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Experts nod to Budget, warn over dependence

Big projects, shilling slide marking up external debts

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 17.218.21trn/- has been borrowed from external sources to finance various development projects in the past three years, the government has declared. Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, made this observation when tabling the 49.35trn/- budget estimates for fiscal 2024/25 in the National Assembly on Thursday.

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Passengers on board on a Tanzania Railways Corporation standard gauge railway (SGR) train travelling from Dar es Salaam city yesterday disembark at the Morogoro municipality station, the ride having lasted a mere 1:45 hours - as scheduled. Photo: Correspondent Christine Hauke

'Budget just tabled is too dependent on external financing'

By Henry Mwangonde

THE 2024/2025 national budget estimators tabled in the National Assembly on Thursday by Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba are inclusive and innovative but heavily dependent on foreign sources financing strategic development projects, experts have warned.

Experts at audit services firm Ernst & Young (EY) said in a budget analysis in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the newly tabled budget was inclusive and implementable, however, warning that it was too dependent on foreign aid to finance development projects.

Fred Lugangira, a senior tax manager at the firm asserted that the budget was inclusive as the government has put in place strategic goals and innovations to widen the tax base and ease voluntary tax compliance.

"The just tabled budget is too dependent on external financing," he said, airing the view that while this need cannot be avoided, caution is needed by innovating on sources of revenues as the minister has done.

Measures needed to broaden the country's tax base include enhancing the digital economy and tapping into unexploited potential opportunities, he said.

"The minister has already proposed that local government authorities innovate on sources of revenue, a welcome initiative as we move forward," he said.

He considers the budget as implementable especially in relation to the digital economy where current policy since 2022 allows non-resident content creators to pay similar levels of tax like local creators.

Multinational companies are being registered by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in various sectors, while the government has put in place strategies to access concessional loans to finance development projects, he said.

Road traffic accidents cause manpower losses and grave impairment, with a rise in fines for traffic offences, especially in case of road crash fatality is likely to

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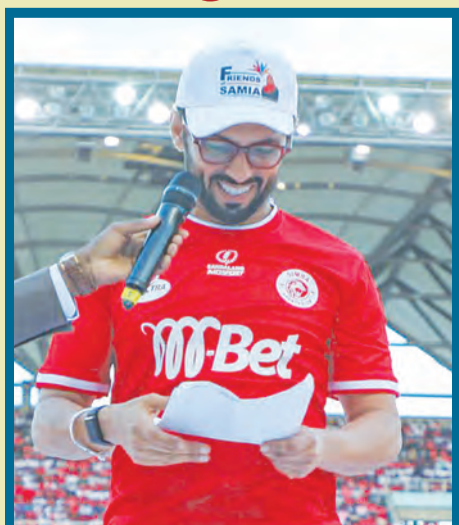
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Mgwanda set for return to Coastal Union to bolster CAF campaign

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Mo return to Simba's board of directors: A blueprint for revival amidst challenges

MPs hail budget measures

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of Parliament were on the whole expressing positive views on the just delivered central government budget estimates for fiscal 2024/25. Speaking in separate interviews with this paper soon after Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba tabled the 49.35trn/- estimates on Thursday, the MPs commended the government for bringing a budget that touches the lives of all groups of people, especially in alleviating

some taxes.

The outlined measures will greatly help bring relief to Tanzanians as well as bolster efforts for competitive and inclusive economic growth, they said, pointing at measures like zero rating of the Value Added Tax (VAT) on fertilizer manufactured locally.

Other measures appreciated by MPs include exempting VAT on supplies of double refined edible oil from locally grown seeds as well as zero rating VAT on gold supplied to domes-

tic refineries to promote the growth of domestic refineries.

Many were similarly pleased with subsidising agricultural inputs including fertilizers, farming equipment, pesticides and quality seeds, apart from setting aside budget funds for major renovation of roads wrecked by El Nino rains.

Mwita Waitara (Tarime Rural) said the budget proposals really touch lives of Tanzanians, as they focus on key sectors of agriculture, employment and infrastructure development.

He spoke of being relieved to hear the government's measures for mobilising more domestic funds for road constructions, repairs and maintenance "as this was his major cry for years."

Godwin Kunambi (Mlimba) said one of the challenges in his constituency is the state of roads but as the government is allocating enough funds for construction and rehabilitation of roads, this will solve

ANC, Democratic Alliance, Inkatha forming unity govt

CAPE TOWN

Coalition backs Ramaphosa for president

FORTY years of African National Congress (ANC) rule formally ended yesterday as it joined forces with the centre-right the Democratic Alliance (DA) and the conservative Zulu political formation, Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) to form a government of national unity.

In the wake of the deal, President Cyril Ramaphosa (pictured) was endorsed by the South African legislature to form an unprecedented coalition government after the once mighty ANC was humbled in parliamentary elections a fortnight ago.

John Steenhuisen, the DA leader, said earlier in the day that it had reached an agreement with the ANC to form a multi-party coalition government. Observers said the only other party expected is IFP as the other block is far too radical to sit with the main coalition partner, the DA.

The DA leader said the party has reached agreement on the statement of intent for the formation of a government of national unity," he said, noting that the DA and the Zulu nationalist IFP would back the coalition.



"We will be supporting President Cyril Ramaphosa in his election for the president," he declared at the opening session of South Africa's seventh parliament since the advent of post-apartheid democracy in 1994.

Earlier, Chief Justice Raymond Zondo had opened the first sitting, swearing in MPs in batches ahead of electing the speaker, deputy speaker and the president.

Members of the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party took the oath wearing red coats and in some cases boots and plastic helmets.

They will not be supporting the incoming administration, having refused to countenance joining an alliance with right-wing or white-led parties.

Ramaphosa, the fifth ANC president in 30 years, had called for a government of national unity with a veiled wish that all parliamentary parties join it, with

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Big projects, shilling slide marking up external debts

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The funds were sought for implementing strategic projects including the standard gauge railway (SGR) in several lots plus the procurement of train wagons and electric locomotive engines.

The regions having additional benefits from implementing this project include Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Katavi and Kigoma, he said.

Implementation of the projects will open up economic opportunities with neighbouring countries such as Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, he said.

"The government is building roads and 14 airports, altogether taking up \$2.81bn (7.34trn/-), comprising of concessional loans from development partners such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and the OPEC Fund for International Development," he stated.

He listed key roads where foreign funding is being directed as the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit phase II (Kariakoo-Mbagala), phase III (Post Office - Gongolamboto) and phase IV (Post Office - Tegeta), the Dodoma city outer ring road project, Mnyvata - Masasi - Newala Road, the Tanzania/Burundi road upgrading, Rumonge - Gitaza/Kabingo onward to Kasulu - Manyovu road. There is also the trans-border Bagamoyo-Horohoro/Lunga Lunga-Malindi road and the Malagarasi-Ilunde-Uvinza Road.

Others are Kazilambwa - Chagu Road, Kasekese - Ikola - Karema Port road, Kahama - Bulyanhulu - Kakola road, Lusahunga- Rusumo,

Mtwara - Mingoyo - Masasi, apart from the Rutukila - Songea, Iringa - Msembe road, and the Jangwani Bridge.

The works are being carried out concurrently with the construction of Msalato International Airport as well as Tanga, Lake Manyara and Iringa airports. Some of the projects are expected to be completed during the next financial year, he stated 2024/25.

By March 2024, the overall national debt had surged to 91.7trn/-, up from 77trn/- reported the previous year, a 19.1 percent increase, he said, noting that the increase in debt is tied to new loans to finance development projects.

The domestic debt amounted to 30.7trn/- and external debt stood at 60.9trn/-, where commercial banks held 42.0 percent of the domestic debt, up from 34.8 percent in the same period last year. Social security funds held 33.9 percent while individual bond holders had 11.3 percent of the debt, insurance companies holding 7.6 percent, the minister explained.

Shilling depreciation against the US dollar ballooned external debt liabilities as in the past three years the shilling slid from 2,309.96/- to 2,569.66/- to the dollar, a decrease of 11.24 percent. This touched off a 5.428.92trn/- mark up on the debt, he stated.

Domestic debt mark-up related to issuance of special bonds amounting to 2,176.7trn/- during fiscal 2021/22 to service the government's debt to the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF), for contributions of employees hired before 1999.

The government was taking deliberate measures to ensure that the loans contracted are used for intended purposes, enabling the country to repay debts on time, ensuring a sound financial position and maintaining international credibility, he added.



Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Broadcasting Services manager Andrew Kisaka makes a presentation in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the role of the media in public education and sensitisation. It was at a two-day seminar on preparations for the updating of the national Permanent Voters' Register organised by the Independent National Electoral Commission. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Experts nod to Budget, warn over dependence

FROM PAGE 1

curbs accidents, he stated.

Joseph Sheffu, the firm's country managing partner, said the budget was inclusive but as it unveils an election year, expectations are high and thus its transformative role will be muted.

"The budget is more of an economy reviving from the Covid-19 pandemic where growth dropped to

4.5 percent," he asserted, seeing the target of returning to 5.4 percent this year and upwards later as realistic.

"The task of reviving the economy is a process, therefore we need to be very careful with managing public funds," he said, expressing confidence in the current pace of economic growth.

The budget is innovative as it has now brought digital content creators into the

pool as formal sector businesses, a welcome initiative as the world is now going digital, he said.

He applauded the clean cooking energy agenda championed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan as this has made the budget lead the way in fostering economic resilience as climate change effects pose a threat to economic growth.

Dr Innocent Donald, teaching economics at the

University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), said the budget was targeted at engaging the private sector in national development.

As last financial year TRA collected 79 percent of the targeted revenue, the same trend is possible where just over a half of non-tax revenues was mobilised, at 54 percent, he said.

"The question now is how we fill the gaps in TRA monthly domestic revenue

collections as they nearly match with what we spend," he said, noting that the private sector has not been fully engaged.

This budget is targeted at enhancing private sector involvement especially in seeking to widen the tax base, enhancing the use of digital tools in revenue collection including widening the use of electronic tax stamps (ETS), but more needs to be done, he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured at Mkizingo in Mwanga District yesterday having a word with residents of the village now benefiting from the Same-Mwanga Korogwe water project, whose implementation has just been completed. Photo: VPO

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the challenge.

"With this budget, a 100km road is set to be built at tarmac level in my constituency something which will open up more opportunities," he said. Saashisha Mafuwe (Hai) hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan on how she has been initiating measures to transform the country's development expectations.

"One again the government has come up with a budget that brings hope to Tanzanians, showing that President Sa-

MPs hail budget measures

mia is fully committed to improving the country's economy as well as helping the poor," he declared.

Sophia Mwakagenda (Special Seats-Opposition) cited this year's budget as one of its kind as its major focus has been directed to further bringing relief to all groups of people starting with children, youth to elders so as to fight poverty.

Condester Sicalwe (Momba) said

they have received the budget happily as it is going to respond to various challenges facing women and special groups.

Placing a lot of funds for implementing water projects is a good thing as it is going to provide relief to women and girls spending a lot of time searching for water instead of engaging in gainful economic activities, she stated.

The government had also placed

enough funds to support agriculture sector transformation where women also have invested a lot of their power and time, she said

Dr Damian Sambuo, senior lecturer at the Moshi Cooperative University, said the government's decision to improve pension arrangements had brought joy and relief to many retirees.

The changes will see pensioners with the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) receive 40 percent of total retirement benefits after the lump sum increase of seven percent.

ANC, Democratic Alliance, Inkatha forming unity govt

FROM PAGE 1

ANC secretary general Fikile Mbalula still wishing for a wider coalition while the parliamentary offices were being filled.

"We have reached a breakthrough on the common agreement that we need to work together," the ANC official affirmed outside the legislature on Thursday.

EFF chief Julius Malema, a former ANC youth leader who wants to nationalise land and a breadth of the private sector, said the party was not ready to join hands with right-wing parties.

Ex-president Jacob Zuma who leads a breakaway uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), was still disputing the May 29 election results and had earlier demanded that President Ramaphosa step down for his party to join a coalition government.

MK MPs boycotted yesterday's first sitting of the 400-member assembly.

With DA backing clinched for the president, the parliamentary secret ballot was largely seen as a formality, as the crucial issue was to agree on a workable platform to form a government of national unity.

The ANC executive told the media on Thursday that governing South Africa would 'gravitate towards the centre,' which implies deeper economic reforms than the ANC has so far been prepared to undertake.

"Make no mistake about

it. This is not the end of the process. And the road ahead will not be an easy one," the DA leader cautioned, explaining that the two-week deadline imposed by the constitution to form a government did not leave enough time to iron out all details.

Ramaphosa, a 71-year-old former trade unionist who joined business during the first two phases of government, first took office in 2018 after Zuma quit under court indictment for corruption and parliamentary uproar.

Once described by ANC historic leader Nelson Mandela as one of the most gifted leaders of his generation, Ramaphosa played a key role in the negotiations that brought an accord between the then apartheid authorities and the ANC on government arrangements after democratic elections, from 1990 when Mandela was released from prison, to 1994.

Upon taking the reins of the country, he promised a new dawn for South Africa, but inability to conduct reforms benefiting what radical see as a white dominated business sector hampered progress, and under his watch unemployment is listed by certain chroniclers as the highest in middle income economies, at more than 30 percent, pushing the ANC towards its worst election results, at just over 41 percent.

Govt reinstates wharfage fee collection command to TPA

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has decided to reinstate the mandate of collecting wharfage charges to Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to enable it get sufficient funds to improve its operations.

Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said this in the National Assembly on Thursday when tabling national budget estimates for the financial year 2024/2025.

He proposed amendment of the Ports Act, 2004 to facilitate the same. Currently, the revenue is collected by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

He said that the revenue collected will be deposited into the account of TPA at the Bank of Tanzania and the use of such funds will be authorised by the Paymaster General.

Dr Nchemba said the aim of the decision is to enable TPA to get enough funds on time in order to improve infrastructure of the port and increase its efficiency.

"I propose an amendment to the Port Act of 2004 to restore the responsibility of collecting revenues for the use of port infrastructure to the port management," he said.

Maulid Ismail, one of the port stakeholders suggested that when preparing payment of the port fees, the government should ensure that TPA and TRA systems are interacted with so that customers pay exactly what is billed.

Emmanuel Mallya, an expert in port issues in the country, praised the government's decision to let TPA collect the fees, saying it will help the authority improve its infrastructure and operations in general.

Mallya, who is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Tanzania Shipping Agents Association (TASAA), said it is good for TRA to continue with its general tax collection duties.

"Now if you want to collect more taxes, you must leave the port to be able to run itself and improve the infrastructure and other sensitive services within the jurisdiction," he said.

Contributing to the Ministry of Transport's budget estimates recently, some MPs said that in order for TRA to collect more taxes, TPA should be allowed to collect wharfage so that it can be able to improve its infrastructure, services and port security.



Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura (R) presents a gift to Tanzania's High Commissioner to Zambia, Lt Gen Mathew Mkingule, at the latter's office in Lusaka yesterday. The IGP is in the Zambian capital where, on Thursday, he assumed the revolving chairmanship of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Coordination Organisation (SARPCCO) from his Zambian counterpart, Graphel Musamba. Photo: Tanzania Police Hqs

Govt seeks to buy, stock sugar as national food reserve to curb woes

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has proposed amendment of laws to empower National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to buy sugar as a national food reserve to be supplied in the domestic market during shortages.

Tabling the 49.35trn/- national budget for the 2024/25 financial year in the National Assembly on

Thursday, Minister for Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the measure is intended to ensure constant availability of sugar in the market and address hoardings by manufacturers without compromising protection of local industries.

"I propose to amend the Sugar Industry Act, CAP 251 to give power to NFRA to buy, stock and reserve sugar as a national food reserve for domestic consumption

during the sugar gap," he said.

The minister also proposed to charge 50/- per kilogramme of sugar by-products originating from sugar production, noting that the measure is intended to increase revenue and empower the Sugar Board to perform its duties, including training and capacity building in the sugar industry as well as monitor sugar production through expansion of

existing industries and fostering new investments. Tanzania is a sugar deficit country, whose production reached 460,049 tonnes in 2022/23, while demand stood at about 800,000 tonnes for the 2023/2024 financial year.

The minister further said the government plans to charge tourist business licence fees in local currency, instead of using US dollars from the next financial year.

"These proposed measures go hand in hand with the requirement of the fees to be paid for a period of 12 months from the last day of the execution of the final payment for the business licence," he said.

The government also plans to reduce the Tanzanian tourist business licence fee which is paid by an agent of mountain climbing from \$2,000 per annum to 3m/-

per annum, he said.

Dr Nchemba said the measures intend to simplify payments of tourism fees, reducing operational costs, attracting investment in the tourism industry and to comply with the requirement of section 26 of the law establishing the Bank of Tanzania, which requires payments within the country to be invoiced and made in local currency.

Govt starts construction of cashewnut processing precinct in Mtwara Region

By Guardian Reporter

THE government through the Cashewnut Board of Tanzania (CBT) has started construction of an industrial park in Mtwara Region which will accommodate cashewnut processing factories to add value to the cash crop.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture David Silinde unveiled this in the National Assembly on Wednesday, saying that the government has commenced implementation of the cashewnut processing project at Maranje village in Mtwara Region.

He was responding to a question by Agnes Hokororo (Special Seats CCM) who wanted to know about the timeline for the construction of cashewnut industrial park at Maranje Nanyumbu District.

He said that as of June 10, 2024, valuation of the project area of 1,572 acres had been completed, including compensation payments to the residents.

The deputy minister said the government has allocated 7.5bn/- to

CBT for the construction of the infrastructure in an area of 354 acres out of 1,572 acres.

"The activities carried out so far include clearing the area, starting drilling of water wells and extending electricity to the area. Additionally, a contractor has been engaged to construct internal gravel roads and build two warehouses and a cashewnut processing building in the area," he said.

He further said that the government through CBT has already begun discussions with domestic and foreign investors to establish value-added cashewnut processing factories in the area.

Silinde noted that women currently engaged in cashewnut processing will be the primary beneficiaries of the project. He emphasized that the construction of a health centre will be included as a component of the project.

Construction of the cashewnut industrial park is aimed at ensuring that Tanzania no longer exports raw cashewnuts.



SERIOUS DANGER LOOMS: Small traders pictured yesterday conducting various activities right under - or next to - high-tension power cables and a high-voltage transformer at a makeshift open market in Dar es Salaam's Kitunda suburb. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

UNHCR says more people subjected to forced, displacement in 2023 globally

By Special Correspondent

THE head of the UN refugee agency has said he understands that the US enacted new restrictions on asylum-seekers entering the country, but cautioned that some aspects of the executive order may violate refugee protection required in international law.

Filippo Grandi, the UN high commissioner for refu-

gees, spoke to The Associated Press as his agency issued its annual "Global Trends" report for 2023 on Thursday.

It found that the cumulative number of people who have been subjected to forced displacement rose to 120 million people in 2023 - six million more than in the year before.

The refugee agency noted that the total count was roughly equivalent to the en-

tire population of Japan.

The UNHCR report found that three-fourths of those people forcibly displaced - including both refugees driven abroad and people displaced inside their own countries - lived in poor or middle-income countries.

Grandi insisted that that was a sign of how migrant and refugee flows were not just an issue for the rich world.

He lamented how crises in Africa had been largely overlooked, in particular in Sudan, where some 10.8 million were displaced at the end of last year, after conflict erupted between forces loyal to rival generals in April last year.

Grandi said the world's focus on crises faced by refugees and internally displaced people has largely cantered on Gaza - where a devastating and deadly conflict

erupted in October last year - and Ukraine, which has been saddled by Russia's invasion since February 2022.

The United States, meanwhile, has faced the "most complex challenge" when it comes to refugees of any country in the developed world, Grandi said - alluding to an influx across the U.S.-Mexican border.

The U.N. refugee agency

chief criticized Biden administration plans to enact new restrictions on migrants seeking asylum at the border - seen by some as a political manoeuvre ahead of national elections in November - as a possible violation of international humanitarian law.

But he acknowledged that Biden administration ambitions to resettle some 125,000 refugees in the United States amounted to "a

very shining example of U.S. generosity."

UNHCR also highlighted difficulties faced by refugees and internally displaced people amid conflict in countries like Congo and Myanmar, and noted that Syria remains the world's largest displacement crisis with nearly 14 million people forcibly displaced both inside the country and abroad.



Former Prime Minister John Malecela opens a conference for youth at the Mtera Revival Evangelist Assemblies of God Tanzania Church grounds in Mpwapwa District, Dodoma Region, on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Govt to construct more schools in remote areas, parliament told

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has expressed commitment to construction of schools in hard-to-reach areas as well as in places which do not have public schools to bring the service closer to the people.

This was said here yesterday by Deputy Minister of State in the President's office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Zainab Katimba when responding to a question posed by Sumve MP Kasalali Mgeni.

The MP wanted to know when the government will construct schools in hard-to-reach areas so that children can get education.

Mgeni also wanted to hear the government's commitment on when it will construct a secondary school at Malya ward. He said the area has a big number of children who walk long distances to attend secondary schools in other wards.

Responding, Katimba said the government through the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP) programme was going on with construction of secondary schools in congested and wards which do not have schools, including Malya ward.

Meanwhile, councils have been advised to set aside budgets for the construction of business cen-

tres in their respective areas.

Katimba said the councils are also invited to prepare business plans and present them to get construction funds. However, only councils with clean financial reports for three consecutive years will qualify for the strategic projects funding.

She was responding to a question posed by Anton Mwantona (Rungwe) who wanted to know when construction of a planned shopping centre will kick off at Kivira Ward in Rungwe District.

Responding, she said, the government is aware of the importance of having a modern market there to improve residents' socioeconomic activities.

A number of interventions, she said, have been taken to facilitate the construction of the market, whereas a feasibility study and detailed designs have already been completed.



The government is aware of the importance of having a modern market there to improve residents' socioeconomic activities

Indonesian university welcomes collaboration offer with UDSM

By Guardian Correspondent

THE University of Indonesia (UI) has welcomed Tanzanian Ambassador to Indonesia's offer for research and innovation collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) in sustainable energy.

