various industries, including the high-definition display industry, communications equipment, integrated circuit, software, and industrial Internet.

In 2021, the added value of the core industries of the digital economy in Shenzhen exceeded 900 billion yuan (\$128.8 billion), accounting for 30.5 percent of the city's GDP. The size and quality of these industries ranked among the country's top.

Digitalization not only benefits enterprises, but also the whole industrial cluster.

The Shenzhen factory of Hytera Communications Corpo-

ration is the largest walkie-talkie production base in the world.

To build one walkie-talkie, more than 1,000 electronic components are needed. As the components are from several hundred of suppliers, the collaboration between the production base and the suppliers is not easy.

"In the past, we sent e-mails to the suppliers to tell them the number of components we would need and when we would like to receive the components. If there was a change in the order, it would be difficult to make adjustments," said Sun Meng, a senior vice president at Hytera Communications Corporation.

Last year, the company

launched a digital supplier management system, which has remarkably improved coordination between the company and its suppliers. With the system, the suppliers can prepare components based on the demand, and the manufacturer can know about the status of the delivery in a timely manner.

"Electronic information manufacturing pushes forward digitalization here in Shenzhen as the city gathers a lot of suppliers providing digital solutions," said Li Jingnan, general manager of Saisheng Digital Economy Research Center (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd.

Inside the lights-off factory of tech giant Foxconn Industrial

Internet (Fii), all manufacturing goes on automatically, including the handling of materials, quality check, and logistics operations. Many technologies have been applied to support automated manufacturing here at the factory, including WeMake, an industrial Internet platform by Tencent.

The manufacturing data is transmitted to the cloud platform, and after it is analyzed by such technologies as artificial intelligence, a new solution for optimizing manufacturing is generated, explained Cao Lei, vice president of Tencent Cloud, who is also in charge of smart manufacturing at Tencent.

To date, WeMake has provided services for 420,000 manufac-

turing enterprises in 26 sectors, and shared more than 4,900 industrial applications, effectively helping lower the threshold of digitalization for the manufacturing sector.

In addition to big digital service providers, suppliers offering small but specialized solutions have sprung up in Shenzhen.

Shenzhen Getech Technology Co., Ltd., a company specializing in the application of industrial data, has built nearly 30,000 industrial models and gained mature capability in software development.

"In the past, the domestic semiconductor industry relied on imports of foreign industrial software. Through diligent research, we've replaced foreign-built core industrial software, including the computer integrated manufacturing system, with domestically built software," said Liu Fengyang, who was sent by Shenzhen Getech Technology Co., Ltd. to work as director of the client success department at the IT delivery center of TCL CSOT.

People's Daily

Another woman files sex abuse lawsuit against Cosby, NBC

By DAVE COLLINS

A WOMAN who alleges Bill Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted her in 1986 sued the comedian-actor, NBCUniversal and other companies Friday in New York, where five other women filed a similar lawsuit earlier this month.

Stacey Pinkerton says she was a 21-year-old flight attendant and model that year when she claims Cosby drugged her at a restaurant in Illinois and took her back to a hotel room in Chicago. The lawsuit alleges Cosby "engaged in forced sexual intercourse" with her while she was incapacitated from the drugs.

The lawsuit comes more than a year after Cosby left prison after his 2018 sexual assault conviction in Pennsylvania was overturned. Earlier this year, a Los Angeles jury awarded \$500,000 to a woman who said Cosby sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion when she was a teenager in 1975.

Pinkerton says the alleged assault came after she had met Cosby in New York and he promised to help her career. She says she had a role in an episode of "The Cosby Show" on NBC, but did not appear in the final edit. Months after the alleged assault, Pinkerton said Cosby invited her to his show at a Chicago theater, where she claims he forcefully kissed and touched her.

"Cosby engaged in the same or similar pattern of conduct with his victims," Pinkerton's lawsuit says, "including expressing interest in advancing their careers, giving them roles on The Cosby Show, using The Cosby Show and its filming locations as a means to access, isolate, sexually harass, and sexually assault women, using drugs to incapacitate his victims, and forcibly engaging in sexual acts with them without their consent."

