



### National Pg 3 Wildlife corridors must be protected



### National Pg 4 Kaliua-Mpanda-Karema SGR project



### National Pg 6 Minister counsels ORCI on research centres



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday viewing an assortment of items produced or processed by entrepreneurs supported by Equal Opportunity for All Trust Fund (EOTF), which is marking its 25th anniversary. To her right is the Fund's chairperson, former first lady Anna Mkapa. The organisation focuses mainly on the advancement and betterment of the lives of the poor, in particular women and children. Photo: State House

## Samia says Anna Mkapa instilled confidence in her as political actor

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday commended Equal Opportunity Trust Fund (EOTF) founder, former first lady Anna Mkapa, as having exercised vital influence on her to believe that she could join politics and succeed.

Narrating the early stages of her itinerary in politics, the president said that the former first lady was a crucial motivating factor and advisor, whom she met when volunteering for work in

EOTF in Zanzibar, when the fund was launched 25 years ago.

At a ceremony to mark 25 years since the fund was established, she said the then first lady had exceptionally treated by inviting her to her car when she couldn't see other transport, and in the conversation, the first lady expressed confidence in her ability for political engagement.

On the fateful day the youthful NGO activist was attending an EOTF function when she was

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Treasury lands bill to set new tax schedules

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has exempted Value Added Tax (VAT) for double refined edible oil and fertilizer produced by local manufacturers for a period of one year from July 1, a move which is expected to bring price relief to final consumers.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba told the National Assembly when presenting the Finance Bill 2022 that putting refined edible oil among zero rated supplies was aimed to protect local industries. It would reduce prices of essential products as well as stimulate farming of the oil seeds, he said.

The Finance Bill proposes amendments in 38 laws to address tax issues, expand the tax base to increase revenue collection, while bringing relief to investors and consumers



**This will reduce the costs of production, attract investments, promote employment and ensure availability of adequate raw material for refinery centres, the minister underlined**

in general, he said, citing proposals to amend the Electronic and Postal Communications Act (Cap. 306) to impose a fee to be charged on television decoder subscription paid by the user of decoder, set at 500/- to 2000/- which reduces the earlier proposed fee of 3,000/-.

Amending the Bank of Tanzania Act (Cap.197) aims at raising the ceiling of amounts the central bank can advance to the government, with intent to enable the Union and Zanzibar governments to effectively implement their budgets.

The Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act (Cap. 218) is listed for amending to introduce a copyright levy at 1.5 percent slapped on blank material, apparatus, device or equipment used or capable of being used to copy protected work.

The Excise (Management and Tariff) Act (Cap. 147) is slated for amending to add excise duty on sugar confectionery and lead-acid batteries, which expands the tax base, while protecting consumers' health and the environment.

However, amending the schedule seeks to

TURN TO PAGE 2

## 'Leased aircraft's VAT exemption has to stay'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has urged the government to cancel the proposed removal of Value Added Tax (VAT) exemption on leased aircrafts, to stem its effect on the aviation sector.

Sillo Baran (Babati Rural), chairperson of the standing committee on the Budget at the National Assembly, said the sector is currently trying to recover from challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Presenting views of the committee on the Finance Bill 2022 presented by the Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, said the committee consulted with the government and agreement was reached to make adjustments in some areas, to align with its goals while avoiding any impact on VAT.

Removing exemption on air charter services (leased aircrafts) would affect not just the aviation sector but tourism as a whole, impinging on current efforts to increase the number of tourists, he stated.

The Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 148 would under the bill be amended to remove exemption on air charter services, smart phones, tablets and modems, to expand the tax base and increasing government revenues.

The aviation sector witnessed a series of challenges since the Covid-19 pandemic erupted early 2020 and is still enduring the consequences of a third wave of the pandemic in tourist source countries, he pointed out.

In the past two years the number of leased aircrafts declined from 200 to 105, indicating

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Local researchers to compete in 20bn/- SDGs project drive

By Henry Mwangonde

RESEARCHERS from 11 countries including Tanzania are set to compete for the 8 million-euro (20bn/-) Global Research Council-funded project aimed at facilitating the realisation of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The project seeks to advance the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, touching on human well-being and capabilities, sustainable and just economies, food systems and nutrition patterns. It also encompasses energy (decarbonization) with universal access, urban and peri-urban development, all part of global environmental common themes.

Dr Amos Nungu, director general of the Tanzania Commission for Science and

Technology (COSTECH) said at a press conference yesterday that the project is part of the council's steps towards achieving the SDGs through innovative research and actions.

The council endorsed the project on the basis of collective agreement on the importance of sustainability for the collective future of the planet, he stated, noting that the project is a pilot phase meant to get ready to implement results from ongoing or recently finalized research and innovation projects. This will advance knowledge-based achievement of the SDGs at the local and regional level, he explained.

The project is funded through international consortia where researchers together with implementation partners and stakeholders collectively and collaboratively work to improve research outcomes for more sustainable impact, he said.

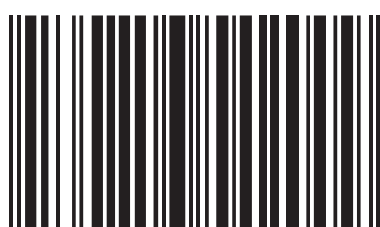
"The research and outcomes of the projects are likely to impact on society and improve the livelihoods of the targeted sections of the population," he elaborated, highlighting that the call for project papers is supported by 11 funding agencies spanning four continents

The Global Research Council (GRC) is

TURN TO PAGE 2



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi is gifted a trophy in Zanzibar yesterday by the President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Justice Imani Daud Aboud (R), shortly after opening the First Regional and Sub-Region Courts Dialogue. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



9 770856 542009 >



## Govt now recommends soil testing in all ecology zones

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Government has instructed Tanzania agricultural Institute (TARI), Tanzania fertiliser regulatory Authority (TFRA) and Itracom - fertiliser manufacturers to make sure they visit all ecology zones in the country as well as to test soil fertility so that the fertiliser being produced should satisfy soil needs.

The remarks were made here yesterday by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde during the visit at Itracom fertiliser firm by Members of Parliament from Southern Highlands regions that produce food crops in abundance.

Mavunde said the government recognizes that Southern Highlands regions are an ecological area that is greatly depended by its production of food crops.

He further explained that the main reason for wanting to know about soil fertility in the country's various areas is that when the company starts production, the fertiliser should bring improvements to the crops they produce.

"Before production, the government had given instructions to its relative institutions to conduct research on the types of soils in various areas to find out whether the type of Organo Mineral fertiliser expected to be produced by the factory will have any benefits to farmers," he added.

The Deputy Minister said the areas are strategic and that is why the MPs' visit to the regions will greatly assist in instilling trust to the people, but also they will go to show the community on efforts being made by their government to fight challenges they

face in regard to fertilisers.

He said the firm's investment is the result of the visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan who welcomed the investor to come and invest in the area.

He said after fertiliser prices started to go up, the government has come up with a different strategy against the challenge, the fast one of which was to involve TFRA in making sure it issues indicative prices so that the price of the farm input does not rise higher in areas where its cost does not go in tandem with its reality.

He said TRFRA started issuing indicative prices as a temporary measure as the issue was already in the new 2022/23 Budget estimates in which the government had intended to allocate funds as subsidy to the fertiliser process.

He said the third step of the strategy was to attract many investors to build fertiliser factories in the country, one of which is the Itracom factory that has the capacity to produce 600,000 tons of fertiliser per year.



**the government recognizes that Southern Highlands regions are an ecological area that is greatly depended by its production of food crops**

## 'Leased aircraft's VAT exemption has to stay'

FROM PAGE 1

diminished confidence and inability to absorb higher cost margins, he asserted, emphasizing that the multiple taxation approach will sharply increase the costs of doing business, making flying within Tanzania costlier than elsewhere.

Hallima Mdee (Special Seats) sounded out that removing the tax exemption on leasing airplanes wasn't a good decision at a time when 'The Royal Tour' documentary was eliciting interest outside and ease of their stay here was crucial to many tourists turning up.

"Compared to neighboring countries, Tanzanian taxes in the aviation sector were too high, as Namibia, Zambia and Botswana pose low taxes," she stated, noting that double taxation only worsens the situation.

Dr Khamis Kigwangalla (Nzega Rural) said strong government support is pivotal for accelerated recovery of the aviation sector, so the government shouldn't be thinking of increasing taxes but rather removing them so as to bring relief and raise the number of tourists.

The committee had no adverse observations on some other parts of the bill, where it proposes amending the Value Added Tax Act to exempt VAT on standing trees, to promote the growth of forest sector. It also seeks exemption of VAT on moisture testing equipment and weather forecasting equipment to

promote growth in agriculture, along with enhancing effective weather forecasting for planning and national security.

VAT will similarly be exempted on processed milk with additives and long-life milk, dairy packaging materials to reduce costs to final consumers, protect domestic industries and increase employment.

VAT exemption is listed for ear tags, ear tag applicators and lessor beam machines enabling the identification, registration and monitoring of livestock all over the country;

Value added tax exemption is also being granted on unprocessed green vanilla, agro-nets and fishing equipment to promote growth of agriculture and fishing, while exempting value added tax on the supply of sisal ropes will encourage domestic use of the sisal ropes and increase domestic production.

The schedule further proposes to exempt value added tax on refrigerated trucks and cold rooms to promote horticulture, livestock and fishing, along with relief for abattoirs (slaughterhouses) to promote modern meat processing.

The bill proposes exempting VAT on raw materials for local use fertilizers to reducing costs to manufacturers and protects domestic industries. Machines to manufacture fertilizers are listed for VAT exemption to support domestic manufacturers of fertilizers and promote investment in the country.



A group of 26 Swiss donors arrive at the Mweka Gate to Mount Kilimanjaro yesterday shortly after their climb of the mountain as part of fulfilling their mission of raising funds to help needy Tanzanian women and children, especially those from poor families. Photo: Correspondent Asraj Mvungi

## Samia says Anna Mkapa instilled confidence in her as political actor

FROM PAGE 1

left by a vehicle as participant were proceeding to another function, where first lady invited her to a lift, enabling the pace setting conservation to take place.

"It was inside the vehicle when she started the conversation," she said, noting that the first lady said 'Samia I have seen you are doing fine. You can make a good politician; in the coming election try to enter the ballot box,' to which she had a troubled approach at first, and then found a path to the Zanzibar House of Representatives. This was followed by cabinet positions, right up to running mate in 2015.

The president said community development was among the top priorities of the sixth phase government, hailing the fund for supporting government efforts in eradicating hunger, insisting on the need for more education in the society.

The society must ensure families support children to obviate the increase in infirm individuals growing up in the streets, from which adolescent robbers known as 'panya road' are recruited, she emphasized, while the EOTF founder said the fund was established in 1997 for purposes of empowering Tanzanians in the fight against poverty.

In the past 25 years, EOTF has

benefitted a total of 6,000 women entrepreneurs and created 23,000 jobs, with commodities worth billions of shillings produced and sold by women and youth entrepreneurs through exhibitions organized by the fund.

Similarly, 1,755 individuals from under-privileged families were educated at different levels from primary, secondary school and college level, some even obtaining opportunities to go to colleges outside the country, she stated.

Through EOTF, a number of schools were renovated, modern pit latrines built and deep water wells drilled, while the fund donated books

and wheelchairs to various schools across the country, the fund organizer explained.

Ambassador Hoyce Temu, the deputy permanent representative at the country's mission to the UN European headquarters in Geneva said the fund supported her studies to university level.

"EOTF has supported a number of girls without considering their backgrounds. I came from a normal family, my parents were working as police officers but I was able to go to university through the fund," she said.

An entrepreneur, Violet Mmanyi said the fund has helped her to expand her business and she can now sell her locally produced 'batik' fabrics to markets abroad. Being a member of EOTF enabled her to travel to various countries and participate in international exhibitions, she added.



CRDB Bank Plc CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela makes a presentation on investment opportunities at a seminar held in Dodoma city at the weekend. It was for Members of Parliament and Members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Local researchers to compete in 20bn/- SDGs project drive

FROM PAGE 1

a virtual organization of science, research and engineering funding agencies around the world, dedicated to promoting and sharing data on best practices for high-quality collaboration among funding agencies.

It is committed to enabling countries large and small to work in concert across national borders, as cooperation and collaboration can enhance the quality of science, it says, affirming that this avoids unnecessary duplication, provides economies of scale and addresses issues that can only be solved by working collectively

and collaboratively.

Participating funders include Chile (ANIID), China (NSFC), Côte d'Ivoire (FONSTI), Kenya (NRF), Norway (RCN), South Africa (NRF), Switzerland (SNSF), Sweden (Formas), Tanzania (COSTECH), The Netherlands (NWO) and Turkey (TUBITAK).

The director affirmed that applicants must form project consortia with eligible partner organizations from at least three different countries funding the call. Consortia must be based on previously or recently finalized research and innovation projects funded by any of the participating countries, he added.

## Treasury lands bill to set new tax schedules

FROM PAGE 1

industries needing such materials. The Income Tax Act (Cap. 332) is to be amended to empower the minister to grant exemption to special strategic investments approved by the national investment steering committee in accordance with the Tanzania Investment Act (Cap. 38) after being approved by the cabinet.

The purpose is to promote investment and harmonise the provisions of the law with tax laws in relation to granting of tax exemptions,

the minister noted, proposing to add section 90A introducing a two per cent tax on non-resident service providers of digital services.

Section 90B is added to require bulk importers of petroleum products to collect an advance tax from retail traders of petroleum products, similarly aimed at widening the tax base and increasing revenues.

The Mining Act (Cap. 123) is listed for amending, with section 87(1) amended to reduce the royalty rate on coal used

as industrial raw materials and royalty rate on gold sold at refineries. This will reduce the costs of production, attract investments, promote employment and ensure availability of adequate raw material for refinery centres, the minister underlined.

The National Payment Systems Act (Cap. 437) is amended to reduce the transaction levy from the 7,000/- maximum to 4,000/- for whatever transaction, intended to reduce the cost of living for the majority, he added.

The National Payment Systems Act (Cap. 437) is amended to reduce the transaction levy from the 7,000/- maximum to 4,000/- for whatever transaction, intended to reduce the cost of living for the majority, he added.





NMB Bank Plc's head of personal banking, Aikansia Muro (2nd-R), presents pamphlets with details on the bank's 'Makazi Loans' to Chief Government Valuer Evelyn Kamugisha at the bank's conference held in Dodoma city at the weekend. From-L: NMB mortgage manager Miranda Lutege, Central Zone manager Nsolo Mozi and head of private banking Getrude Mallya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Corridors should be safe and protected for free movement of animals - Tawiri principal

By Felister Peter

STAKEHOLDERS have suggested the need for urgent investment in human resource, technology and finance to restore and protect wildlife corridors blocked for human activities.

Wildlife corridors are areas that act as a safe transition zone for migratory animals. At times, animals may even live and thrive in these habitats indefinitely.

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) principal research officer, Dr Steven Nindi said the country has 52 corridors but more than 90 per cent of them are potentially found in village residents thus threatening wildlife extinction and limit migratory of animals.

Dr Nindi stated that historical migratory routes are being hastily destroyed due to changing land use systems and changes in climate regimes.

"The wildlife movement has culminated wide range of human-wildlife challenges, whose mitigation cannot be left to the government alone," Dr Nindi said when speaking at a biodiversity conservation breakfast meeting organized by Journalist's Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) under the USAID project-Tuhifadhi Maliasili.

According to him, the behaviour of wild animals is to move from one place to another, thus to enable proper functionality and free movement of animals, corridors must be safe and protected.

He said it is also important to ensure there is no dominance and inbreeding of animals that can affect wildlife in the next generation.

Dr Nindi noted that a number of corridors are located in different localities and others are Trans-border such that it becomes difficult to restore them. It could be easy to restore and protect, if they are in

some village, region or village but some are in Songea, Mpanda, Arusha and Kigoma.

He added: "The government alone cannot protect and restore wildlife corridors, protecting wildlife corridors is a very dynamic process that requires joint effort."

Current estimates indicate that there is a drop of more than 250,000 elephants from the previous estimate of 300,000, as there are only 60,000 elephants, he remarked.

Corridors are found in areas that are potentially used by humans thus causing human wildlife challenges especially 'continuous wildlife corridors' that passes through different countries and residential areas. Thus wildlife is a cross cutting issue that requires foreign and local participation.

National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC), Director of research Dr Joseph Layson said the commission has continued to collaborate with the villages to ensure that protected areas are surveyed and village lands are also surveyed.

Dr Layson noted that the ongoing biggest challenge is wildlife conflict whereas they are currently integrating land use plans for the current and next generation to ensure life of wildlife and humans are not affected.

Currently, the public, private, non-state actors, development and strategic partners and community institutions are working to restore wildlife corridors through understanding dynamic nature.

The government has also formulated a number of laws and legislations to govern the wildlife sub-sector including the Wildlife Policy 19978; 2007, Wildlife Conservation Act 2009, Wildlife Corridors Regulations 2019, National Strategy on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy 2020-2024 and the Land Use Planning Act of 2007.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

## '11,500 children fall victim yearly to physical attacks and sexual violence'

ARUSHA, Tanga, Mwanza and Shinyanga have been listed as the regions notorious for cases of violence against children in Tanzania as the number of victims continues to soar in the country.

Ila District in Dar es Salaam had recorded the highest number of incidences related to ill treatment of youngsters.

The Commissioner for Social Welfare, Dr Nandera Mhando, said here that there have been over 11,500 cases of violence against children in the country within the period of one year, that is last year alone.

Officially opening the 6th annual learning convening on preventing violence against children in East Africa, Dr Mhando pointed out that among the cases of violence being reported in Tanzania, include, rape, sexual

defilement of minors, incest, physical attacks and psychological torture.

"Some of the most prevalent are 5899 rape cases, 1677 pregnancy cases among school girls, 1114 incest cases, 390 cases of physical violence and 790 cases of school dropouts," explained the Dr Mhando.

The perpetrators of violence against children (VAC), on the other hand, happen to be the same people who should be protecting them, including parents, guardians, friends, neighbors, teachers and religious leaders.

The executive director of HakiElimu, Dr John Kalaghe said in Tanzania, children are no longer safe at school and face the same dangers while at home, citing the recent case in which a

child was beaten to death by a teacher within the school environment at Kilimanjaro.

The head of programmes at HakiElimu, Boniventure Godfrey adds that in their recent studies, it was discovered that 60 percent of girls experience psychological violence in Tanzania, while 82 per cent of them suffer such violence within school grounds.

Organised through the impact and innovations development centre (IICD) and hosted by HakiElimu, the education oriented organisation, the 6th annual learning convening on preventing violence against children in East Africa runs under the theme of 'proving and improving results:

The journey to scaling-up prevention interventions.

"During the convening we get to learn from all participants and partners on this important subject," says the executive director of IICD, Deogratias Yiga, adding that in special way participants will draw deeply from five partner organisations.

The partners include HakiElimu, women fund Tanzania trust, raising voices; investing in children and their societies (ICS-SP Africa) and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Uganda to find better ways to improve and scale up innovative mitigations and interventions in addressing cases of violence against children.

By Guardian Reporter

## Dr Mwinyi hails Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahayan Charitable Foundation

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi thanked the Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation for supporting his government to strengthen the health, education and social welfare sectors.

Dr Mwinyi expressed his gratitude yesterday at the Zanzibar State House shortly after witnessing the signing of an agreement between the Zanzibar government and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based foundation from which will help in the education, health and social welfare sectors.

President Dr Mwinyi said that the foundation has made the right decision to assist Zanzibar in its development including the goal of building two schools, a modern nursing home and a hospital.

He added that the move will go a long way in supporting the government's efforts in advancing the construction of development projects currently

underway.

Dr Mwinyi thanked the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for continuing to support Zanzibar in strengthening various development projects.

Minister for Finance and Planning Saada Mkuya Salum explained that the foundation aims at building two schools in Muembeladu and Mtopepo. It also builds the state-of-the-art centre for the elderly people as well as building a hospital.

Minister Mkuya said that the countries of the UAE have had good relations with Zanzibar so the move will help implement strategies in the areas given priority to President Dr Mwinyi.

She also promised that his ministry will ensure that it provides greater cooperation to the Institute so that it

can achieve its set goals.

Head of the foundation Sheikh Hamad Salem bin Kardous Al Amer said that the UAE has good relations with the United Republic of Tanzania, including Zanzibar, noting that the support was a step towards the country's top leader in supporting Zanzibar as he was aware of the existing ties and partnerships that were needed to be developed and maintained.

He also lauded President Dr Mwinyi for his efforts of developing good relations and cooperation between Zanzibar and the UAE in line with the great generosity he has for the Union countries.

He added that the move will also help establish a visit between the two sides that will help strengthen the existing ties and cooperation while praying to God to give Zanzibar a great peaceful development in it.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc director of customer service Harriet Lwakatare (2nd-R), her digital and extras counterpart, Nguvu Kamando (2nd-L), and other service providers from the company pictured yesterday holding the Best Customer Care, Telco Company of the Year, Innovative Telco Company of the Year and Best Mobile Money App (M-Pesa) trophies which the firm won in the Tanzania Digital Awards 2021 competition organised by the Serengeti Bytes Institute. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND ROADS DEVELOPMENT

### ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

**TENDER TITLE:** REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY, DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGNS AND PREPARATION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ONE STOP BORDER POST(OSBP) AND BYPASS ROAD AT TOG WAJAALE, SOMALILAND AND ETHIOPIA

**TENDER NUMBER:** PRQ20210894

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organization funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. The Government of Somaliland has been allocated grant funds from TradeMark East Africa which are administered by TradeMark East Africa and executed by Ministry of Transport and Roads Development. TMEA intends to apply the funds to eligible direct payments under the contract for which this request for proposal is issued.