Ambassador Macocha Tembele delivered the idea when he paid a courtesy call on UI main campus in Depok,

west Java recently, during which he was received by UI Secretary Agustin Kusumayati.

Speaking there on Tuesday, Kusumayati said that UI and UDSM would explore opportunities to conduct several joint projects, including student exchange programme and research as well as innovation activities with public impact.

UI collaboration with UDSM is expected to encourage the

two universities' scholars and researchers to contribute to scientific breakthroughs with global impacts, she remarked.

The collaboration with UDSM is also relevant to UI's mission of protecting the environment through education and community service and developing innovation to support Sustainable Development Goals, she added.

To this end, research pro-

jects on energy and mineral resources, especially on ways to derive benefits from sustainable natural resources, are important, she said.

In this regard, UI has metallurgy engineering and geology programmes through which collaboration with UDSM could be implemented, she remarked, adding that UI has already collaborated with several universities around the

world.

UDSM is the oldest and premier public university in Tanzania. Before becoming a full-fledged university on July 1, 1970, it was founded as University College Dar es Salaam (UCD), an affiliate college of the University of London, on October 25, 1961.

UDSM currently manages 370 programmes, including 99 PhD by thesis, 142 Masters,

10 Postgraduate and 92 undergraduate, with almost 40,000 enrolled students in the 2020-2021 academic year.

UI whose main campus is located in Depok has been adjudged the best university in Indonesia. In the annual ranking of global universities released by Webometrics in January 2023, UI was named the best university in Indonesia.

UI Chancellor Prof Ari Kun-

coro noted in a recent statement that the university has upheld its commitment to being an innovative, independent, inclusive, dignified and leading higher educational institution in Southeast Asia and the world.

One of the endeavours to globalize education and research has been pursuing collaborations with reputable overseas universities.

UNICEF calls for investment in education for African children to spur development

NAIROBI

MASSIVE investments in basic education for African children are required to help the continent realize its long-term transformation agenda, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Thursday ahead of the Day of the African Child that will be marked tomorrow.

Education financing on the continent remains dismal, UNICEF said, adding that less than one in five countries have dedicated 20 percent of their public budgets to enhancing foundational skills for their children.

"To ensure prosperity in Africa we urgently need to see a continental revolution where commitments are turned into concrete action so children can attain the foundational skills necessary for them to progress to higher forms of education and realize their full potential," Etleza Kadili, UNICEF regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa, said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

The theme of the 2024 Day of the African Child, which is observed annually on June 16 is "Education for all children in

Africa: the time is now," underscoring the urgency to realize universal childhood literacy in the continent.

UNICEF said despite its role in building human capital to propel Africa's growth, education financing in the continent has slackened, preventing millions of children from acquiring the basic literacy and skills that they require to thrive.

Despite significant efforts by African governments over the last decade to boost primary and secondary school enrolment, schools continue to lack basic amenities, are overcrowded, and have insufficient teachers, according to UNICEF. The UN agency noted that four out of every five African children aged 10 years are unable to read and understand a simple written text, highlighting the dismal learning outcomes on the continent.

UNICEF estimates that about 183 billion U.S. dollars are required annually to support children's education in Africa and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on education. However, available resources currently stand at 106 billion U.S. dollars, leaving a financing gap of over 40 percent.



It's a roaring business for small traders - right onto pedestrian pathways at Dar es Salaam's Karume open market - as found by Correspondent Jumanne Juma earlier this week.

Gavi to boost access to rabies vaccines in over 50 countries

By Special Correspondent

THE Global Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) in collaboration with partners has announced support for human rabies vaccines for post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as part of routine immunisation.

According to a statement availed to the media on Thursday, 95 percent of human rabies deaths occur in Africa and Asia, most often

in marginalised communities that lack access to care.

It stated that the first round of applications will be accepted by mid-July 2024.

This development complements ongoing global efforts of the Zero by 30 campaign, led by United Against Rabies partners including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Ani-

mal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE) with the goal of eliminating dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.

"This commitment from Gavi is crucial and will expedite efforts to halt human fatalities caused by dog-mediated rabies," said Dr Jérôme Salomon, Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage, Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases at WHO.

He said: "WHO will provide technical assistance to countries, not only to support their funding applications to Gavi but to draw up comprehensive plans of action that can deliver real progress towards the Zero by 30 goal," he said.

In more than 150 countries where dog rabies remains a serious public health problem, stocks of human rabies vaccines in public health

systems are often extremely limited, especially in marginalised communities. Where human rabies vaccine is available through private facilities, the cost of PEP can impose a catastrophic financial burden on families and communities.

"Gavi's aim with this program is to contribute to global rabies efforts and save lives by helping countries ensure that human rabies vaccines are available to anyone who

needs them and that vulnerable and marginalised communities have equal access to these essential medicines," said Aurélia Nguyen, the Chief Programme Officer at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Rabies is a viral disease that causes severe inflammation of the brain. In 99 percent of cases, it is transmitted to humans by a rabid dog. Once the virus reaches the central nervous system and an in-

fectured person shows clinical symptoms, rabies infection is near 100 percent fatal.

The deadly nature of rabies and its traumatic symptoms make it one of the world's most feared diseases. However, rabies infection is preventable by prompt PEP, which consists of thorough wound washing, administration of a course of good quality human rabies vaccine, and immunoglobulins if needed.

Kenyan policeman killed after shooting at magistrate in court

NAIROBI

A SENIOR Kenyan police officer has been shot dead after he opened fire at a magistrate in court in the capital, Nairobi.

The chief inspector opened fire on Makadara Principal Magistrate Monica Kivuti shortly after she made a ruling in a case reportedly involving his wife.

The officer is said to have been angered by the court's decision to cancel her bail after she had absconded.

The officer, identified as Samson Kipchirchir Kipruto, who is in charge of a police station in Londiani in western Kenya, then pulled out a gun and shot the magistrate, injuring her.

Other officers in court responded immediately, with one of them shooting the offending policeman and killing him.

In the process, three other officers were injured, a police report said.

The magistrate and the injured officers were being treated in hospital.

The judiciary said the magistrate had "cancelled the bond for an accused person who

had jumped bond and had failed to offer satisfactory explanations for jumping bond."

"Immediately this decision was pronounced, a person shot at the magistrate and injured her on the hip," it said in a statement.

It noted initial reports that indicated "that the shooter is a police officer who is married to the suspect."

The national police service said the officer was in the court for "unknown reasons."

Investigations continue to establish the circumstances that led to the shooting, it said.

The incident inside a courtroom came as a shock to Kenyans.

Police have often been accused of being involved in extra-judicial killings but no such incident has been reported inside court.

The judiciary said it will enhance security measures and assured judicial staff and other court users of their safety and security.

"As the judiciary family, we wish our colleague a quick recovery. We also send our condolences to the family of the officer who lost his life in this unfortunate incident," said chief registrar of the judiciary Winfridah Mokaya.



Dr Fred Tairo (with microphone), a manager with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute's Mikochei Centre in Dar es Salaam, briefs Mkranga district commissioner Khadija Ally (L) on diseases commonly striking coconuts. It was at an awareness seminar for farmers held in the district on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Drought keeps sheep out of reach for some Moroccans ahead of festivities

RABAT

EID Al-Adha is fast approaching, and like Muslims all over the world, many Moroccans will sacrifice an animal as part of the festivities.

A drought has, however, reduced the amount of food available for flock.

The state is accustomed to supporting farmers and would give them two bags of fodder. This year Wahid Redouane's farm was supplied with 30 and it wasn't enough

still.

"Due to drought, we are sometimes forced to sell sheep in order to get money to buy fodder for the other remaining sheep. This has caused prices to rise in the market, because we sell a number of sheep in order to control the situation and in order to preserve capital only."

At a local market in Berrechid, northwestern Morocco, sheep are on sale ahead of Eid.

Prices have been rising for several years, but it's more noticeable

than ever now.

Moroccan sheep cost between 73 and 83 Dirhams (6.83 to 9.03 dollars) per kilogram. That means the average sheep costs up to 160 dollars more than it did last year.

Sellers are now looking to Spain where they can get sheep at more affordable prices.

"Moroccans could not manage the high prices of Moroccan sheep during their tours in the markets. That is why they were forced to buy Spanish sheep because their

price is reasonable and may reach 67 dirhams (7.29 euros) per kilogram," said Lehen Ziate, a sheep seller in Berrechid.

Morocco has imported 600,000 Spanish sheep so far this year, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

Customers want the best looking, best quality sheep they can afford for their families.

But many are shocked by just how much that's going to cost them.

"The atmosphere is different this

year. During my tour of the markets in the city of Berrechid, I noticed that prices have risen, but they differ from one market to another and also according to the quality of the sheep," said local resident Abdelghani Chihab.

Experts fear the problem is only likely to get worse.

What will customers do five, ten years from now if prices continue to spiral? There are calls for major changes to help farmers adapt to the consequences of the climate

crisis.

"Successive periods of drought will continue during the coming years, which will put Morocco in a crisis in terms of preserving its stock of livestock, and this requires it to turn to modern livestock breeding," said Mustapha Benramel, an environment expert and president of the Minarets Ecological Association for Development and Climate, based in Kenitra.

Eid al-Adha will begin in Morocco on Monday.

Stakeholders hail decision to make EU mercury-free

By Guardian Correspondent

ENVIRONMENTAL and health stakeholders have hailed the European Council (EC)'s recent decision to adopt a regulation to completely ban the use of dental amalgams and to prohibit manufacturing, import and export of other mercury-added products.

The updated rules which were adopted recently aim to address the remaining use of mercury in the European Union in line with the EU's zero pollution ambition.

According to the new measures, exporting dental amalgam will be prohibited from 1 January 2025; the ban on manufacturing and import in the EU will apply from 1 July 2026.

A statement issued by the Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA) expressed delight on the decision saying that this will further heighten protection of people's health.

Dora Swai, executive secretary of AGENDA, said the same efforts should be adopted by other governments globally to phase down and phase out the use of dental amalgam within the provisions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

She said although Tanzania has regulations signed by government since 2020 to prohibit use of amalgam, the same is still being used, especially by adults.

"Tanzania is surrounded by eight countries, from where amalgam may illegally come into the country. Educating consumers is very important; we need to continue educating the public on existing convention and guidelines relating to mercury-free dentistry," she said.

For the part of EU, current rules already ban the use of dental amalgam for treating teeth in children under 15 years old and pregnant or breastfeeding women. The new rules will extend the prohibition to include everybody in the EU as of 1 January 2025.

Exceptions will apply when the use of dental amalgam is deemed strictly necessary by dental practitioner to address specific medical needs of a patient.

Six additional mercury-containing lamps will also be made



Tanzania Investment Centre director general Gilead Teri (R) exchanges documents yesterday with investor Ibrahim Qammar shortly after they had signed an agreement on the development of agriculture in Morogoro Region. Photo by Correspondent

subject to a manufacturing, import and export ban as from 31 December 2025 and 31 December 2026. The regulation will now be signed and published in the Official Journal of the EU. It will enter into force on the 20th day following publication and become directly applicable in all member states.

According to the updated rules, the commission will review exemptions on the use of dental amalgam by 31st December 2029, taking into account the availability of mercury-free alternatives.

By the same date, the commission will also review measures taken by member states on mercury emissions from crematoria and the impact of the commission's guidance on relevant abatement

technologies.

The EU mercury regulation adopted in 2017 is one of the key EU instruments transposing the Minamata Convention, an international treaty signed in 2013 to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.

The 2017 regulation covers the full-life cycle of mercury, from primary mining to waste disposal, contributing to the ultimate EU objective of limiting and phasing out the use, manufacturing and export of mercury and mercury-added products over time, as spelled out in the EU strategy on mercury.

The European Parliament and Council adopted their negotiating positions on 17 and 30 January

2024, respectively. The two co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on 21 February 2024, after only one round of negotiations.



Tanzania is surrounded by eight countries, from where amalgam may illegally come into the country. Educating consumers is very important; we need to continue educating

Govt plans more measures to boost Tanzania's visibility internationally

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA is set to expand its visibility by showcasing and promoting its tourism attractions in the international market through the world's leading tourism trade fair, the Ferial Internacional de Turismo (FITUR).

FITUR tourism trade fair is expected to take place between September 28 and October 1 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This comes after Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism An-

gellah Kairuki met and held discussions with top management of the Institución Ferial de Madrid (IFEMA) Company in Madrid, Spain, which is involved in the organisation of the FITUR exhibition.

Speaking at the meeting that took place in Barcelona, Spain last week, Kairuki said that Tanzania's participation in the exhibition will extend its visibility internationally.

"Our goal is to look at the best way to improve Tanzania's participation in this exhibition and promote it

more in the international market," she said.

Kairuki also assured the organisers that Tanzania was committed to continue participating properly in the exhibition and ready to receive opinions and advice on how to further improve its participation to succeed in promoting itself in the international market, especially in Spain and Latin America.

Last year, Spain was ranked second as the most visited destination in the world, receiving 85 million

international tourists, followed by the US with 66 million tourists, Italy with 57 million tourists and Türkiye which rounded out the top five with 55 million international tourists.

IFEMA Company Executive Director, María Valcarce, said that the FITUR exhibition is a large international tourism market that attracts around 152,000 participants, who are tour operators, various organisations and around 92,000 guests.

She also said that IFEMA is ready to collaborate with Tanzania to find

the best way to ensure its participation in the upcoming exhibitions.

"We want to promote Africa through FITUR and bring Spanish people to know Africa and the entire tourism business chain," she said.

Meanwhile, Kairuki and her delegation participated in the 121st meeting of the executive council of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) presided over by Spanish Minister for Industry and Tourism, Jordi Hereu in Barcelona.

While officiating the meeting, Hereu stated that UNWTO was accelerating implementation of Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2030.

He said the move aims to establish an international framework for eradicating extreme poverty, combating inequality and injustice and addressing climate change by 2030.

"Implementation of this strategy has led to changes in the structure of tourism in Spain to promote more sustainable, responsible and resilient tourism," Hereu said.

Riots erupt in drought-stricken central Algeria over shortage of water

TIARET

RIOTS have erupted in Algerian desert city after months of water shortages left taps running dry and forced residents to queue to access water for their households.

In Tiaret, a central Algerian city of less than 200,000 located 155 miles (250 kilometres) southwest of Algiers, protesters wearing balaclavas set tires aflame and set up make-shift barricades blocking roads to protest their water being rationed, according to pictures and videos circulating on social media.

The unrest followed demands from President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to rectify the suffering. At a council of ministers meeting last week, he implored his cabinet to implement "emergency measures" in Tiaret. Several government ministers were later sent to "ask for an apology from the population" and to promise that access to drinking water would be restored.

The rioting comes as Tebboune is expected to vie for a second term as president of the oil-rich nation – Africa's largest by area. Northern Africa has been among the world's worst-hit regions by climate change. A multi-year drought has drained critical reservoirs and reduced the amount of rainfall that has historically replenished them.

The region, located on a semi-arid high desert plateau increasingly plagued by extreme heat, gets its water from three dammed reservoirs that are shrinking as temperatures spike and less rain falls. The

reservoirs have become less functional due to a "death of volume" and are reduced to 20 percent of their capacity, agricultural engineer Said Ouarad said.

The region's groundwater aquifers have for years not been able to recharge due to an absence of rain, he added.

Algeria's long-term solution would be to pipe water from larger dams further north and south from Tiaret and shift to alternative supplies, including desalination plants that the country has heavily invested in.

But in the meantime, officials are trying to import water from nearby sources. Consider, the public company responsible for the region's water infrastructure, hopes to finish new pipelines by July to bring groundwater to Tiaret from wells 20 miles (32 kilometers) away.

Until then, the company is trucking large cisterns of water into the city, a company official not authorized to speak on the matter told The Associated Press. "Tiaret and three surrounding municipalities have suffered from this water shortage for months," he said. "A calm has returned but the situation remains tense."

News about the tensions has spread on social media but garnered little news coverage in Algeria, where many papers and television stations rely on advertising revenue from the state. Press freedom in the country has increasingly been curtailed and in recent years journalists have been imprisoned.



Prof Abel Makubi (R), who has just taken over as Executive Director of Dodoma-based Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, receives working tools from outgoing CEO Dr Alphonse Chandika at the hospital on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

US announces new sanctions on Russia, targets Chinese entities

By Special Correspondent

THE United States widened its sanctions against Russia on Wednesday as G7 leaders prepared to gather in Italy for a summit where the top priorities will be boosting support for Ukraine and grinding down Russia's war machine.

"These actions will ratchet up the risk that foreign financial

institutions take by dealing with Russia's war economy," U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Air Force One, en-route to Italy.

Wednesday's package targeted Chinese companies which help Russia pursue its war in Ukraine and raised the stakes for foreign financial institutions which work with sanctioned Russian entities.

More than 300 new sanctions

are largely aimed at deterring individuals and companies in countries including China, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey from helping Moscow circumvent Western blocks on obtaining key technology.

The announcement came shortly before President Joe Biden arrived in Italy where he and other G7 leaders are urgently looking at aiding Ukraine, includ-

ing turning frozen Russian assets into billions of dollars of support for Kyiv.

Discussions continue on the ground in Italy on unlocking the proceeds of the Russian sovereign assets, Sullivan said. "I believe that we are making good progress in generating an outcome in which, those proceeds from those frozen assets could be put to good use."

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Opioids stronger than heroin found in study for the first time in Africa

By Special Correspondent

FOR the first time in Africa, traces of highly potent synthetic opioids known as nitazenes have been detected in some drugs used on the continent.

A report focusing on Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau was released last Wednesday by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

It is based on chemical testing of Kush, a derivative of cannabis mixed with synthetic drugs like fentanyl and tramadol and chemicals like formaldehyde.

Researchers found that in Sierra Leone, 83 percent of the samples were found to contain nitazenes, while in Guinea-Bissau it was identified in 55 percent.

Nitazenes, powerful synthetic opioids, have long been in use in Europe and North America as well as in Asia where they have been associated with overdose deaths. Some of them can be up to 100 times more potent than heroin and up to 10 times more potent than fentanyl, meaning that users can get an effect from a much smaller amount, putting them at in-

creased risk of overdose and death.

"The GI-TOC (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime) believes that these results are the first indication that nitazenes have penetrated retail drug markets in Africa," the report said.

In Sierra Leone where Kush is one of the most widely consumed drugs, President Julius Maada Bio this year declared war on the substance, calling it an epidemic and a national threat.

Nitazenes have been detected repeatedly in substances sold to young people in the region such that users are most likely ingesting them "without knowing the risks they face," Wednesday's report said.

The authors said their findings suggest that nitazenes are being imported into Sierra Leone from elsewhere and that the substance being sold as Kush in Guinea-Bissau was of similar chemical composition to that found in Freetown.

Authors of the report urged officials in both countries to deploy chemical testing equipment to accurately monitor the countries' illicit drug markets and develop evidence-based responses.



Preparations for the implementation of a water connection, supply and distribution project well in progress in Dar es Salaam's Kitunda suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Cambridge University returns artefacts to Ugandan museum

KAMPALA

THE University of Cambridge has returned 39 Ugandan items which range from tribal regalia to pottery.

The items remain property of the collection of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge, which is loaning them to Uganda for an initial period of three years, said Mark Elliott, the museum's senior curator in anthropology.

Elliott described it as "very much a

museum-to-museum collaboration," that stems from years of talks about the possibility of returning objects deemed "exceptionally powerful and exceptionally sensitive to communities whose belongings they were."

The objects, selected by Ugandan curators, represent a small fraction of about 1,500 ethnographic objects from Uganda that Cambridge has owned for a century. Cambridge acquired most as donations from private collections, and many were

given by an Anglican missionary active in Uganda in the 1890s and early 20th century.

Uganda gained independence from the UK in 1962.

The next step is to "research their contemporary significance and to help make decisions about their future," Elliott said.

The Uganda Museum in the capital, Kampala, is expected to put on a temporary exhibition of the objects next year.

Uganda's agreement with Cambridge is renewable, allowing for the possibility of a permanent loan and perhaps local ownership, said Jackline Nyiracyiza, Ugandan government commissioner in charge of museums and monuments.

"Sixty years that have passed for us now to get 39 objects," she said. "We are working now with the Cambridge team to...see that we talk to other museums and be able to repatriate others maybe next year or within the

near future."

Ugandan officials, seeking such restitution, first travelled to Cambridge in 2022 as more African governments started to demand accountability over items of aesthetic or cultural value that were looted before and during the colonial era.

Elsewhere in Africa, including the West African nation of Nigeria, there have been successful restitution events in recent years.

"This is the biggest single move-

ment of objects returned to the African continent" in recent years, Nelson Abiti, principal curator of the Uganda Museum, said.

He hoped the move could prove exemplary for other museums with ethnographic items from Uganda.

Restitution remains a struggle for African governments, and the African Union has put the return of looted cultural property on its agenda. The continental body aims to have a common policy on the issue.

.UN humanitarian chief requests G7 leaders to prevent manmade famine

By Special Correspondent

UNITED Nations (UN) Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths on Wednesday called on Group of Seven (G7) leaders to prevent man-made famine on the eve of the G7 summit in Italy.

"Famine in the 21st century is a preventable scourge. G7 leaders can and must wield their influence to help stop it. Waiting for an official declaration of famine before acting would be a death sentence for hundreds of thousands of people and a moral outrage," said Griffiths in a statement.

Conflict is fuelling hunger in too many corners of the world. But nowhere is the choice between inaction and oblivion so clear as in Gaza and Sudan, he said.

In Gaza, half of the population, or more than 1 million people, is expected to face death and starvation by mid-July; in Sudan, at least 5 million people are also teetering on the brink of starvation; in both Gaza and Sudan, intense fighting, unacceptable restrictions and meager funding are preventing aid workers from delivering assistance necessary to prevent mass starvation, he said.

Griffiths asked G7 countries to immediately use their substantial political leverage and financial resources so that aid organizations can reach all people in need.

"But more than anything, the world must stop feeding the war machines that are starving the civilians of Gaza and Sudan. It is time instead to prioritize the diplomacy that will give people back their futures. And tomorrow, the G7 is at the helm," he said.