The lawsuit alleges that NBC, Kaufman Astoria Studios and Carsey-Werner Television should have known Cosby was a danger to women and failed to protect Pinkerton from him.

Cosby spokesperson Andrew



Bill Cosby

Wyatt said Friday night that Cosby "continues to vehemently deny all allegations waged against him and looks forward to defending himself in court."

"As we have always stated, and now America can see, this isn't about justice for victims of alleged sexual assault, it's ALL ABOUT MONEY," Wyatt wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "We believe that the courts, as well as the court of public opinion, will follow the rules of law and relieve Mr. Cosby of these alleged accusations."

Representatives of NBCUniversal, Kaufman Astoria Studios and Carsey-Werner Television did not immediately respond to requests for comment Friday night. All three companies were involved in the production of "The Cosby Show," Pinkerton's lawsuit said.

The lawsuits by Pinkerton and the five other women were filed under New York's one-year window for adults to file sexual abuse complaints for allegations that had fallen outside the statute of limitations to sue.

Cosby served nearly three years in prison before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned his conviction, finding that he gave incriminating testimony in a deposition about the encounter only after believing he had immunity from prosecution. The trial judge and an intermediate appeals court had found no evidence of such immunity.

AP

Halleluya Hossana, as blues and worship replaces Gospel hip hop



Veteran Gospel singer Cosmas Chidumule entertains during the New Year Mass at the Free Pentecostal Church in Tanga yesterday. The Mass was led by Bishop Stivie Mulenga. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Assenga.

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

THERE is something new in Gospel music, for those who follow its love and hate relationship with 'worldly music,' traditionally seen as evil in sermons, that it is one among the doors where doors are opened for 'revolt' against several cardinal prohibitions of preachers.

That isn't surprising for music in history comes up as self-expression, where youths and priests say what they want, but are mindful of the priests.

If a song is banned it has hurt not public authorities but priests, first.

That is an essential parameter of civilization as what distinguishes civilized life from barbarism is the prohibition of public nudity, along with various forms of violence, but clearly society has struggled to remove inclination to violence from priests.

A minimum of violence is seen as necessary in tradition not just in raising children but in maintaining conjugal loyalties, something that modern society, led by the West, puts into question and admittedly, systematically rejects.

This theme of violence is not usually explored in music as it is more accustomed to psychological violence or mental torture arising from rejection or humiliation than if a woman is slapped in conjugal conflicts or tiffs.

That on the contrary is the stuff of social media, not concerned

with the slapping per se but sustainability of their relationship.

It isn't a theme tackled by Gospel music either as their primary concern, at least from early days of the fifth phase presidency, is personal success.

The fifth phase was a sea change in Gospel music as it altered in a profound way the usual expectations of the bureaucracy and those living in relative satisfaction around them, which includes the success of numerous businesses tied up with bureaucratic spending.

It wasn't just Gospel music that was affected but prayer as such, not the regular mass which remained unchanged despite that at times there are themes in preaching that reflect what is trending, being disputed. It was among independent churches, those devoted to psychotherapy, to help one solve problems.

As if there was a link between the two, the start of the fifth phase is also the period where deliverance in its current state took off, with new personalities like Boniface 'Bulldozer' Mwamposa, Cohen Musa Richard Mwacha or the 'Konky' Joshua 'Sniper' Makondeko.

They replaced in large part the familiar Pentecostal affinity with salvation and healing as an addendum, to healing as such.

The debate is vast as even now their detractors say 'a prostitute gets more clients with anointing', etc.

What Gospel music has done in this situation isn't to underline the theological fine points involved but merely living the vast difference of sentiments between the older success-presumption of doing business, to removing obstacles to success in one's life.

With the newer themes of preaching that actively involve breaking the power of traditional spirits in individual life, undercutting themes of traditional existence that preaching never closed upon, the salvation fear has been erased.

It is a happy environment with victory achieved on a daily basis, assurance of success.

There are indeed astonishing testimonies of people being phoned to turn up for job placement where they had conducted interviews months earlier and forgotten on chances that they could be picked.