TMEA seeks to engage the services of qualified consultancy **firms/consortiums** to provide Consultancy Services for the above-mentioned consultancy services.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkea.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkea.com).

You are further advised that only applications from registered firms/consortiums shall be accepted. Interested, qualified and registered consultancy firms/consortiums should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

The closing date for applications is **26 July 2022 at 11.00 am (Nairobi time)**.

**TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender seven days or less prior to the submission deadline**





# Govt to begin Kaliua-Mpanda-Karema SGR project construction

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has set aside a budget to commence the construction of Kaliua-Mpanda-Karema standard gauge railway (SGR) project in 2022/23, it has been revealed.

Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Godfrey Kasekenya told the Parliament that the government through the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) has undertaken feasibility study for the project.

He was responding to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Taska Mbogo (CCM), who had wanted to know when the government would start the railway line? "When shall the government commence the construction of Kaliua-Mpanda-Karema SGR project?" she questioned.

In response, the deputy minister said, "The government has set aside a budget for the start of the project in the 2022/23 financial year."

Last year the government said the Tabora - Kigoma SGR project was on the pipeline following the appointment of engineering consultancy firm-COWI Tanzania, to conduct an architect design and feasibility study for the

project.

The entire proposed SGR project and that from Tabora to Kigoma, measures 411 kms and the Kaliua-Mpanda-Karema with 316.7kms, it is intended to replace the old metre-gauge railway system and reduce road congestion.

The government continues to search for funds from different sources, including soft loans for implementation of the projects.

Due to high expenses of the project, the government resolved to implement the standard gauge railway project in five phases which are the 300 kms section from Dar es Salaam - Morogoro, Morogoro - Makutupora (422 kms), Makutupora - Tabora (368 kms), Tabora - Isaka (165 kms) and the Isaka - Mwanza section with 341 kms.

After the completion of the construction of a 2 561km standard gauge railway line; it will ease the movement of goods from the Dar es Salaam port to Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The line will run from Mpigi in Dar es Salaam to Kigoma, through Tabora, Mwanza, Isaka to Ruzumbe, Kailua-Mpanda-Karema and Uvinza-Musongati in Burundi.



CCM secretary general Daniel Chongolo (R, in yellow T-shirt), who is on an official tour of Burundi, visits Gitega Museum at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Tanzania pavilion at Seoul fair receives top prize for creativity

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has received a prize for having the best pavilion with creativity in advertising tourism at the 37th Seoul International Travel Fair (SITF).

The fair was held in Seoul, South Korea from 23 to 26 June this year.

"This prize is a good sign on the relationship between Tanzania's Embassy in south Korea, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and Tanzania tourist stakeholders regarding the preparations in SITF," said Tanzania ambassador Tagolani Edriss Mavura when receiving the prize by the chairman of SITF Preparatory Committee, Shin Joong-mok, the event that was held at the Tanzania pavilion.

The pavilion was decorated by displaying various attractions found in the country including cultural photos, Mt Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar beaches, wildebeests crossing Mara River and Tanzanite minerals that wooed many visitors at the fair.

At the Tanzania pavilion, Koreans were able to visit in big numbers and drank Tanzania coffee grown from Mbinga District, Ruvuma Region.

Also many women who visited the pavilion were attracted by hair plaits and many of them had their hair

plaited, displaying great pleasure.

Meanwhile, TTB Public Relations Officer, Augustina Makoye said: "We will continue to be more creative on various ways to advertise our tourist attraction to woo many visitors to come to the country, as many people have shown interest in our cultural souvenirs," she added.

The Ministry of natural resources and Tourism has been lauded for its various efforts to fight invasive and destructive wildlife that rampage residences and farms of the people surrounding reserve areas.

The remarks were made by the chairman of the Parliamentary Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism Committee, Ally Makoa during a training seminar on various strategies to fight these destructive beasts especially elephants.

Makoa said it is essential for the efforts to continue by involving the people by educating them on issues of sustainable conservation and their own protection against invasive wild animals. In the same vein, the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Pindi Chana, apart from thanking the Bunge panel, said the ministry, as for now has put in place a strategy of continuing to work together with local council officials on these challenges.

# Govt set to empower youth to do better in agriculture

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government plans to roll out a robust programme to empower youth engaged in agriculture which seeks to help youth in the country to employ themselves in efforts to reduce unemployment burden.

It has already allocated 20,000 hectares of land in Dodoma's Chamwino and Bahi districts where it will begin with a pilot project for the envisaged programme before it is scaled up in all regions across the country.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Anthony Mavunde told the National Assembly yesterday that the pilot project is expected to kick off in July 2022 insisting that the government was ready to offer support in every area where the large farms would be obtained.

He was responding to a supplementary question posed by Special Seats MP, Sharry Raymond (CCM) who had wanted to know the government's plan in empowering youth in the country who constitutes a large number of people surging under the burden of unemployment.

In the main question, Kalambo MP, Josephat Kandege (CCM), wanted to know if there was any plan so far to

ensure that the agriculture sector was contributing significantly to the country's economy.

In response, the Deputy Minister said the government is fully committed to putting up a long-term great foundation for the growth of the sector at the rate of 10 percent by 2030.

"The programme will make sure that Tanzania is well prepared to avert any natural disaster including economic crunch in order to protect the sector as well as getting rid of importing agricultural related products from outside the country," said Mavunde.

In meeting the target, Mavunde said, the government was as well committed to ensure that it was self sufficient on food reserve, increasing value on locally produced agricultural products, increasing the number of large farms, adding value to irrigation schemes, intensifying research in agriculture as well as maintaining availability of agricultural inputs, among others.

Equally, according to the deputy minister, the budget for the ministry of agriculture had been hiked from 298bn/- in 2021/22 financial year to about 954bn/- in the next financial year (2022/23) in efforts for the implementation of the growth of the sector by 10 percent come 2030.

# Empower LGAs in issuance of loans to women, youth and PwDs, govt urged

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has been urged to strengthen systems in local government authorities so as to supervise issuance of loans to women, youth and persons with disabilities as huge amounts of the public funds are found being not reimbursed.

Contributing to the Finance Bill 2022 presented in the House yesterday, Halima Mdee (Special Seats) claimed that the government has lost 104bn/- in the past five years due to recklessness in collecting the loans from the debtors.

She said that in 2016/17, a total of 84

district councils failed to collect from debtors, loans amounting to 5.8/-; in 2017/18 fiscal year, 90 district councils failed to get 10bn/-, in 2018/19, a total of 111 district councils didn't collect 13.7bn/-, in 2019/20 fiscal year 130 councils failed to collect 27bn/- and in 2020/21 year, 155 councils didn't collect 47bn/-.

The lawmaker wanted the government to hire enough loan experts in the districts so as to supervise the issuance and collection of the loans as currently the work is carried by normal staff who have no expertise in the area.

The MPs however hailed the

government for taking several tax reforms which include reducing the mobile money transaction levy on sending and withdrawing monies from a maximum of 7,000/- to a maximum of 4,000/- on each transaction.

The lawmakers said the decision will greatly bring relief to the poor Tanzanian population by reducing the cost of living especially during the current period of ongoing economic crisis.

Josephat Kandege (Kalambo) said this bill is one of its kind as it touches important areas that if well implemented are going to bring huge

relief to Tanzanians.

Kandege however urged the government to strengthen the fight against illegal import of products which was on the increase in border areas thus affecting local produce.

Neema Lugangira (Special Seats) commended the government for taking deliberate measures in improving water supply in urban and rural areas which has greatly increased to 74 percent in rural areas and 86 percent in urban areas.

She also asked the government to exempt tax on solar water pumps so as to increase supply of water to people but also trigger irrigation farming.



Abunuel Boniface, a researcher with Mtwara's Naliendele centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute, explains to farmers in Masasi District at the weekend on the best way of using cashewnut spraying equipment and pesticides. It was at a one-day seminar. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

# Lower-middle income status still intact, MPs told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA is yet to drop from lower middle income status despite the effects caused by COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, parliament was informed here yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, Hamad Hassan Chande gave an assurance when responding to a supplementary question from Geita Urban MP, Constantine Kanyasu who wanted to know if the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war had removed the country from its lower

middle income status.

According to the deputy minister, the lower middle income status was still intact insisting however that it was only individual economies that had dropped from 7percent growth to 4.8percent because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During his main question, the Geita Urban legislator wanted to know the pros and cons in the country by Tanzania's ascendance to the lower-middle income status and the percentage of the number of Tanzanians who had any idea so far of what it takes living in a lower-middle

income country.

The Deputy Minister said the lower-middle income status had several positive impacts as well as several challenges, among them, widening base for access to loans that are used to implement various development projects.

Others, Chande said, include independence to plan for business loans, catalyzing investment in the country because of an increase in individual income as well as intensifying trust from several international financial institutions because of strength in economic

indicators.

The challenges according to the minister include among other things, a decrease in availability of grants and concessional loans as well as an increase in the percentage of contributions to international organisations.

He added that many Tanzanians were aware that their country was at a lower middle income status through campaigns in the mainstream and social media and that individually many Tanzanians were engaging themselves in several economic activities.



# ‘Tanzania determined to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change impact’

By Felister Peter

TANZANIA is determined to contribute to the global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with a number of interventions being implemented to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

Catherine Bamwenzaki, Assistant Director of Environment in the Vice President's Office said the mitigation and adaptation measures include implementation of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Rural Resilience (EBARR) in five districts— Kishapu, Mvomero, Mpwapwa, Simanjiro and Kaskazini 'A' in Zanzibar.

According to the official, Tanzania's share of GHG emission is low at 0.36 percent, but the country is vulnerable to climate related disasters such as extreme floods and droughts that affects livelihoods as well as agricultural production, water resources, public health, energy supply, infrastructure, biodiversity and marine as well as coastal zones.

Bamwenzaki said that following the climate impacts, Tanzania as a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in June 2021 whereas the country will embark on a climate resilient development pathway.

Article 4, of The Paris Agreement requires each country to prepare, and communicate the NDCs it intends to achieve.

Speaking in Morogoro recently, during a seminar on the country's contribution in mitigating the impacts of climate change, organized by the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment); she said Tanzania will reduce greenhouse gas emissions between 30 and 35 percent by 2030.

“Achieving the GHG emission goals depends on the country's financial capacity, we are planning to spend US\$19.2 billion,” she remarked, adding, Tanzania has been pushing for developed countries to honour their commitments by disbursing funds for climate change adaptation to enable the government to restore infrastructures damaged by natural disasters.

Asia Akule, Environment Officer, Vice President's Office said that under the

NCD the government plans to improve the access to clean and safe water for both urban and rural population whereas the target is to increase the access to 86 percent and 67.7 percent respectively by 2030.

Akule said the mitigation and adaptation measures will be directed in a number of sectors including agriculture, livestock, forestry, energy, marine environment and fisheries, water, sanitation, and hygiene, tourism, land use and human settlements development, health, infrastructure, disaster risk reduction and gender mainstreaming.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Climate Change Specialist, Abbas Kitogo said: “We are working with the government towards achieving the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Kitogo said UNDP is currently implementing a number of projects in the country including promoting the use of clean energy whereas villagers are encouraged to use improved cooking stoves as well as alternative sources of energy.

James Nyarobi, Coordinator of the EBARR project said they are focusing on empowering rural communities to use non-polluting materials. He said most of the people in the project area are now using energy efficient stoves.

The EBARR project is implemented with funding (US\$7,571,233) from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)—Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for years from 2018 to 2022.



**Achieving the GHG emission goals depends on the country's financial capacity, we are planning to spend US\$19.2 billion**



Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde (L) pictured yesterday with legislators from the southern highlands zone during an inspection tour of Dodoma's Itracom fertiliser factory, which is expected to start producing Organo Mineral fertiliser next month. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

# AfCHPR, EACJ and ECOWAS CCJ holding first tripartite judicial conference in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter

THE first tripartite judicial dialogue between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and ECOWAS Community Court of Justice (ECOWAS CCJ) is taking place in Zanzibar from yesterday.

The three-day dialogue will discuss, among others, best practices on enhancing judicial cooperation and protection of human rights on the continent and mechanism for better implementation of court decisions.

It has assembled about 30 judges and over 50 lawyers from the three regional and sub-regional courts. Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi will officiate the conference.

“The dialogue will provide opportunities for knowledge sharing and how best to face common challenges,” said the President of AfCHPR, Lady Justice Imani Daud Aboud.

The president of EACJ, Justice Nestor Kayobera said: “The dialogue will provide a platform for enhanced collaboration of the three courts and other key stakeholders, through discussions on various key matters of common interest, including best practices and emerging issues that the Courts encounter while undertaking their mandates.”

President of the ECOWAS CCJ, Justice Edward Amoako Asante welcomed the dialogue as a 'historic opportunity to build the foundation for a lasting cooperation between the courts and the partners towards strengthening the courts for greater efficiency in delivering on their mandates, particularly in holding the states accountable for their obligations.’

This dialogue has been facilitated by Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, through support from the Swedish Development Cooperation, and in cooperation with Konrad Stiftung, GIZ and the UN Office of the High Commission on Human Rights.

AfCHPR is a continental court established by African countries to ensure the protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa. It complements and reinforces the functions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

It was established pursuant to Article 1 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, (the Protocol) which was adopted by Member States of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in July 1998. The Protocol came into force on 25 January 2004.

# School opens orphanage to help needy children

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

BAOBAB Secondary School has introduced an orphanage center with the capacity to accommodate 100 children to help needy kids with education and other humanitarian services.

The school located at Mapinga Bagamoyo in Coast Region, aims to offer support to children in dire need of education and other essential services as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

This was revealed over the weekend

by the school manager, Sophia Mawenya, when she spoke to the school's alumni who visited with an aim of seeing the progress of the institution.

She said the school started in 2005 with only 25 students but as time went on they increased in good numbers and that's why they decided to introduce the center as a way of returning to the community.

She said the school started with only 25 students but over the years the number has increased to over 400 which is a great achievement

saying it was worth returning to the society.

“We know there are children who want to study but have no access to financial opportunities, therefore this centre will help at least to some extent,” she said.

She urged Baobab students to be aggressive and determined in their studies if they need to succeed in life.

“We have brought these fellows here to inspire you because many of them are working in different companies and others have started their own business and they are doing better.

They have succeeded only because they were determined and aggressive,” she said.

Sophia said she also used her salary while working at University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), to pay teachers and buy some school facilities.

One of the founding students, Irene Kamugisha, said they were surprised by the tall building they saw when they entered the school since they left over 14 years ago because by that time there was not a single tall building.

# Govt to build university campuses in marginal satellite cities, MPs told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project plans to expand higher learning institutions, establishing campuses in the marginal satellite cities, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Omar Kipanga told the lawmakers that the project aim to increase enrollment and improve the training quality and labor market relevance of degree programs in priority disciplines of 15 selected public universities and 4 institutions while improving governance and management of the higher education system.

He made the explanation in response to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Dr Thea Ntara (CCM) who had wanted to know the government plans to renovate University of Dodoma (UDOM) and others whose constructions were fast-tracked and now increasing getting dilapidated.

“What are the immediate plans to expand infrastructure in higher learning institutions in the country to cope with the ever-increasing student population?” she asked.

He said the plan is also to train 430 lecturers in a period of 5 years (2021-2026) to address shortage in priority programmes in public universities.

In response, the deputy minister explained that through HEET project, the government plans to build a new university, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology at Butiama with a capacity to host 5620 students.

It will also establish University of Dar es Salaam's new campus in Lindi to accommodate 360 students, new campus for Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences' Mloganzila campus to host 11,000.

Others are construction of new campus for Sokoine University of Agriculture's Mizengo Pinda campus in Katavi that will accommodate 2500 students, new campus for Mbeya University of Science and Technology in Rukwa with a capacity of 3000 students.

He added that the project will help construction of new campuses for public universities in marginal satellite cities of Kagera, Tanga, Kigoma, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu, Ruvuma, Manyara and Singida.

“In total, the project aims to improve 19 higher learning institutions by building 34 hostels with the capacity to accommodate 9,042, 130 lecture halls with the capacity to carry 27,254 students, 7,850 laboratories, among others,” said the deputy minister.

He added that other infrastructural work under the project include construction of 23 conference halls as well as farm infrastructure.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (C, facing camera) chairs talks held in his office yesterday with representatives of Morogoro-based Mzumbe University on plans for the university to establish a campus in the region. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla





Health minister Umyy Mwalimu (L) presents a working document to a new member of the Ocean Road Cancer Institute's Board of Trustees, Prof Ephata Kaaya, after launching the board in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Open research centres to improve cancer services, minister challenges ORCI board

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEALTH minister Umyy Mwalimu has challenged the new board of the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) to come up with long-term strategies to open research centres for improved preventive and curative services.

Mwalimu made the statement yesterday in Dar es Salaam at a function to launch the new institute's board. She said the centres will embark on research and treatment of the disease for patients coming from within and outside the country.

"ORCI is one of the earmarked

hospitals to showcase medical tourism, it must be well organized," she said.

Mwalimu said the centres will help the institute to have its own records of cancers instead of using statistics collected from other major hospitals.

She said establishment of the centres should prioritise Mbeya before the facilities are constructed in other regions. The data from ORCI indicates an increasing cancer trend as the hospital attends 315 patients daily.

Mwalimu assured board members that the government is ready to provide the institute with 1.8bn/ for expansion of patient wards. She said the various

government efforts should be in line with capacity building training for the staff.

ORCI Executive Director, Dr Julius Mwaiselage said the institute attends 315 cancer patients every day, adding, 70 percent of them were women. He underscored the need for continued public education to reduce the number of patients.

Dr Mwaiselage pointed out that about 75 percent of patients admitted at the hospital cannot settle their treatment bills. He said the institute lost some 13bn/ per month from medical bill defaulters.

He said the number of patients has increased from 150 to 532 in the year 2018 and 2022 respectively. He said the institute's future plan is to build a state of the art centre at Mloganzila hospital that will be dealing with cancer treatment. Outgoing Board of Trustees chairperson, Prof Khamis Dihenga said the institute has recorded a number of successes due to improved investment and quality healthcare services.

Some of the newly appointed board members are Prof Omary Buguyu, Francis Kaichile, Prof Saidi Abood, Dr Kijakazi Mashoto and Prof Lazaro Busegera.

## PURA registers over 120 Tanzanian professionals

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) has registered 127 professionals in the national database which is the country's workforce ready to work in the petroleum and natural gas value chain.

The database dubbed Local Suppliers and Service Providers Database (LSSP) which was developed in collaboration with the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) began registering professionals and service providers in the gas sector.

PURA Head of Local Content and Stakeholders Engagement, Charles Nyangi said the database contains registered local suppliers and service providers of different categories and specializations who are legally eligible to provide goods and execute works in the upstream and downstream petroleum and natural gas sub-sector in Tanzania.

"Through the database we have also registered 1,356 suppliers. I encourage professionals and suppliers in the sector to register through the system to ensure they stand a chance to take part in several activities including the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project," he said.

During a tour of gas processing plants for journalists in Mtwara, Nyangi stated that local content in the industry has improved, particularly with regard to the issue of employment while the business side was still slow.

PURA has the mandate to regulate and monitor petroleum upstream operations and LNG activities in mainland Tanzania and provide advisory services to the government and the minister responsible for petroleum affairs.

"We have been sensitizing locals to participate in the petroleum sector under the PURA regulations through exploration and development," he said.

In his explanation, he said the sensitization comes following the

enrolment of foreigners for the job in the previous years.

According to him, the sensitization has been fruitful as locals' involvement in the sector has increased from three companies to 52.

He said in companies such as Pan African Energy, Equinor and Shell Explorations 99- per cent of staff are Tanzanians.

"Many Tanzanians have not yet invested in this sector, especially the business sector because of non-compliance with standards, awareness is still low and low capital, investment in this sector is capital intensive," he said.

They have also created awareness on the opportunities found in the upstream sector including the LNG project following the signing of the Host Government Agreement (HGA).



**Through the database we have also registered 1,356 suppliers. I encourage professionals and suppliers in the sector to register through the system to ensure they stand a chance to take part in several activities including the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project**



### NOTICE OF THE MKCB'S AGM FOR 2022

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of Mkombozi Commercial Bank PLC shall be held on Saturday, 30th July 2022, at Ubungo Plaza, Dar es Salaam, from 9.00 a.m.

#### AGENDA

- 13.1 Opening of the meeting
- 13.2 Adoption of the agenda
- 13.3 Confirmation of the minutes of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting held on the 31st July 2021
- 13.4 Matters arising from the Twelfth Annual General Meeting held on 31st July 2021
- 13.5 To receive, discuss and adopt the Directors' Report for the year ended 31st December 2021
- 13.6 To receive, discuss and approve the Bank's financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 and adopt external auditor's report on financial statements of the Bank for the year ended 31st December 2021
- 13.7 To appoint Statutory Auditor
- 13.8 To set a date for the next Annual General Meeting
- 13.9 Any other business
- 13.10 Closure of the meeting.