Famine in the 21st century is a preventable scourge. G7 leaders can and must wield their influence to help stop it



Stationed at a strategic 'corner' in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo suburb on Thursday afternoon with camera at the ready, Correspondent Sabato Kasika captured this spectacle of a curiously loaded three-wheeler at a section of Morogoro Road.

Climate change threatens Mali's respected pond fishing tradition

BAMAKO

THOUSANDS of fishermen holding cone-shaped nets stood side by side, cheering and chanting as they waited for the signal. Suddenly, they rushed to a large muddy pond and cast their nets, dropping to their knees in the mud. Soon, one proudly held up a fish the length of his arm.

For several hundred years, people have gathered in the southern Mali town of San for Sanké mon, a collective fishing rite in June that begins with animal sacrifices and offerings to the water spirits of Sanké Pond. The rite, with masked dancers and traditional costumes, is on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s list of intangible cultural heritage.

The marathon session of collective fishing celebrates the town's founding and marks the beginning of the rainy season. But climate change and heat waves are disturbing the tradition.

Sanké pond is starting to disappear, said a village chief, Mamadou Lamine Traoré.

Heat waves in Mali in recent years have caused the pond to start drying out. Temperatures in the town have reached a record this year at 48.5 degrees Celsius (119 degrees Fahrenheit), Emmanuel Doumbia, a local weather observer, told The Associated Press.

The unprecedented heat wave in Mali this year has also led to a surge in deaths. The heat wave began in March as many in the Muslim-majority country observed the Islamic holy month of Ramadan with dawn-to-dusk fasting.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center said that insufficient data in Mali makes it impossible to know the number of heat-related deaths, but estimated that the toll this year has likely been in the hundreds if not thousands.

An analysis published in April by the World Weather Attribution – an international team of scientists looking at how human-induced climate change impacts extreme weather – said the latest heat wave in the Sahel, a region south of the Sahara that suffers from periodic droughts, is more than just a record-breaker.

Climate change has made maximum temperatures in Burkina Faso and Mali hotter by 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), the researchers said.

Experts have warned of more scorching weather ahead.

At the latest Sanké mon collective fishing rite, men

sweated as they stripped skinny chickens bare and cooked them over reeds, and dancers in sporty knee socks or plastic sandals adjusted armbands adorned with cowrie shells. A national flag waved limply on a weathered pole along the trampled shore.

"This tradition was already established before I was born," said one participant, Amadou Coulibaly, who remains faithful to it despite the growing challenges.

When the rite was added to the UNESCO list in 2009, there were plans to dig deeper into the pond to prevent it from silting up, Traoré said. "But since then, nothing was done and the pond is starting to create problems." It wasn't clear why no action was taken.

The pond's disappearance would threaten not just the centuries-old rite but also the town's economic survival if attention fades, he said.

SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2024

**Taking A New Look
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Mainland could learn lots from Zanzibar's hospitality sector renewable energy efforts

SUBTLE policy alterations would hardly have come as a surprise for development partners to engage in the cooking energy transition, rather carefully selecting intervention targets.

It is evident this initiative is being worked upon by the Zanzibar Water, Energy and Minerals ministry in collaboration with the Power Africa initiative lodged with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The thrust is on ensuring that the Isles' hospitality industry adopts renewable energy sources - nothing altogether new.

Anyone familiar with customer-based lobbying will realize that large beach hotels using sea winds to generate power would attract bigger groups of local and foreign visitors.

Incidentally, it was the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam that made public the arrangement now in the works, saying that USAID supports the hospitality industry in Zanzibar by ensuring that the most profitable sector in the economy of the historical 'clove islands' has the best energy sources.

The USAID statement focused on reliable access to electricity for hotels and resorts receiving thousands of visitors annually, though closer reading shows that the issue is less reliability than acceptability by clients.

Stakeholders participated in a recent workshop on ways to promote renewable energy solutions for the hospitality industry, connecting hotels with power firms offering what is known as customised energy solutions. They focused on off-grid renewable energy, followed by an exhibition showcasing the solutions.

Power Africa is not a new initiative as it was circulated by former US President Barack Obama as he toured several African countries in

2013.

However, in that off-grid electricity is synonymous with lack of grid and use of heavy fuels, the idea remained idle - while, with public service institutions mapping out energy transition, it is being dusted up.

One reason various stakeholders will likely sign up to this initiative is that its problematic side, including costly initial outlays, could be taken up by private firms.

Additionally, with its operational electricity consumption and other costs relatively low, repayment of loans or guarantees for investments is easy to work out.

Just how many such stakeholders in mainland Tanzania could take up a cue from Zanzibar isn't easy to say, as there is a gap in regulatory climate for off-grid electricity. This is tied to a presumption that if power connection is there, no alternative source can be set up or proposed.

With Zanzibar being more sensitive to tourism and authorities close to the travel sector lobby, chances of renewable off-grid electricity becoming an explicit power sector regulatory provision are easier to map out for Zanzibar than across the channel.

Definitely there is reason to hope of deliberations during the Zanzibar workshop holding the promise of the Isles using creating an even more enabling environment for renewable energy development.

USAID was emphatic that renewable energy is akin to laying the foundations of development, which may not elicit unqualified applause among policy planners but is certainly a lifeline for tourism.

It will be easier to market zero emission large hotels and prepare the way for other institutions to adopt the same path, reducing power costs in the long run and thus fostering even more robust growth.

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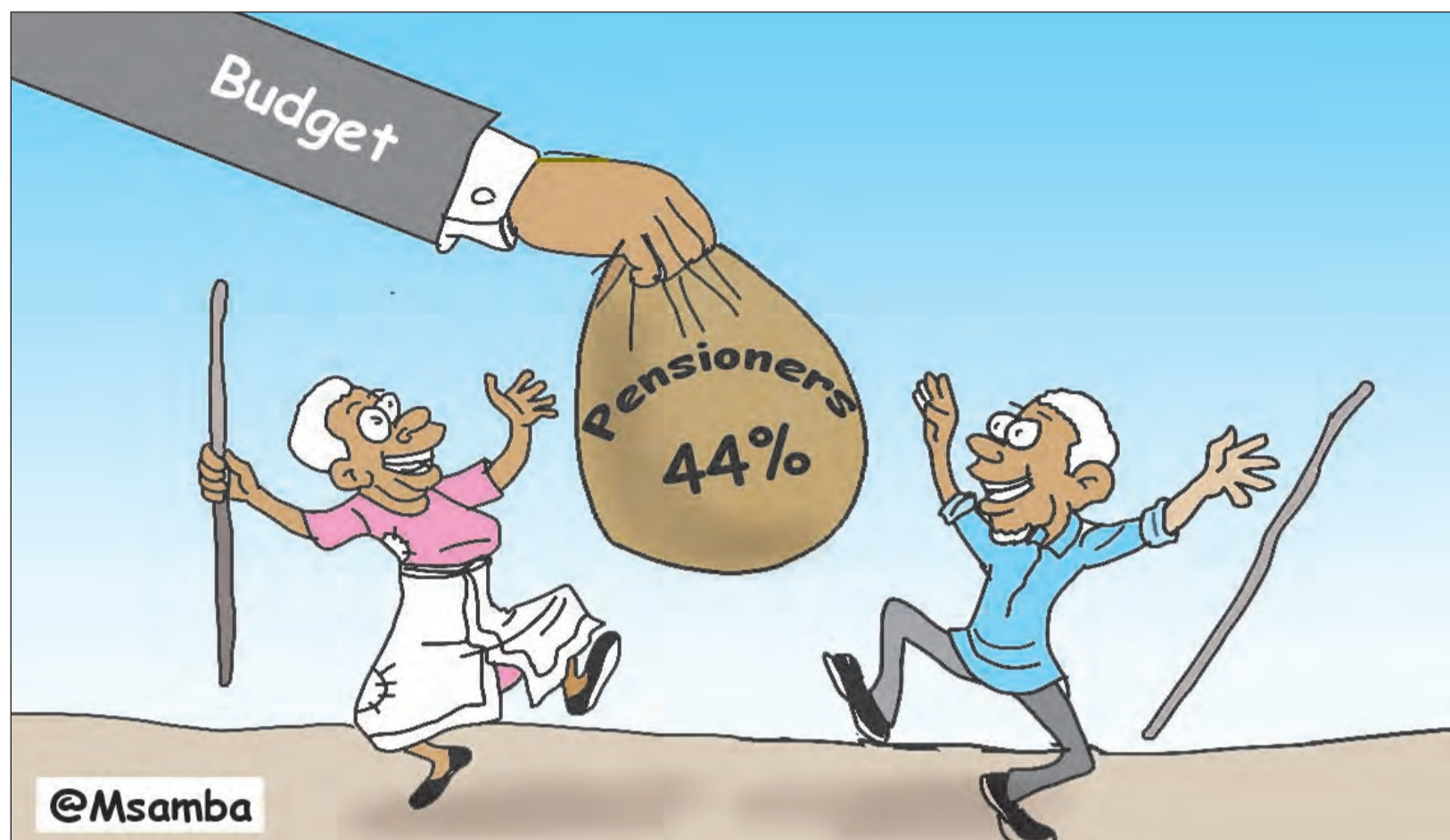
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The world turns its back while the noose tightens around Sudan

By Phillip van Niekerk

A friend, writing from Paris, lost four more family members in Sudan last week, including his wife's uncle who was forced to witness his sister being raped.

"The man and his sister were both elderly and he died of shock - he had a heart attack - when he saw his sister being raped," wrote my friend, Gordon. "Two younger boys who were cousins tried to protest and were gunned down by AK-47 fire inside the hosh (courtyard)."

Gordon's wife, Fatima, is from Wad Medani in Gezira State, the breadbasket of Sudan situated between the Blue and White Niles in the centre of the country. It has been occupied by raiders from the Rapid Support Forces since December, though the Sudanese Armed Forces have been fighting in recent weeks to take it back.

Fatima's niece was feared killed on the same day as her uncle. Communication is difficult, with mobile phone networks down. The family knew that their niece may have been present at the nearby village of Wad al-Noura on 3 June when more than 100 members of a local resistance committee were massacred by RSF marauders for protesting against the looting and pillage.

The Sudanese Armed Forces were 20km away and must have been aware of the slaughter, but did not lift a finger to help, presumably because the resistance committees are opposed to both military factions.

The family located Fatima's niece sheltering at a local farm where she was taken after she sustained severe bullet wounds - her companion was killed. They are trying to find a way of getting her out of Sudan, possibly through Uganda, so she can get proper medical treatment.

Bedrock of the revolution

Sudan's Resistance Committees were mobilised to fight against the Islamist regime of Omar al-Bashir and were the bedrock of the democratic revolution in 2019 that has been so cruelly quashed.

In the wreckage of Sudan, a country without a government, these committees of ordinary volunteers are cleaning the streets, collecting the garbage, keeping a minimal amount of administration ticking over and burying the dead.

The fourth member of Gordon's family to die last week was a 23-year-old woman who, while trying to flee to Egypt, contracted a deadly form of malaria and was unable to be treated because the clinics in Gezira have been looted and abandoned.

Two more of Fatima's elderly relatives died earlier of thirst during a 10-day trek in an overcrowded truck through the desert to get to Egypt, running the gauntlet past bandits and soldiers of all stripes. Hospitals in the southern Egyptian city of Aswan reported on Tuesday that the heatwave has killed dozens of



South Sudanese returnees who have fled the violence in Sudan wait for some water to arrive at the transit area set up by the UNHCR in the Upper Nile State town of Renk, South Sudan, 15 May 2023. File photo

Sudanese fleeing across the border this week.

The story of Fatima and Gordon's family is typical of daily life, if you can call it that, under the occupation. The RSF are a loose alliance of Arab militias who subsist by banditry and pillage, and over whom their commander, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), exerts only weak control.

"The RSF force that did that killing (in Gezira) is a group of bandits and looters who are not even obeying Hemedti's orders," wrote Gordon. "He does not care about Gezira because he is concentrating everything on attacking El-Fasher."

Fasher is the last holdout of the SAF in Darfur, where a ferocious battle has been raging for more than a month.

Though separated by more than a thousand kilometres, both Gezira State and El Fasher were places where hundreds of thousands of people sought refuge to escape the first wave of fighting that erupted between troops loyal to Hemedti and the SAF under Abdel Fattah Al Burhan on 15 April last year, principally in the capital Khartoum and elsewhere in Darfur.

Refugees flee

About 500,000 refugees are said to have fled Fasher in recent days, scattering in a desperate attempt to escape the mass killings and the bombing raids from the air. But they are running away from what little food assistance remains and it is expected that many will starve to death.

Hemedti's push to capture Fasher comes exactly a year after his Arab militias fighting under the RSF banner, known to locals as the Da'ama, massacred more than 10,000 black African Masalit tribespeople and drove another half a million from their homes into the

refugee camps around Ardre in Chad where many languish today.

Weeks later, a UN investigation discovered a mass grave of Masalit civilians near Geneina.

The Da'ama are the descendants of the Janjaweed who were dispatched by Omar al-Bashir's government in Khartoum to deal with rebellious black tribesmen in Darfur and were responsible for the deaths of up to 400,000. The victims were themselves Muslims.

Bashir was charged by the International Criminal Court with genocide, but he has evaded accountability. When the fighting blew up in Khartoum, he and his henchmen wanted by the ICC escaped from Kobar Prison in Omdurman, and some are now working alongside Burhan.

It is a measure of how much the world has changed that 20 years ago, outrage boiled over at the genocide, with star names like George Clooney, JK Rowling and Angelina Jolie making strong public stands against the mass killings in Sudan.

This time, the killings are not restricted to Darfur, but dispersed throughout the country.

Tom Perriello, the US Special Envoy for Sudan, told Congress last month that the death toll since April could be as high as 150,000.

Millions displaced

About eight million people have been displaced from their homes, including three million children, and five million face starvation as farmers have been unable to plant and famine approaches.

In the West, the contrast between the cause celebre of the mid 2000s and what has been criticised as the US' half-assed diplomacy and short bursts of media attention is particularly stark.

The shocking indifference extends across the board and in-

cludes the weak response from the African Union.

Perhaps someone can explain why the ANC government in South Africa, months before it forcefully brought the ICJ case, refused to support a UN fact-finding mission to investigate human rights abuses in the war.

Who are the good guys?

Sudan's problem, at least for the international media, is that it's not clear who the good guys are.

The RSF have been rightly condemned for the looting and pillage, but it was Burhan who led the coup that ended the democratic experiment.

The SAF, with the assistance of the Egyptians, have relentlessly bombed Sudan's cities and villages, destroyed neighbourhoods and killed many civilians. They have promoted ethnic warfare, and they are still allied with the Islamists who were a big part of the problem in the first place.

The military formations have held the levers of power ever since the colonial power Britain created a new Sudanese military based on ethno-regional lines a hundred years ago. This was after they had entirely abolished the old military for staging a mutiny and hanged the ringleaders.

The wars of post-independence right up to today emanate from this militarised colonial architecture.

The brief flicker of democratisation in 2019 was made possible when Burhan and Hemedti supported the popular uprising against Bashir. But by 2021, when their military autonomy, patronage networks and businesses were threatened, they overthrew the civilian administration and terminated the transition, only to turn on each other two years later.

Processing of crops, minerals can do only so much in war against poverty

ONE major policy innovation being heralded is reducing exports of raw materials from land, forests and water, this with a view to proceeding with processing and value addition before exportation.

This has for a number of years been an agro-sector policy mantra, where budget allocations are being made from time to time to make it a reality.

With trade openings even wider in regional and more far-flung markets, privileging raw material processing is valid as long as it is more of guidelines or a policy focus rather than statute or fiat.

This is the picture that emerges as to the focus of our country's National Development Plan 2024/2025 presented to the National Assembly, where the statutory view of the matter was explicit.

The minister tabling it said that there is a need to set a policy and legal framework to ensure that our country's resources are processed and added value to locally before being exported.

This is different from a business view, as either type of business has its ups and downs - with some countries having grown powerful economically and in various other ways thanks to their exports of raw materials, which would be ruined if they were finished goods.

In our particular case, our attitude towards oil refinement has changed over time - from setting up a refinery in the 1960s to opting for importing refined oil in the 1990s.

Petroleum exporters are a powerful cartel only as raw material producers rather than as sellers of refined products. Many countries exempt imports of raw materials from custom duty while otherwise heavily taxing processed goods.

Expectations that this emphasis on value addition is vital for an inclusive national economy are only partially valid - for instance, if one takes a closer look at how processing may reduce poverty, create jobs, 'induce' prosperity and stimulate the exportation of value-added products.

This requires a steady stream of investors but, even if there is a minimum of assurance in that regard, the lack of a rising local market will likely prove a stumbling block. An export strategy excluding local markets works for tiny economies, not even merely moderately large states.

Just how far our planning authorities can credibly place strategies to cement this agenda is hard to say, as there is plenty of export processing in the country and an overabundance of certain types of raw materials - like oranges in some parts of Tanga Region.

Our vanilla had mouth-watering levels of gains for farmers; now public appeals are heard for state intervention as many speculative farm investments start noticing that reality has changed.

There will unlikely be drawbacks in the purely 'supply side' issues like enabling the use of quality seeds, fertilisers, irrigation and modern farm equipment.

With changes being made to Tanzanians in Diaspora to purchase property like land and houses and landing loans on property registered locally, much more can be expected in that sphere even if the background in that regard may not be very helpful.

This is because it remains easier for Tanzanian firms engaged in agro-processing to expand if local markets and export openings are promising than to expect agro-sector specialist immigrants.

By A Special Correspondent

SENEGAL has a rich history of traditional music – and this lives on as it influences the west African country's modern music today.

As a cultural researcher, I set out to explore the social and cultural significance of both traditional and modern music in Senegal.

I was able to interview 20 musicians, a mix of traditional and modern, who live and perform in the capital city of Dakar as well as other smaller cities and villages.

I define modern Senegalese music as using modern, more western instruments such as the electric and bass guitar, keyboard and drum set. Traditional Senegalese music uses instruments such as the xalam (a guitar-like instrument with three strings), kora (21-string instrument played somewhat like a harp), balafon (similar to a xylophone), djembe and sabar drums (played with hands and sticks).

I found that in Senegal, a country steeped in Islamic religion and tradition, there was a great push for traditional music to be preserved so that cultural values and tradition would be passed on to the next generations. In combining elements of traditional and modern music into a style known as tradi-modern music, musicians have created what they call mbalax rhythms, which are unique to Senegalese music. As a result, traditional music is not lost.

Different messages in modern and traditional music

Modern songs in Senegal tend to contain messages about love and relationships. For many listeners, especially the younger generation, this is not a problem. But some musicians can be critical of modern trends. As one of my research participants told me:

In modern music, you can hear the music and just dance, dance, and dance. But you don't understand what they are saying. You are not listening to the words but just dancing to enjoy yourself. But with traditional music, you have to listen to see what they are saying and what type of message they are giving.

More traditional music in Senegal contains messages reminding people to appreciate and respect the cultural values that have played a role in shaping them as individuals. Values like honesty, hard work and dignity are just a few of them. One musician stated it this way:

For us, you must not forget your origins. You must not forget our traditions. You can say more with traditional music than without traditional music.

Messages in traditional music have also been viewed as more profound than those of modern or popular music, since they are embedded in culture and have been passed down from generation to generation.

Why preserve traditional music?

Through asking many questions and engaging in dis-

Senegal has rich history of traditional music, but it lives on in modern music



Traditional music has a strong presence in Senegal's mainstream music scene.

ussion, I discovered that the overall sentiment among musicians was in favour of keeping traditional music alive. One mentioned the potential consequences of losing it:

Imagine if traditional music disappeared totally. ... music is the educator and counsellor and so traditional values would be at risk of being lost.

Music is a cultural heritage that comes from long ago. So, it's always important to preserve it because we must pass on our culture to the new generation. That is how our culture will continue to exist. Traditional music not only incorporates instruments that were used to make music long ago, and still are used, it contains messages that instruct the present and future generations in the ways people ought to conduct themselves. Preserving the music passes on the message. As one musician put it:

If we erase traditional music, then we will be a little lost. It would

be a bad thing. So, it is important to keep the traditional music because it is our roots ... it is our culture. It is music that lifts us up. It is our identity.

How traditional music is preserved

Musicians in Senegal have combined both modern and traditional elements of music (instruments as well as lyrical content) into a third type of music called tradi-modern.

One style of tradi-modern music, mbalax, uses traditional instruments like the sabar drums and their associated rhythms and the kora alongside modern instruments like the electric guitar and keyboards to create a mélange of sounds that attract both older and younger listeners. Youssou N'Dour, one of the most popular singers in Senegal, is also considered to be the pioneer of mbalax music. So music can evolve and adapt to include all generations of people.

It is good to mix modern music because we are in the process of modernising. And so, to not kill traditional music, it must be mixed with modern music. And if you really want to evolve in music and you want the older people to listen to your music, people like your dad and mom, then you must try and use traditional things in your music.

Why this matters

Traditional music is the foundation upon which modern music is made and performed. Some musicians believe that making modern music requires an understanding and appreciation of traditional music. One musician said:

The singers of modern music must listen to the rhythms of traditional music. Then they can arrange modern instruments with traditional rhythms to make tradi-modern music.

I've added something traditional which is the whistle. I added it to modern music. When the people of the village hear this music, they will see there is a traditional touch to it. Considering well-known popular musicians such as Baaba Maa, Wally Seck and Youssou N'Dour, it can seem as if modern music has cast a large shadow over traditional and lesser-known Senegalese musicians.

But the values of traditional music (found in both instrumentation and message of songs) allow these popular musicians to continue making modern (and tradi-modern) music for the masses. And as traditional, modern and tradi-modern (mbalax) music continues to draw in listeners of all ages, it will allow everyone to enjoy music for generations to come.

Sudan food crisis: Researcher unpacks scale of the disaster and actions

By Oliver Kiptoo Kirui

THE United Nations (UN) recently warned of the risk of famine in Sudan. The war between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has killed civilians and devastated livelihoods on a massive scale. Around 18 million people are already acutely hungry, including 3.6 million children who are acutely malnourished.

Oliver Kiptoo Kirui, who co-authored the Sudan National Household Survey – conducted in the midst of war – provides insights on the scale of the country's food emergency.