Others have had their husbands plead to come back after they ditched the wives even years earlier, implying that a lot of what was being pursued in sorrowful or plaintive prayer is now a subject of deliverance by the power of anointment.

It leads to triumphant music that borders on satire, what may be called 'Gospel Taarab' (when they speak I mix with soda), such rants.

Just what sort of mixed feelings this sort actual church performance has raised in this or that church can't quite be said, as the delivery churches are

independent in character and don't have specific ritual dogmas to follow.

One reason is that they don't seek to be authoritative over society, commanding ritual obedience like most traditional denominations, only an inward code of conduct for church employees.

It is a situation where there is a church for those receiving allowances or salaries there, that they are subjected to a fairly strict code of conduct, but the lay are free.

Here, youthful musicians who aren't hindered by religious, denominational or other statutory constraints, seeking an outlet even to modest success via the Gospel 'style' have done their bit.

They have brought colour to assemblies which are fairly rudimentary as they are a large following for anointment or healing, but in so doing they brought in plenty of their preliminary inclinations.

They have keenly exposed how shallow the depth of religious feeling is in those assemblies, and their music is often an affront to a person seeking peace and faith invigoration, as the chants are far too close to a Hip Hop beat than to prayer.

That is why a new composition given some prominence on Sibuka FM during Xmas or its aftermath, Halleluya Hossana, makes a difference, as it reinvents blues and worship, a meditating, worship mood.

Movies, music and TV helped Pelé to even more stardom

SAO PAULO

WHETHER or not Pelé scored almost 1,300 goals in his professional soccer career, all of his biographers agree that the three-time World Cup champion wrote more than 100 songs and sold more than 100,000 copies of one of his albums.

He was also in the movies, notably in the World War II film "Victory," and was one of the stars of a Brazilian comedy that brought more than 3.6 million people to the theaters in the South American nation.

Pelé, whose full name was Edson Arantes do Nascimento, died Thursday with cancer at a hospital in Sao Paulo. He was 82.

Pelé's success on the soccer field made him a sports icon, but he added to that with many performances as an actor and singer.

MOVIES

"King Pelé" (O Rei Pelé, 1962)

Pelé's first big-screen moment came in a movie directed by Carlos

Hugo Christensen in the same year he won his second World Cup title. The narrative starts at Pelé's native city of Tres Coracoes, talks about his move to the Sao Paulo countryside city of Bauru and then on to Santos, where he becomes a global star.

"Victory" (1981)

Directed by John Huston, it was the movie Pelé said he had most fun doing. He played Cpl. Luis Fernandes, a soldier from Trinidad.

The plot involves prisoners of war preparing to face a German team in Nazi-occupied Paris amid their attempt to escape. At the time with the New York Cosmos, Pelé had the chance play with very different teammates – actors Sylvester Stallone and Michael Caine.

"If I had to give myself a grade as an actor it would be a 10," Pelé jokingly said in several interviews after "Victory."

He also told friends that the original script had Stallone in position to score the winning goal with a bicycle kick,



FILE – Brazilian soccer legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento better known as 'Pelé', FILE – Brazilian soccer legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento better known as 'Pelé', gestures during a photocall of the movie 'Pelé', in Milan, Italy, Wednesday, May 25, 2016. Pelé, the Brazilian king of soccer who won a record three World Cups and became one of the most commanding sports figures of the last century, died in Sao Paulo on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022. He was 82. (AP Photo)

but the American actor did not have the skills to do it, so he was placed as a goalkeeper instead. Former England captain Bobby Moore is also in the film, along with several other professional soccer players.

"Victory," known as

"Escape to Victory" in many places, made almost \$28 million at the box office.

"The Clumsies and the King of Soccer" (Os Trapalhães e o Rei do Futebol, 1986)

This was an association between two of

Brazil's most popular brands at the time – a recently retired Pelé and a Three Stooges-like group of comedians who were widely popular for their TV program Os Trapalhães (The Clumsies). The movie's opening was three days before

the 1986 World Cup final in which Argentina, led by Diego Maradona, beat Germany 3-2. It took millions to the cinema in Brazil that year.