#### Take further notice that:

1. A member wishing to attend the meeting must produce a copy of receipt of purchase of shares of the Bank, share certificate or any other recognised identity card.
2. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a PROXY to attend and vote on their behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association. PROXY FORM must be deposited at the registered office of the Bank to arrive not later than three (3) days before the meeting. The form should be in the following format:

#### "Mkombozi Commercial Bank PLC"

I/We.....of....., being a Member/ Members of the above-named Company, hereby appoint .....of..... as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Bank to be held on the 30th July, 2022 and at any adjournment thereof. Signed .....this ..... day of ..... 2022

3. All shareholders and/or representatives shall be required to register at the entrance of the meeting hall on the date of the meeting.
4. Booklets containing financial statements and other information of the Bank will be available at the Bank's branches two weeks before the meeting.
5. Soft copies of the Booklets are accessible at the Bank's website.
6. AGM T-shirts will be available at Dar es Salaam Branches two weeks before the meeting.
7. For comments or questions please send a message to our email address: [info@mkombobank.co.tz](mailto:info@mkombobank.co.tz) or WhatsApp no: 0754 236 766

For further information contact the Bank's offices at:

**Mkombozi Commercial Bank PLC,**  
Plot No.40, Behind St Joseph Church,  
Mansfield Street,  
P.O. Box 38448,  
DAR ES SALAAM.  
Tel.no. +255 22 2137806/7  
Toll free no. 0800 750 040  
Email: [info@mkombobank.co.tz](mailto:info@mkombobank.co.tz)  
Website: [www.mkombobank.co.tz](http://www.mkombobank.co.tz)

**OSWARD LESLIE MPANGALA**  
LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER  
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
JUNE 2022



Natural Resources and Tourism ministry permanent secretary Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka addresses a meeting of the executive committee of the Integrated Poaching and Wildlife Trade Project in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Government provides 175,000 more Covid-19 vaccines to Manyara Region

By Guardian Correspondent Hanang

THE Government has again provided Manyara Region with 175,000 doses of new Jansen vaccine as a measure to contain the Fifth wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

A statement issued yesterday by Manyara Regional Medical Officer (RMO), Dr Damas Kayera said that the region will again start providing vaccination beginning June 27, this year in all its districts.

"Today (yesterday) we are restarting our house to house vaccination campaign against Covid-19. We are here in Hanang accompanied by health experts from World Health Organisation (WHO) who are mobilising the campaign," Dr Kayera aid.

Dr Kayera said the vaccine is safe and directed all Ward Councillors to be vaccinated and mobilise their people to do the same.

"This education on the vaccination should reach our people and you should tell village officials to assist in mobilising the people to receive the jabs," he told the councillors.

He said their aim is that by July this year they should reach 40 per cent of the residents in the region, and added that so far the region is far behind in regard to Covid-19 vaccination.

Addressing Councillors from Hanang District, WHO Consultant Dr Chima Onuekwe said there are 10 countries in the African continent that are yet to attain 10 per cent in Covid-19 vaccination, including Tanzania, and that is why they have come to mobilise

the people to get vaccinated.

Dr Onuekwe further said Covid-19 still exists and mobilisation is essential to save the people.

Manyara Regional Commissioner, Makongoro Nyerere said the region is among the regions that are threatened by the disease.

Meanwhile, Dawar Ward Councillor, Charles Akonaay said councillors are more trusted by the people than doctors hence they should not remain silent on the issue.

*"Today (yesterday) we are restarting our house to house vaccination campaign against Covid-19. We are here in Hanang accompanied by health experts from World Health Organisation (WHO) who are mobilising the campaign"*



# IFTz trains journalists on animal welfare law

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

A Dodoma based–Inades Formation Tanzania (IFTz) has provided capacity building training to ten journalists from various media outlets to facilitate accurate reporting on donkeys.

IFTz is implementing a project to support community livelihoods by promoting donkey's welfare in Singida and Iringa districts with funds from Brooke East Africa.

Animal welfare refers to the physical and emotional state affected by the environment in which the animal lives or works the attitudes and customs of humans, and the resources available to it.

Michael Kihwele, IFTz agriculture officer said they trained journalists on animal welfare law, including donkeys which appear not to be given priority in the society.

He said journalists should have a good understanding of the Animal Welfare Law of 2008 to make a significant contribution towards improving the welfare of donkeys.

Kihwele said that 2019 statistics shows that Iringa Region has 5,000 donkeys, but a recent census on the animals conducted in collaboration with the department of livestock shows there are 2,042 donkeys in the region. The number has dropped by more than half. A similar census was conducted in collaboration with the veterinary department in Singida in 2021 showing a 3,500 donkey's population, a drop from more than 7,000 donkeys recorded in 2019.

At the national level, there are more than 657,380 donkeys.

Kihwele said young people are self-employed by leading donkeys where they earn an average of 5,000/- a day, donkeys are also used to transport farm produce from home to market places.

These animals are used to carry building materials where owners earn an average of 134,000/- and 800,000/- per season by renting a pair of donkeys for transport services.

"We are thankful to the government

for the establishment of a donkey skin processing factory that has been set-up by Chinese investors in the Shinyanga and Dodoma regions," he added.

Project Coordinator, Fadhili Nyingi said the organization has decided to defend the donkey after the animals were not seen as a priority in development plans at various levels of society and government.

He said previous research showed that the donkey sub-sector was a major contributor to economic growth for various groups within the community, especially women and youth.

Nyingi explained that the situation has led to the animal being bred and used in accordance with local customs and traditions such as subjective care, overloaded capacity, and overworked hours.

IFTz oversees the donkey project with the aim of helping the livelihoods of rural communities to promote animal welfare with funding from Brooke East Africa - Kenya.

The donkey project is the result of a 2017 study conducted in the Singida and Iringa regions on donkeys showing that donkeys have a direct contribution to human life.

The five freedoms of animal welfare include freedom from hunger, thirst, and malnutrition, freedom from fear and distress, physical discomfort, pain, injury, diseases and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour.



**We are thankful to the government for the establishment of a donkey skin processing factory that has been set-up by Chinese investors in the Shinyanga and Dodoma regions**

# RUFFO calls for collective efforts to strengthen child rights and fight violence

By Guardian Reporter

THE Raising Up Friendship Foundation (RUFFO) is calling for collective efforts from stakeholders, parents and members of the public to strengthen protection of children rights and fight against violence.

In her remarks during the commemoration of the International Day for African Child recently, RUFFO executive director Hilda Ngaja said without coordinated efforts, children will continue facing more challenges and thus thwart their progress.

Organised collaboratively by RUFFO, Kisarawe District Council and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the event brought together about 1500 students from five secondary and primary schools in Kisarawe.

Ngaja said that the event reminds how leaders, parents, stakeholders and the society have roles to play to protect the rights of a child. It is a time to celebrate the energy, strength and creativity of children across Africa. And a time to reflect, take stock and renew our commitment to giving African children a chance of a future they deserve.

"Children are our national asset and the future of the nation, so it is our national duty to protect the best interests of children and provide them with equal opportunities without any discrimination," she said.

She said RUFFO is implementing a number of projects aimed to strengthen protection of children in the country.

"We have the 'Sitanyamaza' campaign that aims to give a voice to children and giving them opportunity and confidence to speak up against oppression and abuse, we also implement the Hedhi Yangu (My Period) and Life Skills," she said.

Reports show that nearly 3 in 10 girls and approximately 1 in 7 boys in Tanzania have experienced violence

prior to the age of 18 in school settings. She reminded parents to always remain vigilant, take closer monitoring of their children so as to protect them from acts of abuse.

Kisarawe District Commissioner Nickson Simon said that the government recognises children and that's why it has put several policies and laws to protect them and support them to achieve their dreams.

He however said that the government alone cannot achieve the goal of protecting children without support from stakeholders and communities.

Simon said the district authority in collaboration with stakeholders has been working hard to eliminate any form of gender based violence which faces the children especially the girl child who are experiencing a great risk of early pregnancy.

He urged the parents to stop hiding children who face violence in fear of stigma; they need to understand that doing so is not the proper means of helping the children; instead they put them at risk.

"Parents and guardians should remember that they have a very big role to ensure that children remain safe, but some of them are not fulfilling their obligations well thus leaving their children in the hands of strangers," he noted.

Grigory Meneyi, teacher from Mfuru secondary school said they have been playing their role of ensuring that children remain safe from all kinds of violence by educating them on their rights and how to protect themselves from abuse.

"Teachers have a great role in the fight against violence in schools as we are the ones who spend much more time with children than parents," he said.

Other stakeholders who took part in the event are Plan International, Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSI), Macho Kwa Jamii, Ladies Joint Forum and ParaLegal.



Mbeya regional commissioner Juma Homera (R) inquires from a mining technician with the Mbeya regional office of the Mining Commission (L) how the metallic content in a mineral or gemstone is determined. This was at a symposium on Energy and Minerals held in Mbeya city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

# Maize shortage causes price hikes in Tanga

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

REPORTED shortage of maize in Tanga has resulted in price hike as a kilo of maize flour is now sold at between 1,500/- and 1,600/-.

The commodity's price is said to increase quickly in the past three days, as previously, a kilo of maize flour was fetching between 1,300/- and 1,400/-.

A bag of maize flour weighing 25

kilogram is sold at 35,000/- which is higher compared to a price of 32,000/- recorded in the past three days. A 100 kilogram sack of maize flour is sold at 100,000/- up from 95,000/-.

In the past two months (April and May) a kilo of maize flour was sold at between 1,000/- and 1,200/-.

Speaking with this paper, Sedikia Zelubabeli a grain miller linked the sharp price hike with the shortage of

maize. He said there is a high demand of maize in the region as most of the residents depend on the flour as staple food. He said: "The shortage of maize in warehouses and high demand of the product are causing price hikes."

A maize flour retailer in Muheza District, Ali Saidi pointed a finger at suppliers accusing them of causing price hikes. "Maize flour suppliers have been changing prices every day, this

has forced us to increase at least 100/- per kg whenever they change prices," said Saidi.

Angela Martin, a resident of Kwamatuku village in Handeni District said the condition had also been contributed by poor maize harvests in this farming season. She said the region experienced limited rains this season, resulting in poor harvests of maize and other crops.



Kinondoni District traffic police commander Notker Kilewa pictured lecturing community leaders and members of the Parish Council of St Peter's Catholic Church on road safety at a leadership orientation seminar held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# Tanzania, Uganda youth chart ways to strengthen cross-border ties

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

TWENTY youth from Uganda and Tanzania met at the Mutukula community centre in Uganda whereas among other things they charted ways to further strengthen cross border cooperation.

The meeting was part of the dialogue of Great Lakes Network for Dialogue and Peace which comprises Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The network brought youth together for capacity building and discussed their challenges and opportunities to meet their life dreams.

Jimmy Luhende, the network director and co-director Actions for Democracy and Local Government (ADLG) of Mwanza, Tanzania said youth in the network meet once a year for a peace school. He said the first session was attended by 200 youth in Goma, DRC.

He said the meeting will be held interchangeably in each country but forums for Francophone speakers (Rwanda and DRC) and Swahili/English speakers (Tanzania and Uganda) meet in their specific countries.

"This is a five year project which will sharpen youth to be patriotic to their countries, building and safeguard peace, so that they become successful towards their dreams,"

said Luhende.

Allan Shepherd, director of Cornerstone Development Africa (Uganda) appealed to Mutukula Town Council and Missenyi District Council to contribute to the project framework for the betterment of both countries and for the sustainability.

Nabagala Resty, a youth from Action for Youth Development in Uganda said youth are disappointed when they graduate from universities and find difficulties to get jobs only because they lack experience.

Evenus Ngutoto from Youth and Environment Vision in Mwanza, encouraged youth to practice self-employment as it pays well when people are seriously committed on

what they do.

Ngutoto said that he has been doing poultry farming for years and has been able to generate a good income as well as accessing loans from banks and financial institutions.

Namukasa Oliver for Uganda urged youth to ensure proper use of smartphones to establish networks that would be helpful in their businesses.

Oliver said there is a lot of business at the Mutukula border calling upon fellow youth to grab the opportunities. She however faulted some poor administration systems in both sides of the countries, saying the situation discourages people from doing business.



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

## Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## International Day of the Tropics is a reminder of special challenges developing countries face

CLIMATE change challenges have raised special problems for each part of the world, accentuating traditional problems with a certain aggravation of intensity and impacts. In this context that an International Day of the Tropics was set out for June 29th each year, to raise awareness about various challenges that tropical countries increasingly face. A United Nations chronicler says the day is also meant to celebrate the extraordinary diversity of the tropics, covering regions that lie in the middle of the planet, as the tropics account for 36 percent of the earth's landmass, with the bulk of Africa in this range.

What characterizes the tropics is that the region is warm all year round, despite that highland regions even within proximity of the Equator often have biting low temperatures, especially at night or daybreak. The chronicler says that the tropics get a lot of sun and only have two seasons: the wet season and dry season, which is flatly inaccurate, as most regions in Africa feel the shift in temperature in an often acute manner, for instance from November to April and then from May to October, while the rains are a different issue.

The day is marked by raising attention to sharp contrasts in tropical regions, for instance rainforest areas getting plenty of rain, while desert zones - and the desert is expanding to the more southerly parts from its traditional northward domain, cutting down what used to be the savannah grassland zone. Encroachment of desert arises from less rainfall

partly due to deforestation and conversely, owing to disturbances in ocean currents and precipitation, as earth warming impinges on climatic behavior patterns. African countries often remind rich countries of the low pollution they make but they 'desertify' by deforestation.

Other areas where the tropics pose specific challenges is the resource and population balance, where the prevalence of traditional farming and herding methods touch off competition among societies that ignite age-old forms of organization, whose ultimate expression is the conduct of warfare. Civil wars in Africa have their base in resource contentions, as ethnic solidarities are exploited to try to push other users of the resources from specific areas, etc. States are weak in handling these problems as the total political will available in any government is drawn from the cohesion, consensus that the state can muster, nationally.

The chronicler notes that more people experience undernourishment in the tropics than anywhere in the world, consistent with the higher levels of poverty in these regions. In addition, more people live in slums in the tropics than in the rest of the world, despite that increasingly cheaper building materials the recycling of plastics and tax reforms make the building of durable houses more visible. It isn't just all grey and bitter, as capital accumulation has made headway in Africa for the past half century, and many countries just need peace and stability to make rapid gains. That is what we ought to work for, right now.

## Private sector wages review has to be indicative to avoid business closures

CERTAIN quarters will be beaming with satisfaction and quite a few stakeholders remain apprehensive as to what lies in store as the government drafts new private sector minimum wages, in the wake of an announcement that new minimum wage levels for the private sector will be announced soon. This affirmation was made at the weekend at an annual general meeting of the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), accompanied by a stakeholders' workshop. Indications are that it will take a similar pattern as the public sector wage review that was completed before the Budget session of the legislature.

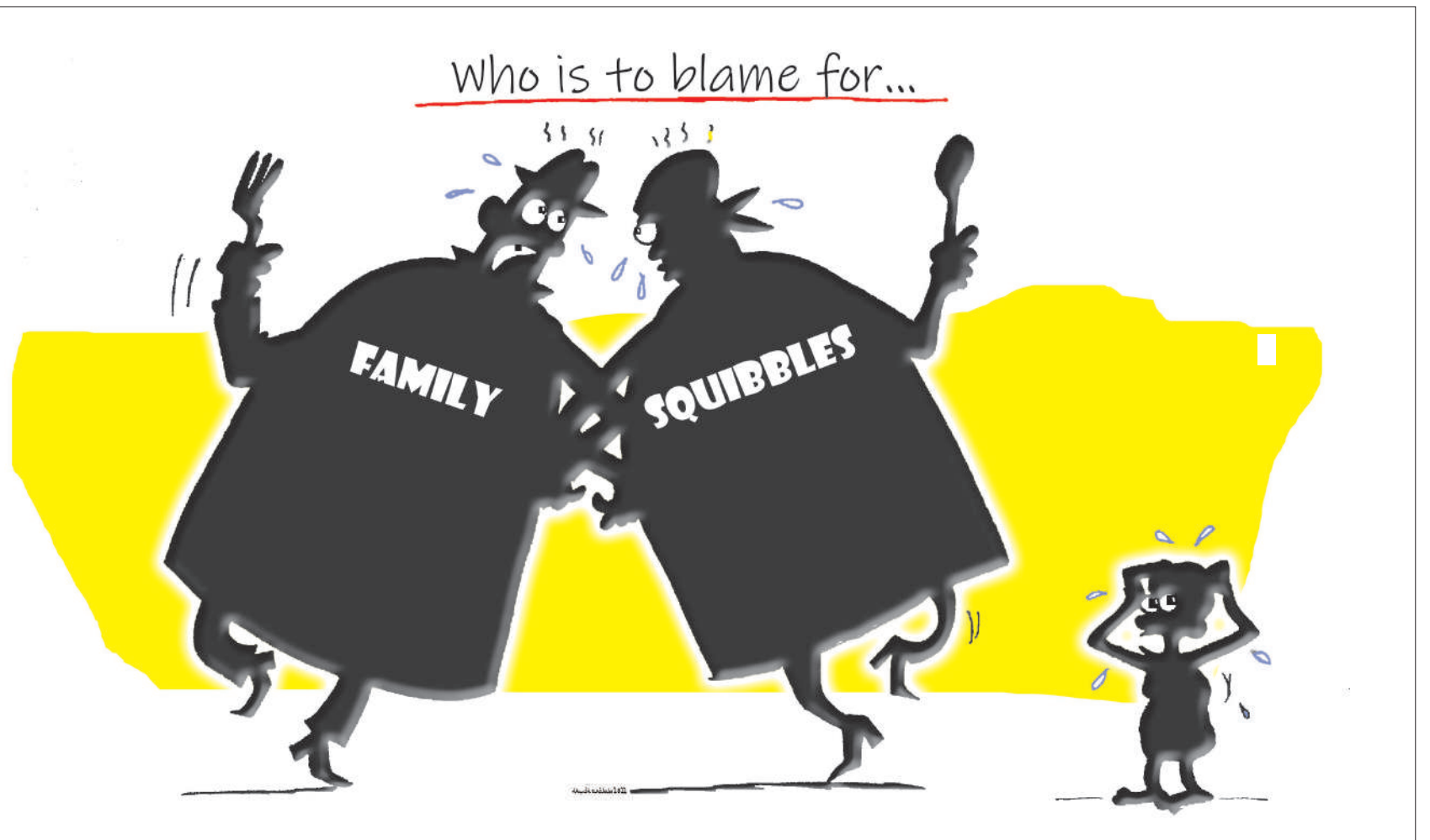
The trouble with advisories and pleading about the minimum wage is the premise from which proposals proceed, namely by looking at the cost of living. That argument was raised on May Day and responded to by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who cited productivity increase as the premise for wage revision. All that can be complicated for any direct formulation of what is right or is feasible, but the critical issue is that there is a vast difference between the private sector and the public sector. The latter lives on revenues where the public authorities are in a position to decide what portion to use for wages, unlike the former.

Public employees have the same employer, who shall always have money but not as much as they want, while the private sector must produce such cash in a competitive environment, where a slight shift in the wage bill

can upset the appercart of what the company planned for that year. This is what is missed out in plenty of opinion formulation as so many people take profits for granted, and thus see low wages as lack of sympathy on the part of business operators. They see government intervention as salvation, until it acts.

Mwalimu Nyerere said at speech to Ibadan University students and staff late 1976 that upon attaining independence, the government finds out that it is watching over activities that aren't in its control. It has the power to shut them down but is incapable of starting any such activities, as investments take place when someone is ready to sink his or her money into something. Raising wages 'manu militari' is the easiest way of closing down hundreds of small companies and even large firms, in which case any review needs to be indicative. It provides the basis for negotiations within a sector or a company, not a directive.

Economies with state-based minimum wages are a haven for monopolies as small operators find the going tough, and a few operators have a field day selling various goods and services, while large numbers of would be producers or service providers operate on the margins. There is also the problem of excessive supervision of businesses by government officials, touching off a spate of bribes when any infringement is noticed, especially wage infringements. Workers won't report it as they need wages, of whatever level.



By Kilo Mgaya

IT has been three years now since COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic. Tourism is one of the hardest-hit economic sectors. The pandemic has affected the sector by closing borders, and imposed travel restrictions that impacted tourist transportation.

In Tanzania, tourism sector contributes a high share to gross domestic product. In 2019 before the pandemic, the sector was the second-largest component of GDP, with a contribution of 10.7 percent. The share declined sharply to 5.3 percent in 2020, reflecting the impact of the coronavirus in the sector.

The pandemic outbreak triggered a massive unemployment crisis, displacing over 850,000 Tanzanians working in the tourism industry. The negative impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism sector are also channeled to linked sectors such as transport, accommodation, beverage and food, and the retail business.

President Samia's administration did an admirable job in opening up the country's economy and hastening recovery as the rest of the world recovers from the pandemic. On 10th October 2021, the President launched the Government's Economic Recovery Plan and Response to the COVID-19 worth TZS 3.62 trillion.

President Samia also thought of a strategic advertising and promotion

By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

As the main problem in Liberia remains the longstanding and widespread poverty problem, the people who love Liberia have to continue working together to find ways to end poverty and prevent its reoccurrence. The ending and prevention of poverty is most important because poverty has become the pretext for violence, including coup d'etat and civil war. The Civil War in Liberia took the lives of at least 300,000 people, damaged billions of dollars worth of infrastructure, and left unrecovered the economy of Liberia at its pre-war level. It is the experience of the people of Liberia with the Civil War in Liberia that led the people of Liberia to conclude that they prefer Peace to War, as is heard in their chanting: 'We Want Peace! No More War!'