What's the food security situation in Sudan?

Acute food security is measured on a widely accepted 5-stage classification. It increases in severity from "minimal" through "stressed", "crisis", "emergency" and "famine". This scale is intended to help governments and other humanitarian actors quickly understand a situation and take action.

Sudan's food security has dramatically worsened due to ongoing conflict and economic decline. As of mid-2024, over 20.3 million people (more than 42% of the population) are facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

Some are in the crisis stage. Others have slipped into the emergency phase. This indicates severe food shortages and widespread hunger.

Rural households are especially hard hit due to disrupted agricultural activities, limited access to markets and soaring food prices. Together, these factors have severely affected household food security, particularly in conflict areas.

The conflict has disrupted agricultural production and trade routes. At the same time, the economic crisis fuelled by the war has led to hyperinflation, with food prices being 350% above the five-year average. Many people can't afford food.

Rural areas have been particularly hard hit. As many as 40% of farming households did not till their land for planting. And those who did have been unable to plant or harvest crops because of insecurity. Food has become much scarcer.

The conflict has displaced people, too, placing Sudan in the highest displacement crisis in the world. This has further strained food resources as displaced populations seek refuge in regions where resources are already scarce.

What do we know about the scale of the emergency?

The latest UN reports indicate a humanitarian crisis. Around 9.2 million people have been displaced since mid-2023. Access to food remains a critical need, particularly in Darfur and Kordofan. Rising levels of hunger and severe acute malnutrition are expected to lead to more deaths if there isn't urgent action.

In a recent IFPRI-UNDP analysis, more than half of rural households reported consuming less food – for



Smoke rises above a neighbourhood in the Sudanese city of Omdurman.

example, skipping meals or reducing meal sizes. This underscores the urgent need for immediate and sustained humanitarian assistance.

Displacement and food insecurity in Sudan are worse than ever before. The disruption of livelihoods and markets has left millions in desperate need of help.

The UN emphasises the need for urgent and comprehensive humanitarian interventions to prevent a full-scale famine. The high prevalence of severe acute malnutrition among children is particularly alarming. It's a warning of a looming public health disaster.

What were Sudan's food vulnerabilities before the war?

Before the current conflict, Sudan already faced food security challenges. These included economic instability, high inflation and frequent climate shocks such as droughts and floods. Agricultural production was often below average. Many regions depended on food imports, which were easily disrupted by logistical challenges.

Before the war, rural households had to deal with poor infrastructure, lack of agricultural inputs and limited extension services. The current conflict has made them even more vulnerable.

Sudan's agricultural sector struggled with numerous problems, like outdated farming practices, lack of investment and inadequate infrastructure. Frequent

climate shocks, such as droughts and floods, added to these issues, leading to chronic food production deficits.

Economic policies and political instability had already weakened the country's ability to import food, making it heavily reliant on erratic local production.

What should a local and international response look like?

Improved access to credit, better farming techniques, broadened and deepened social protection, and resilient infrastructure could help build long-term food security.

Well-coordinated humanitarian assistance that reaches the most vulnerable populations is crucial for immediate relief and recovery.

Both local and international responses need to be robust and multifaceted. These include:

Immediate humanitarian aid: rapid deployment of food aid and nutritional support is crucial. This includes opening and maintaining secure humanitarian corridors for uninterrupted aid delivery. Immediate action is needed to prevent starvation and reduce malnutrition rates, particularly among children and other vulnerable groups.

Support for agricultural production: providing farmers with seeds, tools and training can help increase local food production and farmers' resilience.

Initiatives to improve water management and irrigation infrastructure are also essential. Long-term investments in sustainable farming practices and infrastructure are necessary to rebuild and stabilise the agricultural sector.

Economic support: stabilising the economy through financial aid, reducing inflation and ensuring the availability of affordable basic goods can mitigate the crisis. Economic interventions should focus on supporting livelihoods and enhancing market access to make food more affordable and available.

Conflict resolution and security: efforts to mediate the conflict and establish peace are fundamental to allow safe access for humanitarian efforts. This will also enable people to return to their livelihoods. Without a resolution to the conflict, sustainable food security cannot be achieved. Peace-building initiatives must be prioritised to create a stable environment for recovery.

International coordination: a coordinated international response is necessary to ensure efficient use of resources and to address the needs of displaced populations. Collaboration and resource-sharing among humanitarian actors can enhance the effectiveness of aid delivery and ensure that assistance reaches those most in need.

Climate change: Possible solutions to avoid loss of environmental, social and governance investment

By Timothy Killeen

THERE are now very few global corporations that deny climate change. Senior executives have finally realized their future as profit-making enterprises depend on their ability to make money on a planet radically different from the one they knew as children.

Their long-overdue enlightenment is the product of three decades of educational campaigns waged by civil society, academia and multilateral organizations. Those campaigns forced these corporate behemoths into action in the last half of the 2010s, when institutional investors, which provide companies with the financial capital they need to grow their business empires, demanded change.

It was also clear that a successful strategy needs to be holistic, which led to a consensus that the solution should incorporate criteria encapsulated by three words: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG).

Under previous iterations of sustainability programmes, companies sought to manage the environmental and social impacts from their operations in order to limit any potential legal or financial liabilities. The goal was to protect the corporate image and avoid angering consumers or provoking key stakeholders (i.e., local communities).

According to the new paradigm, ESG strategies proactively support the planet and societal well-being in order to maximize profits over the short and long term. The goal is to align a company's strategies and operations with the growing demand for the sustainable production of goods and services. Coincidentally, reformed corporate behavior will support the energy transition and save the planet.

Because ESG guidelines are being mandated by a board of directors, they are being integrated into strategic development plans at the corporate equivalent of the speed-of-light. Task forces have reviewed existing sustainability initiatives and repackaged their environmental and social components according to the new (slightly different) nomenclature of ESG investing, while linking them to an expanded (pre-existing) set of standards conceived to ensure ethical behavior on the part of corporate officers. The changes are subtle but significant. They are also controversial.

Critics on the left brand ESG investing as greenwashing, arguing that corporations view it through a public relations lens rather than as a true reform of business models. Their skepticism is based on the participation of corporations with a history of climate change denial and the ability of corporations to inundate ESG platforms with a myriad of data that de-emphasizes more fundamental measurements of environmental performance.

Supporters contend the emerging ESG schemes are different in both scope and scale from previous sustainability initiatives, where the power of consumers was dispersed via complex supply chains and political processes. In contrast, investors will use ESG ratings to constrain (or enhance) the provision of financial capital, which is essential for corporate growth.

Critics on the right contend that ESG criteria distract from the fundamental purpose of a corporation, which is to create wealth for shareholders, while arguing that ESG evaluation systems are a hodgepodge of good intentions with no demonstrable economic benefits.

Supporters, including the CEOs of the world's largest financial services companies, respond by observing that successful companies have always invested in the capacity of their employees, suppliers and clients. Regardless, the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) of the United States has proposed rules to obligate publicly listed companies to report climate-related information, essentially mandating the inclusion of ESG metrics in corporate reports.

The creation of the ESG evaluation and reporting system is an ongoing process with overlapping schemes composed of a bewildering assortment of metrics, guidelines, criteria, standards, frameworks, scores and benchmarks.

At the corporate level, the scale pertinent for evaluating investments in the extractive industries in the Pan



Climate change has altered the camu camu harvest cycles in Peru. Before, harvesting relied on fixed dates at the end and beginning of the year. Now, timing has become unpredictable.

Amazon, ten financial rating agencies have launched schemes that combine information from corporate reports with independent data that, allegedly, provide an objective measure of ESG performance.

The competing schemes often provide radically different scores for the same company depending upon what metrics are collected and the weights applied to different algorithms that pool hundreds of separate measurements into a single summary score.

These scores are derived from thousands of data points, organised into hierarchical subcategories, which are compiled into sub-scores for E, S and G. System complexity causes ESG scores to be poorly correlated: a company may fare well in one scheme but be ranked as mediocre in another.

ESG in the Pan Amazon

Evaluations are compiled at the global scale and encompass many corporate attributes that are not relevant to the specific facilities and operations located in the Amazon.

A very large company may have a good score overall, but a poorly conceived project in the Pan Amazon. Moreover, the global corporations that participate in ESG initiatives are not representative of the dozens of domestic mining companies that operate in the Pan Amazon.

With few notable exceptions, domestic companies do not participate in ESG scoring schemes; those that do tend to be highly dependent on foreign capital or on foreign markets to commercialise their production.

There are at least 250 corporate entities operating or actively developing a mine,

oil or gas field, or a logistical facility (pipeline, port, manufacturing) with a presence in Brazil, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru and Suriname. Of these, only a fraction (-18 per cent) can be found in the databases compiled by S&P-ESG (47), Refinitiv (46) or Sustainalytics (44).

The companies with the best scores are all global mining or oil giants whose ratings are due, in part, to their ability to build comprehensive monitoring programmes that collect massive volumes of ESG data. Well managed companies use the data to identify pressure points and bottlenecks, which can be modified at a reasonable cost to improve efficiency and profitability; it also allows them to flood rating systems with 'positive' data, while reaping additional points for data transparency. Companies that partici-

pate half-heartedly are penalised by blank data fields.

Among the high-scoring corporations are the mining giants Vale, Alcoa and Norsk Hydro, which operate massive strip mines near the Amazon River, as well as Glencore, BHP and Rio Tinto, which operate equally massive open-pit mines in the High Andes of Peru.

The poorest scoring companies are the China National Petroleum Company and Sinopec, oil companies operating in Peru and Ecuador, and junior mining companies operating on frontier landscapes in Pará, Brazil. Following is a brief overview of selected corporations and their ESG scores.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) |

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

It is 'miracle' in Thailand: Jumbo gives birth to twins

By Special Correspondents

AN Asian elephant in central Thailand has given birth to a rare set of twins, in what caretakers have described as a miracle.

The mother, 36-year-old Chamchuri, was not expected to deliver twins and when she gave birth to a male calf last Friday, staff at the Ayutthaya Elephant Palace and Royal Kraal, had thought the delivery was done.

But while cleaning up the first calf and helping it stand on its feet, they heard a loud thud and realised that Chamchuri had given birth to a second calf, a female.

The second birth sent the mother into a panic and caretakers had to restrain her to prevent her from stepping on the female calf. One caretaker was hurt in the melee.

Dramatic footage on social media showed a crowd of caretakers - known locally as mahouts - frantically separating the female calf from the mother, with blood from the birth still visible on her hind legs.

Twins occur in only one percent of elephant births and male-female are even rarer, according to Save the Elephants, a research organisation.

"Once we pulled the second baby elephant out, away from the mother, the baby stood up. We were all cheering because it's a miracle," veterinarian Lardthongtare Meepan told the BBC.

"We've always wanted to see elephant twins but not everyone can see this because it doesn't happen a lot," said Meepan, who grew up at the elephant park, and is herself a

mother of twins.

Charin Somwang, a 31-year-old mahout, broke his leg while restraining the mother.

"I was so happy, I couldn't feel the pain," he told the BBC, adding he felt the extent of the injuries only when he was brought to the hospital.

"It's normal that the new mother will always try to kick or push the baby...I was afraid that she might break the baby elephant, so I put myself forward and tried to block the mother from the smaller one," said Somwang, who has been working at the park for 15 years.

Elephants are considered sacred in Thailand, where a majority of the population is Buddhist. They are also a national symbol.

Since the birth, the Ayutthaya Elephant Palace and Royal Kraal has featured the twins in live streams on social media.

Park visitors, including children, are also allowed to see the twins, but only after disinfecting their footwear and their hands.

A sign near the nursery reads: "Please don't touch the elephant babies".

They will be named seven days after birth in accordance with Thai custom.

At 55kg (121lb) the female calf is slightly smaller than usual and has to step on a stool during feeding with her mother. Her brother is heavier at 60kg.

The female calf is slightly smaller than usual and has to step on a stool during feeding.

The park claims its elephants were rescued from begging on the streets. In 1989, Thailand banned logging in



natural forests, leaving mahouts who worked in that industry jobless.

This forced them to make elephants perform tricks for tourists in exchange for money. This practice was outlawed in 2010 - though there are still rare cases of this happening.

In Ayutthaya, Thailand's former capital, some elephants carry tourists on their backs to temples and historic ruins.

Conservationists oppose elephant riding as they say this stresses the animals out and amounts to abuse.

An earlier report by the World Animal Protection (WAP) says that harsh methods are used to get a wild elephant to carry a human

on its back. The process starts soon after it is captured. It is often referred to as "breaking-in" or "crush."

Aside from Ayutthaya, elephants have also become tourist draws in highland villages in Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai in the north, where tourists can feed them with bananas, go walking with them and bathe them with mud.

The Asian elephant is an endangered species due to poaching, illegal trade and habitat loss, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

More elephants are used for tourism in Thailand - over 3,000 - than anywhere else. Unlike other countries with captive populations,

those in Thailand are nearly all privately owned.

Elephants are considered sacred in Thailand, where a majority of the population is Buddhist.

Compared to their African counterparts, Asian elephants have smaller ears round and hunched backs.

Meanwhile, visitors continue to flock to the park in Ayutthaya to see the twin babies, as they await their names.

They walk in a small pen covered with hay as they roll their trunks on their mother's leg.

"I am always happy when I see elephant gives birth," said Mr Somwang, their mahout who is recovering from injury.

"It doesn't need to be twins. Elephant babies always bring joy," he said.

Stakeholders for enhanced efforts to improve sanitation in port settlements

By Guardian Correspondent

DUE to the nature of the environment and land which is almost stone surfaced in many parts of Mwanza city, it was previously normal for some families in living on hills to open up their partially built toilets during the rainy season to empty waste, something which was greatly posing risk to health of people.

To address the situation, authorities in the city in collaboration with stakeholders embarked on several initiatives to educate the public while supporting them to construct modern latrines.

Among of the initiatives is the one implemented by experts and stakeholders from the from the University of London, Ardhi University (ARU), the Centre for Community Initiative (CCI) and Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Mwauwasa) through a joint research project, to scrutinise specifically the reason behind people's inability to have quality toilets.

The experts found that enhanced collaborations between stakeholders to run sanitation related projects were important and can help address the challenge.

Speaking recently during the East Africa Hub Region Annual Meeting hosted by the Centre for Community Development (CCI) and Tanzania Federation for the Urban Poor (TFUP), stakeholders underscored the need to continue to heighten collaborative efforts to improve sanitation in poor settlement areas.

Dr Tim Ndezi, CCI executive director said that more coordinated efforts are needed to ensure that everyone has access to a toilet that is connected to a sanitation system that effectively removes and treats human waste.

He said Mabatini settlement in Mwanza city is characterized by mountainous and rocky terrain, presents significant challenges for its residents, many of whom live in these elevated settlements where constructing essential sanitation facilities in such conditions is particularly daunting.

It becomes hard to go deep when digging up latrine pits because the land is almost stone surfaced in nature, with installation of waste outlet pipes also becoming a challenge.

However, the sanitation project implemented by CCI in collaboration with Mwanza Federation groups, the local government and Mwauwasa has greatly helped to reduce this pressing issue.

"The project targeted ten households in the mountainous areas where access to adequate toilets had long been a challenge. Beyond the construction of toilets, the initiative also established the Mwanza Sanitation Forum. This forum oversees sanitation matters in the region and provides loans to community members for the construction of modern toilets, thereby promoting sustainable sanitation solutions," he explained.

According to Dr Ndezi, if the toilets condition is not good, it means that it brings pollution to the city, especially the pollution goes to Lake Victoria which is everything in the city of Mwanza and the life of people in general.

Dr Tim Ndezi, said that people fail to have quality



toilets due to limited financial resources, given the fact that geographically, the land formation on hills is to some extent challenging.

The event brought together, the participation Slum Dwellers International (SDI), East Africa (E.A) Region members from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, along with Professional Support Officers from, ACTogether, SDI Kenya, and the E.A Hub Lead from the SDI Secretariat office, government officials from the Mwanza region attended, reflecting a strong commitment to collaborative development.

In his remarks, Mwanza city mayor Sima Constantine highlighted Mwanza's unique geographical landscape, characterized by Rocky Mountains, and the associated safety concerns for residents

during adverse weather conditions.

He expressed gratitude to SDI for facilitating this crucial meeting and recognized it as a pivotal step towards enhancing cooperation among East African countries.

He further commended the federation and CCI for their initiatives, particularly the construction of modern toilets in the Mabatini area, a project that addresses significant sanitation challenges exacerbated by the rocky terrain.

He also acknowledged the pressing issue of land acquisition for residents in informal settlements and committed to meaningful discussions and leveraging his authority to resolve these issues.

The Mayor pledged to collaborate with relevant authorities to facilitate land ac-

quisition and address other related challenges, with the support of the city's land officer.

Sarah Weruka a Federation National Coordinator from Uganda, said: "We have met here with the aim of discussing about the work of the federation, what challenges we have as East Africans, what we have done, what challenges and achievements we have been able to achieve".

Husna Shechonge, TFUP coordinator said underscored the need for continued efforts to promote inclusivity and empowerment within urban poor communities.

She said federation is a union or community groups that exists within the informal settlements communities where members works to lift up each other

through establishment of saving groups but also acquire loans to implement various development projects to improve livelihoods.

"We also invest efforts with support from stakeholders including CCI to raise various challenges and conduct research and identify the challenges in our settlements and find solutions," she said.

She said that the East Africa Hub Region Annual Meeting and Exchange was a testament to the strength of unity and collaboration in addressing regional challenges.

As members reflected on their achievements and set new goals, it became clear that together, they could overcome obstacles and drive sustainable development across the region.

Sophia Kiluvya, Mwanza city health officer admitted environmental pollution challenge in Mwanza city due to lack of good toilets.

She said after the Mwanza Sanitation Forum started lending money for the construction of better toilets, the condition of toilets in mountainous areas has been able to help a lot.

Coordinator of the federation groups in Mwanza region, Mary Luberwa said: "There are technicians who build these toilets are members of the community themselves who are within the federation groups who have been empowered."

Samia Hassan, one of the beneficiaries of the project shared how the project resolved sanitation issues for her family, underscoring its positive impact on the community.

Samia said: "Before we didn't have a toilet, we were using the neighbour's toilet, and at night it was very disturbing for the neighbours, so thanks to this project we were built a better toilet and now we are benefiting from it."

Despite these advancements, Mabatini residents continue to face challenges in accessing clean and safe water, a critical issue that demands further attention and intervention.

The visit concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to continue addressing the community's needs and improving

As China scrambles for Zimbabwe's lithium, small miners are left behind

By Farai Matiashe

On a winter's morning in Shamva, in Zimbabwe's Mashonaland Central province, Brenda, a single mother of three, is on the hunt for lithium ore.

The 39-year-old, who asked that only her first name be used, uses a pick to break up hard rocks before shovelling the rock ores into a wheelbarrow which is then pushed by one of her workers and emptied onto a heap. "Mining is labour intensive, but I soldier on," said the tall, broad-shouldered woman wearing a blue workers uniform with green reflectors and a yellow safety helmet.

Around her, dozens of other artisanal miners work tirelessly to extract ore in the lithium surface mining area located about 90km (56 miles) northeast of the capital Harare.

"I have no limits. I take every situation as it is," Brenda told Al Jazeera. "I remember I was the only girl in a chemistry class back in school. I learned to be brave, courageous and independent."

Zimbabwe has the world's fifth-largest reserves of lithium - which is an essential component of the rechargeable batteries used in things like mobile phones and electric vehicles.

In 2021, an output of 1,200 tonnes of lithium was recorded in the country and it is set to become Zimbabwe's third biggest mineral export after the gold and platinum group of metals.

There are several companies engaged in lithium exploration and mining in the country, but small-scale miners have developed an interest in the sector too.

Pushed by a high unemployment rate and prolonged economic hardships, thousands of individuals like Brenda are getting permits and licences from the Zimbabwean authorities to mine the mineral in lithium-rich areas.

Raw lithium export ban

Across Southern Africa, there are rich reserves of valuable natural resources - though only a small minority has historically profited from this. To increase the benefits for local economies, regional countries have increasingly sought to transform raw minerals into



An artisanal miner carries a sack of mud to a riverbed after digging for ore in Zimbabwe.

higher-value products locally.

As a part of those efforts, Zimbabwe's government moved to ban exports of unprocessed raw lithium in 2022, arguing that the country would get more revenue from the mineral if companies were allowed to export only processed lithium.

The ban was also aimed at curbing the smuggling of raw lithium through the country's porous borders with neighbouring South Africa and Mozambique.

However, it has had adverse consequences for many small-scale miners working in the sector.

When the ban was put in place, the demand for processed lithium - that could be exported internationally - grew, while the demand for raw lithium slowed as few had the means to process it. While some mining companies scrambled to build plants to process raw lithium into concentrates for ex-

port, the stockpiles of raw lithium grew, and prices fell.

Artisanal miners like Brenda who are at the bottom of the lithium value chain have been hit hard. She said since the ban was imposed her profits have gone down as unprocessed lithium fell to the current price of \$100 per tonne from as high as \$1,200 per tonne previously.

"Quite a number of people have chickened out of the business," said Brenda, who uses her income from mining to feed, pay school fees and buy clothes and other essentials for her children.

"Only a few like me who were consistent have remained in the lithium mining industry. Those who were after profits could not survive at such low prices," she said.

'Long value chain'

Brenda first started in the mining and minerals industry by buying and selling semiprecious gemstones after a friend introduced her to the business. Then in 2014, she ventured into lithium mining.

The lithium surface area where Brenda and her team work is noisy and filled with several other artisanal mining teams drilling and blasting rocks.

Brenda started here after she found some lithium deposits in a bushy area, pegged it and registered the place with the mining authorities. To mine it, she pays royalties to the government for a permit.

She taught herself mining by reading and researching about different gemstones and, using her connections with artisanal miners, went on to employ 10 workers - two machine operators and eight general workers - to help her source lithium.

But Brenda does not have the resources to process the lithium, so she sells the raw mineral to Chinese buyers in Zimbabwe, who then process it locally before exporting it.