Pelé played the role of a sports reporter named Nascimento who replaced the injured goalkeeper of a team named Independência Futebol Clube and scored the winning goal of a match with a goal kick.

Pelé also took part in documentaries, including "This is Pelé" (1974), "Pelé Eterno" (2004) and "Cine Pelé" (2011).

TELEVISION

Brazilians are almost as obsessed with soap operas as they are with soccer, and Pelé had many cameos. Most of his appearances were on TV Globo's soap operas, which are often exported to the rest of the world.

Author Ivani Ribeiro was the first to bring him to TV soap operas. She cast Pelé in a show named "Os Estranhos" (The Strangers), in which he played the role of a famous writer who lived on an island and had ex-

traterrestrial friends.

Pelé's last famous appearance in a soap opera came in 2002 in "O Clone" (The Clone), which was popular in dozens of other countries. He played himself and sang the song "Em Busca do Penta" (Seeking the Fifth). The lyrics were about Brazil winning the World Cup again. Three months later, Brazil won the World Cup for the fifth time.

MUSIC

"Peléginga" was his biggest hit. Recorded with a choir and an orchestra, the samba album included 12 songs written by Pelé and was released in 2006.

Three years later, the Brazilian star wanted to record another album for international audiences and invited U2 singer Bono to share the vocals on one of the tracks. The Irishman was on tour with his band, however, and the project was abandoned.

Pelé also recorded a record with Brazilian diva Elis Regina and released an album that was produced by Gram-

my-winning singer-songwriter Sergio Mendes.

COMICS

Pelé has also been a character in widely popular comic books in Brazil. Cartoonist Mauricio de Sousa and Pelé, who was playing for New York Cosmos at the time, reached a deal in 1976 for the publication of children's stories in comic book format.

At first, Pelé didn't like the childlike features of Pelezinho. Sousa said in several interviews the player wanted to be portrayed as a strong child athlete. The cartoonist then made a suggestion that he should ask his children what they thought. Both kids loved it.

Sousa used several stories from Pelé's childhood in Pelezinho plots. The comic books were published regularly from 1977-86, and after that on special occasions. The latest was in 2013 as Brazil hosted the Confederations Cup, a warm-up tournament for the following year's World Cup in the country.

AP

Ronaldo Saudi move to signal likely end of elite club career

By JAMES ROBSON

LESS than two weeks after his great rival Lionel Messi lifted the World Cup, Cristiano Ronaldo has completed a move to Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr and likely signalled the end of his career in elite club soccer.

In agreeing a contract until 2025, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner has ended speculation about his future after having his contract terminated by Manchester United last month.

"I am fortunate that I have won everything I set out to win in European football and feel now that this is the right moment to share my experience in Asia," Ronaldo said.

Al Nassr described the deal as "history in the making," however, it is likely to raise questions about Ronaldo's ambition at this stage of his career.

While Messi finally won the one major trophy that had evaded the two men widely regarded as the greatest players of their generation, after leading Argentina to the World Cup in Qatar, Ronaldo will be playing outside of top level European soccer for the first time in his career.

Media reports have claimed the 37-year-old Portugal international could earn up to \$200 million a year from the move, but he will miss out on the chance to extend his record as the all-time leading scorer in the Champions League with his record currently standing at 140 goals.

Messi is on 129 goals in the competition.

Ronaldo is also unlikely to add to his Ballon d'Or collection - the trophy awarded to the best player in the world.

Meanwhile, Messi will be among the favourites to win that trophy for an eighth time next year after his World Cup triumph.

He also has the chance to win the Champions League with Paris Saint-Germain, having lifted European club soccer's biggest prize on four occasions with Barcelona. Ronaldo won the Champions League five times during spells with United and Real Madrid.

Six months ago Ronaldo wanted to join a team playing in the Champions League after United failed to qualify for this season's competition.

However, a move never materialized, with the most serious interest in him coming from an unnamed Saudi Arabian club.

It is not known what other serious offers were made after he became a free agent last month, but the move to Al Nassr represents a significant step down compared to the level he has operated at throughout his career.