Although the Constitution of Liberia calls for the building of sustainable democracy in Liberia, where the Will of the People of Liberia prevails, the reality in Liberia is that autocracy, the will of the few powers that be, prevails. In other words, the Constitution of Liberia, the Supreme Law of Liberia, is being violated. It is under this violation that there is poverty generation instead of poverty alleviation in Liberia. Poverty generation prevails in Liberia because the powers that be see poverty as being in their interest, despite their detractive policy statements and slogans. In effect,

## President Samia's Royal Tour surely perfect lesson on tourism advertising



of the country's tourist destinations on a global scale, in order to ensure that Tanzania remains a popular tourist destination and to revitalize the tourism and hospitality sectors.

The travel documentary 'Tanzania: Royal Tour,' which features President Samia as a versed tourist guide, is one of the great lessons on the significance of investing in public relations and advertising as a strategic way of stimulating the growth of the tourism industry.

The documentary has proved a success in promoting the tourist destinations in the country. Since it was premiered, in US and here in Tanzania, the sector has been witnessing an influx of tourists from both the local and international marketplace.

As advertising platform, 'The Royal Tour' documentary promotes the

## Let's work for democracy, not autocracy

poverty generation comes from the colonial system, where divide and rule syndrome is the order of the day. In this order of colonialism, the system of the production of raw materials mainly for export without any prioritization of Value Addition prevails.

Autocracy promotes the colonial system which sustains the divide and rule syndrome. Under this syndrome, there continues to be the production of raw materials for export, leading to the sustenance of poverty generation at the expense of poverty alleviation. Let us recall here the Liberian expression: when your household does not sell you, the street will not buy you. From the time of slavery, we saw the household of the powers that be selling poor people from Africa as slaves to cotton plantation slave owners in the United States of America (USA). Then we witnessed the freed slaves returning to Africa, through Liberia in 1822, buying land from the household of the powers that be that belonged to the people, establishing what is now known as Americo-Liberian Rule. Now, from the 1980s to the present time, we have observed the functioning of Native-Liberian Rule twice and concluded, as seen in one of my Commentaries, that Americo-Liberian Rule and Native-Liberian Rule are the same because they promote the poverty generating system of the production of

Tanzania's culture, heritage, natural resources, tourist attractions, and provide information that help visitors to become acquainted with the places even before visiting them personally.

The famous PSG player, Ander Herrera is a witness to this. In one of his interviews, he described how President Samia's Royal Tour enticed him to visit the country's tourist attractions. In recent months, new flights from Europe, Asia, and Russia have become common, bringing hundreds of tourists to the country, all thanks to the 'Royal Tour.'

According to the most recent BOT Monthly Economic Review, tourism revenue for the fiscal year ended April 2022 amounted to USD 1.5 billion, up from USD 737.3 million in the same period in 2021, consistent with an increase in international tourist arrivals from 552,390 to 1,015,233.

The increase in tourism earnings reflects a revitalizing tourism sector from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The sector has a promising future with the government planning to spend Sh 624.1 billion in the next fiscal year, up 9.2 percent from Sh 571.6 billion in the current fiscal year.

The projects that the government intends to implement in the coming

fiscal year reflect President Samia's commitment to making tourism a major contributor to our nation's economy. To achieve that goal, we must invest more in programs that promote our country and its natural resources, such as the 'Royal Tour.'

International sponsorship opportunities, influencer marketing, and ads placement in strategic areas, in my opinion, are among the most authentic and engaging methods. Spending on such programs may appear extravagant, but when properly implemented, they will be of great benefit to the nation, as President Samia's Royal Tour.

We live in attention-driven world. Every organization is striving to attract attention of the customers. Similarly, in tourism countries are struggling for tourists' attention. These programs can be used to inform and persuade tourists to visit our country, and create a Top of Mind Awareness when it comes to Tanzania's natural attractions.

Kilo Mgaya (pictured) is a Public Relations Manager at CRDB Bank Plc in Dar es Salaam and can be reached through: kilo.mgaya@gmail.com. The views expressed in this article are his own and have no relationship with the bank.

and globally about Climate Change, Liberia has the capacity to solve the Climate Change problem. The main Climate Change problem is the gas emissions from the developed countries. Liberia has some of the best rain forests in the world with the capacity to take in death-making carbon dioxide from the gas emissions and give out life-saving oxygen. Yet, the powers that be in Liberia continue to move around with hat in hand depending on and receiving foreign assistance in the forms of grants, loans and even budget support. With good State management, Liberia could prioritize reforestation instead of focusing on deforestation in the production of raw materials for export, where logs are exported, deforesting the forests and not reforesting the forests.

How can Liberia get the good State management where Democracy prevails over Autocracy? How can Liberia get the good State management where Value Addition prevails over value subtraction? How can Liberia get the good State management where poverty alleviation prevails over poverty generation? The good State management will come in Liberia when knowledge is spread to raise awareness in ways that motivate the people of Liberia to take actions together through the Rule of Law to transform the UNFAIR electoral system to the FAIR electoral system.



MUMBAI/BUENOS AIRES/LONDON

# Food export bans, from India to Argentina, risk fuelling inflation

It only took 24 hours last month for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in India - the world's second-largest producer of wheat - to shelve its plans to "feed the world".

In April, Modi had said publicly that the world's most populous democracy was ready to fill part of the gap left by Ukraine in global grains markets by increasing its wheat exports, following five consecutive record harvests. India traditionally exports only a modest amount of wheat, retaining most of its crop for domestic consumption.

On May 12, India's Ministry of Commerce & Industry said it was preparing to send delegations to nine countries to export a record 10 million tons of wheat this fiscal year - sharply up the previous season.

But a barrage of alarming data changed all that.

First came a downward revision to India's wheat crop in early May as a sudden heatwave hammered yields. Then data on May 12 showed inflation in the nation of 1.4 billion had jumped to a near eight-year high due to higher food and fuel prices, driven by the Ukraine crisis.

Alarmed by rising inflation, which had contributed to toppling the previous Congress party government in 2014, Modi's office told the Ministry of Commerce on May 13 to put the "brakes on" wheat exports immediately, according to one government official, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue.

"This (inflation data) prompted the government to issue an order at midnight" imposing a ban on wheat exports, said a second source.

News of the ban by India, which is the only major wheat exporter at that time of year, drove Chicago wheat futures 6 percent higher after markets reopened on Monday.

Neither Modi's office nor the Ministry of Commerce responded to a request for comment.

India is one of at least 19 countries that have introduced food export restrictions since the Russia-Ukraine conflict sent prices soaring, hampering international trade flows for several agricultural products and sparking violent protests in some developing nations.

From Delhi to Kuala Lumpur, Buenos Aires to Belgrade, governments imposed restrictions, at a time when the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with factors such as extreme weather and supply chain bottlenecks, had already driven hunger across the globe to unprecedented levels.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said in April the number of people facing acute food insecurity - when their inability to consume



A mother holds her malnourished child in the firsts stage recovery section in the ALIMA (The Alliance for International Medical Action) managed nutrition unit of the hospital Tchad/ Chine in N'djamena, Chad on May 13, 2022. AFP

adequate food puts their lives or livelihoods in danger - had already more than doubled since 2019 to 276 million in the 81 countries in which it operates, before the Ukraine conflict began. The crisis - which disrupted exports from Russia and Ukraine, two agricultural powerhouses - was forecast to increase that number by at least 33 million, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, it forecast.

Under World Trade Organization rules, members can impose export prohibitions or restrictions of foodstuffs or other products if they are temporary and required to relieve "critical shortages".

India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told Reuters last month he had been in contact with the WTO and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to explain that India needed to prioritize its own food security, stabilize domestic prices and protect against hoarding.

But export restrictions risk worsening the rise in global food prices: producing a domino effect as a deepening crisis prompts other countries to take similar steps, said Michele Ruta, the lead economist in the Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment Global Practice of the World Bank Group.

Many economists say the global food crisis is already more severe than the last one that peaked in 2008, which was driven by factors including droughts, global population growth, higher consumption of meat in major developing economies, and the increased use of crops to produce biofuels.

Shortages at that time triggered protests across the globe, particularly in Africa where food represents a comparatively high proportion of household budgets.

Simon Evenett, professor of international trade and economic development at the University of St. Gallen, said the assurances in 2008 from international organizations to national governments that there was enough food to go around globally took some of the wind out of the sails of those pushing for export curbs.

"This time around that is harder to do as we do have a supply hit here in both Ukraine and Russia," Evenett said, adding the size of summer harvests in major food producers would help determine how things develop in the second half of 2022.

Ukraine and Russia accounted for a combined 28 percent of global wheat exports, 15 percent of corn and 75 percent of sunflower oil in the 2020/21 season, according to US Department of Agriculture data.

World food prices have stabilized at high levels in the past two months as harvests approach. However, there are already some worrying signs with drought in the United States set to reduce the size of the winter wheat crop while in France wheat crops were battered by hail, strong winds and torrential rains this month.

Dry weather in Argentina - the world's sixth largest wheat exporter - has stalled planting of the crop and weighed down production forecasts for the 2022/23 season.

Moreover, the mood in the international forum's such as G20 is now less collaborative after years of populism and heightened tension between major geopolitical players, Evenett said.

"This current situation in many ways is a lot more troubling than 2008 and look at what risks arose then to political stability," he said. "We will have a very tense six to nine months ahead of us."

## Falling dominos

Some countries had already announced export curbs last year, given the tightness in global food supplies. But the dominos really started to fall following the start of the Ukraine crisis on Feb 24, with global prices of both grains and vegetable oils soaring.

In March, Argentina increased taxes on its soybean oil and meal exports and has imposed a lower cap than last year for new wheat exports.

India's ban on wheat exports came after Indonesia, the world's top palm oil producer, had already restricted exports of palm oil - an essential ingredient in cooking and baking - from April 28 citing the need to ensure the country had "abundant and affordable supplies."

India is the world's biggest importer of palm oil and Indonesia is one of its most important suppliers. Indonesia lifted its ban on May 20.

Malaysia prohibited on May 23 the export of chickens from the beginning of this month after a global feed shortage exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine disrupted poultry production and led to a sharp rise in prices for one of the country's cheapest sources of protein.

The wave of export restrictions already affect nearly one-fifth of calories traded globally - that's nearly double the impact of the last global food crisis of 2008, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a Washington-based think tank that aims to reduce poverty in developing countries.

"These types of measures tend to provoke some panicked behavior or hoarding from the buyers side...that accelerates the price spike," said IFPRI researcher David Laborde Debucquet.

The European Union - which includes several of the world's biggest food importers by value - is urging its trade partners not to enact protectionist policies.

"The European Union keeps its food exports going, and so should everyone else," EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a speech this month.

## Ensuring domestic supplies

Even before the Ukraine crisis, Argentina's government, battling domestic inflation now over 60 percent, took steps late last year to stem the rise in local food prices. It placed caps on exports of corn and wheat, adding to an earlier ban on shipments of beef.

After conflict began, it took additional steps, raising the taxes on shipments of processed soy oil and meal.

Argentina is the world's biggest soybean oil and meal exporter, the second-largest global provider of corn and a key wheat exporter.

A source in Argentina's Agriculture Ministry, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the government's priority was to safeguard foodstuffs needed for domestic consumption.

The export limits established in late 2021 helped to shield domestic millers and consumers from the spike in international prices following the crisis in Ukraine, the source said.

But Gustavo Idigoras, head of Argentina's CIARA-CEC chamber of grains processors and exporters, said that despite the export caps and additional taxes, the government had struggled to stem entrenched food price inflation in Argentina, which was already high before the Ukraine conflict.

In the Buenos Aires metropolitan area, the cost of bread has risen 69 percent in a year, meat 64 percent and vegetables 66 percent, forcing people to change their diets and seek cheaper deals.

Edith Elizabeth Plou, 39, a shopkeeper in Buenos Aires, had traveled miles from her home to come to the Argentine capital's large Central Market to get cheaper prices for her groceries, which have spiked sharply over the last year.

"I work eight hours and the truth is that I often think about finding a second job to cover my expenses," Plou said.

# Catholic world awash with speculation of Pope Francis' resignation, but scepticism is called for

By Russell Pollitt

SINCE Easter (April 2022) Pope Francis' mobility has been limited and he has been seen many times in a wheelchair. He has not presided over several public masses in recent months even though he has been present. He remains seated on a chair while other senior cardinals take the lead.

Several events have fuelled the rumours of an imminent resignation.

First, the 85-year-old pope has been struggling with his knee. Although the Vatican has not made public what the exact ailment is, we know that Pope Francis is suffering. He has been seen wincing in pain more than once in public as he moves. Some believe the problem is the actual kneecap, others say that it is all the ligaments around the knee.

The pope suffers from sciatica, which causes him to limp, and this, it is believed, has led to a problematic knee.

Second, in a surprise move in late May, Pope Francis announced that he would be creating 21 new cardinals in August. While there is nothing unusual about him naming cardinals, the fact that Francis has chosen to announce their names in May

and only have the consistory (the service in which the cardinals are "installed") in August, is out of sync with custom. The time lapse between the announcement and ceremony is unusually long.

To add to this, all the cardinals of the world have been asked to be in Rome in August. The reason given is that the pope, as part of his ongoing efforts to reform the administration of the Catholic Church, wants to present the Vatican's new constitution to the cardinals. Some of the reform includes imposing limits on chiefs of Vatican offices and allowing women to head them up. Some speculation is that calling them all together suggests a big and unusual announcement.

It has also been intimated that the pope has called all the cardinals together so that they can get to know each other (Covid halted many in-person meetings). He wants to build some familiarity before the next conclave - the gathering of cardinals that elects a pope. Hence, some analysts conclude, a resignation might be on the cards.

Many of the new cardinals are seen to be key allies of Francis. Several people think that Francis is setting up his successor by ensuring that the bulk of the cardinals



are now his appointees and of his mindset and vision. Only three of the new cardinals come from the Vatican Curia - the central administration of the Catholic Church. Many of the new cardinals come from far-flung places often overlooked and places where Catholics are a minority. A good example of this is Giorgio Marengo, currently archbishop of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia. There are about 1,400 Catholics in the central Asian country that hosts eight parishes.

Francis has (again) passed over places which would traditionally have had a cardinal in place. He has chosen places that have never traditionally had cardinals. An example of this is Philadelphia in the US. Francis has given the so-called "red hat" (called a "red hat" because of the colour of the skull cap cardinals

wear) to San Diego and not an archbishopric like Philadelphia or San Francisco.

Third, the pope announced that he would be visiting L'Aquila, the Abruzzo town ravaged by an earthquake in 2009, for the Perdonanza Celestiniana festival in August. During this visit he is set to go to the cathedral that hosts the tomb of Celestine V. Celestine was a pope who resigned in 1294 after just five months as pope.

Benedict XVI visited the tomb in 2009, leaving behind his pallium (a vestment worn by archbishops and the pope). Some commentators suggest this was a symbolic gesture ahead of his own resignation in 2013.

Fourth, the Vatican announced that Francis has cancelled, due to knee pain, his trip to the Democratic Republic

of the Congo and South Sudan scheduled for 2 to 7 July 2022.

Despite the narrative, there are several reasons to believe that, at this moment, Francis has no intention of resigning.

To begin with, Pope Francis last week said that resigning "does not cross his mind". Meeting with bishops from Brazil, and asked about his health, he replied that he intends to continue in his role as head of the Catholic Church "for as long as God allows it".

Despite his limited mobility the pope's daily schedule remains packed. Although in a wheelchair, he remains firmly set on keeping his appointments. His knee problems have not impacted his energy and vision, or slowed him down.

The meeting of cardinals and the consistory in August might be out of sync with tradition but this could be for practical reasons. Rome is generally quiet in August; it is holiday time. The pope's schedule is generally lighter and so he might have more time to spend with the cardinals. Francis may also have wanted to ensure that cardinals did not travel twice to Rome - for the consistory and a meeting - so, to cut costs, he combined them.

His announcement of new cardinals in late May, and a consistory soon thereafter, might have prevented many cardinals who have busy schedules from travelling to Rome. Giving them more time meant that diaries could be planned so that they could travel to Rome, and all be gathered together, both new and old.

Then there are his own travel plans. The pope has announced other travel plans for 2022. He plans to go to Canada, and he has a trip planned to Kazakhstan in September. There are also rumours of a few international trips he intends undertaking in 2023.

Francis has called for a worldwide Synod of the Church in October 2023. The process of preparation is under way. It is unlikely that he would step down before this Synod as many of the issues to be discussed and deliberated on are ones that are close to his own vision for the Church.

The fact that former Pope Benedict XVI is still alive is another reason that it is unlikely that Pope Francis will quit soon. Having two retired popes could be problematic. Why? Some Vatican sources say that Francis intends to make some changes around the role of a retired pope. He cannot do this while Benedict

is still alive. These changes might include the title given to a former pope, how he dresses and where he lives. Benedict has retained the title "Pope" in his name and has continued to dress like the pope and live in the Vatican. Sources say Francis does not want this to become the norm.

Besides these events sources close to the pope have strongly denied that there has been any talk of resignation. One close papal aide said that this is "fake news" and "not in the mind of the Holy Father".

In the past week, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who is close to Pope Francis, dismissed the speculation as "wishful thinking" on the part of those who oppose the pope, or as the result of misinformation.

He also said that the pope recently told the Italian bishops that "the pope governs the church with the head, not with the legs". He called to mind that Franklin D Roosevelt was elected president of the United States four times and governed for 14 years from a wheelchair.

Pope Francis has proved unpredictable and surprised the world many times. However, it seems like quitting is not likely ... any time soon.



By Correspondent Cheji Bakari

# Early childhood education confirmed as important period needing extra caution

**E**ARLY childhood development policies and plans require wide consultations with experts and stakeholders with teachers, parents and community voices included to ensure a common understanding and ownership.

The inclusivity aimed at settling for the best practice guarantees not only quality but sustainability in the subsector rightly described as an important period in child development.

Experience shows that the needs of infants and young children are subjected to many service providers and are addressed in sector-specific ways yet pose many challenges related to coordination.

While families have the primary responsibility for raising children, governments do have to ensure that systems are in place to support families and thus help ensure that children grow into responsible and productive adults.

The government cannot provide every needed service to all citizens, however. Therefore, other parties, such as civil society organizations and nongovernmental agencies, become vital in complementing the government initiatives.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiative was established in the country in 2016 after education stakeholders conducted research on education conditions and established that many pupils complete primary education while illiterate.

Since its introduction, the implementers of this ECD programme say they have recorded tremendous improvement with the problem being reduced by at least 50 per cent.

Recently, a number of private schools and Non-Government Organizations came together to help the government improve ECD in the country.

One of the models fronted is Play Lab Project (PLP) implemented by BRAC in two regions of Mbeya and Dar es Salaam since 2016. It is implemented in play-based learning centres for children



A teacher and pupils play jump-around game at Kilakala Play Lab centre for early childhood education in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of BRAC

aged between three and five whereby children participate in early learning activities in learning child-friendly environments hence develop their cognitive, emotional, linguistic and numerical capabilities.

Across the global, Play Labs in many countries, mostly of that Asia, take the project as an easy and low resource mode of teaching children whereby communities take part in implementation of the project. In East Africa, Uganda also implements the project.

Janeth Malela, Play Lab Project Manager, recently led journalists from selected media houses for a tour of Mbagala Kilungule Play Lab in said in Mbeya Region, the project is implemented in Mwanjelwa and Uyole areas with a total of 60 centres each of which enrolled 30 children, the same as Dar es Salaam where the project is implemented in Mbagala and Temeke.

After showing improvements, BRAC introduced another ECD project in Tanga Region within Muheza

and Tanga districts.

Speaking about the outcome, Muheza District Education Officer (primary department) at the time of implementation who is now Songea District Education Officer, Stewart Kuziwa, said the project became the game changer in early childhood education whereby at least 90 per cent of all children who attended two - year early childhood learning programme qualified to join standard one because they knew all basic skills of reading, writing and counting.

"This elevated our district council as one of 11 district councils in Tanga Region that eliminated the shame of pupils joining standard one while illiterate," he said.

In Mwanjelwa, Mbeya, whereby education stakeholders hail the initiative because their children who are now in standard four and five continue to perform better academically, thanks to strong the foundation laid by the project.

"The ideas of communities participating in teaching and learning processes for their children challenged parents to make follow up of their children's progress and this led to improvement of performance," said Rose Mwakibinga, resident of Uyole.

The project which uses play-based-curriculum was developed by BRAC in collaboration with the government and ECD stakeholders and the government is now set to review it with other stakeholders with the view to using it in community-based ECD centres.

To establish an effective education programme for children aged three to five, their parents and caregivers must be part of the process which incorporates elements of social and emotional learning as well as identity awareness using low cost but high impact to beneficiaries.

Its objective is to provide opportunity for development of life skills of children, develop learning processes of every child, develop positive attitude of the children, building self-confidence and prepare children for pre-primary school and future learning.

The project's main operational areas include to engage in policy dialogue at all levels in order to influence best practices, policies, programmes, and legislations regarding ECD issues such as to facilitate the coordination and promotion of ECD activities as performed by communities locally and globally, to facilitate two-way communication, networking, and information sharing among members and other interested parties.

Others are to enhance the ability of community members where ECD is a project carried out to be proactive and take a leading role in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ECD activities at different levels as the best approach of ensuring project sustainability.