"The Chinese are connected. We cannot do without them. They determine the prices. Our options are limited," she said.

Economist Victor Bhoroma said most of the lithium ore buyers have access to secondary producers and global buyers.

"They are part of a long value chain where local artisanal miners only get less than 3 percent of the output value per tonne.

Bhoroma said "it is the best practice to have processed lithium exports instead of raw stone exports", but also said the ban has had an impact on pricing and oversupply, as most can no longer export the commodity or easily sell it.

Since December 2022, global prices of lithium have

also plummeted because of several factors including oversupply of the battery metal.

Scramble for lithium

As the world transitions to clean energy to reduce emissions which worsens climate change, lithium is a key component for batteries used in electric vehicles.

Though lithium mining is not new in Zimbabwe, as it was first extracted by Bikita Minerals in the 1950s, there has been increasing demand more recently.

China, which is the leading consumer of lithium given its role in the manufacturing and exports of lithium-ion batteries, is leading the scramble for the light metal in Zimbabwe.

"China is by far the key player in lithium demand and battery production," said Bhoroma.

China has been striking deals in Zimbabwe, taking advantage of cordial relations with the government of President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Mnangagwa, his family members and other senior top government officials are under United States sanctions over alleged human rights violations and corruption. China, meanwhile, claims its approach to other nations is based on a principle of noninterference.

This has helped it secure mining licences in multiple African countries. One such venture is Zimbabwe's largest lithium mine, Bikita Minerals, acquired by China's Sinomine Resource Group in a deal worth \$180m to increase capacity in February 2022.

Located in the Bikita hills of Masvingo province in southeast Zimbabwe, Bikita Minerals holds 11 million tonnes of lithium - the world's largest-known deposit of lithium.

Tapiwa O'Brien Nhachi, an independent climate and natural resources researcher, said the Chinese rush in every sector in Zimbabwe significantly shows the extension of the "look East" policy, a foreign policy strategy to strengthen economic and political ties with China adopted by late President Robert Mugabe in the 2000s when the US and Western countries first imposed sanctions over human rights abuses.

As of 2023, there were seven different lithium exploration and mining projects at various development stages across the country, according to the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), a premier public interest environmental law group.

While artisanal miners like Brenda use wheelbarrows, picks and shovels, as well as small compressors and water pumps during mining, big companies have earth-moving machines like excavators and backhoe loaders to move rocks as well as drills and explosives to blast rocks.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT-115

Crossword grid with numbers 1-18 and a vertical contact number on the left: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

- 12 pigs are descended
13 Zambia's sole producer of lime
14 a Bolivian Aymara tradition
15 fit to be eaten
17 skilled person in Kiswahili
18 A topic
Down:
1 a very brief period of time
2 Capital city of UK
3 iambus
4 an account of past events
6 a short African tree with a very thick trunk and large edible fruit, living to a great age
8 a person who is addicted
9 to be in a state of extreme muscular fitness
13 official inspections of an organization's account
16 Wife of Adam

Partial crossword grid showing the word 'OTA' in the center.

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

- OTA
FAMOUS
UNTUNED
SEN
RATED
SEAL
YACHTIE
ENAMEL
ARENAS
FLYOVER
VERONAL
ITAL
MACERATE
ORE
OMEN

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with words like SENATE, UASTI, CAREERS, VINANEY, REMS, OSLO, RSYCE, ERASE, UT, TREATED, TALES, R, L, F, I, R, T, NOVENA, N, I, O, I, L, COMER, W, G, R, A, N, E, E, R, A, W, A, K, E, M, E, S, S.

- Across:
1 former name of Malawi
5 be next to or share a boundary with
7 Bantu ethnic group
10 a taro corm or plant of a West Indian variety with many edible cormlets
11 a tasked wild pig from which domestic

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a detailed weekly programme schedule for Monday through Sunday, listing various shows and their start times.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One. Includes social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, along with the Radio One logo.



Tanga regional commissioner Dr Batilda Burian. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Assenga

RC raises alarm over shuffling of hospital construction funds

By Correspondent Oscar Assenga, Mkinga

Tanga regional commissioner, Dr. Batilda Burian, has raised concerns about the reallocation of funds originally intended for the construction of the Maternity, Children's, and Men's Wards, as well as a mortuary building at Mkinga District Hospital.

According to her, the said funds were redirected to other purposes without the consent of her office or the President's Office (TAMISEMI).

Dr. Batilda voiced these concerns during a special council meeting on June 13, 2024, where the Auditor General's report on Mkinga District Council was discussed. She wanted to know the person who approved the transfer of the funds from one project to another.

Furthermore, she inquired about why the funds designated for the specific project were redirected when they were allocated for its completion and were adequate to finish the hospital.

On the other hand, the Regional Commissioner directed the District Executive Director of Mkinga to ensure that legal actions are taken against individuals who retained 21 million without depositing it in the bank, since the money belongs to the government.

Furthermore, she highlighted completed projects worth 107m/- that have yet to be utilized, raising questions about why these projects have remained inactive despite their completion.

"Additionally, there are projects worth 84m/- that remain incomplete. An assessment of project implementation efficiency reveals that numerous development projects, including those in Mkinga Council, were not completed within the stipulated time frame," she said.

She emphasized: "DED, your office must ensure that funded projects are finalized in compliance with established guidelines. I need a detailed report on each project, the report should outline project's completion status and any ob-

stacles encountered."

Moreover, she called upon the responsible officials to address queries raised by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) before June 30 this year. For queries that are beyond their control, they should provide a response, and for those requiring approval for closure, the process should commence.

"Ensure that the CAG queries are addressed and resolved by June 30, 2024. For queries beyond your immediate control necessitating a response, begin the closure process," instructed RC Ambassador Batilda.

As you may recall, on March 28 of this year, President Samia received the CAG report for the fiscal year 2022/2023. She instructed all ministries, institutions, and regions to evaluate the report thoroughly and address any outstanding queries," she reminded the gathering.

She observed that among the 11 councils in the Tanga region, 10 received a clean audit report, while Kilindi received an adverse audit review.

"The financial records of local governments underwent scrutiny as well. Out of the 11 councils in the Tanga region, 10 received positive audit reports, with Kilindi Council receiving an unfavorable audit review. Steps must be taken to prevent further adverse audit findings within the region."

She emphasized the significance of ensuring that the substantial efforts undertaken by President Samia Suluhu Hassan are acknowledged and comprehended by the citizens, especially with local elections approaching. Leaders are encouraged to lead by example and demonstrate commendable behavior.

Failure to meet the mark in leadership could hinder the progress of the President's initiatives. Serving as intermediaries between citizens and the President, they have a pivotal role in conveying their concerns and aspirations. public concerns. Consequently, leaders must carefully analyze the issues at hand and strategize accordingly.

Digital economy tax woes strike fear over livelihoods of content creators

By Guardian Reporter

THE government's decision to enhance taxation within the digital economy, encompassing digital content creation and digital asset transactions, has raised apprehension among young individuals who depend on these avenues for their livelihood.

In a country grappling with high levels of unemployment, numerous young individuals have turned to digital platforms to tap into their creative talents and skills, generating income in the process.

Nevertheless, the introduction of these new taxes has instigated concerns that this thriving sector may face suppression, potentially impacting the livelihoods of many young people.

Last Thursday, the Minister of Finance, Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, unveiled the country's financial projections for the 2024/25 fiscal year during a parliamentary session in Dodoma.

The estimates, totaling 49.5tn/-, were eagerly anticipated by the public as they would illuminate the government's strategies for the forthcoming year.

Dr. Mwigulu emphasized a crucial aspect of the budget - its funding source. The anticipated tax revenue for the year stands at 29.4tn/-, marking a 10 percent surge from the previous fiscal cycle.

Moreover, the government aims to raise an additional 3.8tn/- from diverse sources. The escalation in tax revenue is anticipated through a range of strategies aimed at enhancing government earnings.

One strategy to bolster this revenue stream involves the more effective taxation of the digital economy, encompassing digital content creation and digital asset transactions.

During the parliamentary session, it was underscored that this move is geared towards capturing revenue from the flourishing digital domain, which has gained considerable significance in today's economy.

In the evolving landscape of content creation, creators have found success through sponsored



Content creators are essentially freelance workers with long hours and inconsistent earnings. Photo: Courtesy of Getty Images

content, digital campaigns, and ad revenue on platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and Facebook.

Notably, they often receive substantial payments from brands they endorse, a portion of which is now subject to taxation.

"As a freelance writer," shared Sarah John, a local content creator, "the digital economy has revolutionized my income opportunities. However, the government's decision to tax digital content creation raises concerns as it could potentially limit the prospects for young creators like myself."

She further expressed saying: "The digital realm has granted me a platform to showcase my creativity and engage with a global audience. I worry that these new taxes might impede my financial sustainability." Sarah underlined that social media serves as her primary revenue source, enabling collaborations with brands and content monetization.

As a 28-year-old content creator, she perceives the government's action as a direct threat to her livelihood and that of other budding creators.

Hence, the sentiment conveyed was clear: "Policymakers must grasp the significance of the digital economy in creating opportunities, especially employment, for the youth and should foster its expansion rather than hinder it with taxes."

Undoubtedly, unemployment remains a pressing challenge in the country, with numerous graduates encountering difficulties in securing positions in both public and private sectors.

Statistics reveal that a

considerable portion of Tanzanian graduates, face challenges in obtaining steady employment, with just a meager 10 percent being absorbed into formal employment opportunities.

Consequently, there is a surge in young individuals exploring alternative avenues for income generation, including delving into digital content creation.

Jamal Abdul, an online entrepreneur, emphasizes how the digital economy serves as a vital resource for numerous young entrepreneurs, providing them with a platform to initiate and scale up businesses.

"The Thursday decision by the government, has raised apprehensions regarding the sustainability of online businesses and its potential impact on the entrepreneurial landscape," he remarked.

Furthermore, he highlighted: "It is imperative for the government to foster an enabling environment for digital innovation and entrepreneurship rather than introducing obstacles through excessive taxation." He stressed how the digital economy has empowered young individuals to display their talents, creativity, and entrepreneurial acumen.

"Platforms like social media, online marketplaces, and digital content creation have proven particularly advantageous for youths who may lack access to traditional job opportunities or formal education," he affirmed.

Expressing concern, he stated that young creators and entrepreneurs are now apprehensive about how their income sources may be affected.

Media reports indicate that neighboring Kenya, content creators, such as skit makers, digital artists, and TikTok influencers, are now mandated to pay a 1.5 percent tax on their social media earnings, as outlined in the country's latest Finance Act.

Despite facing notable resistance, the Kenyan government has enforced this new regulation. In February of this year, content creators in Nigeria were initially alarmed when the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) labeled them as 'major tax evaders.'

However, FIRS was quick to clarify that individual content creators would not be subject to taxation, as this falls under the jurisdiction of state governments. The agency emphasized that their primary focus is on companies that earn profits exceeding \$16,638.

In Tanzania, the situation seems to mirror this trend, with high unemployment rates labeled as a potential ticking time bomb in the nation. As a result, many young people are turning to alternative sources of income, such as freelancing, digital content creation, and online entrepreneurship.

Specifically, digital content creation has become a crucial resource for numerous young individuals, enabling them to exhibit their talents, establish a personal brand, and earn income through various online platforms.

Ranging from graphic designers to content creators to social media influencers, the digital economy has empowered young people to harness their creativity and entre-

preneurial zeal in order to make a living.

Therefore, the government's resolution could potentially jeopardize these prospects for young individuals, rendering it more difficult for them to sustain themselves and their families.

"Given the limited traditional employment opportunities and the expanding youth demographic, it is imperative for the government to foster and uphold the digital economy to address unemployment challenges and stimulate economic growth," remarked Anna Joseph, a medical professional.

To combat the unemployment crisis, policymakers must acknowledge the pivotal role of the digital economy in offering young individuals opportunities to flourish and prosper.

Emphasizing the importance of fostering growth in this sector, Dr. Anna suggested, "Rather than enforcing restricting tax measures, the government should concentrate on fostering a conducive environment for digital entrepreneurship and innovation."

She strongly believes that investments in digital infrastructure, technological education, and entrepreneurship support initiatives can empower young people to tap into the potential of the digital economy and establish sustainable livelihoods.

"By empowering the youth to utilize their skills and talents in the digital realm, Tanzania can unleash the potential of its young demographic and propel economic development in the digital era," she highlighted.

Kenya to freeze furniture purchase, hiring for a year

Nairobi

THE government is planning to suspend purchase of furniture for a period of one year, cut down on foreign travels and restrict all trainings to within government institutions in an expenditure control drive.

In the 2024/25 Financial Year Budget whose implementation starts next month, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Njuguna Ndung'u also revealed that part of the expenditure control measures will include the suspension of all new recruitment for the next one year.

Auditing and cleansing of all public payrolls, pension and transfers to the vulnerable will also be done, with a view to eliminate ghost workers as well as enforce payment of salary scales as approved or recommended by

the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

Other areas targeted in reviewing expenditure include reviewing insurance schemes (Edu Afya, Indigents, Public Service, Police and Prisons, Commissions and Independent Offices) under the Universal Health Coverage and align them to the Social Health Insurance Fund.

The government will also review regional development authorities (RDAs) to remove duplication of roles with those of County Governments and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and suspend the policy of Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) investing surplus funds and enforce the requirements of public finance management (PFM) Act, 2012 and the PFM Regulations, 2015 to surrender such funds to the excheq-

uer. "With the reforms we project total revenue collection, including appropriation in-aid for the FY 2024/25 budget to be KSh 3,343.2 billion, equivalent to 18.5 per cent of GDP.

"Of this, ordinary revenue is projected at KSh 2,917.2 billion, equivalent to 16.2 per cent of GDP. Ministerial Appropriation-in-Aid is projected at KSh 426.0 billion. Grants to this budget are projected at KSh 51.8 billion or 0.3 per cent of GDP."

"The government's total expenditure in the Financial Year 2024/25 budget is projected at KSh 3,992.0 billion or 22.1 per cent of GDP. Of this, recurrent expenditures will amount to KSh 2,840.0 billion or 15.7 per cent of GDP. Development expenditures, including allocations to domestic and foreign financed projects, Con-

tingency Fund and Equalization Fund is KSh 707.4 billion equivalent to 3.9 per cent of GDP. Total allocation to County Governments is projected at KSh 444.5 billion of which equitable share is KSh 400.1 billion." Since the beginning of the current financial year, the Government says it has also implemented initiatives to contain growth of expenditures.

It has undertaken measures to reduce spending on non-priority expenditures and its Public Private Partnerships framework targets commercially viable projects but also consider the contingent liabilities that come under this framework. It is also reviewing the portfolio of externally funded projects with a view to restructuring and re-aligning them with bottom economic transformation agenda (BETA).

Agencies

Digital remittances lift millions from poverty

By Guardian Reporter

IN celebration of the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) on 16 June, the G20's Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) has today unveiled a new report that provides evidence of the transformative impact of digital remittances, as a driver of financial inclusion and poverty reduction worldwide.

A statement issued by the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and shared to this journalist indicated that despite persistent gender gaps, the hard-earned money sent back home by migrant workers remains a vital lifeline for over 800 million people, particularly for women and vulnerable populations.

The report dubbed: "Promoting Financial Inclusion through Digitalization of Remittances," which was authored by IFAD with contributions from the World Bank and the GPII, showcases significant strides in digitalizing remittance distribution channels.

"Digitalization reduces transfer costs, speeds up transactions, and enhances security and tracking of payments. It also broadens access to financial services like savings, credit, and insurance, especially when accompanied by proper consumer protection and financial education policies. These benefits promote financial inclusion and build financial resilience for remittance families," says Magda Bianco, co-chair of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII)



A farming app simplifies tasks by enabling farmers to communicate with merchants, withdraw money, and make payments at cashpoint agents. Photo: Purnima Shrestha/IFAD

and head of the Consumer Protection and Anti-Money Laundering Directorate at the Bank of Italy.

"The digitalization of remittances is spearheading change, especially in rural and underserved areas. It is connecting millions of unbanked people to basic financial services that make a real difference in improving their lives," said Pedro de Vasconcelos, Manager of IFAD's Financing Facility for Remittances.

Beyond addressing immediate needs such as food security, health assistance, educa-

tion, housing, and sanitation, one-quarter of remittance flows are saved, invested, or used to start businesses. Around US\$75 billion annually goes towards rural development.

The G20 report emphasizes how digital remittances provide women with greater control and privacy over their funds. "Digital remittances allow women to access funds directly and securely, empowering them to make financial decisions that benefit their families and communities. Women are more likely to allocate these funds towards household consumption, thereby contributing to

poverty alleviation," said de Vasconcelos.

Since 2017, the gender gap in accessing digital remittance and financial services has narrowed, with the gap in account ownership falling from 9 to 6 percentage points.

Despite progress, challenges remain in ensuring that the benefits of digital remittances reach all societal segments. Vulnerable groups, including women, the elderly, and rural communities, often face barriers to accessing digital financial services. The report calls for concerted efforts to address these disparities and enhance financial literacy and trust in digital solutions.

The shift to digital formal channels is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Projections estimate that over US\$5 trillion—more than three times the annual GDP of all low-income countries combined; will be sent home by migrants to low- and middle-income countries, directly benefiting rural areas where 80 percent of the world's poorest reside. However, the global goal set for 2030 (SDG10.c) is not on track. At the current rate, the cost of sending remittances will only drop to 4.5 percent by 2030, compared to the 3 percent target.

This IDFR celebrates the contributions of migrants and the collaborative efforts of financial service providers, governments, and international organizations. Public-private partnerships have been crucial in driving the digital transformation of remittance services.

The GPII report calls for continued investment in these partnerships to sustain the momentum of financial inclusion efforts. It underscores IFAD's ongoing commitment to leveraging digitalization to maximize the impact of remittances with the financial support of the EU.

In the Gambia, where remittances make up over a quarter its GDP, financial inclusion is low, with only one in three Gambians having a bank account or mobile wallet, according to World Bank FINDEX report in 2022. With support from IFAD, APS, a Gambian-owned company, has enabled over 125,000 people to open digital wallets, significantly boosting financial access.

By fostering financial inclusion and resilience, new opportunities can be unlocked for millions of families worldwide as remittances flows significantly exceed the sum of Official Development Assistance and Foreign Direct Investment in most low- and middle-income countries.

IDFR, a universally recognized observance, was adopted by the Governing Council of IFAD on 16 February 2015, and later by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, and it is marked every year on 16 June.

The day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrants, half of them women, who send remittances home to improve the lives of their 800 million family members.

'Africa is set to unlock its critical mineral potential'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Critical Minerals Africa (CMA) summit will return for its second edition in Cape Town South Africa, later in November, bringing together African and global policymakers, project leaders and key stakeholders along the critical minerals value chain to unlock and promote investment opportunities across Africa's mining space.

A statement issued yesterday by Energy Capital & Power (ECP), and shared to this journalist, indicated that the African continent is home to 30 percent of global critical mineral reserves, including lithium, cobalt, platinum group metals (PGMs) and copper that are essential for energy transition and fourth industrial revolution technologies.

In order to capitalize on growing demand for transition metals and minerals, Africa's leading mining markets are seeking to catalyze investment across the critical minerals supply chain, with a view to maximizing production, diversifying exports

and advancing manufacturing and end use applications of critical minerals across the continent.

Organized alongside the African Energy Week, CMA 2024 is set to engaging government officials from across the continent and globally, a high-level Ministerial Forum will examine the policy frameworks, infrastructure requirements and international cooperation requisite for empowering Africa's critical minerals industry.

CMA will host three forums; one dedicated to investment, featuring strategic opportunities for producers and buyers in critical mineral and rare earth projects, and a leader's forum focusing on key trends and policy initiatives that will drive the success of African mineral producers into a new era.

Showcasing South Sudan's frontier mining potential, CMA 2024 will feature the first-ever South Sudan Mining forum, set to attract investment in the exploration and exploitation of the country's prospective gold, zinc, manganese, nickel and cobalt

deposits.

Another regional focus will be on Southern Africa, where the mining sector is a key GDP and employment driver and the region holds half of the world's vanadium, platinum and diamonds, as well as substantial gold and cobalt reserves.

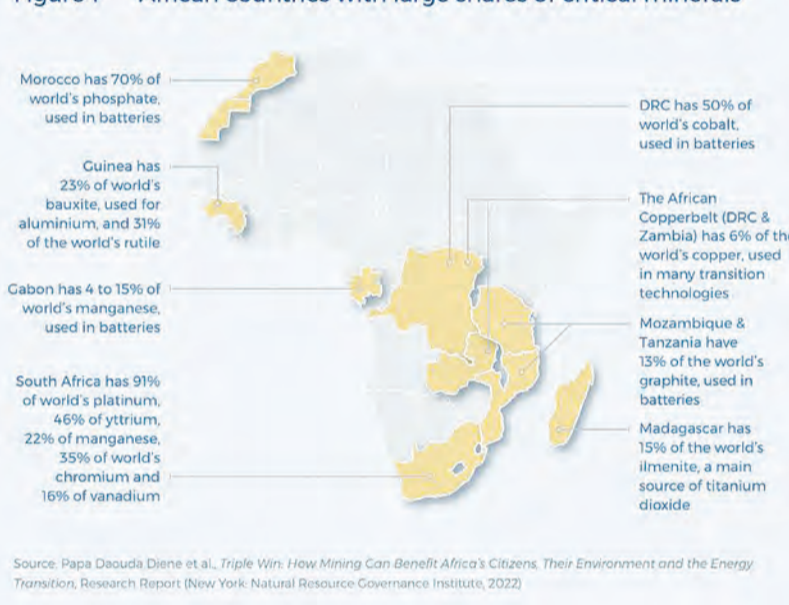
Zambia represents one of the leading copper producers globally and recently introduced the Mineral Regulations Commission Bill to streamline mining licensing and fiscal terms, as it targets one million tons of copper output by 2026.

Meanwhile, South Africa is advancing its PGMs industry - of which it holds over 90 percent of global reserves - to meet growing demand for energy transition technologies, including green hydrogen and fuel cell applications.

In the logistics sector, African producers are looking to bolster mining sector infrastructure to advance mapping and exploration activities, while ensuring the establishment of value-added industries.