Still it is a major coup for soccer in the Middle East and will add to the debate over Saudi Arabia's attempts to use so-called "sportswashing" to improve its reputation internationally after its sovereign wealth fund led a buyout of Premier League club Newcastle United last year.

"This is more than history in the making. This is a signing that will not only inspire our club to achieve even greater success but inspire our league, our nation and future generations, boys and girls to be the best version of themselves," Al Nassr posted on social media.

Ronaldo remains one of soccer's biggest global icons, but the move comes at a time when he has faced questions over his ability to still produce his best form at the highest level.

He managed just three goals for United in 16 games this season, with one of those coming from the penalty spot. He became the first male player to score in five World Cups with his penalty in Portugal's 3-2 win against Ghana in Qatar, but ended the tournament having been dropped for his country's last two games before going out to Morocco in the quarterfinals.

By comparison Messi inspired Argentina's third World Cup triumph, scoring seven goals, including two in the 4-2 penalty shootout win against France in the final after a 3-3 draw through extra time.

Ronaldo and Messi have had their achievements compared throughout their careers.

Messi's World Cup win saw him emulate soccer greats Pele and Diego Maradona by lifting the sport's biggest prize.

To many, it will also have given him the edge in his personal rivalry with Ronaldo. And at the age of 35, he still has time to further embellish his career in top level soccer.

Meanwhile, Ronaldo has earned headlines in recent months for his antics away from the field.

He was dropped and made to train away from United's first team when refusing to come on as a substitute in a game against Tottenham in October. He then conducted an explosive interview with Piers Morgan in which he criticized manager Erik ten Hag and United's owners the Glazer family.

It led to the termination of his contract, his eventual move to Al Nassr and the next chapter of his career away from the glare of top flight European soccer.

AP

Arsenal have 'desire' to be champions - Arteta



Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli, second right shoots and scores his side's 4th goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Arsenal at the AMEX Community Stadium in Brighton, England, Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022. (AP Photo)

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta said Arsenal's 4-2 win at Brighton proved the Premier League leaders have the "desire" required to lift the title for the first time since 2004. Arteta's side will go into the new year with a formidable seven-point lead over second placed Manchester City after they powered to a fifth successive league victory.

Goals from Bukayo Saka, Martin Odegaard and Eddie Nketiah set the Gunners on course to cement their unexpected status as serious title contenders.

Kaoru Mitoma reduced Brighton's deficit before Martinelli raced half the length of the pitch to finish off Odegaard's sublime pass.

Brighton substitute Evan Ferguson claimed his first Premier League goal in the closing stages, but Arsenal survived a

nervous finish to make it nine league wins from 10 games.

"It's a big win against a really good side. We had big moments, especially attacking the spaces with the way they play. We were ruthless, clinical," Arteta said.

"We had some great moments, and also moments when we have to dig in and suffer. You expect that against Brighton."

After squandering a golden opportunity to qualify for the Champions League with a late collapse in the Premier League last term, Arsenal found themselves written off as also-rans ahead of this season.

But Gunners boss Arteta has worked impressively to revitalise his team, sparking dreams among their fans of winning a first English title since Arsene Wenger's "Invincibles".

Arsenal's haul of 43 points from 16 games is among the five best starts to an English top-

flight season, with the other four teams all going on to claim the title.

"You can't expect to not concede anything with the way they play. It's a big test for us, but we win two in a row after the break and now on to the next one," Arteta said.

"I think we have enough desire. We know the other results, but we know our success will be from what we do.

"This is what we want to continue, to improve as a team and play better, to dominate all the areas like today. We had to suffer but we show we could manage the game."

Meanwhile, Pep Guardiola rued the loss of two points following a 1-1 draw at home to Everton but insisted he had no complaints about the visitors' approach in a fiery Premier League clash at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday.

Erling Haaland fired reigning champions City into a first-half lead only for Demarai Gray

to equalise midway through the second period of a match featuring numerous fouls.

The game also required 11 minutes' stoppage time following repairs to an assistant referee's headset.

The result left second-placed City seven points behind Arsenal heading into 2023 after the Gunners won 4-2 at Brighton in Saturday's late clash.