# Commercial services in agricultural sector help increase farmers' income in Hunan

By He Yong, Shen Zhilin

"THE rice seedlings are growing well. I can definitely see a good harvest if the weather is fair in the coming days," said Wu Hongkui, a villager in central China's Hunan province, while checking on the rice seedlings in his fields in mid-June.

Although he owns seven to eight mu (about 5 hectares) of paddy fields, Wu hasn't worked in the fields himself this year.

"I entrusted plowing, seedling raising, and transplanting I needed to do to a specialized cooperative for crop planting in a nearby village, and I didn't take part in any of these tasks," said Wu, who lives in Nandigui village, Anxiang county, Changde city of Hunan province.

The cooperative Wu was talking about mainly provides local grain-growing households with commercial services covering the whole process of grain production, including planting, drying, storage, processing and sale.

"We have taken care of the farm work in over 10,000 mu

(666.67 hectares) of farmland for local farmers, or provided services for them for 100,000 times if calculated according to the steps and links of the farming process," said Li Zhihui, a manager of the cooperative.

The services in agricultural production have freed small-scale farmers like Wu from laborious farm work.

"Now I only need to go to the fields once a while to see whether the crops get enough water and fertilizer. With the time saved in farming, I also take part in the installation and maintenance of water and electricity facilities as another source of income," Wu said.

Last year, after leaving enough grain for his family's needs, Wu sold the rest of the harvested rice, which brought him an income of 5,000 yuan (\$746.37) to 6,000 (\$895.64) yuan.

The specialized services provided by such agricultural cooperatives have not only helped smallholder farmers save time and energy, but enabled medium- and large-scale farmers to use their land efficiently.



Farmers carry middle-season rice seedlings at a seedling cultivation base of an agricultural machinery cooperative in Baishizhai village, Yongzhou city, central China's Hunan province, June 6, 2022. File photo

Ma Zhongren, a farmer who runs a family farm in Anfeng township, Anxiang county, has been greatly relieved of the farm work because of the commercial services provided by a specialized cooperative.

Ma has acquired the use rights of over 600 mu (40 hectares) of land to develop rice-shrimp farming. The cooperative has helped him with seedling raising and transplanting, effectively improving the land-use value

of Ma's family farm.

"After entrusting the cooperative with the preliminary farm work, I know the sowing of my autumn grain will not be delayed even if the harvest season of my shrimp is not started until the end of June," Ma said.

Various providers of such services are helping facilitate the implementation of a series of measures across Hunan. The measures aim at promot-

ing the modernization of grain production and helping grain producers reduce costs and increase production and efficiency, including the promotion of high-quality rice seeds, advanced agricultural machinery, and agricultural technologies.

At a breeding base of the cooperative that provides commercial services for Ma, high-quality rice seeds that have been soaked in water

for speeding up germination are continuously added to a seeder with positioning function, and then neatly spread on paper and rolled up.

This is a new technology for mechanized rice seedling cultivation and transplanting jointly developed by the cooperative, the Hunan Agricultural University and other institutions.

Compared with the traditional way of sowing and seedling raising, it can save 40 percent to 50 percent of the seeds, which cuts the seed cost by 50 to 60 yuan per mu for farmers, Li pointed out.

"We have purchased five agricultural drones to provide plant protection services for nearly 20,000 mu (1333.33 hectares) of farmland of local farmers," said Liang Manlyu, manager of an agricultural machinery cooperative in Leiyang city, Hunan.

Leiyang has established and encouraged agricultural machinery technology service teams to provide services in the fields, and worked with 21 agricultural machinery cooperatives to advance the

implementation of projects related to relevant subsidies. The county-level city has been listed among pilot counties for innovative commercial agricultural services in China.

At present, the comprehensive mechanization level of rice cultivation and harvesting has reached 81.8 percent in the city. Hunan is carrying out county-wide pilot projects of commercial agricultural services in 24 regions.

"We have carefully scheduled commercial agricultural services for summer harvesting, sowing and management to boost increase in grain output and production efficiency," said an official with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Hunan Province.

A total of 43,000 providers of commercial agricultural services have participated in or plan to participate in the process, with the total area of paddy fields expected to benefit from the services exceeding 296 million mu (about 2 million hectares), according to the official. **People's Daily**

## 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



## Human rights defenders advise parents in Z'bar to be vigilant against child abuse

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR-based human right defenders have tasked parents and guardians to be vigilant when it comes to child protection against abuse, whose cases are in the alarming rates.

They were speaking at the International Day of the African Child held over the weekend at Rahaleo Hall in Zanzibar.

Tanzania Media Women's Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) project manager Ali Mohammed has called on children to refrain from using cell phones to avoid exposure to harmful substances that could lead to degrading behavior.

Mohammed noted that children have been using their parents' phones, and some have been secretly using their own phones.

"Something which is very dangerous and threatens their safety, especially against acts of abuse," he said, urging parents/guardians to be vigilant on the matter which led to the increase in child abuse in society.

"It's high time also for children to refrain from such behaviors, so as to remain with children who are better adults in future," he said.

Seconding the idea, chairperson of Zanzibar-based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Asha Aboud said parents have a great responsibility to protect their children to protect them from various forms of abuse, asking the Zanzibar's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to look at policies and laws to give all children the opportunity to participate fully in accessing their basic rights, including education.

She said despite the government strengthening education infrastructure, but still, some policies and laws have become increasingly oppressive for some children especially the disabled, explaining that the time has come for parents to monitor and monitor the behavior of their children especially by avoiding them using the phone.

Presenting a report on the growing increase in juvenile delinquency and malnutrition, media research consultant Asha Abdi said the issue of globalization was seen as a major problem and seemed to contribute significantly to acts of humiliation.

The research has been made possible by the Tanzania Media Women's Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar).

She said: "The report noted that such child abuse acts have increased these days due to the widespread awareness of community mobilization to report such incidents unlike in previous years."

On behalf of his fellow students, Haitham Hussein from Fujoni Primary School in Northern District 'B' Unguja called on the government and stakeholders to develop concrete plans to help children get a better education and



Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender and Children minister, Riziki Pembe Juma

protection so that they can avoid acts of abuse.

He said children are affected by various challenges so the existence of such a situation will greatly help them to live in peace and achieve their goals.

Unguja Central District Community Development Officer Ali Shehe Kombo urged male parents to stop running away from their responsibilities including raising their families and caring for children.

Kombo said despite incidents of abuse including rape and homosexuality being reported to law enforcement agencies there was also a huge wave of child abuse.

He said the neglect was due to men running away from their responsibilities and leaving a heavy burden on the upbringing of women alone which contributed to children being abused.

The official stated that the abuse occurs when a marriage breaks down where women and children are the most vulnerable to acts of abuse, stressing that children deserve to be raised and provided with all the services to enhance their present and future lives.

He also urged the community to be close to their children to identify them and the acts of abuse they are experiencing before they get serious repercussions, noting that such action will help identify children early when they are subjected to such acts and take immediate action.

Kombo pointed out that being close to a child is the right way to make a child less afraid to express their feelings; otherwise they are afraid to talk about them.

"A large percentage of children who are subjected to such acts are delayed in identification due to parents and guardians not being close to their children due to fear and even if they are known they are already severely affected", he said.

Presenting the paper on child abuse, TAMWA-Zanzibar officer, Saphia Ngalapi urged young people not to remain silent as such acts are psychologically harmful and disrupt the entire system of life.

Machui villager leader Abdalla Salum Juma was pleased to be given the education within his area and used the opportunity to urge the organizations to re-organize the exercise another day so that the community can understand how to protect themselves from such practices.

Zanzibar Child Rights Forum (ZCRF) project coordinator Safia Leghela, said that in order to pro-

tect children from such practices, children must know how to protect themselves.

Riziki Pembe Juma, Zanzibar's Minister for Community Development, Gender, and Children said the establishment of a special sexual offenses court that deals with gender-based violence (GBV) cases in Zanzibar. "This is a strategic area for the government to ensure that acts of violence and humiliation are completely stopped in Zanzibar," she said, noting that the move would go a long way in eradicating such acts of violence against women and children in Zanzibar.

She also said that Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Mwinyi has shown his sincerity in deciding to sign the proposed amendments to the law to remove bail for offenders and the Zanzibar House of Representatives unanimously adopted the issue.

She said it was the opening of the Gender and Children's Desks, as well as the establishment of a center to correct the behavior of children in conflict with the law so that they could return peacefully to society.

Riziki said the level of child abuse incidents that have been reported, to some extent has been unsatisfactory. The Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCCS) for 2021 has collected and reported a total of 1,222 incidents 154 women 154 percent 12.6 children and 1,068 87.4 children of Sexual Violence and harassment have been reported at Police stations.

She noted: "621 of these incidents were rape, 177 homosexually abused, 83 were sexually assaulted, 95 were abducted, 114 were shameful and 132 were assaulted."

Minister Riziki noted that the Urban West Region leads with 641 reported cases whereas the Western District 'A' leads with 290 cases followed by West 'B' with 182 incidents and Urban with 169 incidents.

She said for the year 2022 March and April a total of 150 incidents have been reported and the leading region is the Urban West Region, stating that the figures were unfortunate as children are needed to lead the future nation so it is the responsibility of every parent to ensure that children are protected, cared for and developed.

She urged parents and guardians to ensure that they protect the child to ensure that he or she does not suffer from any form of violence, including sexual assault, saying without investing in a strong workforce the country would miss out on economic, social, and political development by lacking people with the will and defense of their nation.

She said the development of a child needs different care and attention so that the child can grow physically, physically, and mentally.

"Parents and guardians are our responsibility and we have every reason to take care of that gift that they were not given and take care of as we were cared for when we were children," she said.

Deputy Minister Anna Attanas Poul, urged children to protect themselves from any humiliation and tasked them to report any issue related to abuse to either police stations or church leaders.

Abdalla Saleh, Acting Director of the Department of Community Development, Elderly and Children, said the aim of the forum was to celebrate the day by assessing the successes and challenges in degrading practices in Zanzibar and finding solutions.

Member of the SOS Zanzibar Board of Trustees Rukia Hamad Abdalla said children have the right to celebrate the day which is the catalyst for a better upbringing for the child and inspires the spirit of child protection at any cost.

She also pledged that SOS will continue to work with the government through ministries and other stakeholders to ensure that the child is properly nurtured and given his or her basic rights and vigorous efforts, stressing that SOS will continue to be at the forefront of implementing this year's African child mission of child abuse and protection of all forms of violence.

The African Children's Day is held annually on June 16 when civil society organizations from Zanzibar have come together to celebrate.

# TFS challenges researchers to effectively use studies, scientific publications for public gain

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

SCIENTISTS and researchers have been challenged to make sure that their study and scientific publications have positive impacts and generate up to date knowledge on various themes of key significance for development of the people.

Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Dos Santos Silayo when opening strengthening the capacity of African forestry stakeholders for technical writing and publishing scientific papers held in Dar es Salaam recently.

He said doing research and publishing scientific papers that do not yield desired impact or add value to the existing knowledge is wastage of resources and time; instead delivery of scientifically credible and unbiased data, information and knowledge is critical.

African continent must conduct research and studies with the aim of generating up to date knowledge on various themes of key significance for development of the forestry, people and their environment, he said.

He said science-policy-management framework has been valuable in generating and linking knowledge production and use for enhanced evidence-based decision-making processes and actions on priority issues critical for the development of forestry on the continent.

He said knowledge products based on scientifically proven and evidence-based research and studies to design sustainable management of forest



Tanzania Forest Services Agency CEO, Prof. Dos Santos Silayo, speaks when opening the training in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

products and services are valuable.

In the past decades, several global environmental issues have emerged that have a significant bearing on forestry in Africa. These include climate change, green economy, land degradation, renewable energy, biodiversity loss and sustainable development goals.

African governments are also

increasingly becoming aware of the critical role of forest resources in addressing these environmental issues.

Therefore, a stronger response by governments, public non-governmental organizations, communities, and the private sector, requires an improved understanding of such issues to inform appropriate action. It is always a pleasure

to learn that African Forest Forum (AFF) has been at the forefront in strengthening such understanding through its network of African experts who conduct independent and objective analysis of the critical issues. This approach ensures that proposed solutions are backed by sound and evidence-based scientific information.

The need to make science the centre of decision-making processes in forestry in Africa cannot be overemphasized. At the same time delivery of scientifically credible and unbiased data, information and knowledge is critical, he stressed.

He called for capacities to address this need in line with international best practices

for science communication to impart scientific writing skills on forestry experts for preparation of competitive manuscripts for publishing in reputable peer review journals.

Executive director for Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) Charles Meshark challenged scientists and researchers to craft the message of their scientific papers in a way that will bring impact to the end user and enable decision and policy makers to take action. He said one of the objectives of conducting research is to generate new knowledge or improve on the existing knowledge. "Writing is a skill that has to impact to the end user, we write to effectively communicate knowledge."

Executive director for African Forest Forum (AFF) Godwin Kowero called on African governments and stakeholders to conserve forests by all means saying climate change is real.

"We need conserve the forests because they are the source of water and backbone of all other economic activities, he said.

He said AFF has been voicing the concerns of African forestry stakeholders, and to use science, indigenous knowledge, and experience to advocate for increasing relevance of forests and trees outside forests to peoples' livelihoods, national economies and the stability of the environment.

"The researchers must write well scientific publications and technical papers in a simple language that is easily understood. Their message will reach the target audience. If you don't write well, the message will not reach the target

audience," he said.

Principal, college of forestry, wildlife and tourism at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Prof. Suzana Augustino said SUA as a public institution will continue conducting research and training to generate knowledge for public consumption.

"AFF is there for stakeholders. In SUA we have more than hundred foresters but only 30 percent have registered for AFF. We still have a big role to play so that more stakeholders can join the AFF and exchange knowledge," she said.

Executive director and Head of Mission for CCARDESA Cliff Dlamini said in most cases African continent is left behind. The AFF has identified that gap and that's why it has organized the training to equip researchers and scientists with skills and knowledge on scientific publication and technical writing that have an impact to the community.

The training was designed to strengthen capacities on technical writing and publishing scientifically sound knowledge products. The training will provide you with the skills, knowledge and confidence to publish in peer reviewed journals and write good technical documents. This is expected to contribute to enhancing the impact of their research outputs on forestry and related issues, as well as on their career growth. The training was organized by AFF, TFCG and SUA and brought together 30 participants from thirteen countries of Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe









UAE-based Ziba Precious Metal planning to invest US\$50 million in Geita

Page 14



Energy transition in Tanzania: Prospects and challenges

Page 14



SBL's 'spirits ladies' prove women's capability in manufacturing sector

Page 15

## Tanzanians urged to pay taxes voluntarily to move country's development forward

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIANS have been advised to pay taxes to enable the government to implement development projects through the planned budget of 41.48 trillion/- for the 2022/2023.

Members of Parliament who are ambassadors of tax compliance made the call yesterday during their visit to Dodoma Region, where they visited some of the projects being implemented for tax payers' money.

Ambassadors of tax compliance visited the construction of Machinga Market, Magufuli City, Dodoma Vocational Training College and the construction of the ring road.

Tax ambassador and Special Seat MP for Coast Subira Mgalu Region said in stimulating country's socio-economic development it is important to support the government by paying taxes voluntarily.

"For the 2022/23 budget, the government has planned to collect 41.48 trillion/- which is collected by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Local Government Authorities so to achieve the goal of collecting the money it is important that taxpayers and the general public pay taxes to voluntary and timely," she said.

She said that since President Samia Suluhu Hassan get into power she has kept the private sector close and stressed that together with the government it does not do business, but has been creating an enabling environment for voluntary tax payment.



Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)'s tax compliance ambassadors Subira Mgalu (2nd-R) with Zulfa Mmaka (R) are shown the various infrastructure of the traders' central market which is under construction in Dodoma during their working visit to show the public how the taxes paid are used in the country. Photo courtesy of TRA

Commenting on the projects visited by the ambassador, she said the value for money was evident and stressed that the activities that will

take place in the projects will continue to contribute to the national income and increase revenue for Dodoma City Council.

"I call on traders of various cadres large, medium and small as well as all Tanzani-

ans to continue paying taxes voluntarily and demand receipts every time we make purchases and traders to issue receipts every time they sell their products," she said, assuring Tanzanians: "If we continue with the patriotism of paying taxes voluntarily if they are collected by our country will make great strides in development."

Another tax Ambassador and Special Seats MP for South Pemba Region Zulfa Omary said that, the development of any country is achieved due to people paying taxes, urging: "Tanzanians not to be afraid of TRA when they come to encourage to pay taxes, because tax benefits have been seen in all the projects we have visited during our visit so I advise and urge citizens to continue paying taxes voluntarily because the tax results you pay are very clear."

TRA Director for Tax Payer Services and Education, Richard Kayombo said that the visit was aimed at showing how the taxes paid by the people are used to bring development.

"We have often encouraged citizens to pay taxes but this time we have had to pass tax ambassadors on various projects implemented by those taxes so that Tanzanians can also see through the media how their taxes work," he explained. Kayombo.

## CRDB Bank wins MPs' praise for unveiling investment opportunities to Tanzanians

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

CRDB Bank Plc has been commended for being at the forefront in providing education on investment opportunities available locally and abroad and how to access them.

Members of Parliament and the House of Representatives made the remarks over the weekend when speaking during a special investment seminar organized by the bank at the Pius Msekwa hall in Dodoma.

National Assembly Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson said the bank's efforts to provide investment education would help to increase awareness on investment opportunities, boost the number of local investors, and stimulate economic growth.

"We are pleased to see that CRDB bank is at the forefront of working with the government in building awareness on investment opportunities. I am pleased with their willingness to provide capital to local investors," said Dr Tulia.

She urged MPs to step back from seizing investment opportunities as well as urging them to pass on such education to the people while insisting the government prioritises facilitating and giving priority to local investors.

"The government has put in place effective strategies to ensure investment is made not only for foreign investors, but also for locals and this is done through the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) that is tasked with serving all investors, providing advice and assist them to obtain permits, license and investment certificate," Dr Tulia added. She said it is a comfort seeing a patriotic bank coming up with effective strategies to facilitate investment made by local investors, urging MPs and representatives to make good use of investment institutions such as CRDB bank.

CRDB Bank CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela said the aim of the seminar was to see more MPs who are representatives of the people participating in investment opportunities in the country as well as gaining an understanding of the bank's services that will help them become good investors and ambassadors in educating Tanzanians.

"We have seen the good work being done by the government in strengthening the environment and opening doors to investment opportunities. As the leading bank, it is our responsibility to educate people on these oppor-



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson speaks to MPs at the weekend during a special investment seminar organised by the bank in Dodoma city. Others are CRDB Bank CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela and Finance and Planning deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande. Photo: Guardian - Correspondent

tunities, but we are also committed to enabling them to benefit from the opportunities through our innovative products and services," said Nsekela.

He said the decision to provide education to legislators is meant to ensure more Tanzanians get the information.

Some of the opportunities discussed include investment in the agriculture value chain, industrial, energy, transportation, infrastructure, technology, and investment markets in the capital markets including the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE). The seminar was held prior to a

sport bonanza named 'CRDB Bank Joint Bonanza' which brought together various teams from the Parliament, House of Representatives, CRDB bank and Bongofleva artists, competing in football, basketball, rugby to strengthen unity and solidarity.

## Small miners called upon to increase their capital to qualify as big miners

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SMALL miners from Southern Highlands regions have been advised to increase their capital capacity to be able to be registered with Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) in order to be given big mining licences.

The advice was given here yesterday by TIC Southern Highlands Zonal Manager Venance Mashiba in an interview with this paper on the strategies by the Centre to empower small miners to benefit by opportunities by TIC.

Mashiba said TIC continues to mobilise small miners to look for capital to qualify for registration as big miners as its main condition so that they can benefit by various opportunities it provides including reduction of the cost of imported mining equipment.

"A small miner cannot directly benefit by these opportunities until he boosts his business to become a big miner, there are so many things that we supervise in regard to big miners," he added.

Some mining stakeholders said small miners still work in difficult surroundings including levies charged by various institutions, the issue that has contributed to their making losses in their activities.

Amos Abraham, a miner from Chunya District said if the government removes some of the levies, it will increase their profits than it is now when the entire profits is gobbled up by taxes.

He said another complain from miners is their call for the government to establish a centre that will have the responsibility to allocate them areas with minerals.

He said this will simplify mining activities and arrest environmental destruction as miners look for areas with gold in the District.



**A small miner cannot directly benefit by these opportunities until he boosts his business to become a big miner, there are so many things that we supervise in regard to big miners**

## Institute introduces digital system to curb milk adulteration

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

IN an effort to improve performance of the milk sub-sector, the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIR) has introduced a special system for curbing milk adulteration.

The modern digital mobile system, dubbed 'lab in the box' is supervised by TALIRI Tanga centre and has specifically been tailored for measuring the quality of milk.

The new technology is useful in detecting medical residues in milk.

Samson Goodluck, Assistant Researcher at TALIRI Tanga, told this paper that the useful system will later in the future be installed in all milk collection centres with-

in the country. "The general focus is to ensure professional management and improvement in quality of milk centres in Tanzania," he expressed.

He added that, introduction of the UK-based system will go in tandem with a special strategy to educate the pastoralists on how best to improve milk quality through feeding their dairy cow

with recommended feed. "Principally, milk comprises with protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins and water, but water supposed not to exceed 87 per cent," he said.

And he informed that as per the program's future plans, there will be an introduction of a special digital App, through which all dairy farmers will

automatic be connected to the technology in order to help them measure milk on their own farms.