A session on the transnational

Figure 1 African countries with large shares of critical minerals



'Africa is set to unlock its critical mineral potential'

Lobito Corridor will explore opportunities for Angola, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo in facilitating mineral trade from the Copperbelt region to international markets. Having secured substantial financial commitments from global partners, the project also serves as a successful model for attracting foreign investment and galvanizing broad international support.

"Building on the success of our inaugural event, CMA 2024 takes on an expanded agenda, uniting Africa's leading mining companies, project developers and industry stakeholders. This year's summit will be instrumental in unlocking investment

opportunities across Africa's critical minerals space and ensuring the sector is leveraged for long-term and inclusive growth, while supporting the global energy transition," said James Chester, ECP Senior Director.

CMA is the largest gathering of critical mineral stakeholders in Africa. The event positions Africa as the primary investment destination for critical minerals. This year's edition takes place under the theme Innovate, Enact, Invest in African Critical Minerals to Sustain Global Growth, connecting African mining projects and regulators with global investors and stakeholders to untap the full potential of the continent's raw materials.

Man unhappy with 'scraggy' loaf of bread

Kampala

A local bakery found itself on the public scale of scrutiny over the weight of its loaf of bread that one hungry client got too angry to stomach and went public about.

The client, going by the name Allan Newton on social media platform, X (formerly Twitter) has complained about Supa Loaf Bakery for selling bread that is less than the stated weight.

Newton revealed that the 1kg bread he purchased actually weighed less than a kilogramme.

"They indicate 1kg but it weighs less than a half even," he said.

"We could eat this as family and remain with some slices, currently on a serious day one can finish it alone. What went wrong? he posted.

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) responded to Newton's post, saying they had sent a team to investigate the issue at Supa Loaf.

"A UNBS team was sent to Supa Loaf to ascertain circumstances under which underweight bread was packed and sold," UNBS said.

UNBS further stated that Supa Loaf management acknowledged to its team about the mishap.

Meanwhile, Supa Loaf has acknowledged the mistake and said they have isolated the batch of bread in question for further investigation and corrective action.

"Concerns have been noted and we had already isolated the bread batch which was not meeting the required standards for further investigations and corrective action," the bakery said.

"We shall strive to ensure we continue distributing quality products to the market as per the required standards."

Recently, there have been increasing complaints about underweight bread on the market.

Last year, UNBS senior metrologist, Lawrence Kitimbo, said the bureau would embark on a national crackdown on bakeries that sell products that fall below the required measurements.

"They should be very careful and start working within the regulations that we have on weights because we are about to start operations if we find anybody displaying for sale or transporting any bread that is underweight and does not conform to the quantity displayed on the package, we shall be taking action which is going to be legal," he said during meeting with manufacturers, importers, and traders of packaged food and non-food products.

Agencies

Agencies

Public caught unawares as Entebbe Airport tests for passenger crash response readiness

Entebbe

MEMBERS of the public were on Friday morning caught unawares as the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority carried out a partial emergency exercise to test Entebbe International Airport's readiness to respond to eventualities.

The drills simulated a situation in which an aircraft crashes shortly after take-off and one of its engines catches fire on the threshold of the runway.

It was presumed that 'some people lost their lives and a number of survivors were critically injured', which sparked off an emergency situation involving airport fire-fighters and other rescue agencies that were called in to 'save lives'.

Several members of the public were in awe as ambu-



Simulated aircraft fire at Entebbe International Airport tests emergency responders. File Photo

lances, fire brigade trucks, security personnel and medics thronged the airport in the simulated crash response.

The exercise saw Uganda Red Cross Society, Police medical services, UPDAF,

Aviation police, Entebbe police fire brigade and Uganda Airlines participate.

Addressing journalists, UCAA Director General, Fred Bamwesigye hailed the different agencies that partici-

pated in the exercise that he said helped test the ability of the airport to respond to such emergencies.

"The exercise helped us to test emergency plans and procedures, communication

framework, response times and coordination abilities of the participants," Bamwesigye said.

He explained that such an exercise is a mandatory requirement for international Airports of countries that are contracting member states of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

UCAA last carried out a partial emergency exercise in December 2020 while the full-scale emergency exercise in November 2022.

The UCAA boss said such exercise are a normal routine for international airports and reports are shared with the international aviation body

"It is an extremely important exercise for audit and compliance. Participants are now discussing what happened and where they found wanting. These reports are kept and are part of evidence

we present to ICAO industry auditors to show we are compliant and always ready. When auditors come, we even show them where there were gaps," Bamwesigye said.

He said there has been a surge in passenger traffic and aircraft movements at Entebbe International Airport.

"In May 2024, Entebbe Airport facilitated 92,298 arrivals and 89,036 departures, a total of 181,334 international passengers which is an average of 5,849. This comes on the heels of a daily average of 5,313 in April 2024, 5,548 in March 2024, 6,116 in February 2024 and 6,329 in January 2024. A comparison of May 2024, to May 2023 traffic shows that the Airport facilitated 28,324 more passengers in May 2024 than in the same period of May 2023," Bamwesigye said.

Agencies

Decoding mining terminology: A guide for confident investments

By Dean Belder

INVESTING in the mining industry comes with risks, but understanding key terms can help investors interpret company press releases and make strong decisions about their portfolios.

Resource investors have access to huge amounts of information when evaluating junior mining stocks, but understanding exactly what a company has in the ground is one of the most crucial steps.

Mineral resources and mineral reserves are key to the due diligence process. While these terms may at first sound interchangeable, they carry distinct meanings and implications within the mining industry.

Mineral resources break down into the measured, indicated and inferred categories, while mineral reserves are divided into the proven and probable segments. Each of these terms provides a different level of insight into a company's deposit. So what do they all mean? Below are definitions that can help investors make informed decisions.

What are mineral resources?

According to the Canadian Institute of Mining, there are two primary ways a company in the mining industry can report on deposits at a certain location: mineral resources and mineral

reserves. Mineral resources are typically linked to the exploration phase of a project, with the inferred, indicated and measured categories providing different levels of confidence in what exists in the ground.

What are inferred resources?

An inferred resource is part of an exploration company's earliest activities. Usually when inferred resources are released there has been limited exploration. A site may have undergone some surface sampling or a couple of drill holes.

At this stage, a company has some level of confidence that there may be mineralization on site, but needs to raise funds to further explore and help define the size and shape of the deposit.

Because inferred resource values are derived from limited sampling, they must be reported separately from measured and indicated data. When it comes to rules outlined in National Instrument 43-101 reporting standards, inferred resources can be included in preliminary economic assessments, but not in feasibility or feasibility studies.

For investors, inferred resources can provide some information about early stage exploration efforts, but are the lowest measure of confidence. While grade and size at this step in the process



Large truck at a mining site with worker looking up at it. File Photo

could seem stellar, inferred resources represent a higher-risk investment due to the limited work put in at the site.

What are indicated resources?

Once a company has conducted more extensive exploration through drill programs and has gained more confidence in the characteristics of a particular deposit, it can begin to report an indicated resource.

By this point, the company has a better idea of the shape of deposit, how deep it is situated and its strike length. Through drilling, it will also have a better idea of the grade and the types of minerals that are hosted at the project. As there is greater confidence

in reporting indicated resources, they can be included in more detailed prefeasibility and feasibility studies and can begin to shape the viability of turning a particular resource into a producing mine.

Indicated resources are designed to give investors a better idea of the longer-term potential of a site and allow them to begin to understand the scale of a potential mine. Through various studies, the company may even have some indication of how profitable a site may be once fully developed.

What are measured resources?

A measured resource is made up of the most detailed and reliable sets of data a company has,

and is typically used to fill out late-stage technical reports and feasibility studies. A mining company will use measured resource data to determine if there is sufficient material to make mining a particular deposit a viable enterprise.

Investors can look at measured resource values as a good indicator of what exists in the ground and can use this documentation to determine whether a company may be a worthwhile investment.

As development proceeds, measured resource values can be converted into proven and probable mineral reserves.

What are mineral reserves?

While the terminology is similar, there are differences between mineral resources and mineral reserves.

Where a mineral resource accounts for all mineralization in an area, a mineral reserve only includes the portions of a resource that are economically viable. This is typically defined by the quantity of ore that will be delivered for processing or

for sale. This means a mineral reserve estimate may exclude project areas that are too far from the main deposit and too costly to pursue, or may exclude portions of the resource that are too low in quality to be profitable.

For investors, mineral reserves are typically reported in the development stage of a project as a company is putting together its feasibility study and determining the long-term prospects of turning an exploration project into a mine.

What are probable reserves?

A probable mineral reserve bears some relation to an indicated resource in that it requires the same level of confidence; however, it attaches modifying factors that affect the viability of the resource.

These factors can include the percentage of minerals that can be expected to be extracted from the ore due to metallurgical analysis, processing techniques and technology or environmental or economic factors.

Probable reserves require some level of real-

istic economic and engineering study when they are being reported in a prefeasibility or feasibility study. They begin to demonstrate the value of materials contained within a potential mine site and show how long the asset's life may be and how much time it will take to recover initial capital costs.

What are proven reserves?

Like a probable reserve, a proven reserve represents a modified reporting of a measured resource, but attaches economic, geologic, environmental and other factors to the estimate. Proven reserves represent the highest level of confidence when discussing a deposit or portion of a deposit where mining operations are being planned.

Investors should view proven reserves as a company's final estimate of the quantity of minerals contained within a deposit. They are often reported based on current commodity prices.

Dean Belder is an investment & market specialist, he can be reached via social media.

Museveni roots for competitiveness, cheap electricity for Uganda's growth

Kampala

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni has emphasised the need for Ugandans to be competitive in their products and services to boost the nation's economy.

During the Shs72.136 trillion National Budget presentation for the Financial Year 2024/25 at Kololo Independence Grounds, he highlighted that achieving this competitiveness requires affordable electricity, which is currently being addressed.

"Our products and services must be cheaper and of better quality than those from other countries. To achieve this, we need affordable electricity, which is already in the works," President Museveni stated.

Accompanied by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Maama Janet Museveni, he made these remarks under the budget theme: "Full Monetisation of the Ugandan Economy through commercial agriculture, industrialisation, expanding and broadening services, digital trade transformation and market access".

Museveni also pointed out the availability of low-cost loans through the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga, and Uganda Development Bank (UDB) to help Ugandans create wealth.

"I want to render money lenders irrelevant. We will continue funding Emyooga and UDB to provide affordable loans for wealth creation," he added.

To reduce production costs, the President mentioned plans to enhance rail and water transport for cargo.

With repairs to the old meter gauge from Malaba to Kampala and Tororo to Gulu-Pakwach, and future plans for the Standard Gauge Railway, transportation costs will decrease, benefiting the economy.

Additionally, Museveni identified importation as a hindrance to economic growth, advocating for self-reliance in producing goods locally.

He expressed optimism that Uganda's economy would reach US\$500 billion in a few years by adding value to raw materials. The President reaffirmed his commitment to fighting corruption, urging leaders to use their positions to help Ugandans instead of engaging in corrupt practices.

The Speaker of Parliament, Anita Among, highlighted the collaborative efforts between the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary in the budgeting process, leading to improved transparency.

She urged Accounting Officers to ensure the efficient use of public resources.

Finance Minister Matia Kasaija, delivering the Budget Speech, noted Uganda's economic recovery and projected a 6 per cent GDP growth for the financial year 2023/24.

He attributed this to low inflation, a stable exchange rate, and increased investments in various sectors.

Uganda has been recognized as the best investment destination in Africa, and significant strides have been made in transitioning from a Least Developed Country to medium human development.

Agencies



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY
 FROM 10:30 PM

| SATURDAY 15 June | SUNDAY 16 June | MONDAY 17 June | TUESDAY 18 June |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Ai Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Art and Lifestyle 13:20 Shamba lulu 13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love 15:45 Igizo: Mizenywe 16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma 17:00 Shansham za Pwani 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt 19:00 Jungu kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:05 Igizo: Hakufuma 21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa 21:55 Min Jackpot 22:15 Art and Lifestyle 22:15 ITV Top 10 23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt 00:30 Ai Jazeera | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Ai Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Art and Lifestyle 13:20 Shamba lulu 13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love 15:45 Igizo: Mizenywe 16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma 17:00 Shansham za Pwani 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt 19:00 Jungu kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:05 Igizo: Hakufuma 21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa 21:55 Min Jackpot 22:15 Art and Lifestyle 22:15 ITV Top 10 23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt 00:30 Ai Jazeera | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Ai Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Art and Lifestyle 13:20 Shamba lulu 13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love 15:45 Igizo: Mizenywe 16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma 17:00 Shansham za Pwani 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt 19:00 Jungu kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:05 Igizo: Hakufuma 21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa 21:55 Min Jackpot 22:15 Art and Lifestyle 22:15 ITV Top 10 23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt 00:30 Ai Jazeera | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Ai Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Art and Lifestyle 13:20 Shamba lulu 13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love 15:45 Igizo: Mizenywe 16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma 17:00 Shansham za Pwani 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt 19:00 Jungu kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:05 Igizo: Hakufuma 21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa 21:55 Min Jackpot 22:15 Art and Lifestyle 22:15 ITV Top 10 23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt 00:30 Ai Jazeera |

WORLD

South Africa's presidential inauguration date set for June 19

CAPE TOWN

THE South African parliament on Thursday announced that the inauguration of the country's president-elect will be held in Pretoria Wednesday next week.

According to a statement issued by the parliament, the newly elected National Assembly, the lower house of the legislature, will hold its first sitting Friday at the Cape Town International Convention Center to elect the South African president for the next five years. This follows the country's 2024 general elections on May 29 where members of the National Assembly and provincial legislatures were elected.

"The first sitting of the National Assembly will commence with the swearing-in of all designated members in attendance by the chief justice. Following the swearing-in ceremony, the chief justice will also preside over the election of the speaker of the National Assembly," said Xolile George, secretary to the Parliament, in the statement.

Once elected, the newly appointed speaker will take over the proceedings and preside over the election of the deputy speaker, according to him.

"With the speaker and deputy speaker elected, the National Assembly will then be constitutionally competent to proceed with its first major task - the election of the man or woman from amongst the members of the Assembly, to be inaugurated as the President of the Republic," said George.

"This is a crucial process, as it sets the stage for the formation of the new administration that will govern the country. Once elected, the person ceases to be a member of parliament."

The constitution stipulates that once elected as president by the National Assembly, the president-elect must assume office within five days by taking an oath or affirming their faithfulness to the republic and their obedience to the constitution, according to the parliament's secretary.

"After the conclusion of the first sittings, members will proceed to attend the inauguration of the president-elect, which is scheduled for June 19, 2024 in Pretoria," he added.

'Government of national unity'

Meanwhile, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) looks forward to the establishment of a government of



South African president Cyril Ramaphosa meets with senior officials of the ANC during an ANC's National Executive Committee on June 13, 2024, at a Cape Town hotel. AP

national unity, said the party's Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula on Thursday. "The ANC looks forward to the commencement of the seventh democratic parliament and the establishment of the government of national unity," Mbalula told a press briefing after a meeting of the ANC's National Executive Committee on Wednesday evening in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa.

In the general elections held last month, the ANC secured 159 out of the 400 seats in the National Assembly, for the first time falling below the 50 percent needed to maintain its 30-year-old unchallenged majority in the lower house of parliament.

Mbalula said his party's negotiation team has over the past week held multiple engagements and discussions with political parties which will receive seats in the parliament, including the main opposition party Democratic Alliance, the Inkatha Freedom Party and several other small groups.

"We have reached a breakthrough

on the common agreement that we need to work together, whether others call this government of national unity or they call it any other thing for that matter," he noted. "But we have agreed with these political parties that we need to gravitate to the center."

The ANC secretary-general also stressed that his party is "not going to retreat on the concept of the government of national unity, because we believe that the government of national unity, to us, represents the outcome of the elections".

"We did not get outright majority," Mbalula said. "We are in no position to govern this country alone."

"The ANC is humbled by the fact that the spirit of the engagement with all South Africa's political parties has been characterized by the common commitment to put the interests of the people first, and to ensure that our country comes together to address the common challenges it faces," he added.

Xinhua

Xinhua, Reuters presidents hold talks on cooperation

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua on Wednesday met here with Paul Bascomb, president of Reuters, on promoting cooperation and topics of mutual interest.

Building upon bilateral cooperation in nearly 70 years, the two sides have seen frequent high-level exchanges and new developments in cooperation in recent years, said Fu, who heads a delegation in the United States.

Fu expressed his hope that the two organizations reinforce mutually beneficial cooperation on the utilization of emerging technologies, international news services, and others.

Bascomb said the two sides jointly built the World Media Summit, which became a very important conference for the media industry, and he looks forward to sharing the latest developments of artificial intelligence in the industry at the next World Media Summit.

Bascomb noted the importance of working together and helping to guide different cultures toward mutual understanding.

The two sides also exchanged ideas on artificial intelligence, video services, and opportunities in tourism promotion.

Xinhua



President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua meets with Paul Bascomb, president of Reuters, in New York, the United States, on Wednesday. Xinhua

Russia did not start war in Ukraine, Kiev continues fighting, says Putin

MOSCOW

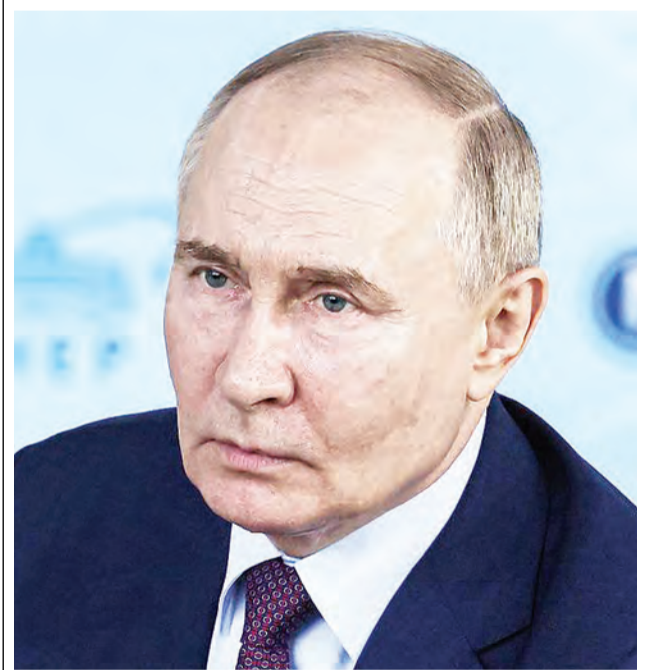
RUSSIA did not start the war as part of a special military operation, it is the Kiev regime that started and continues the hostilities, President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with the Foreign Ministry's senior staff.

"In the West, the thesis that Russia started the war within the framework of a special military operation, that it is the aggressor, is constantly being repeated. Therefore, it is possible to attack its territory with Western weapons. Allegedly, Ukraine defends itself and can do so," the president said.

"I would like to emphasize once again that Russia did not start the war. It is the Kiev regime, after the citizens of a part of Ukraine declared their independence in accordance with international law, that started hostilities and continues them. This is aggression," he pointed out.

According to him, all those who helped the Kiev regime's war machine in recent years are accomplices of the aggressors. "Then, in 2014, the residents of Donbass did not put up with it. Militia units rose, fought back the aggressors, and then pushed them back from Donetsk and Lugansk," he recalled. "We hoped that this would sober up those who unleashed this massacre," Putin emphasized.

Agencies



PM Modi holds bilateral meeting with UK PM Rishi Sunak on sidelines of G7

APULIA

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with PM Rishi Sunak of the United Kingdom on the sidelines of the G7 Summit here yesterday.

The two world leaders were seen sharing a hug as they met.

PM Modi also held a bilateral meeting with President Emmanuel Macron of France.

Apart from exchanging views on key global and regional issues, PM Modi and President Macron held discussions on a series of issues including strengthening partnership between the two nations.

PM Modi is in Italy's Apulia to participate in the Group of Seven (G7) Summit. After landing here, PM Modi said he was looking forward to engaging in productive discussions with world leaders.

He also said that they aim to address global challenges and foster international cooperation for a brighter future.

PM Modi and UK PM Sunak last met on September 9, 2023 on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi. That was Prime Minister Sunak's first visit to India since becoming Prime Minister in October 2022.

Notably, India is participating in the summit as an Outreach country.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with United Kingdom PM Rishi Sunak on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit, in Apulia yesterday. ANI

The summit is taking place at the luxurious Borgo Egnazia resort in Italy's Apulia region from June 13-15. PM Modi is attending the summit at the invitation of Italian PM

Giorgia Meloni.

As PM Modi touched down at Brindisi Airport in Apulia on late Thursday night (local time), he was received by India's Ambassador

to Italy, Vani Rao, and other officials.

This marks PM Modi's first trip abroad after assuming office for the third consecutive term.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal detailed the Prime Minister's engagements with the world leaders on June 14.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi, in his departure statement, said that he is glad that his first state visit in the third consecutive term is to Italy for the G7 Summit. He recalled his previous visit to Italy and Prime Minister Meloni's visits to India which have contributed significantly to enhancing bilateral ties.

It will be India's 11th participation and PM Modi's fifth consecutive participation at the G7 Summit.

PM Modi is also expected to hold a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart Meloni. ANI

Security agreement with the US is 'bridge' to Ukraine's NATO membership - Zelenskyy

BARI

AFTER signing the bilateral security pact with the US, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that the "agreement is a bridge" to Kyiv's attempt to join NATO, CNN reported.

Zelenskyy made the remarks at a joint news conference with US President Joe Biden, which was held on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy on Thursday.

"It states that America supports Ukraine's future membership in NATO and recognizes that our security agreement is a bridge to Ukraine's membership in NATO," Zelenskyy said at the news conference, according to CNN.

The Group of Seven (G7) Summit is being held in Apulia, Italy from June 13-15.

"It is very important for all Ukrainians and for all Europeans to know that there will be no security deficit in Europe,

which tempts the aggressor to war and makes the future uncertain," Zelenskyy added.

Zelenskyy described the signing of a bilateral security pact between his country and the US as a "truly historic day."