City manager Guardiola, reflecting on Everton's tactics, said: "They made a fantastic goal with the first shot on target they had, so we played a real, real good game."

"Of course the result was not expected but that is football, it is not the first time it happened. We did everything to win. They played really well."

The Spaniard added: "Afterwards they broke a bit the rhythm because the referees were not ready but, in general, we did everything and unfortunately could not win."

A battling draw gave Everton a first point in four matches and left the Merseysiders, who had lost 2-1 at home to Wolves in their first post-World Cup game, two points above the relegation zone.

"I think we did limit their good chances," said Everton manager Frank Lampard.

"And in terms of our character and discipline and following through with the plan, working consistently for 100-odd minutes, understanding that's sometimes tough and you have to stick with it, I thought we did that brilliantly and we deserved a point."

Lampard, turning to Gray's "unstoppable" strike, said: "When he hits a goal like that it just shows you the talent he's got, and it got us a point."

Meanwhile, Leicester City's Belgian defender Wout Faes inadvertently boosted Liverpool's hopes of making the Champions League by scoring two own-goals in

his team's 2-1 loss at Anfield on Friday.

Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall had given Leicester a fourth-minute lead when he strolled through the middle of the Liverpool defence.

However, that was the cue for Faes's double dose of embarrassment.

In the 38th minute, Faes, in his first season at the club after a £15million move from Reims, sliced an attempted clearance from a Trent Alexander-Arnold cross over the head of his goalkeeper Danny Ward.

Seven minutes later, his evening got worse.

Darwin Nunez was sent through by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and his lob over Ward hit the post. However, as the ball came back, Faes somehow managed to hammer the ball into his own net.

"He has come back a little rusty having not played in a long time having got no minutes with Belgium at the World Cup," said Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers of the unfortunate Faes.

"When he came in, he was absolutely fantastic for us and was just unfortunate today."

The result left Liverpool in sixth place, two points off the top four while Leicester are down in 13th.

"At times, I thought we were poor today. It's a cliché but it's important to get the three points and win," Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk told Sky Sports.

"We tried to get in the game but we weren't good enough and we know that. We won, which is positive, but there are plenty of things we have to improve on."

US soccer owes almost everything to Pele, says former New York Cosmos teammate

By Nicolas REVISE

US footballer Bobby Smith does not hold back his tears when paying tribute to "King" Pele: the rise of the game in the United States owes almost everything to the Brazilian legend, says his former New York Cosmos teammate.

Still athletic at 71, Robert "Bobby" Smith spoke to AFP at his training center for budding players, the Bob Smith Soccer Academy, in his native New Jersey.

At the edge of the indoor synthetic fields where children train, Smith, who was a top defender in his younger days, gazes fondly at a giant poster of him and Pele, who died Thursday of cancer at the age of 82.

Smith, a professional player in Philadelphia in the 1970s, signed in 1976 with the New York Cosmos for \$100,000. Pele, coming out of semi-retirement at 34, had signed a year earlier for at least 10 times that amount and would lead the Cosmos to the 1977 North American soccer championship, with 31 goals in 56 games.

Smith is an ardent, lifelong fan of Pele. As a young boy, he said he "never thought for a second that we'd be on the same team."

The thought brings a smile to his face even today.



Robert "Bobby" Smith, a retired soccer player who now has his own sports academy in New Jersey, talks about his days playing with sports icon Pele at the New York Cosmos in the 1970s; he says Pele transformed US soccer © Kena Betancur / AFP/File

- 'Like little kids' -

Pele was key in attracting an array of other talent to the Cosmos team: After American goalie Bob Rigby, recruited at the same time as Smith, came Italian Giorgio Chinaglia, German Franz Beckenbauer and Brazilian Carlos Alberto.

"It's almost like we were little kids every day when we were around him," Smith says. He is moved to tears as he stands before a photo of Pele's last match, in late 1977, when the star reached out to affectionately touch the younger man's cheek.

He was a surprisingly humble man, says Smith, "just so kind to everybody. He had no big ego."

Pele, who was born Edson Arantes do Nas-

cimento, "was a great teammate, and he cared about his teammates, all of us. He wasn't just a superstar."