The system is currently operating under a six months trial, but later on it will be introduced to dairy farmers and installed at all milk collection centres with in the country, he stated.

Goodluck said the institute

is implementing the program in cooperation with the Tanga Fresh Limited.

Relevant statistics depict that milk adulteration in the country is higher at street vending and ready to drink nodes. The level of adulteration is however low among the livestock keepers and vendors at milk collection centres.

The milk sub-sector is report-

edly to face diverse challenges of contamination, among others, because some of the milk is being obtained from animals with unknown health status.

Failure to observe good milking and handling practices and poor milk marketing and distribution are said also to derail performance of the vital sub-sector.



## Ziba Precious Metal, based in UAE, plans to invest \$50 million in Geita



Businessman Riyaz Akhtar Khan clarifies a point on the proposed US\$50 million project during an interview with The Guardian at the weekend. Photo by Correspondent Miraj Masala

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

UAE based Ziba Precious Metals plans to invest \$50 million that will be used to construct a gold refinery in Geita region as part of the company's expansion plan.

Speaking to The Guardian at the weekend, the Company's coordinator in Tanzania Riyaz Akhtar Khan said the company's interest to invest in Tanzania follows regulatory business reforms undertaken by the Government recently.

Khan said the company has already begun early-stage investment talks with

relevant Government authorities adding that construction of the refinery will begin as soon as the negotiations are finalized.

"Ziba Precious Metals is bullish on Tanzania and has agreed to set up a gold refinery in Tanzania as part of its diversification strategy. We are hopeful that the negotiations will be finalized before the end of the year so we can continue establishing the refinery," he said.

He noted that the proposed plant will process initially 120 tons per day adding that once operations commence additional tailing resources will be identified so that the plant will be able to operate on a continuous basis.

He noted that the company seeks to capitalize

on the large number of small-scale miners in the area to get gold for its plant.

"The construction of the CIP plant will begin immediately and is expected in a two - three month time frame," he added.

Khan said the project will not only help in creating more jobs in Geita region but also help to improve the economies of scale in the region.

"This project will help improve the government's revenue through taxes. One operation begins, we will employ people and our target is indigenous people from Geita first who meet the employment requirements," he added.

## Cashew nut farmers told to not mix pesticides with salty water

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

CASHEW nuts farmers in the southern regions of Lindi and Mtwara have been advised to stop using salty water when mixing with pesticides for spraying their crops, and instead they should they should abide by the training provided on the correct way to use the pesticides.

The advice was given here at the weekend by Frank Miti, an agricultural expert from Bens Agrostar, the firm that provides education in the regions on the better application of pesticide spray to the crops.

Miti said recently, cashew nuts production has been dropping due to various reasons including wrong application of pesticide sprays due to the use of salty water that is mixed with the chemicals.

He said his firm is major pesticides supplier as well as dealer in modern agricultural equipment.

He said after conducting research, the firm identified that the main challenge facing cashew nuts farmers in the two regions is lack of education on the right usage of pesticide sprays.

Some farmers who benefitted by the training, including Shaibu Bakari from Chiwale ward said the education provided has helped them understand the correct use of pesticides and sprays thereof to their cashew nuts crops.

For her part, Fatuma Issa, a farmer from Ndanda said in the past they lacked this knowledge and praised Bens Agrostar for the training given.

For his part, the firm's Director of business and Marketing, Patrick Mwalunega said the special training



being provided in regard to the cashew nuts crop in Masasi District and Lindi and Mtwara regions aims at the better use of spray chemicals to the crops and equipment thereof, the issue that has been challenging to farmers.

He said farmers have been complaining about poor quality of the pesticides, which they said contributed to low cashew nuts production, while in fact the production drop has been contributed by incorrect application of

pesticides sprays.

"We provide this training to various people including farmers and Ward officials, as the aim is to make sure there is a better understanding on the right application of pesticides sprays to cashew nuts crops.

## Energy transition in Tanzania: Prospect and challenges

By Baraka Thomas

RECENTLY, the world has shifted to a big discussion of energy transition from high carbon energy sources to low carbon sources of energy.

This venture has raised a hot discussion in the world including in Tanzania. Energy transition seems to be deployed as one of the approaches to tackling climate change challenge as advocated in the Paris Agreement of 2015, and the Global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) especially SDG7 which needs countries to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and SDG13 which require countries to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

This is because energy from fossil fuels is the main contributor to climate change globally as it produces 60 percent of green gases.

There has been a misconception globally about what energy transition means. Other proponents of this area have been thinking that energy transition means total burn of fossil fuels sources for energy generation which is not true.

Generally, the energy transition can mean the adoption of energy systems to meet the challenges posed by anthropogenic Green Houses Gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide and methane produced by the energy sector. The ultimate goal of the energy transition is to reduce the environmental impact of energy production through various means including developing clean energy systems and developing technologies to lower carbon production.

At this juncture, it is worth noting that Energy Transition does not in any way mean a total ban on fossil fuels. It simply means a shift from fossil fuels to cleaner forms of energy which should be progressive.

### Energy Landscape in Tanzania

Tanzania's energy landscape, just like in many African countries, is not homogeneous. Thus, Tanzania has a multiplicity of energy systems which the government is taping on them to meet the country's demand. These include biomass, modern renewable energy and fossil fuel especially natural gas.

Tanzania's total power installed capacity is 1,694.55 Megawatts (MW) (June 2022). Tanzania's electricity generation comes mostly from natural gas (48%), followed by hydropower (31%), petrol (18%), solar (1%), and biofuels (1%). The average electricity consumption in Tanzania was 137kWh/year in 2016.

The Government's vision entails Tanzania's electricity consumption to reach 490Kwh/capita by 2025.

However, the demand for electricity in Tanzania is estimated to be growing at 10-15% per year, with currently only 24% of the total population having access to electricity. In order to meet this demand, the Government is planning to increase Tanzania's generation capacity to 10,000 MW in 2025.

The above statistics clearly indicated that Tanzania is taping its natural gas (fossil fuels) to generate electricity. The question remains will Tanzania stop using its hydrocarbon resources to electrify the country due to the energy transition agenda?

Tanzania should first utilize its hydrocarbon resources potential to tackle energy challenges before exporting the resources. This should be the approach for all African counties with hydrocarbon resources to utilize them first within the African region instead of relating to foreign investors.

This is because energy has been proved to be an essential resource as it has been used by other counties as an instrument of shaping their foreign policy. At this juncture, the energy transition agenda in Tanzania should be implemented progressively because Tanzania is a party to the Paris Agreement of 2015 and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

### Prospect of energy transition in Tanzania

The energy transition agenda is viable in Tanzania, since the country has various energy sources potentials, especially low carbon energy sources. The geographical position of Tanza-



nia of tropical climate, it has power resources include hydro, natural gas, coal, uranium, wind, geothermal, biomass, solar, tidal, and water waves.

As noted herein above, Tanzania has already tapped its renewable energy sources to generate electricity such as solar, biomass, wind etc., this is the green light towards the implementation of the energy transition agenda. However, Tanzania has not yet utilised substantially its renewable energy sources.

Also, Tanzania's energy policy framework acknowledges the use of low carbon sources of energy in generating electricity. This is a good gesture toward energy transition. More importantly, the government is committed to continuing to invest in renewable energy. Despite all of these initiatives, Tanzania needs to establish clear framework conditions for energy transition and it can borrow the experience from its neighboring countries, especially Kenya.

### Energy Transition Implementation Challenges

There will be challenges that Tanzania is or will face in implementing the energy transition agenda. Some of these challenges include the following:

#### Presences of hydrocarbon resources (natural gas)

Currently, Tanzania has a total of 57.7trillion cubic feet of discovery of natural gas and international oil and gas companies consider Africa the frontier continent with a huge reserve of hydrocarbon resources. Tanzania is utilizing these resources and currently is encouraging investors to invest in these resources so as to realize their economic potential, therefore energy transition might take a longer time.

#### Developmental Aspirations

Tanzania is a country which is still developing; hence it must use discovered hydrocarbon resources in order to attain its development vision 2025 which hydrocarbon resources play a great role.

#### Cost Implications of Transitions

The cost for transition is likely to be high because progressively Tanzania will be required to retire the infrastructures used in the exploitation of hydrocarbon resources and it may have economic implications. South Africa is a good example of cost implication for its transition from the coal industry. Also, a lot of costs are needed to invest in research, resource mapping and taking exploration, installation and construction of green energy infrastructures; all of these need intensive investments.

#### Technological barriers

Investing in green energy needs high technology; hence lack of technological knowledge about clean energy is one of the challenges in the energy transition in Tanzania because it is a new technology in Africa. Also, research and development in this area of clean energy in Africa is low, Tanzania included.

For the energy transition to be successfully implemented in Tanzania as it has already in place, some of the strategies must be deployed such as reducing the energy intensity of development, reducing the carbon intensity of development, and using clean fossil fuel technology are few among many strategies which Tanzania can use to enhance energy transition.



## BUSINESS INTERVIEW

# SBL's spirits ladies prove women's worth in the manufacturing sector

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

**W**OMEN worldwide have continued to take up roles, in both the corporate and business fields, that were originally deemed to be cut out for men.

Full participation of women in the workforce is globally demonstrated as a potent driver of economic growth and development.

As per the International Labour Organisation's World Employment and Social Outlook report on Trends for Women, evidence shows that there is a significant association between a country's Gross Domestic Product and female labour-force participation.

Estimates indicate that a 25 per cent reduction in the gender gap could increase global GDP by US\$5.8 trillion by 2025.

Narrowing down to inclusion of women working in the manufacturing sector, only 38 per cent work in this sector in Africa, as per a report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), however, is determined to change this phenomenon in its workforce mix as well as in the beneficiaries of its sustainability initiatives, leveraging on the Group's (that is, East African Breweries Limited's) Society 2030 initiative.

The initiative focuses on three key pillars with Inclusion and Diversity featuring strongly.

In Tanzania, the company's staff gender mix currently comprises 26 per cent women, up from 17 per cent previously, with 42 per cent being at its mid to top management level. The overall women employment rate is expected to grow to 30 per cent by 2023 and to 50 per cent by 2030.

An intriguing aspect at SBL is that the firm's spirits production facility is a women-only run production department, end-to-end.

As the company prepares to announce its annual results soon, a Special Correspondent caught up with its **Director of Operations, Anthony Njenga**, (pictured) who's not only passionate about the Inclusion and Diversity initiative but also has personally driven the initiative to the birthing of the women-only-run spirits production facility. **Excerpts from the interview:**

**Q: You run Serengeti Breweries Limited's operations department. How does the department drive the production of your company's beverage brands?**

**A:** The Operations Department is the lifeblood of our company. It comprises about 66 per cent of the staff at firm and is focused on producing some of the country's finest alcoholic beverages such as Serengeti Lager and Serengeti Lite beers. There are also some of the finest and smoothest spirits, with our focus being on Bongo Don, Smirnoff Xtra Smooth and Smirnoff Orange Zing. These brands are all produced here in Tanzania, for Tanzanians, and for members of the international community visiting Tanzania, at world class standards.

The operations process involves procuring the very best quality raw materials from farmers who are trained on how to produce the best-in-class grains used in the production of beer. This runs right to the packaging of the finished products, which are then delivered to our various distributors in the various sales regions and thereafter handed over to the sales department for distribution across the country.

I've summarised the process in two aspects - procurement and packaging of the finished products, but what happens between the two processes is vital. It is in this process that the transformation of the raw materials to the finished products happens. At our Group, East African Breweries Limited, we refer to this end-to-end process as the 'Grain to Glass' process.

You can, therefore, see that the Operations Department is the one that runs the whole process of producing our quality alcoholic drinks here in



Tanzania through the 'Grain to Glass' process, which is why this department is popularly referred to as the lifeblood of the organisation.

**Tell us more about the spirits production facility and what that unit does.**

SBL's spirits production facility was commissioned in July 2021. As noted, it produces some of the country's finest and smoothest spirits - mainly Bongo Don, which is our own local brand - as well as two Smirnoff brands: Smirnoff Xtra Smooth and Smirnoff Orange Zing.

What is unique about this facility is that the whole 'Grain to Glass' production process is done exclusively by women. From the sorting of the raw materials to the cleaning and mixing of the various unique ingredients, to testing and packaging, including the security aspects from a guards' perspective, the unit is under the care of women.

It is, therefore, interesting and key noting that our spirits are carefully produced end-to-end by a team of capable Tanzanian women. This is a first production facility of this kind, women-run, within the East African Breweries Limited Group, and I believe that it is also a first within the beverages manufacturing sector in Tanzania.

**You championed the women-run spirits production facility initiative at your company's plant in Moshi, ensuring that it's exclusively under the care of women. What drove you into doing that?**

Gender equality in the labour market is not just a fairness issue; rather, it is good economics, and it is the right thing to do. As the execution of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) unfolds worldwide, countries that improve gender equality in labour markets through to 2030 could see large gains in economic growth - what with women constituting half of the productive population in Africa.

At East African Breweries Limited, we reaffirmed our support for the UN Global Compact in 2020 and have actively adopted - and are tracking - twelve out of the SDGs.

The SDGs we are tracking are engrained onto our sustainability strategy called 'Society 2030', which encompasses three pillars and focuses on creating shared value in places where we live, work, source and sell.

One of the three pillars is championing inclusion and diversity - and we have targets that we are tracking annually to drive the growth of the female population working at our organisation at all levels.

Transcending the Group's sustainability strategy, the aspect of inclusion of diversity appeals to me as an individual in that I am son, brother and father, and I fully appreciate the contribution that my mother, sister, and other female relatives have made and continue to make in my life.

I have firsthand experience of their strength and capabilities, and it is in this regard that I believed that the spirits production facility would become successful and exemplary in Tanzania and within the Group, an aspect that has become real and has even surpassed my expectations.

At the hiring stage, I was informed that only four women had gone through the interviews successfully. I advised my colleagues to throw back their hiring nets as I was convinced that we would get all the exceptional women that we needed to run this production unit.

The women-run spirits production facility is, therefore, exclusively under the care of women, including the guards. I am, today, excited and confident to say that the women who work at this facility continue to thrive, thereby proving women's capabilities in the manufacturing sector in Tanzania.

We are, therefore, actively championing inclusion and diversity at SBL, and the women-run spirits production facility initiative is one of our live examples.

**What are the unique aspects that you have noted in the daily operations of this women-run spirits production facility since it was opened at your company?**

Allow me to start by commending the team that works at this spirits production facility. Whilst all are women, they are also very diverse in their experience and capabilities. Their level of coordination and attention to details is very high. They are also open to each other and are not afraid to hold each other accountable for delivery of their targets.

Moreover, these women are hugely committed to achieving the organisation's goals and, as is with a mother's instinct, they go an extra mile towards achieving their goals and win together.

I also see in them a different level of care for each other and for the organisation. The women who work at this facility are not only colleagues but also a family. They ensure that they are always there for each other, for their own success as well as that of the company.

We continue to encourage all our staff to emulate the ethos of these colleagues of ours at the unique spirits production facility.

**Are there any differences between the spirits production facility and other departments in your company that are run by men?**

I would like to respond to your question by noting that men and women, at work, complement each other very well. It is not about competition or domineering but it is about bringing each gender's capabilities and strength into the workplace and combining them towards achieving and even exceeding the organisation's targets. This is what our Group's Inclusion and Diversity is about.

Whilst we are driving the recruitment of more women in the organisation as well as women in leadership, we are also driving Diversity through having the two genders working together seamlessly by harnessing and leveraging on our differences.

To address your question directly: Yes, there are some differences in the way the spirits production facility and other departments are run. Women leaders are mindful and often meditate, which enables them to become more aware of their environment and the environment of those surrounding them. They are keen and are always looking for opportunities for improvement, which results into top-notch quality outputs. On the other hand, they easily take responsibility and nurture those around them, which leads to an always-on available pipeline of good teams and talent around them. They also have a strong persuasive and motivating nature, which often results in their teams performing better.

In the men-led teams we also have strong women who are also in leadership and we work well together towards achieving and exceeding our company's targets.

**What are the key challenges that the women at the spirits production facility face, and how do they overcome them?**

I don't think I can pinpoint any challenge that is specific to our women workforce at our spirits production facility. The challenges that exist cut across the organisation and we tackle them collectively. Some of these relate to the raging of the Covid-19 pandemic which has significantly changed the way we work. Other challenges include our own internal aspects which, as a Group, we tackle quickly and move on with our business agenda.

**What is the current performance of the spirits production facility compared to other departments?**

Opened in July 2021, the spirits production facility has continued to grow in leaps and bounds from a performance perspective. But what is more important at this point in time is that the team has - over time - also grown and gained more experience and confidence in the production aspect.

Our volumes will, definitely, continue to grow to meet the rising market demand that we are seeing from our esteemed consumers.

**What are the educational and other qualifications required for women to join this department?**

Employers are increasingly looking at individuals' integrity and creativity when it comes to employability in the current work and job market. Given the nature of our sector, and especially our beverages production units, it is vital for women and men, wanting to join our operations to have studied the STEM subjects. These are Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - but mainly Science, Chemistry and Mathematics. This is, definitely, an added advantage for some specific roles within our operations.

There are, however, other roles within our Operations Department which do not require qualifications in these subjects.

Our organisation is keen to employ the best talent in the country, irrespective of gender, cultural background, religion or physical and general fitness - which would sideline those found with disabilities. We are committed to developing and investing in our local talent, enabling them to climb up the leadership ladder in Tanzania and within the Group (EABL), with possibilities of working in any of the 104 markets, globally, in which we have a presence.

**What is your advice to other women who want to join the spirits production facility or other production departments within your company?**

Allow me to summarise my advice using a quote from renowned marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge, who said it upon making history as the first human to complete the race in under two hours: "No Human is Limited!" I, therefore, urge women in Tanzania to go for all roles that they see advertised by our organisation. As noted in my previous response, we at SBL - and EABL - remain committed to developing and investing in our local talent. Indeed, we welcome them to join the Serengeti Breweries Limited family.

## Morocco has Africa's sixth best startup ecosystem, says report

RABAT

WITH Moroccan startups recording all-time high funding in 2021, Morocco's ecosystem has emerged as a leading regional example and ranked sixth in Africa and second in North Africa in the latest global startup ecosystem index for 2022.

The Moroccan ranking, according to the Tel-Aviv-based StartupBlink, improved by five positions on the African continent due to the country's "affordable and stable" ecosystem for entrepreneurs and startups, particularly in the software and data, e-commerce and retail, as well as social and leisure sectors.

The increase in the number of young and high-quality Moroccan freelancers is set to help the North African country become a "strong innovation hub," noted StartupBlink, explaining how Morocco's improved global ranking "has seen an impressive increase of 16 positions" to reach 79th worldwide.

As the Moroccan startup ecosystem demonstrates growth despite local challenges, three Moroccan cities were featured in the 2022 index: Casablanca, Rabat, and Agadir.

Casablanca, Morocco's largest economic hub, has improved its global ranking to settle at 325th position in 2022, up by 39 spots from its 2021 ranking. Casablanca notably came 7th in Africa and 2nd in North Africa this year, taking over Tunis' place.

Still, Rabat and Agadir struggled to keep up with Casablanca's growth as they ended up at 721st and 991st globally, down by 167 and 138 places compared to last year.

Read Also: Moroccan Startup Chari

Awarded 'Disrupter of the Year' at Africa CEO Forum

The Moroccan startup ecosystem has over the past years recorded interesting growth despite the recent economic crises induced by the COVID pandemic and exacerbated by the war in Ukraine.

Yet, the latest index found that the Moroccan system is facing obstacles related to low access to education and healthcare, inadequate funding and legislation, as well as gender inequality.

The index also reported that Moroccan startups are in need of international funds despite the existence of local government-backed initiatives and funds such as the Maroc Numeric Fund, Innov Invest Fund, Maroc PME, and Morocco Tech. The NGO startup Maroc was also referred to in the report due to its crucial role in providing guidance and support to local entrepreneurs and people with startup ideas.

StartupBlink issued its global index ranking based on its assessment of the quality and quantity of local startups as well as the business environment.

The index notably compared Moroccan performance to the ones of 1,000 cities and 100 countries featured in the study. StartupBlink further established a global ecosystem map that sampled 31 Moroccan startups, 1 coworking space, and two organizations.

The map placed Morocco behind South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, and Mauritius in Africa, while Israel and UAE topped the regional ranking for the Middle East and Africa region with 13 Israeli and 3 Emirati cities featured in the list.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



## WORLD

## Boris Johnson says new N. Ireland trade law could be passed this year

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday parliament could pass legislation this year to scrap some of the rules on post-Brexit trade with Northern Ireland that his government agreed in 2020 with the European Union.

The legislation, which would unilaterally replace parts of that bilateral deal known as the Northern Ireland protocol - is due to be sent back to parliament's lower house for a second reading. That is one of the stages of the law's passage through the legislature.