He stated that the agreement helps everyone as Russia is a "real global threat."

"This is an agreement on security and thus on the protection of human life. This is an agreement on cooperation

and thus on how our nations will become stronger. This is an agreement on steps to guarantee sustainable peace and therefore it benefits everyone in the world," the Ukrainian President added.

The agreement follows months of negotiations between the US and Ukraine and is expected to commit the US for 10 years to continued training of Ukraine's armed forces, more cooperation in the production of

weapons and military equipment, the continued provision of military assistance and greater intelligence sharing, CNN said.

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden stated on Thursday that the US remains strong in its support for Ukraine.

Russia's conflict has been a "test for the world," Biden said after signing a long-term security agreement with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, according to CNN. ANI

Global Civilization Initiative conforms to trend, meets demand of times

By He Yin (People's Daily) 10:42, June 14, 2024

The 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously adopted a resolution proposed by China to establish the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations.

The resolution advocates respecting the diversity of civilizations and calls for equal dialogue and mutual respect among different civilizations. It fully reflects the core essence of the Global Civilizations Initiative (GCI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The unanimous support from the international community for setting up the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations demonstrates that the GCI conforms to the trend and meets the demand of the times.

In March 2023, Xi proposed the GCI, stressing the importance to advocate the respect for the diversity of civilizations, the common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

In today's world where the futures of all countries are closely connected, the GCI offers answers to important

questions such as how different civilizations should get along and where the human civilization is headed. It contributes Chinese wisdom and solutions to promoting mutual learning among civilizations and advancing the progress of human civilization.

China's proposal to establish the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations at the UNGA helps implement the GCI and has injected positive energy into addressing common challenges faced by humanity.

China is committed to promoting mutual understanding, respect, and trust among nations, and seeks to build consensus on peaceful devel-

opment through cultural exchanges and mutual learning.

In this year alone, the GCI has been incorporated into bilateral documents between China and over a dozen countries including Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, and Hungary, gaining increasingly widespread recognition and support.

In today's world that has entered a new period of turbulence, multiple challenges and crises are intertwined. The international community has come to a deeper understanding that exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations contribute to en-

hancing understanding, trust, and cooperation, providing important impetus for human development and progress.

The resolution of the UNGA states that all civilizational achievements are "the collective heritage of humankind." It emphasizes "the crucial role of dialogue" among civilizations in maintaining world peace, promoting common development, enhancing human well-being, and achieving collective progress. This resolution reflects the universal aspiration of countries around the world to uphold equality and inclusiveness, and to maintain the diversity of world civilizations.

The resolution invites all

member states and UN agencies to commemorate the International Day.

China will closely collaborate with all parties to organize diverse and vibrant activities for dialogue among civilizations. It will advocate for respecting the diversity of civilizations, promote the common values of humanity, value the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and actively promote people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, so as to achieve common prosperity and progress of human civilization.

The unanimous support from the international community for setting up the International Day for Dialogue

among Civilizations demonstrates that Chinese ideas and solutions are increasingly gaining international consensus.

No matter how the international landscape changes, China will stand firmly on the right side of history and on the side of human progress, and will advocate vigorously peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit. It will uphold the shared values of humanity, promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the GCI, and build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and shared prosperity.

People's Daily

United States actively supports unrest in Georgia – Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

THE United States actively supports the unrest in Georgia, but does not condemn the Armenian authorities for suppressing the ongoing rallies in the country, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said yesterday.

The diplomat compared two statements made by the US Embassies in Armenia and Georgia about the continuing protests in those countries.

"So much for democracy: in one case Washington via its Embassy, states that the rallies must be conducted responsibly and does not condemn the [local] authorities for their suppression, and in the other most con-



trary case, actively supports the riots organ-

ized by Western foreign agents," Zakharova stated on her Telegram channel.

"It is an obvious illustration of the 'world order, based on rules,' where it is namely the United States changes all 'rules' to suit itself with a snap of a finger, based on the conjuncture of the moment," she added.

Georgia's relations with the United States as well as the European Union have soured following its Parliament's adoption of the law on foreign agents.

The US State Department stated earlier that it would impose visa sanctions on dozens of Georgian citizens, including members of the government, Parliament and their relatives, as well as law enforcers in connection with the law on foreign agents. **Agencies**

Peace lost in Blinken's another failed Mideast trip

CAIRO

VIOLENCE raged in Gaza on Wednesday as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrapped up a disappointing Middle East tour to broker a truce between Israel and Hamas with little outcome.

Blinken's visit followed U.S. President Joe Biden's new ceasefire proposal presented on May 31. However, more hurdles emerged for the proposal after the U.S. top diplomat failed to bridge the differences between the warring sides during his eighth trip to the region since the outbreak of the conflict.

PRESSURE ON HAMAS FAILS

Before leaving Egypt on Monday, Blinken asserted that Israel had accepted the ceasefire proposal, supported by regional countries, even though Israel has not publicly confirmed this. Blinken emphasized that the immediate priority was to pressure Hamas to accept the proposal, calling Hamas "the only obstacle" to a ceasefire.

On Tuesday, Hamas responded through mediators in Qatar and Egypt, proposing modifications. This angered Israel, which claimed Hamas's response was a rejection. In Doha on Wednesday, Blinken acknowledged some of Hamas's amendments as feasible but labeled others "unworkable."

Hamas later denied suggesting new ideas, stating, "all we did was to reaffirm our commitment to what was presented on May 5 by the mediators, and we did not discuss any new ideas or proposals."

"Blinken's visit evaded real issues and aimed to pressure Pal-

estinians. It is merely a reaffirmation of U.S. support for Israel, continuing its role as a disruptor," Palestinian political analyst Hussam Al-Dajani told Xinhua.

LACK OF JUSTICE

Analysts argue that Washington's lack of neutrality undermines its role as an effective mediator in the conflict.

As the U.S. ceasefire proposal faces fallout, Blinken is quick to blame Hamas. In Qatar, the final stop of his visit, the U.S. top diplomat continued his criticism of Hamas during a joint press conference with Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani.

"I think it will be clear to everyone around the world, that it's on them and that they will have made a choice to continue a war that they started," said Blinken.

Al-Thani diverged from Blinken's stance, suggesting that pressures should be applied to both sides. He cited Israeli actions over the past month, including the Rafah offensive and inconsistent statements from Israeli officials, as hindrances to ceasefire efforts.

Mokhtar Ghobashy, secretary general of the Al-Farabi Center for Political Studies in Egypt, contends that forcing Hamas into an agreement with Israel, whose government seeks to eliminate the Palestinian faction under U.S. protection, is unfair.

"The problem with the U.S. initiative is that it does not clearly commit to a ceasefire, a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, or a precise timeline for Gaza's reconstruction," Ghobashy said.

Analysts also highlight that Biden, Blinken, and other U.S. of-



ficials praised Israel's rescue of four hostages on June 8, which resulted in the deaths of over 200 Palestinian civilians, which complicated ceasefire efforts as it emboldened Israel and solidified the biased stance Washington is taking.

"What exacerbates the situation is the U.S. bias towards Israel, disregarding Palestinian casualties to support its ally. The Palestinians cannot rely on the United States to act as an impartial mediator in these negotiations," Palestinian analyst Al-Dajani said.

CONFLICT RAGES ON

As Blinken visited the region, the conflict continued to escalate. On Tuesday, an Israeli strike killed a top Hezbollah commander, described by a Lebanese military source as the armed group's "most important" fighter killed since the Gaza conflicts began.

In retaliation, Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and missiles into northern Israel on Wednesday, causing fires but no casualties, according to the Israeli military. Hezbollah also claimed responsibility for over 10 other attacks on the Israeli military, including one involving

drones.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict that broke out on Oct. 7, 2023, has killed over 37,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The conflict has led to severe shortages of food, medicine, and other supplies in Gaza, with UN agencies warning that over 1 million people could face starvation by mid-July.

On Monday, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2735, calling for an "immediate, comprehensive, and thorough" ceasefire in Gaza to end the eight-month conflict.

However, the implementation of this resolution remains uncertain. Palestinian political analyst Talal Okal noted that Israel did not immediately support Biden's ceasefire proposal nor respond to the Security Council resolution, suggesting that even the U.S.-submitted resolution might not be enforced.

Eyal Zisser, vice-rector of Tel Aviv University and professor of Middle Eastern and African History, stated that Israel's goal is to dismantle Hamas's military and governance capabilities, so the conflict is unlikely to end until this goal is achieved. **Xinhua**



President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua and Daisy Veerasingham, president and CEO of the Associated Press (AP), exchange signed copy of cooperation agreement in New York, the United States on Wednesday. Fu Hua held talks here with Daisy Veerasingham. **Xinhua**

Xinhua, AP presidents discuss media cooperation

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua on Wednesday held talks here with Daisy Veerasingham, president and CEO of the Associated Press (AP).

The AP is an important partner of Xinhua, and the two sides have maintained an amicable relationship for a long time, said Fu, who leads a delegation in the United States.

Fu expressed the hope that the two sides further extend cooperation in news and information services, strengthen exchanges on the application of new technologies in the media industry, and deepen cooperation under multilateral mechanisms.

The AP and Xinhua have a relationship going back over 50 years, and it has stood the test of time, said Veerasingham.

"We have seen many changes in the world, but I think the relationship that the two organizations have forged together for so long is a really important indicator for how we can strengthen our relationship in the years ahead," said Veerasingham.

The two sides exchanged signed copy of their cooperation agreement on the distribution of photos, videos and press releases, and also discussed challenges and opportunities like the utilization of artificial intelligence and the coverage of Olympic Games.

Xinhua

East African armed forces start joint military training exercise in Rwanda

KIGALI

ABOUT 1,000 military and police personnel from four partner states of the East African Community (EAC) regional bloc on Thursday began a two-week joint military training exercise in eastern Rwanda.

The 13th edition of the EAC Armed Forces Field Training Exercise, code named Ushirikiano Imara, was launched at Rwanda Military Academy in Gako in Bugesera district under the theme, "Strengthening the security sector integration and harnessing common interests consistent with EAC regional peace and stability."

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Rwandan Minister of Defense Juvenal Marizamunda called for collaborative efforts within the region in view of contemporary security challenges.

"The importance of security in regional integration cannot be overstated. Indeed, no country can confront contemporary

security challenges single-handedly. It is therefore essential for countries to come together as a region to address these security challenges collectively," he said.

He noted that the exercise presents an opportunity to bolster partnerships and interoperability, enabling the region to effectively respond to any potential threats. The participants are from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.

The training to run through June 26 will also be conducted in Rubavu district in western Rwanda for the maritime exercise.

Col. Deng Mayom Manyam, the defense liaison officer of the South Sudanese People's Defense Force at the EAC, who represented the bloc's secretary general at the ceremony, said that the areas of cooperation are entrenched in the protocol, focusing on four pillars including military training, joint operations, technical cooperation, visits and exchange of information. **Xinhua**

China provides new opportunities for world with new development

AT GE Healthcare's Beijing Imaging Equipment Manufacturing Base in Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, five batches of raw materials for producing a new type of diagnostic equipment have just arrived and been put into use.

"These raw materials are essential components for our new equipment," said an employee from Beijing GE Hualun Medical Equipment Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of General Electric Company (GE).

"They hit the production line immediately after being cleared from customs, which increased the efficiency of our supply chain," the employee added.

According to him, the company has been able to implement its global strategy at a faster pace thanks to the increasingly favorable business environment in China.

He noted that over the past 6 years, the company has outperformed its total production from the last 20 years, with two-thirds of the CT scanners sold globally coming from the company's Beijing facility.

In Suzhou New District, east China's Jiangsu province, a new factory of Suzhou Hybiome Biomedical Engineering Co. Ltd. (Hybiome), invested and controlled by French multinational vitro diagnostic company bioMérieux, has just been completed.

To build Hybiome into a prominent player in vitro diagnostics, the factory is planned to produce 1,000 fully automated chemiluminescence immunoassay systems per year, with an annual output value of 1 billion yuan (\$137.86 million).

Over the past more than 40 years of reform and opening up, China has emerged as the world's second-largest economy, remained the world's top manufacturing hub for 14 consecutive years and the top trading nation for 7 straight years. The country undoubtedly plays an indispensable role in global industrial and supply chains.

This year, foreign companies continue to enjoy broader prospects in China. According to China's Ministry of Commerce, the number of newly established foreign-invested firms in China hit 12,000 in the first quarter (Q1) of 2024, up 20.7 percent year on year. In the same period, the actual foreign direct investment (FDI) in China stood at 301.67 billion yuan.

In terms of the structure of FDI, the country's high-



Photo shows a workshop of the BMW production base in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning province. (Photo from the WeChat public account of the publicity department of Shenyang)

tech manufacturing sector attracted 12.5 percent of the FDI inflow in the first quarter, up 2.2 percentage points compared to that in the same period last year.

Behind the decisions of multinationals to intensify their presence in China is their confidence in the country's ability to sustain sound economic growth.

For instance, Standard Chartered Securities (China) Limited, a wholly foreign-owned securities company affiliated with Standard Chartered, has commenced securities business in Beijing. The largest Apple store in Asia has officially opened in Shanghai. The China-Saudi Arabia ethylene project has entered the full construction stage in Zhangzhou, east China's Fujian province, with a total investment of 44.8 billion yuan.

China boasts a complete industrial sys-

tem, a super-large market, and a stable social environment. The Chinese economy has strong resilience, tremendous potential and great vitality, and the fundamentals sustaining its long-term growth remain unchanged. It has become the favored investment destination for many foreign businesses.

The 2024 Kearney Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index report released in April by Kearney, a global management consulting firm, upgraded China's ranking from seventh to third.

Besides, for the second time in the 26-year history of the FDI Confidence Index, Kearney includes an exclusive emerging market ranking to give business leaders insights into which emerging markets are most appealing to investors now and over the next three years. China ranks first on

the 25-market list.

As China advances a broader agenda of opening up across more areas and in greater depth, and works to expand institutional opening up with regard to market access and the service sector, a more transparent and predictable business environment is being created for foreign companies to develop in the country.

According to a survey of more than 600 foreign-funded companies conducted by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade in the first quarter this year, over 70 percent of them are optimistic about the development prospects of the Chinese market over the next five years, and more than 50 percent believe the Chinese market has become more attractive.

Foreign businesses always say that in-

vesting in China is investing in the future, which has got a new meaning. New quality productive forces, marked by innovation and taking a substantial increase in total factor productivity as its core hallmark, are becoming increasingly attractive in global industrial development.

On April 26, German carmaker BMW announced an additional investment of 20 billion yuan in its production base in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning province. The investment will be used for upgrading as well as technological innovation of the Dadong plant of BMW Group's joint venture in China, BMW Brilliance Automotive Ltd. (BBA). The plant will lay the foundation for the localized production of a new generation of BMW models expected to roll off the production line in 2026.

Oliver Zipse, chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG, said that the new generation of BMW models heralds a new era of personal intelligent mobility driven by innovation and technology.

"By 2026, the first new-generation BMW vehicle made in China will roll off the production line in Shenyang. The investment underlines the importance of China in BMW's transition towards an intelligent and connected automotive future as well as our confidence in China's long-term economic prospects," Zipse said.

China will never drag its feet on reform and opening up. As the second largest economy in the world, China will undoubtedly provide new momentum and opportunities for the world with its continuous development and greater openness.

People's Daily

Mo return to Simba's board of directors: A blueprint for revival amidst challenges

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli.

AFTER Mohamed Dewji 'Mo' agreed to be the chairman of Simba's Board of Directors, due to Salim Abdallah 'Try Again' resigning, now it seems he has challenges to face so that the team can get back on track.

Try Again announced his resignation as the chairman of the Board of Directors of Simba SC a few days after five members of the board on the investor's side resigned due to the team's bad performance during the 2023/24 season.

When Try Again announced his resignation, he asked Mo Dewji to take the seat. It should be noted that Mo Dewji was previously the chairman of the board before resigning in September 2021. He stayed for four years and left the stick to Try Again. Mo Dewji was then announced as the Honorary President of Simba SC.

With the return of Mo Dewji in that position, which procedurally he will have to re-contest, there is a lot that has emerged. Among that is how he is going to face the challenges while the fans and members of the club have a great desire to see positive results.

The biggest demand of the Msimbazi Street-based side fans is on the registration of players. They claim that most of the players failed them the most last season and they want new players with the quality needed to make Simba great again.

Last season, Simba finished in third place in the Premier League standings, something that has hurt the club's fans the most because next season they are going to participate in the CAF Confederation Cup and not the CAF Champions League.

The team did not make impressive signings at the end of the season, and many players who



Simba SC's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mohamed Dewji 'Mo'. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

entered the team including Aubin Kramo, who was injured throughout the season, Pa Omar Jobe and Babacar Sarr, who entered during the January transfer window, failed to quench the thirst of the fans. Although, some did well including Ayoub Lakred and Freddy Michael despite starting slowly.

Their focus is on the foreign international players who are the ones who are the most eyed by Simba fans because they believe that due to their frequently participation in CAF championships, they should sign important players from abroad.

Mo Dewji has a big responsibility

to ensure that Simba make good and productive registrations for the team, which will bring back their competitiveness in the championships they are going to participate in.

The members of Simba's Board of Directors on the investor's side have all resigned including their chairman, Try Again, so a new line of leadership must be created to join the members on the other side of the club's members who continue to dance, announcing that they have no plans to resign like their colleagues.

Simba's underperformance has led the fans and members of the club to lose faith in their team and many do

not go to the field. In the past three seasons, Young Africans have continued to dominate while Simba have struggled and all the blame goes to the club's leaders.

Mo has announced his return. He has to return the trust of the club's fans, and that cannot be done if he fails to have a good team.

Simba used to be famous for playing attractive football, but in the meantime, the situation has changed. They play only to get a victory.

Simba's traditional rivals Young Africans have been doing well in their Dar es Salaam derbies. When these teams meet, no one likes to see their rivals win. That makes their games very emotional inside and outside the field. To make matters worse for the fans, Simba suffered the whole last season and were beaten by a total of 7-2 goals in the two league matches against Young Africans.

Simba and Young Africans are going to meet again in the opening matches of the next season (Community Shield) where the tournament involves four teams starting from the semi-finals. Others are Azam and Coastal Union.

The semi-finals will be Young Africans vs Simba and Azam vs Coastal Union. The winners will go to the final to compete for the title which is held by Simba. That will be another test for Simba to show their dominance in front of Young Africans and defend the title they won by beating the Jangwani-based side with a penalty shootout last season.

Last season, Simba was coached by three different coaches. They started with Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho', who left in November 2023, be-

fore Abdelhak Benchikha came and his journey ended in April 2024. All those two coaches were foreigners before the native Juma Mgunda finished the season.

The act of changing coaches within a short time has been mentioned as part of Simba's failure. So Mo Dewji should also look into this.

Simba and Young Africans are the oldest teams in the Premier League and have established their rule because, in the past 20 seasons, they have been exchanging the championship of the league, Azam have intervened only once.

For three consecutive seasons now, Young Africans have established their rule by carrying the league championship in a row. Before that, Simba did it for four seasons in a row.

When Simba won the league championship four times in a row in 2017/2018, 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21, Mo Dewji was the chairman of the Board of Directors, so his departure is like he left with his trophies.

Now he is coming back, the big hope is to bring back the lost rule while he was sitting on the sidelines.

Simba's goal for a long time was to play in the semi-final stage of the CAF Champions League. That is after playing in the quarter-finals five times, starting in 2018. In recent seasons, the team's goal of advancing to the CAF Champions League semi-finals seemed to be only a small thing that failed them. But heading into the season next time they will participate in the Confederation Cup, therefore, they have work to do to achieve their goal.

Simba's motto is 'Nguvu Moja', but Mo Dewji believes that unity is not there at the moment, so when he returns

to his previous seat, he should manage that to show there is change.

There is a lot of work to be done here because since the process of changing the operations of Simba SC began in 2018, up to date, there is tension here and there to the point of delaying the completion of the matter.

A lot has been said about the process, but what is expected is to see everything completed quickly as the members have agreed to the change even though they need a procedure to be followed.

The foundation of many long-term successful teams is youth football. You can have a great team by buying players every transfer window, but homegrown young players are necessary for long-term success for any team.

Simba is one of the teams that in the past had a good foundation for youth football. We witnessed many of their young players coming to carry them forward. That happened between 2012 and 2015, but after that, it is as if they have forgotten themselves. Those who are promoted to the senior team, are not given the chance to develop their talents.

Right now, goalkeeper Ally Salim you can say is the only one among their young players who gets that chance, but there should have been many other players who are given the chance as it was in previous years when we witnessed Ramadhan Singano, Jonas Mkuide, Said Ndemla and others lighting it up.

As Mo is now back on track he should manage the area of investment for youth football by putting a great force that will produce talent from the bottom up.

Veteran visual artists urged to embrace 'Artivism' Fellowship

By Guardian Correspondent

EXPERIENCED visual artists in Tanzania should fully use seminars, workshops, and other opportunities for learning so they can successfully champion activism via their profession.

Veteran cartoonist, Samwel Mwamkinga, advised during the unveiling of selected trainees for Nafasi Academy's new program, dubbed 'Artivism', at Nafasi Art Space in Dar es Salaam recently.

"One of the big problems facing (veteran) artists is they, in most cases, feel they no longer want to learn new approaches after they have achieved success to a certain extent. An artist is however always required to learn, adapt to changes, and operate as per modern days' demands," Mwamkinga, popularly known by his artistic name 'Sammy Joune', revealed.

He pointed out: "There are, for instance, many changes in how visual artists operate. We have already discarded traditional styles and embraced modern approaches. We no longer rely much on creating artworks via papers and canvases. Nowadays we have computers containing all necessary working tools, we therefore have to change."

"We can still keep our traditional ways but we

can transform them into digital ways. Changes, at some point, are inevitable, the world is now moving so fast, one might, for instance, be asked to prepare two artworks for a newspaper within 30 minutes, if he/she clings to traditional styles, he/she would not beat the deadline and eventually lose his/her job to younger visual artists that deploy modern styles. Learning therefore is a must," Mwamkinga, whose career in visual art began in the 1990s and has worked for various local print media outlets, stressed.