And yet Pele was undisputedly one of the world's greatest sports

superstars, the only player in history to win three World Cups (in 1958, 1962 and 1970).

The global icon hung up his boots for good after a friendly match at New York's Giants Sta-

dium in October 1977 between Cosmos and his old Brazilian club Santos.

But he was already "the biggest influence on soccer in this country" in its still faltering early days in the 1970s and '80s, Smith says.

- 'Legitimacy' -

"Him coming here just brought so much, like, legitimacy to the sport. You know, people started wanting to watch it. And he brought all the stars to the game," Smith said, referring to foreign standouts like Johan Cruyff, Bobby Moore and George Best.

"He played New York and it was 70,000 people" who came to watch.

"We wouldn't have the national program we have without Pele coming here. Not even close. (We) would be years and

years behind," Smith says.

Pele, he added, had an "unbelievable" impact on fanning US interest in the sport; he helped "legitimize the game."

Does American soccer today need a "new Pele," someone with such incredible on-field vision, superior athleticism and leadership ability?

For all his gratitude to Pele, Smith says the US soccer world needs to grow on its own.

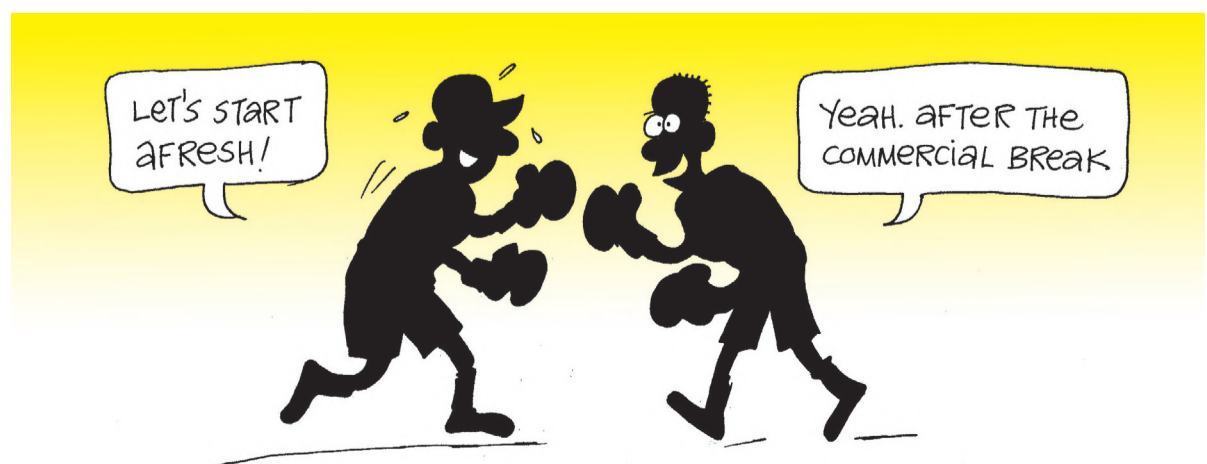
"What is important to us as a country is to develop our own American players," he says.

Pele, along with the Beckenbauers, Albertos and Bests, helped establish the US game. But "now I think we're getting on our own standing... Our national team did much better this World Cup."

Smith hopes, he added, that the trend will continue, with the United States, Canada and Mexico set to co-host the 2026 World Cup.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal have 'desire' to be champions – Arteta

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Juma Mgunda

We are still in the league championship race, reveals Coach Mgunda

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC interim head coach Juma Mgunda is convinced that his team is still in the title race despite a six-point difference behind league leaders Young Africans.

The Msimbazi Reds won 7-1 against Tanzania Prisons during the weekend with John Bocco netting a hat-trick to reach nine goals in the league while new signing Saidi Ntibazonkiza on his debut also scored a hat-trick.

The seventh goal was scored by right-back Shomari Kapombe to put cherry on the cake to end year in what was a disappointing year for the former league champions.

"We are still in title race. The league still has a long way to go and as I always say that the league is a marathon. We are determined to win every game so that we can be in a good position when the season ends.