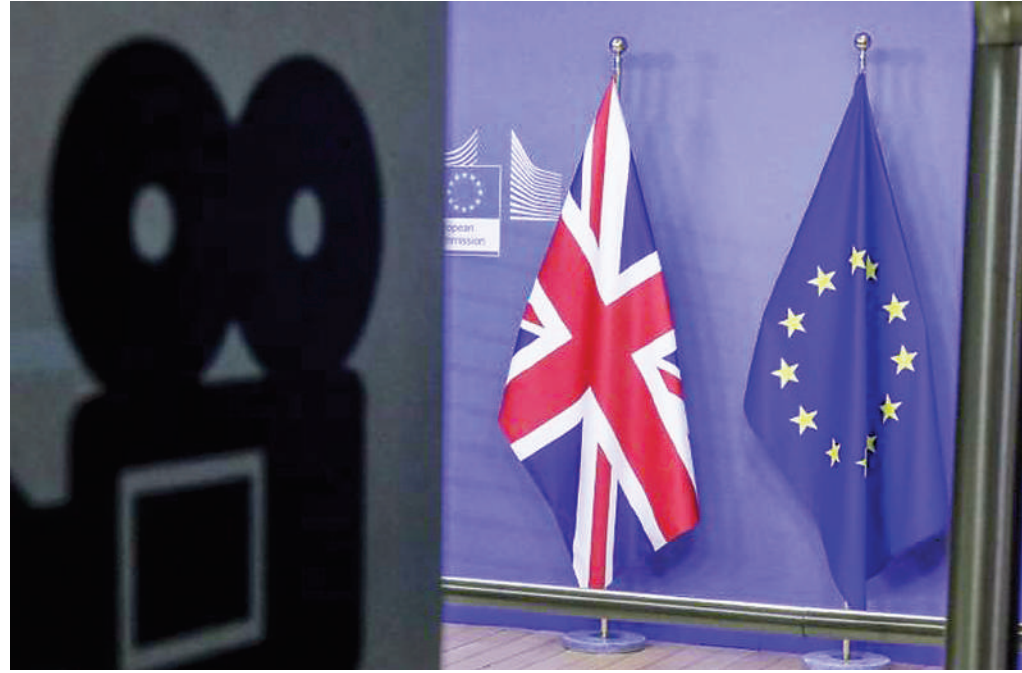
A bigger challenge will be when it moves to the upper house, the unelected House of Lords, where many peers have expressed concern about it.

Tensions have simmered for months after Britain accused the EU of a heavy-handed approach to the movement of goods between Britain and Northern Ireland - checks needed to keep an open border with EU member Ireland.

Johnson says the new legislation will bring about "relatively trivial" changes to the protocol to ease trade within the United Kingdom, but the EU has launched legal proceedings against Britain over it.

Asked if the changes could be implemented this year, Johnson told broadcasters: "Yes, I think we could do it very fast, parliament willing".

Foreign Minister Liz Truss said London's priority was to protect a 1998 peace deal that Ireland, the United States and other countries have said



This photo dated Dec 9, 2020 shows flags of the Union Jack and the EU ahead of Britain's prime minister's meeting on post Brexit trade deal with European Commission president, in Brussels. File photo

could be put at risk by replacing parts of the protocol.

"A negotiated solution has been and remains our preference, but the EU continues to rule out changing the protocol itself ...which therefore means we are obliged to act."

Britain plans to stop some checks on goods moving to Northern Ireland from the rest of the United Kingdom and it is challenging the role played by the EU's court.

The EU's ambassador to Britain said on Sun-

day that Britain's plans were illegal and unrealistic.

"It is a treaty that we signed, ratified and even went through a general election in this country," Joao Vale de Almeida told Sky News.

"This legislation will fix the problems the protocol has created, ensuring that goods can flow freely within the UK, while ...safeguarding the EU single market," Truss said in a statement on Sunday.

Agencies

## Hong Kong's successes propelled by motherland's unwavering support

HONG KONG

WITH the solid support of the motherland, Hong Kong has defused risks, weathered challenges and maintained prosperity and stability over the past 25 years, demonstrating that the "one country, two systems" principle has stood the test of practice and time.

Since its return to the motherland in 1997, Hong Kong has progressed and prospered alongside the rest of the country, with Hong Kong compatriots and people in the mainland standing in solidarity and advancing together.

## HELPING HK TO TACKLE CHALLENGES

Recalling the turmoil of 2019, Kenneth Fok Kai-kong, a member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said that he could not imagine what Hong Kong would be like without the help of the country.

A series of vital steps taken by the central authorities have enabled Hong Kong to achieve a major transition from chaos to order, and usher in a new chapter of good governance.

These measures included the enactment of the national security law in Hong Kong, the improvement of Hong Kong's electoral system, and the implementation of the "patriots administering Hong Kong" principle.

The enforcement of the national security law in Hong Kong has brought stability back to society, and the improved electoral system has enabled those who truly care about Hong Kong to contribute to its development, Fok said.

For example, since the implementation of the national security law in Hong Kong, funds raised through initial public offerings in Hong Kong have exceeded 650 billion Hong Kong dollars (82.81 billion U.S. dollars), an increase of

over 30 percent compared with the same period before the law was enforced. The average daily turnover of Hong Kong stocks has jumped almost 60 percent from the 12-month period preceding the law's enforcement, reaching 150 billion Hong Kong dollars (19.11 billion U.S. dollars).

In the past 25 years, Hong Kong has faced many challenges, including the Asian financial crisis, the SARS epidemic, the international financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Whenever Hong Kong encounters difficulties, the motherland stands ready to offer its utmost support.

Deeming the country's support as Hong Kong's greatest strength in solving various problems, the incoming sixth-term chief executive of the HKSAR John Lee said that Hong Kong could not have overcome challenges and achieved progress without the backing of the motherland.

## BACKING HK TO BOOST DEVELOPMENT

A growing number of young people from Hong Kong are turning to the mainland for entrepreneurial prospects, as the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has brought about new opportunities.

Mark Mak Hin-yu is among such young Hong Kong entrepreneurs. He is the co-founder of a Hong Kong-headquartered company that specializes in developing robotic products. They have transferred part of their operations, including hardware assembly and technical testing, to the mainland.

One of the most open regions that boast the strongest economic vitality in China, the Greater Bay Area plays a critical role in driving the country's economic development with its distinctive geographical advantages and strengths in innovation and cooperation.

The Chinese enterprises in Hong



Photo taken on June 22, 2022 shows the night view at the Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong, south China. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland. (Xinhua/Lui Siu Wai)

Kong have taken the lead in participating in joint construction of the Belt and Road, spurring the flow of production factors including talent, capital, goods, technology, information in Hong Kong, improving its industrial structure and boosting its economic prosperity, said Yim Kong, managing director of China Merchants Port Holdings Company Limited.

With the support of the motherland, Hong Kong has consolidated its status as an international financial center over the past 25 years. Among all listed firms in Hong Kong, more than half are from the mainland, contributing about 80 percent of market capitalization. Hong Kong has become the world's largest offshore renminbi (RMB) business center, handling more than 70 percent of global offshore RMB payments.

Hong Kong has maintained stability and prosperity, HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam said, adding that it has strengthened its status as an international financial, shipping and trade center and seen vigorous development in innovation and technology, as well as in culture

and arts.

"The practice of the 'one country, two systems' principle in Hong Kong over the past 25 years has proved successful," she said.

## ENCOURAGING HK TO EMBRACE OPPORTUNITIES

Expressing her gratitude to the central government, a Hong Kong girl made a handwritten thank-you note in Chinese.

She expressed her feeling in a simple way with the words - "Thanks to the motherland for developing vaccines to protect us. My whole family has been vaccinated and has received COVID-19 prevention kits in time."

During the fifth wave of COVID-19 infections in Hong Kong earlier this year, the central government extended speedy support for Hong Kong's fight against the virus. It helped build temporary hospitals in the shortest possible time, dispatched teams of medical experts, offered a large quantity of anti-epidemic supplies, and ensured the supply of daily necessities.

Over the past few years, a series

of policies have been introduced to make life more convenient for Hong Kong people living and working in the mainland. Since September 2018, eligible people from Hong Kong have been able to apply for residence permits, which grant them access to the rights to work, social security and housing provident fund, as well as public services including education, healthcare, cultural and sports services.

Notably, the country's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) supports Hong Kong in developing itself into an international center for innovation and technology, a center in the Asia-Pacific region for international legal and dispute resolution services, a regional center for intellectual property trade, and a center for cultural and art exchanges with other countries.

The incoming HKSAR chief executive Lee said that Hong Kong, while forging ahead, should give full play to its own advantages, enhance its international competitiveness, and better integrate into the country's overall development.

Xinhua

## DPRK says US setting up Asian NATO; vows stronger defence

SEOUL

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea has accused the United States of setting up a military alliance like NATO in Asia, saying the unwavering US aim to oust the DPRK government compelled it to develop stronger defenses.

The DPRK criticism comes amid concern it could be preparing its first nuclear test in five years and after a recent agreement between Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol and US President Joe Biden to deploy more US weapons if deemed necessary to deter Pyongyang.

"While blatantly holding joint military exercises with Japan and South Korea, the United States is making a full-fledged move to establish an Asia-style NATO," DPRK's foreign ministry said in a statement on its website on Sunday. The ROK is also referred to as South Korea.

US, ROK and Japanese forces recently conducted military exercises. The United States also held exercises with ROK forces that involved a US aircraft carrier, for the first time in more than four years.

"This proves the hypocrisy of the US rhetoric of 'diplomatic engagement' and 'dialogue without preconditions', while at the same time revealing again that there is no change in the US ambition to overthrow our system by force," the DPRK ministry said.

"The reality ... makes us feel the need to make all-out efforts to develop even stronger power to be able to subdue all kinds of hostile acts by the United States," it said. The DPRK criticism came a day before ROK's president left to attend a NATO summit in Spain, the first ROK leader to do so.

ROK, aiming to strengthen its partnership with NATO and play a bigger global security role, plans to set up a delegation to NATO at its Brussels headquarters, ROK's national security adviser said last week.

Meanwhile, the ROK minister in charge of inter-Korean affairs said Monday that the country was still committed to dialogue with the DPRK.

"We remain firmly committed to addressing all inter-Korean issues through dialogue," Unification Minister Kwon Young-se told a press conference with foreign correspondents in Seoul.

"In that sense, our government will engage in consistent efforts to achieve change in the inter-Korean relations, which are in a stalemate, through the embracing of the path of dialogue," said Kwon.

President Yoon, who was inaugurated on May 10, said at his inaugural ceremony that if the DPRK stops nuclear development and genuinely embarks on denuclearization, his government will be prepared to work with the international community to present an "audacious plan" that can improve the DPRK's economy.

The minister said ROK wished to realize peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula through the peninsula's denuclearization and the normalized relations between the two Koreas.

Agencies

## South African president mourns for 22 teenagers dead in tavern

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday afternoon mourned for the death of "22 teenagers" at a tavern, or pub, in East London, Eastern Cape Province, in the early hours of this morning.

Ramaphosa is "concerned about the reported circumstances under which such young people were gathered at a venue which, on the face of it, should be off limits to persons under the age of 18," said a statement issued by the presidency.

The tragedy is made more grave as it occurred during Youth Month, Ramaphosa said in the statement. South African police are still investigating the case and the cause is unclear.

The presidency statement didn't give the cause of the incident, saying the president is waiting for more information. Family members of the deceased wept outside a mortuary in the area, while other people tried to comfort them.

There are both girls and boys among the victims, including a 13-year-old, Minister of Police Bheki Cele, who led a national delegation to the scene, told media.

"When you look at their faces, you realize that you are dealing with kids, kids, kids, kids. You have heard the story that they are young, but when you see them, you realize that is a disaster," he said.

The doctor who is leading autopsy told the minister that forensic experts are still collecting the information and would not love to tell him the situation, said Cele, adding that they confirmed that "the death is not natural." The minister said they will take a few samples to toxicology in Cape Town, which is more advanced.

The delegation consists of National Commissioner of

## Thriving digital technologies bring increasingly rich online cultural experiences

AS digital culture continuously gains momentum, various cultural activities and new consumption scenarios empowered by digital technologies are enriching the cultural experiences of Chinese people.

Activities such as watching performances and concerts online, visiting virtual exhibitions, and enjoying traditional Chinese opera performances through smartphone apps, are springing up with the rapid development of digital culture.

China's National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing rolls out online performances every Saturday evening, with the shows including Peking Opera work "Suo Lin Nang" (The Jewelry Purse), masterpiece of modern drama "A Doll's

House", and well-known opera "The Marriage of Figaro".

Since the NCPA launched the first online performance on April 11, 2020, it has staged more than 120 online shows covering various types of performing arts, such as concert, opera, dance, modern drama, and traditional Chinese opera. These online shows have been viewed more than 3.4 billion times in total.

On August 8, 2020, the NCPA livestreamed world's first online concert with 8K resolution and 5G network-related technologies for global audiences. The audience could even see clearly the strands of hair and drops of sweat on the faces of performers during the livestreaming con-

cert presented at 8K ultra-high-definition (UHD) resolution.

The classical music channel of the NCPA has continuously upgraded its audio and visual technologies and added the options of "immersive headset" and "immersive sound box" to create virtual panoramic sound effects of fantastic audio and visual experience for the audience.

Yangzhou China Grand Canal Museum, located in the city of east China's Jiangsu province, has been posting videos on its account on WeChat Channels, WeChat's video sharing portal, to show netizens its collections and exhibitions. Thanks to these short videos, museum enthusiasts can "visit" the museum whenever and

wherever they want through their mobile phones.

Zhou Fang, a citizen who works in Jiangsu's Nanjing, the city next to Yangzhou, is one of the followers of the account. She has been watching short videos of a special exhibition featuring the ancient capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) Luoyang city, now in central China's Henan province, held by the museum.

"Each episode of this short video series is only several minutes long. Focusing on the theme, they tell stories about cultural relics in Luoyang, and show viewers how they were unearthed, transported to Yangzhou, packaged and arranged for exhibition. There are also vlogs about offline

tours of the exhibition," said Zhou.

Statistics showed that the museum has posted nearly 20 episodes of the exhibition on platforms including WeChat Channels, Chinese social media platform Weibo, and the country's popular short-video sharing platform Douyin since March. More than eight million people have "visited" the exhibition via these videos.

Online exhibitions are supplements and re-creations of the offline visit, said Zheng Jing, curator of the museum.

In order to launch good online exhibitions, the museum needs to carefully design online tour routes and provide knowledge about culture and history, according to Zheng, who added that the museum

also adopts digital means to tell stories about cultural relics vividly and deepen the interactions between people and exhibits.

The emergence of more and more innovative forms of cultural consumption, which is no longer confined to offline scenes, has enabled people to shake off the limitations of time, space and cost in enjoying culture.

A mobile app launched by a Zhejiang-based culture company has brought traditional Chinese operas closer to Internet users. The app signed contracts with traditional Chinese opera troupes to make their representative performances available online.

People's Daily





Army soldiers register people who are waiting to buy fuel at a fuel station in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday. AP

## Crisis-hit Sri Lanka shuts schools, urges WFH to save fuel

COLOMBO

TROOPS in Sri Lanka handed tokens yesterday to people queuing for petrol amid a severe fuel shortage in the nation battling its worst economic crisis in seven decades, while schools shut in Colombo and public employees were asked to work from home.

With its foreign exchange reserves at a record low, the island of 22 million is struggling to pay for essential imports of food, medicine and most critically, fuel.

"I have been in line for four days, I haven't slept or eaten properly during this time," said autorickshaw driver W.D. Shelton, 67, one of those who received a token meant to hold his place in the queue for when fuel becomes available.

"We can't earn, we can't feed our families," added Shelton, who was 24th in line at a fuel station in the center of Colombo, but set to stay there as he had no petrol for the journey to his home just 5 km away.

It was not immediately clear how far the government could stretch its fuel reserves.

The stockpiles stand at about 9,000 tonnes of diesel and 6,000 tonnes of petrol, Power and Energy Minister Kanachana Wijekera said on Sunday, but no fresh shipments are due.

The government has told employees to work from home until further notice, while schools have been shut for a week in the commercial capital of Colombo and surrounding areas.

Fuel station queues have grown rapidly since last week.

"This is a tragedy, we don't know where this will end," Shelton said.

Public transport, power generation and medical services will get priority in fuel distribution, with some rationed to ports and airports.

A team from the International Monetary Fund is visiting Sri Lanka to hold talks on a \$3-billion bailout package.

Although the Indian Ocean nation is hoping to reach a staff-level agreement before the visit ends on Thursday, that is unlikely to unlock any immediate funds.

## Virus: Pakistan orders masks on domestic flights as cases rise

KARACHI

PAKISTAN'S aviation regulator has made masks mandatory on domestic flights given a gradual rise in the number of COVID-19 cases across the country, it said a statement.

The order comes a day after Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi, reported that its COVID-19 positivity ratio, or the rate of positive cases out of all tests conducted, rose to 21 percent compared with a national rate of 2.8 percent.

"With immediate effect, mask wearing will be mandatory onboard domestic flights," the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority said in the statement late on Sunday.

Pakistan has had very few COVID-19 cases over recent months and had done away with almost all precautions.

But over the past 24 hours, the national COVID-19 positivity ratio had risen to 2.85 percent with 382 positive cases and two deaths, according to data released on Monday by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad.

A month ago, the positivity ratio was 0.54 percent with 79 positive cases and no deaths. According to the NIH, 85 percent of eligible Pakistanis have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Pakistan disbanded the National Command and Operations Center, which was overseeing the COVID-19 response, on March 31 as infections fell to the lowest since the outbreak began in 2020.

India

A total of 17,073 new COVID-19 cases were recorded during the past 24 hours in India, taking the total tally to 43,407,046, data released by the Health Ministry showed yesterday.

Besides, as many as 21 deaths due to COVID-19 pandemic since Sunday morning took the country's total death toll to 525,020.

The daily positivity rate in India stood at 5.62 percent, while the weekly positivity rate was 3.39 percent, according to the ministry.

Presently, there are still 94,420 active COVID-19 cases in the country with an increase of 1,844 active cases during the past 24 hours.

So far, 42,787,606 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 15,208 were discharged during the past 24 hours in India.

Malaysia

Malaysia reported 2,003 new COVID-19 infections as of midnight Sunday, bringing the national total to 4,556,664, according to the health ministry.

There are three new imported cases, with 2,000 cases being local transmissions, data released by the ministry showed.

Agencies

## How China, along with other BRICS nations, turns aspirations for common development into reality

BEIJING

TRAVERSED by the lower Amazon River flowing into the Atlantic Ocean, the state of Para has one of the busiest ports in Brazil and a wealth of mineral and agricultural resources. However, for decades, local people have been struggling to harness the natural abundance to their well-being.

Lack of funds on large projects such as roads and transmission lines delayed the state's integration with markets in the country's rich south. And local residents have limited access to smaller infrastructure that more directly helps them to earn money.

Aline Feitosa, a mother of four who runs a small bar in Brasil Novo in Para state, is upset about muddy roads in the city. "People didn't come to my bar because of the mud in the rainy season and the dust in the drought season."

Among the country's 26 states, Para is the fifth poorest in terms of GDP per capita due in part to a chronic shortage of infrastructure. But things are changing for the better.

### PEOPLE-CENTERED COOPERATION

In 2018 and 2021, the New Development Bank (NDB) granted loans of over 200 million U.S. dollars to build roads, bridges as well as sanitation and communication facilities in Para.

In the city of Brasil Novo, local authorities managed to pave some 17 km of roads with the NDB funds and construction is expected to finish by August. The renovated roads and a well-designed drainage system will not only renew the community but also improve health condition of the residents as dust in summer used to flow into every single household and cause many to suffer from serious respiratory diseases.

Promoting the welfare of the people has always been a major area of the BRICS cooperation over the past 16 years. Since its



Aerial photo taken on June 17, 2022 shows the headquarters building of the New Development Bank (NDB), also known as the BRICS bank, in east China's Shanghai. Xinhua

inception in 2015, the NDB has become an essential part of the BRICS mechanism tasked with promoting joint development with a people-centered philosophy.

The bank has approved more than 80 projects regarding transportation, energy and other types of infrastructure with a total portfolio of some 30 billion dollars to improve people's well-being.

"We should respond to people's concerns, pursue the larger interests of all countries, and steer global development to a new era to deliver benefit to all," Chinese President Xi Jinping said in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum delivered on Wednesday.

His appeal for a people-centered approach resonates with the group's aspirations for shared growth and with his economic philosophy, known as "Xiconomics," which has guided China's own development and promoted its global cooperation programs.

Running a convenience store by an already paved road in Brasil Novo city, 38-year-old Giziany Fernandes Pereira has been enjoying public benefits brought by the project.

"It's much more comfortable now as you don't get your feet dirty as soon as you leave the house. Sales increased at my store because of easier accessibility. It is a wonderful program," she said.

The NDB loans have played a significant role in poverty reduction in the state, said Ruy Cabral, secretary of urban development and public construction of Para. "The NDB has been a spectacular partner for the facilities that it has provided us to date, and we hope to extend this partnership further."

### HIGH-QUALITY PARTNERSHIP

"Standing at the crossroads of history, we should both look back at the journey we have traveled and keep in

mind why we established BRICS in the first place, and look forward to a shared future of a more comprehensive, close, practical and inclusive high-quality partnership so as to jointly embark on a new journey of BRICS cooperation," Xi said in his speech at this year's BRICS summit on Thursday.

Twenty-one years ago, when British economist Jim O'Neill coined the term "BRIC" -- an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India and China, it read like investment advice, pointing to promising prospects for emerging economies.

With South Africa added in 2010 to become the "BRICS," the group, representing a quarter of the global GDP, 18 percent of global trade and 25 percent of the world's foreign investment, has become a vital platform for strengthening cooperation among the five countries and a vital force for improving global governance.