The training on 'Artivism', which reflects the use of various forms of arts to foster activism, is organized by Nafasi Art Space in conjunction with an organization, ForumCiv, which works with marginalized communities in Kenya so they can have the power to effect changes in the country.

Nafasi Art Space's Visual Art Manager, Firdaus Mbogho, said 10 artists make the 2024 'Artivism' Fellowship cohort and engage in various art genres including theater/film, illustration/cartooning, digital art, contemporary dance, and literature.

The training, hosted by Nafasi Art Space, according to Firdaus, got underway at the center's premises at Mikochehi on Monday and will con-



Jackson Obare, Regional Manager for the ForumCiv organization (4th R), presides over the launch of the 2024 'Artivism' Fellowship at Nafasi Art Space in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. The transformative fellowship, coordinated by the two institutions, aims to empower 10 diverse artists across various creative disciplines, giving them tools and skills to harness the power of art for social change—a concept encapsulated by the term 'artivism'. Others are Nafasi Art Space Managing Director Lilian Hipolyte (3rd L) and the fellowship's selected trainees. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

clude on September 30.

She said Nafasi Art Space is proud of the development and is confident that arts can play a part in bringing changes in society in a variety of ways.

The 'Artivism' Fellowship cohort has Mwamkinga, Ayoub Kondo, Marina Juma, Paul Nhiga, Pandakilima Keshu, Rebecca Makundi, Kepha Simba, Ibrahim Jonathan, Paul Lukumay, and Weshy Lema.

ForumCiv's official, Winifred Nkatha Konge, said the organization has been operating in Tanzania for 18 months under a center known as SASA, which advocates for social accountability and is funded by the Hewlett

Foundation.

According to Winifred, the 'Artivism' Fellowship will come to an end in September this year and she expressed optimism her organization will extend its collaboration with the foundation to continue coordinating the program in the country. She stated that ForumCiv coordinates the 'Artivism' Fellowship because the organization believes that arts can serve as an effective tool for bringing changes in society.

Winifred noted that there are so many social issues that affect people in the community, therefore, her organization believes artists can become activists and bring

changes in the community via their talent. Culture and media, she disclosed, can also play a part in bringing changes.

She disclosed her organization is holding the 'Artivism' Fellowship for three reasons, the first of which is building the capacity for creative industry practitioners to bring changes in their community.

She remarked that her organization is seeking to fulfill its mission through the 'Artivism' Fellowship session that will take place at Nafasi Art Space.

The trainees, she disclosed, can also gain more knowledge from experienced creative industry practitioners who

will mentor the trainees so the latter can become better activists.

The program will, moreover, provide a platform for inter-generational learning, in which both youthful artists and their experienced counterparts will learn better means for using their talent to vouch for activism.

Winifred pointed out that ForumCiv is, through the 'Artivism' Fellowship, also keen on ensuring creative industry practitioners operate in a better environment in finances and government support.

She said her organization will, through the program, see to it that artists have a meaning-

ful dialogue with decision-makers so the latter can ensure the former operates in a better environment.

Winifred revealed that ForumCiv is out to coordinate a forum in either August or September this year, bringing together artists from Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania to come up with challenges affecting them and solutions for such challenges.

The solutions, she added, will be submitted to the decision-makers who will work on them to back the artists.

She pointed out that ForumCiv is, via an 'Artivism' Fellowship, further seeking to improve the artists' lives, stressing that artists should gain financially from their works.

ForumCiv's Regional Manager, Jackson Obare, revealed the forthcoming 'Artivism' Fellowship follows a pilot program held in Kenya in 2022, with the cohort constituting 15 artists.

According to Obare, out of the 15 trainees, four have become successful practitioners in their respective art genres.

"If an artist does not have anyone that can support him/her, it will be difficult for the artist to achieve success. Thus, we need this regional and international collaboration and networks to support the work the artists are doing," he re-

marked. "This is not just an inauguration of an academy but the beginning of a strong movement of young artists doing different things that blend the power of art with the passion of activism—a transformative fusion called 'Artivism,'" Obare remarked.

"Artivism is a dynamic intersection of art and activism, and we are using a creative expression to drive social justice/change, give voice to the voiceless, and challenge the status quo. Through art, we can illuminate issues that matter the most to us," Obare pointed out.

He stated some sensitive issues could, for instance, be hidden in songs, adding: "(Artivism) is a way of bringing up issues in many ways, these issues could be justice, equality, environment, and human rights. They are core issues that affect us, and we find a way of expressing our desire to seek change the way we want it to be and art is the most powerful (way)."

The ForumCiv Regional Manager further revealed his organization will, next month, launch another 'Artivism' Fellowship in Nairobi.

Nafasi Academy is an initiative focusing on nurturing artistic talents and promoting cultural exchange, which is coordinated by Nafasi Art Space.

Chinese soccer fans are pouring money into a food stall run by Singapore's goalkeeper. Here's why

BY FU TING

CHINESE soccer fans have poured their love – and money – into a Singaporean goalkeeper's food stall after his performance in a game this week indirectly helped China advance to the third qualifying round for the World Cup in 2026.

Hassan Sunny, a 40-year-old goalkeeper on the national team, became an overnight celebrity on Chinese social media after Singapore's 3-1 loss to Thailand on Tuesday. China would have been eliminated if Thailand had won by three goals. Sunny made enough saves to prevent that from happening.

Chinese fans have been lining up and buying out all the food at the stand Sunny and his wife run in Singapore. Those in China have been sending money using the stall's QR payment code, which has been widely shared online.

Soccer is one of the most popular spectator sports in China, though the men's national team has struggled despite investments of millions into the sport. The team has only reached the World Cup once, more than 20 years ago in 2002.

Some fans said on social media that Sunny is the best 12th player on the Chinese team, while a few wondered if he would have tax issues with all the money pouring in. Others called it rather sad and embarrassing that this is how China advanced to the next round, with one saying it shows the Chinese team would rather rely on others than its own players.

Dapur Hassan, the food stand, quickly jumped to No. 1 in the Singaporean snack and food section on Dianping, a Chinese restaurant review app. It specializes in "nasi lemak," a popular rice dish cooked in coconut milk and pandan leaves.

Fans have posted screenshots of their transactions, sending from 1 to 10 Singapore dollars (about 75 cents to \$8) – or more – alongside comments of "Sincere appreciation from a soccer fan" or "Love from China."

Sunny didn't respond to an interview request via email and his Instagram accounts, but he made an announcement in Chinese on the platform on Thursday night urging people to stop sending money and warning that some QR codes masquerading as his shop's had been posted.

"Thank you for the support in the last a few days which allows me to fully feel the enthusiasm of Chinese fans," he wrote. "I call for rational support, stop transferring money to me through the internet."

AP

Edin Terzic resigns as coach of Champions League runner-up Borussia Dortmund

DORTMUND, Germany

EDIN Terzic resigned as coach of Champions League runner-up Borussia Dortmund on Thursday.

Terzic said he wanted Dortmund to start a "new era" with a new coach but there was no immediate word on a successor amid reports in German media that his assistant Nuri Sahin could take over.

Terzic's last game in charge was the 2-0 loss to Real Madrid in the Champions League final at London's Wembley Stadium on June 1.

"After the game at Wembley, I asked for a meeting with the club's senior management team, because after 10 years at BVB (Dortmund) – including five on the coaching staff and two as a half and head coach – I feel that the club's new era should begin with a new man on the touchline," Terzic said in a club statement.

"Everyone close to me knows that this has been a very difficult decision for me to take over the last few weeks, but after intensive discussions my fundamental feeling has not changed."

A lifelong Dortmund fan, Terzic had until recently seemed to be in his dream job. Still, the club's shock run to the Champions League final came amid poor performances in the German league.

Terzic won the German Cup as interim coach in 2021 and was runner-up in the Bundesliga to Bayern Munich in 2023, dropping the title on goal difference after a draw in the last game of the season.

This year, Dortmund finished fifth in the Bundesliga, its worst result for nine years, and was knocked out of the German Cup in the round of 16.

"We have been through a lot together, and I have really enjoyed working alongside Edin to achieve our goals," sporting director Sebastian Kehl said. "He will always be associated with our successes over the last few years, and I'm sure we'll see each other again. Edin will now pursue his own path."

Terzic's departure means yet another big decision for Dortmund, which has gaps to fill in its squad and Champions League income to spend.

AP

Expanded Club World Cup in 2025 now faces legal challenge by players' unions

DUSSELDORF, Germany

SOCCER players' unions legally challenged FIFA on Thursday for expanding the Club World Cup.

The 32-team event, up from seven, is slated for June-July 2025 in the United States despite world players' union FIFPRO raising concerns about the increasing physical and mental demands on players.

FIFPRO's European arm said member unions in England and France filed a claim against FIFA at the Brussels Court of Commerce, and challenged FIFA's "decisions to unilaterally set the international match calendar."

The English Professional Footballers' Association said the case would "challenge the structure of football's broken calendar and enforce the rights of players to take protected breaks."

The Brussels court is being asked to refer the case to the European Court of Justice.

"Players and their unions have consistently highlighted the current football calendar as overloaded and unworkable," FIFPRO Europe said in a statement.

FIFA revealed details of



FILE - FIFA President Gianni Infantino walks on the stage before the start of the 69th FIFA congress in Paris, Wednesday, June 5, 2019. FIFA was facing more opposition to its newly-expanded Club World Cup in America on Thursday, June 13, 2024 after World players' union FIFPRO said a legal claim had been submitted against the decision to create the tournament. (AP Photo)

its expanded Club World Cup in December. FIFPRO quickly opposed the plans, which it said showed a "lack of consideration for the mental and physical health of participating players, as well as a disregard for their personal and family lives."

FIFPRO said unions believe decisions like the expanded

Club World Cup "violate the rights of players and their unions."

FIFA said the timing of the month-long tournament, during the offseason for many major leagues around the world, would ensure sufficient rest for players.

That assertion is disputed. "Once preparation periods

and travel are included, the tournament is likely to create up to six weeks of additional work to be added to an already crowded schedule," FIFPRO Europe said. "The role of FIFPRO Europe and its members is not to favor or oppose one competition over another. However, in the wider context of the global football calendar,

the new FIFA Club World Cup is seen by players and unions as representing a tipping point."

FIFA says the international match calendar is published after consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Staging the Club World Cup in 2025 means top players face three straight years of major competitions during the usual offseason, given the European Championship and Copa America are being staged this year and the next World Cup is in 2026.

"Since all attempts at dialogue have failed, it is now up to us to ensure that the fundamental rights of players are fully respected by taking the matter to the European courts and thus to the ECJ," FIFPRO Europe president David Terrier said. "It's not a question of stigmatizing a particular competition, but of denouncing both the underlying problem and the straw that broke the camel's back."

Despite the opposition of FIFPRO, the European Clubs Association has said the Club World Cup was "fantastic news for club football in general."

The Associated Press contacted FIFA for comment.

AP

Turkey can expect strong support from the Turkish-German community at Euro 2024. So can Germany

DUESSELDORF, Germany

SIX years ago, Ilkay Gündogan's place on the German national team was in question over a photograph with Turkey's president. Now he's the team captain.

When Gündogan leads the German national team out against Scotland in the European Championship opener Friday, he will be his first captain of Turkish heritage at a major tournament.

To some in the large Turkish-German community, the Barcelona midfielder embodies a "hybrid identity" that is gaining ground even in the face of political gains for the anti-migration far right, said Caner Aver, researcher at the Center for Turkish Studies and Integration Research in the German city of Essen.

While Gündogan had to choose which country to represent on the field, fans can support both. As the tournament nears, Aver bought one German and one Turkish national team shirt for his 6-year-old son, cut them in half, and stitched the halves together to make his own hybrid kit.

"I think there will be a lot of people who support both national teams and who would probably be pleased if they were to meet at some point in the semifinals or final," Aver told The Associated Press.

One of those supporting both Germany and Turkey is Osman Eroglu, who is a goalkeeper and board member at Türk-gücü Ratingen, a Turkish community soccer club on the outskirts of Euro 2024 host city Düsseldorf.

"For us, for people with a migration background in the third or the fourth generation



Turkey's fans celebrate at the KoelnArena-Dome prior to the soccer EURO 2008 semi-final match between Germany and Turkey in Cologne, western Germany, on Thursday, June 25, 2008. AP Photo

by now, it's a European Championship in our own country too, after all," Eroglu told The AP. "It's double the joy because Turkey is represented this year too, so there are two teams straight away that you can support and cross your fingers for."

Others question whether players from minority groups might be scapegoats for German fans or the media if the team falls short. Some even see choosing Germany over Turkey as an act of betrayal. Gündogan was particularly targeted with booing by some fans of the Turkish national team in a friendly game against Germany in Berlin last year that Turkey won 3-2.

When Gündogan and teammate Mesut Özil, another star German player of Turkish heritage, posed for photos with Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the run-up to the 2018 World Cup, they faced pointed criticism from the German soccer federation's president at the time, Reinhard Grindel, who said Erdogan didn't sufficiently share the orga-

nization's "values."

After the World Cup, Özil quit the national team, citing a "feeling of racism and disrespect" following anti-Turkish comments from far-right politicians and fans. Özil never played for Germany again and retired from soccer last year. Younis Kamil is an academic and soccer coach of Sudanese and German heritage who is working with a major Turkish community organization in Germany and the national Olympic committee on a project around Euro 2024 and sports participation for people with a family history of migration.

Even with Gündogan as captain, there are few people of

Turkish heritage and from other minority groups in coaching and authority roles in German soccer, Kamil said.

"There's still a gap between the the possibility of identification with the German national team, and I think one of the main reasons is the lack of representation in the decision-making structures, and also experiences of discrimination young people make in their daily lives," Kamil told the AP.

The Turkish national team has five Germany-born players in its squad and is counting on enthusiastic support.

"In Germany we're going to be like a host country," Turkey defender Ozan Kabak, who was born in Turkey but plays his

club soccer in Germany, said in a recent interview. "A lot of Turkish people live here, and I think whole stadiums (are) going to be full of Turkish people."

Fans of the Turkish team even outnumbered Germany's supporters at the friendly in Berlin last year. Unfortunately for Kabak, he won't be playing when Turkey starts its Euro 2024 campaign on June 18 after a pre-tournament knee injury.

Turkey plays its first two Euro 2024 games against Georgia and Portugal in Dortmund before facing the Czech Republic in Hamburg. Both cities have many residents of Turkish heritage.

Many people of Turkish origin in Germany are descended from "guest workers" who arrived during the Cold War. An economic boom after World War II meant West Germany had an acute shortage of labor.

A history of migration from places like Italy, Greece and Croatia – and more recently the arrival of refugees from Ukraine – mean those teams are also likely to get substantial local support.

This year also brings a significant legal change as longstanding restrictions on dual nationality are abolished, making it much easier for naturalized German citizens to keep Turkish passports too.

"It's not either-or, it's both-and," said Aver, the researcher who made his son a half-and-half shirt for Euro 2024. He's hoping the tournament can help to bring German society together.

"It's important, now in a time of rising right-wing populism ... to put diversity in the foreground," he said. "So I hope and I wish that the fans celebrate together, commiserate together and experience joy together."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Expanded Club World Cup in 2025 faces legal challenge by players' unions

PAGE 19

TP Mazembe cast doubt on participation in CECAFA Kagame Cup



TP Mazembe squad. Agencies

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

FIVE-TIME CAF Champions League winners, TP Mazembe, have clarified their position regarding participation in the 2024 CECAFA Kagame Cup, scheduled to take place from July 6 to 22 in Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Despite initial reports, the Congolese giants have stated they have not received any official invitation from the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA).

Mazembe were initially named as one of three guest teams set to participate in the tournament alongside Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets and Zambia's Red Arrows FC.

However, a statement from the club revealed a different reality.

"The management of TP Mazembe learned from the media about the club's participation in the CECAFA Kagame Cup 2024," the club's

statement reads.

"TPM informs the club's large family that it has not yet received any official invitation for its participation in the CECAFA Kagame Cup tournament, in which it has participated in the past."

The statement further clarified the club's current status at the Dr Congo giants.

"Management indicates that the players are currently on leave and that training will resume on July 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the TP Mazembe Stadium," it adds.

The 20-time Congo Lin-

afoot champions also addressed future participation contingencies.

"If a regional or sub-regional organization officially requests the participation of the Ravens in a competition, the management will analyze the opportunity and communicate the team's availability or lack thereof based on the resumption timetable," it concluded. TP Mazembe's announcement follows the withdrawal of Tanzania's Azam FC from the 16-team tournament.

Azam FC, two-time CE-

CAFA Kagame Cup winners, have opted out of the competition to focus on their pre-season preparations ahead of the 2024/25 campaign.

Thabit Zakaria, Azam's head of media, confirmed the decision in an interview with Azam TV.

Azam recently secured second place in the Premier League standings, edging out Simba on goal difference with a 2-0 away victory against Geita Gold.

The achievement granted them the right to join champions Young Africans as

Mainland Tanzania's representatives in the CAF Champions League next season.

The CECAFA Kagame Cup boasts a rich history, with Tanzania's Simba SC holding the record for the most titles at six.

They are followed by archrivals Young Africans (Yanga) SC and Kenya's Tusker FC, with five titles each.

Other notable winners include Rwanda's APR FC, Sudan's Al Merriekh, Uganda's SC Villa, and Kenya's Gor Mahia FC, each with three titles.

5 EATV MONDAY **TONIGHT @ 9:00**

SPORTS

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA-1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrika RADIO
05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Pope Francis meets more than 100 comedians at the Vatican: 'You also make God smile'

ATICAN CITY

BEFORE flying to Italy's southern Puglia region to meet world leaders at the Group of Seven summit, Pope Francis hosted a very different audience at the Vatican yesterday celebrating the importance of humor.

The pontiff welcomed more than 100 comedians from 15 nations, including U.S. celebrities Whoopi Goldberg, Jimmy Fallon, Chris Rock, Stephen Colbert and Conan O'Brien.

"In the midst of so much gloomy news, immersed as we are in many social and even personal emergencies, you have the power to spread peace and smiles," Francis told the comedians.

"You unite people, because laughter is contagious," he continued, asking jokingly, "Please pray for me: for, not against!"

Francis pointed out that in the creation, "Divine wisdom practiced your art for the benefit of none other than God himself, the first spectator in history," with God delighting in the works that he had made.

"Remember this," he added. "When you manage to bring intelligent smiles to the lips of even a single spectator, you also make God smile."

Francis also said it was OK to "laugh at God" in the same way "we play and joke with the people we love."

After delivering his speech, Francis greeted all the comedians individually, sharing laughs and jokes with some of them.

"It was great, it was very fast and really loving, and made me happy," Goldberg said afterward.

O'Brien noted that the pope "spoke in Italian, so I'm not quite sure what was said."

"To be in that room and to be with all my fellow comedians, some of whom I've been good friends with for many years, in that environment, was quite strange," the TV host added. "All of us were thinking, how did this happen? Why are we here, and when are they going to throw us out?"

Colbert admitted his Italian "is really bad, I would like to speak it better." But he managed to remind the pope that he had done the audiobook for his memoir.

"It was wonderful, he'll never forget me," he joked.

AP

By Correspondent Seth Mapelli

COASTAL Union are reportedly on the verge of securing the return of Juma Mgunda, the acting head coach of Simba Sports Club, in a strategic move aimed at bolstering their chances in the upcoming CAF Confederation Cup.

Mgunda's return is expected to bring invaluable experience and leadership to Coastal Union, which will be participating in the prestigious tournament for the first time since 1989.

Mgunda's imminent return is driven by his extensive experience in CAF competitions, which Coastal Union hope will complement and support their current head coach, David Ouma.

The Kenyan tactician, despite his capabilities, lacks the necessary CAF license to lead the team in the CAF Confederation Cup, a critical qualification that Mgunda possesses.

With a Diploma A license, Mgunda is fully certified to manage the team from the bench

Mgunda's tenure at

in CAF competitions, a credential that significantly enhances Coastal Union's technical bench strength.

The negotiations for Mgunda's return are reportedly in advanced stages, with an official announcement anticipated soon.

This move underscores Coastal Union's commitment to ensuring they have the best possible leadership and expertise as they navigate the challenges of the Confederation Cup.

Mgunda's track record speaks volumes. Last season, he played a crucial role in guiding Simba through the preliminary rounds of the CAF Champions League.

His deep understanding of Coastal Union, having been a player and head coach at various times, further adds to his suitability for this role.

Mgunda's tenure at

Mgunda set for return to Coastal Union to bolster CAF campaign



Simba's interim head coach Juma Mgunda. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

Coastal Union saw him contribute significantly to the club's development, serving in various capacities.

Coastal Union's recent performance in the Premier League has been commendable, finishing fourth with 43 points from 30 games.

This strong domestic

performance has set the stage for their return to international competitions, and the club is making strategic moves to ensure they are well-prepared.

In addition to strengthen their technical bench, Coastal Union are actively seeking to sustain their squad with

experienced and skilled players. One of their primary targets is Lumiere Banza Kalumba, a Congolese striker currently with Tabora United.

Kalumba, who joined Tabora United from TP Mazembe at the beginning of the season, is seen as a key acquisition to enhance Coastal Union's attacking options. The club is also reportedly in pursuit of players like Saidi Ntibanzokiza and Djuma Shabani, further underscoring their ambition to field a competitive team in the Confederation Cup.

Coastal Union's proactive approach in the transfer market and their efforts to secure a seasoned coach like Mgunda reflect their determination to make a significant impact in the CAF Confederation Cup.

The club's management is leaving no stone unturned in their quest

to ensure the team is not just participants but serious contenders in the tournament.

This will mark Coastal Union's return to international competitions after a long hiatus, with their last participation dating back to 1989. The club's supporters are eagerly anticipating this new chapter, hopeful that the combination of seasoned leadership and new talent will usher in a period of success on the continental stage.

Mgunda's familiarity with Coastal Union's culture and his previous successes with the club are expected to smoothen the transition and integration process. His leadership will be crucial in navigating the complexities of international competitions, providing strategic insights, and fostering a winning mentality within the team.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