"We have a good squad with majority players being former champions in various competitions from the league, FA even the Mapinduzi Cup that is around the corner. Having this group of players I believe we can get good results in the coming matches," said Mgunda.

Speaking about Ntibazonkiza's abilities, he said: "Saido is a great and good player in our league. He has enough experience and having a player of his caliber is a big advantage.

"He has coped well with his fellow players and that is why he has been able to show his ability by scoring three goals in his first game. Our fans should continue to give him time and stand with him."

Coach Mgunda also said that he has no problem with the opposing team being given a cash prize promise in the match against them despite causing many injuries to his players when such a promise arises.

"I have no problem with the team being given a cash prize promise because motivation is part of the game and each team had its own goals," he said.

Simba has improved a lot physically and coach Mgunda has admitted that his arrival together with the team doctors and physiotherapist have helped to strengthen the players' ability and readiness.

Simba now have 44 points in the league log in the second place after 19 games, scoring 47 goals and allowing only 10 in the process behind league leaders Yanga who are on 50 points on the same amount of games.

Kaze praised mindset of Yanga players after Mtibwa win

lead at the top. I believe we deserve it. We didn't play well all the time but there were times when we played well and I believe we deserved these three points.

"We had many players missing due to injuries, but the important thing today is the three points. The game was not easy, this was one of the hardest matches we played this season, but you can see that there are times when the instructions we gave out, the players knew what to do at different moments.

"It was scorching hot today, we told them if we can't go forward let's calm down, let's move the ball around, they will get tired and we will find ways to go forward because you can't play at the same speed for ninety minutes.

"I'm proud of my players' commitment, the mindset of fighting for victory even if they didn't play well. We didn't play well but this is an away match, the crucial thing is to get three points.

"What I am proud of today is the mindset of the players, their commitment even when they were not very good, they knew how to stay in the game and fight for those three points," he said.

On Azizi shooting and set piece brilliance, Kaze explained it is down to the former ASEC Mimosas continuous individual practice to improve his technique and skills.

"I think the first thing is the talent of the player, let's not go too far and believe that we, the coaches, have done this and that. The im-



Young Africans midfielder Stephane Azizi Ki runs with the ball during their NBC Premier League match against Mtibwa Sugar at Manungu Complex in Turiani, Morogoro on Saturday. Young Africans won 1-0. (Agencies)

portant thing is we show him ways to do it and every time we finish training, he goes by himself and takes 15 to 25 free kicks in differ-

ent positions to master his skills.

"The crucial thing is his skills, his technique. We give him time and a little bit

of instructions. It's something he does every day after training. It's not something to say he's guessed," he added.



One of winners of the 2022 World Cup bonanza promotion hosted by a sports betting firm, 10bet Tanzania, Juma Mustafa, celebrates after he was awarded a smartphone in a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Betting firm unveils 2022 World Cup promotion winners

By Guardian Correspondent

A PROMINENT sports betting and games operator, 10bet Tanzania, has announced the winners of the company's 2022 World Cup promotion.

The 50 winners of smartphones, soccer jerseys and cash received their prizes in a ceremony which took place in Dar es Salaam in December, last year.

The winners were selected from thousands of football fans who placed their bets with 10bet Tanzania and participated in the World Cup bonanza promotion conducted during the recent global soccer tournament which took

place in Qatar.

The 10 Bet Tanzania Marketing Specialist, George Abdulrahman, said that out of the 50 winners, 10 were awarded smartphones, and 20 winners received jerseys of their favorite teams that participated in the 2022 World Cup.

The official pointed out the remaining winners received cash prizes.

He added that the firm is proud to have presented the prizes to the winning participants during the festive season.

The official called on all betting enthusiasts in Tanzania to place their bets with 10bet Tanzania to improve chances of winning

prizes in upcoming promotions.

The 10bet Tanzania is one of the leading international online operators and, for nearly 20 years, has provided millions of players with the highest quality sports book and casino experiences.

Trusted by millions globally, 10bet firm has a customer-centric approach and offers a diverse range of sports and markets to bet on.

The company offers user friendly and intuitive interface, rewarding and engaging game play, great odds across all sports, fast payouts and an online casino powered by multiple providers.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