Trade cooperation among the BRICS countries has seen remarkable progress over the years. In 2021, the total volume of trade in goods of BRICS countries reached nearly 8.55 trillion dollars, up by 33.4 percent year on year, official data shows. Meanwhile, China's trade with other BRICS countries totaled 490.42 billion dollars, a yearly jump of 39.2 percent which outpaces the overall growth of China's foreign trade over the same period.

In April, a string of online sales campaigns themed "Buy BRICS" was held in the southeast Chinese coastal city of Xiamen. In a two-week shopping spree, Chinese consumers bought 270 million yuan (40 million dollars) worth of products from the other four BRICS countries, according to statistics provided by e-commerce platforms.

In 2017, when China hosted the 9th BRICS Summit and other events in Xiamen, Xi suggested that BRICS partners bear in mind their long-term goals rather than narrowly

look at growth rates, advance structural reforms and explore new growth drivers and paths to achieve "better quality, more resilient and sustainable growth."

His suggestion has proven to be significant to the expansion of BRICS cooperation into more areas. Cooperation in the digital economy has brought tangible benefits to the populations of the BRICS countries, with further digital transformation across various industries expected in the future.

Committed to developing an industrial internet and digital manufacturing, the five countries seek to build an industrial cooperation network to promote the circulation of capital, goods, talent and technology by facilitating an open and inclusive trade and investment environment.

The BRICS members have ample human resources and great economic potential and occupy a pivotal position in the global industrial chain, said Rosalia Varfolovskaya, a leading researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Amid a complicated international environment, the BRICS cooperation mechanism will play an important role in dealing with external challenges and propelling global economic growth, she said.

### BRICS PLUS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As part of this year's BRICS agenda, the group inaugurated a vaccine research and development center online in March. The five countries vowed to make vaccines accessible and affordable for developing countries as global public goods.

The immunization gap is one of the concerns shared by BRICS countries. To solve such global challenges, the group agreed to promote the expansion of global governance into more developing nations, a move West-dominated organizations are reluctant to take.

Besides vaccines, China and other BRICS countries have been providing other "public goods," such as development experience and technology, particularly to the Global South, to bolster sustainable development.

Xinhua

## Thriving digital technologies bring increasingly rich online cultural experiences

AS digital culture continuously gains momentum, various cultural activities and new consumption scenarios empowered by digital technologies are enriching the cultural experiences of Chinese people.

Activities such as watching performances and concerts online, visiting virtual exhibitions, and enjoying traditional Chinese opera performances through smartphone apps, are springing up with the rapid development of digital culture.

China's National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing rolls out online performances every Saturday evening, with the shows including Peking Opera work "Suo Lin Nang" (The Jewelry Purse), masterpiece of modern drama "A Doll's House", and well-known opera "The Marriage of Figaro".

Since the NCPA launched the first online performance on April 11, 2020, it has staged more than 120 online shows covering various types of performing arts, such as concert, opera, dance, modern drama, and traditional Chinese opera. These online shows have been viewed more than 3.4 billion times in total.

On August 8, 2020, the NCPA livestreamed world's first online concert with 8K resolution and 5G network-related technologies for global audiences. The audience could even see clearly the strands of hair and drops of sweat on the faces of performers during the livestreaming concert presented at 8K ultra-high-definition (UHD) resolution.

The classical music channel of the NCPA has continuously upgraded its audio and visual technologies and added the options of "immersive headset" and "immersive sound box" to create virtual panoramic sound effects of fantastic audio and visual experience for the audience.

Yangzhou China Grand Canal Museum, located in the city of east China's Jiangsu province, has been posting videos on its account on WeChat Channels, WeChat's video sharing portal, to show netizens its collections and exhibitions. Thanks to these short videos, museum enthusiasts can "visit" the museum whenever and wherever they want through their mobile



A staff member who runs the account of the museum of Feidong county, Hefei city, east China's Anhui province, on Chinese short video sharing platform Douyin, together with a docent, shows the cultural relics housed in the museum via livestreaming, Feb. 16, 2021. File photo

phones.

Zhou Fang, a citizen who works in Jiangsu's Nanjing, the city next to Yangzhou, is one of the followers of the account. She has been watching short videos of a special exhibition featuring the ancient capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) Luoyang city, now in central China's Henan province, held by the museum.

"Each episode of this short video series is only several minutes long. Focusing on the theme, they tell stories about cultural relics in Luoyang, and show viewers how they were unearthed, transported to Yangzhou, packaged and arranged for exhibition. There are also vlogs about offline tours of the exhibition," said Zhou.

Statistics showed that the museum has posted nearly 20 episodes of the exhibition on platforms including WeChat Channels, Chinese social media platform Weibo, and the country's popular short-video sharing platform Douyin since March. More than eight million people have "visited" the exhibition via these videos.

Online exhibitions are supplements and re-creations of the offline visit, said Zheng Jing, curator of the museum.

In order to launch good online exhibitions, the museum needs

to carefully design online routes and provide knowledge about culture and history, according to Zheng, who added that the museum also adopts digital means to tell stories about cultural relics vividly and deepen the interactions between people and exhibits.

The emergence of more and more innovative forms of cultural consumption, which is no longer confined to offline scenes, has enabled people to shake off the limitations of time, space and cost in enjoying culture.

A mobile app launched by a Zhejiang-based culture company has brought traditional Chinese operas closer to Internet users. The app signed contracts with traditional Chinese opera troupes to make their representative performances available online.

The works posted online include "The Legend of the White Snake" performed by Wu Opera masters who have won the Chinese Drama Plum Blossom Award, the highest theatrical award in the country, "Three Drops of Blood", a well-known Qin Opera work that has a history of more than 100 years, and "Oedipus", a Pu Opera art adapted from classical ancient Greek tragedy "Oedipus Rex".

People's Daily

## Namibian music academy helps nurture youth's artistic growth

WINDHOEK

AT a community hall in Windhoek, Namibia, a group of young people eagerly blew their trumpets, showcasing their newly learned techniques during a music workshop.

"That is such an improvement. Let us try the tune again," Thetardius Munjanu, artist and trainer, affirmed to the youthful group.

Munjanu is the founder of Thetardius Music Academy, nurturing youth's artistic growth to help them swing into a brighter future.

The training covered music theory, fingering techniques, rhythmic exercise, and individual and band playing and over ten youngsters with demographics comprising learners, out-of-school, and working youth taught critical aspects of music attended the workshop.

The initiative's core objectives are two-fold, according to Munjanu.

"First, to bridge the skills gap and secondly to train. We reach out to the communities where people who have not had the opportunity to attend art schools nor have access to music production facilities to groom such talent," he said on Sunday.

Since its establishment in 2014, the academy has capacitated thousands of youth and adults in various parts of the country. The academy also teaches the foundation of music to church groups and individual artists.

"That way, we address the skills gap deficit in the Namibian creative space," he added.

So far, the training has impacted many, and participants believe the environment's ambience is ideal for personal development, he cited.

Twapa Klemens, an upcoming

artist, sought the academy to improve her skills.

"I started playing the trumpet three years ago but lagged a year back. This training helped polish my skills, and I have learned a lot to aid my advancement as an artist," she said.

Moreover, the training offered by the academy has accorded young people a chance to shadow music while they are still able to pursue their careers.

"The workshop birthed my dream to pursue my passion for music, and I am not looking back," said Klemens.

The initiative equally hopes to keep youth off the streets, where they are prone to crime and drug and alcohol abuse. The abuse of drugs and harmful substances are some of the major social problems children and youth in Namibia face, said Bernadette Jagger, Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

For that reason, the initiative exposes them to arts, where they learn valuable life skills. "Thus helping them build strong character, and subsequently transform their lives," Munjanu added.

"I learned commitment, confidence, discipline, and teamwork, which will help me going forward," said 17 years old Devin Nasab, who resorted to the training to revive his skills after a two-year hiatus.

In the interim, the academy has reached strategic agreements with other artists and institutions to amplify music education provision to locals.

"The goal is to capacitate more people and create opportunities, be it income-generating activities or brands," Munjanu said.

Xinhua



**First, to bridge the skills gap and secondly to train. We reach out to the communities where people who have not had the opportunity to attend art schools nor have**



# SPORT



Rashid Matumla

## Matumla still ranked number one in Tanzania after quitting boxing

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DESPITE retiring from boxing in 2013, Rashid Matumla has continued to be the best boxer of all time in Tanzania, outclassing all local boxers in quality.

The former World Boxing Union (WBU) champion has been mentioned as one of Tanzania's best boxers of all time for nine consecutive years since he hung the gloves up.

The world boxing network, Boxrec, has named Matumla alias 'Snake Man' as one of Tanzania's best boxers, with seven other veterans also making it to the top 10.

So far three boxers in the current generation have found their way into the top 10.

Super Welterweight pugilist Hassan Mwakinyo has taken third place with the 14.32 points he has posted since he made his debut in professional boxing in 2015, staying five points adrift of Matumla that has 19.13 points.

Rogers Mtagwa, who lives in the United States, has occupied second place with 17.52 points, a

feat which has not been achieved by any boxer since 2014, the year the boxer retired from the sport.

Former Light Middleweight boxer, Joseph Marwa, who retired alongside Matumla, has been positioned fourth with 13.27 points.

Lightweight pugilist Ibrahim Mgendera, who will step into the ring in Dar es Salaam in July, is positioned fifth.

Former World Boxing Federation (WBF) world champion Francis Cheka that has not participated in boxing since 2018 has occupied sixth place with 7.390 points.

Francis Miyeyusho, still an active boxer fighting in the Featherweight division is sitting seventh after notching 7012 points.

Mbwana Matumla, who has retired since 2017, has been placed eighth with 6.781 points while Mambeya Bakari that retired from boxing 20 years ago, is ranked ninth with 6.759 points.

Another veteran professional pugilist Anthony Mathias completes the top 10 with 6.367 points.

## Kenya lifts Eastern Africa Roll Ball Championships top honour

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadoma

KENYA'S national roll ball team, on Saturday, emerged the champion of the fifth edition of the Eastern African Championships which took place at Don Bosco, Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam.

The Kenya national team beat the host Tanzania 8-4 in a highly entertaining final.

Kenya featured men's and women's national teams while the host had only a men's squad.

In the opening match, Tanzania men's squad beat the Kenyan women's side, which was listed as Uganda in the game, 5-3.

This is the third time in a row that the national Roll Ball team has taken second place, with the Tanzania Roll Ball Association (TRBA) disclosing the placement has been caused by a lack of good preparations.

Noel Kiunsi, TRBA Chairman, said the country has a lot of talented players but they do not prepare well ahead of the international events.

Kiunsi expressed his surprise as to why so far three female players turned up for the championships, saying during the day of the fixture the women's national roll ball team promised to honour it.

The official pointed out: "I do not know why so far three national women team players have turned up, yesterday (Friday) they were here and promised to honour the fixture."

"The Kenya women team is being addressed as Uganda as this is what they agreed at the pre-match meeting," he said.

He said ahead of the just-ended Championships, the national team's players stopped training as they lost skating shoes.

The leader revealed: "We lost to Kenya in the final but we tried our best...the only challenge we face as the country is that roll ball equipment is expensive, due to this sometimes we miss training."

"Ahead of the Championships, the team was training well but we lost shoes so this affected us," he said.

Kiunsi said to improve the sport in the country, his association plans to reorganize the local roll ball league to make it more serious and competitive.

Kenya was the only foreign nation that competed in championships that were initially planned to take place for two days but were only played for a day.

Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) withdrew at the eleventh hour.

The association had extended invitations to South Sudan, Zambia, Kenya, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Egypt, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Rwanda to take part in the showpiece.

Kiunsi, in a previous interview, could not issue reasons which forced countries that received TRBA's invitation to snub it.

The championships were initially planned to take place for three days in Dar es Salaam last month.

They were postponed due to a request issued by member nations, which said they are not prepared for the championships.

Kiunsi said many cited the COVID-19 pandemic as the cause of their failure to prepare for the showdown.

In the previous interview, Kiunsi advised each of the participants to come along with a national flag and an anthem for official use.

Each country, Kiunsi revealed, should cover its internal transport costs, however, the hosts can coordinate the availability and logistics.

Roll Ball is a game played between two teams and is a unique combination of roller skates, basketball, handball, and throwball.

It is played on roller shoes with each team consisting of 12 players, six on the field and six in reserve.

The main objective of the game is to score maximum goals within a stipulated time.

The main feature of the roll ball sport is that the ball is held in one or both hands, when passing to the other players, with the ball repeatedly bounced on the ground.

The court size can vary from 28 meters to 40 meters in length and 15 meters to 20 meters in width.

The court includes a center-line dividing offensive and defensive areas. The penalty line is drawn 4.5m or 3.5m away from the goal.

## SPORTS

# Tanzania women's cricket on the up and up

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT is heartening to note that the national senior women's cricket team recently bowled over all Tanzanians after the heroines emerged as the undisputed champions of the Kwibuka Women's T20 Tournament hosted by Rwanda.

Indeed, ever since its inaugural edition was staged in 2014, the Kwibuka Women's T20 Tournament has come along by leaps and bounds and is steadily increasing in stature.

One can even arguably term the Kwibuka competition as unofficially the East African women's cricket championship.

In a championship that featured regional juggernauts like Uganda and Kenya, it was morale-boosting to see our women's cricket team emerge as being a cut above the rest.

It is hoped then that this glorious hour of triumph for domestic women's cricket will prompt more investment into the women's game as there appear to be deep reserves of talent in the country.

Let us shift our focus now to home in on the Taifa Stars, who have started their campaign to progress to the 2023 AFCON finals on the wrong foot.

Indeed, the Stars are presently in a tough bind after having lost 2-0 to Algeria and drawn 1-1 with Niger in their two opening AFCON qualifiers.

These results mean then that the Taifa Stars can ill afford more costly slip-ups on their journey to qualify for the much-cherished AFCON finals next year.

One hopefully expects then that the Taifa Stars will produce the goods in their ensuing 2023 AFCON finals qualifiers to restore the dimming hopes of all local die-hard football supporters.



Tanzania women's cricket team's players pose for a picture at a special event hosted by Baraza Restaurant & Cafe in Dar es Salaam last weekend to honour the players for their recent victory in the 2022 Kwibuka Women's T20 Tournament which took place in Rwanda. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Let us remain in the realm of football to dig into the predatory Senegalese forward Sadio Mane's recent move to Teutonic football giants, Bayern Munich.

Indeed, the high-profile move has set tongues a-wagging as it means that Mane could forge a potentially terrifying tandem with Robert Lewandowski in the Bayern Munich attack.

Obviously, for fans of Mane's former side Liverpool, the Senegalese marksman's move to Germany will seem bitter-sweet.

This is because while the Liverpool faithful are undoubtedly gloomy about letting Mane go, they are still most likely grateful that the Senegalese sensation was such an integral part of Liverpool's successes in recent seasons.

Hopes are high then that the incredibly gifted Mane will rapidly settle in at his new club and that he can also swiftly gel with his new teammates.

Let us revisit an issue that we addressed some time ago on these pages, which is Africa's prospects at this year's Football World Cup in Qatar.

Indeed, it is a grossly exasperating fact that to date no African team has ever reached the semifinals or final of the quadrennial and splendid

football feast that is the World Cup.

Thus, even though the World Cup will feature the sport's most star-studded teams, one hopes that a few African teams will still manage to leave a positive and indelible mark on football's most exalted stage.

After all, some African football personages are currently at the pinnacle of the sport so an extraordinarily terrific performance by a few continental teams is not out of the question.

## ARFA assures security ahead of 2021/22 ASFC final

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

ARUSHA Regional Football Association (ARFA) has assured safety and security to all soccer fanatics who will turn up at this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final between Yanga and Coastal Union, scheduled for July 2 at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

With that assurance, the hospitality industry in the region will have all reasons to smile, as several two to five-star hotels have already been booked.

The ARFA Chairman, Zakayo Mjema, told The Guardian that all necessary preparations ahead of match day have been completed.

He said people who will turn up for the clash are to be earmarked whereby regional administration, district administration, police force, and ARFA have had everything about security in place.

He stated: "ARFA has experience in handling such a big match like this, as for safety, there is no need for people to worry, everything has been set."

He added: "Regional authority in collaboration with Arusha's district authority, police force, and the ARFA has made sure all matters relating to the clash have been put in an appropriate order."

A host of soccer fanatics from across Tanzania are expected to arrive in Arusha effective from Thursday to watch the anxiously awaited clash.

Yanga is, on the one hand, eager to lift this season's ASFC top



Coastal Union's Jackson Shiga (L) challenges Azam FC's defender, Bruce Kangwa, during this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) semi-final stage clash which took place in Arusha on May 29. Coastal Union won 6-5 on penalties. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

honour to complete a domestic double.

Coastal Union, on the other hand, wants to make history by lifting the showdown's title for the first time.

Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium's manager Abdallah Kajembe said the stadium is ready to host the match with

some renovations set for completion this week.

Kajembe revealed: "Large part of the stadium has been renovated per TFF directives except for a few areas which will within this week get a facelift."



## L AFC to put Gareth Bale in 'position to succeed' - GM

LOS ANGELES

L AFC co-president and general manager John Thornington says his club is ready to put Gareth Bale "in a position to succeed" following Saturday's news that the Wales international would be joining Major League Soccer's top team this summer as a free agent.

"We've done our diligence as you would hopefully expect," Thornington told ESPN's Jon Champion and Taylor Twellman at halftime of L AFC's 2-0 home win over the New York Red Bulls. "We had very open conversations [with Bale] and again, we did our diligence and we know what we are getting into."

"We have had very detailed conversations with Gareth about what he needs to be successful. We believe we are absolutely comfortable with putting Gareth in a position to succeed and it will greatly benefit L AFC."

In L AFC, Bale joins a team that leads MLS Supporters' Shield race with the best record in the league, has just re-signed star player Carlos Vela to a new deal through the 2023 season and added former Italy and Juventus legend Giorgio Chiellini earlier in June. Both Bale and Chiellini could feature for L AFC as soon as its July 8 rivalry match against the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Sources told ESPN that Bale will fly out at the end of the week after a short break and sign a deal until the end of this season with the option of another year.

However, with Bale and Chiellini occupying TAM spots, not designated player positions on the club's roster, L AFC still has a DP spot to fill and Thornington suggested a new arrival may still be in the works.

"We are charting course in that direction," Thornington said of signing another DP. "I would say if the right opportunity comes, we are ready to make that decision. No decision is better than a bad decision. But we are very excited at the options we have to improve our team as we pursue our goal of ultimately winning a championship this season."

With the star-studded lineup at his disposal and coach Steve Cherundolo's team

leading the league, Thornington also appeared to indicate that anything short of winning the 2022 MLS Cup would be a disappointment.

"I want to win. This team wants to win," Thornington said. "So [MLS Cup] is our absolute ambition, to win everything that we are in contention for, qualify for Champions League, and really become a bigger and bigger part of the global conversation."

In typical Los Angeles fashion, there were celebrities in the stands, with cameras catching glimpses of Kylian Mbappe looking on at Banc of California Stadium as the Paris Saint-Germain striker continues a holiday in the United States. Mbappe was also spotted at the NBA draft in Brooklyn on Thursday.

"It's great to have [Mbappe] here and it's a testament to the great work that all of us are involved in here to have a star like him here," Thornington said. "Hopefully he is suitably impressed."

In eight seasons with Real Madrid, Bale was part of five Champions League-winning sides and won LaLiga on three occasions. He scored 97 goals between LaLiga (80) and the Champions League (17) after a \$106 million move from Tottenham before the 2013-14 season.

Bale is set to represent Wales, which will open the World Cup against the United States on Nov. 21, at the tournament in Qatar later this year.

"The benefit of him joining a group like we already have is we'll play him as much as we can. We expect him to be a top, top player for us and in this league, but we will do so sensibly," Thornington said. "I think when Gareth is looking at what he needs to do, his priority will be at L AFC. But we're not naive to the fact that he, like some other players of ours, have a World Cup on the horizon."

"How we manage his preparation ahead of that will be important to Gareth and for the success of L AFC."

Thornington also confirmed that former MLS MVP Vela has agreed to an extension. The striker's deal was supposed to expire after Wednesday's match against FC Dallas. Vela has six goals this season.

(Agencies)

## US basketball star Griner in Russian court

MOSCOW

MORE than four months after she was arrested at a Moscow airport for cannabis possession, American basketball star Brittney Griner was to appear in court later yesterday for a preliminary hearing ahead of her trial.

The Phoenix Mercury star, considered in some polls to be the United States' most gifted female athlete, could face 10 years in prison if convicted on charges of large-scale transportation of drugs. Fewer than 1% of defendants in Russian criminal cases are acquitted, and unlike in the U.S., acquittals can be overturned.

The trial date has not been announced, but is expected soon; Griner was recently ordered to remain in pretrial detention until July 2. The hearing in the court of the Moscow suburb of Khimki is to address procedural issues.

Griner's detention and trial come at an extraordinarily low point in Moscow-Washington relations. She was arrested at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport less than a week before Russia sent troops into Ukraine, which aggravated already-high tensions with sweeping sanctions by the United States and Russia's denunciation of U.S. weapon supplies to Ukraine.

Amid the tensions, Griner's supporters had taken a low profile in hopes of a quiet resolution, until May, when the State Department reclassified her as wrongfully detained and shifted oversight of her case to its special presidential envoy for hostage affairs – effectively the U.S. government's chief negotiator.

That move has drawn additional attention to Griner's case, with supporters encouraging a prisoner swap like the one in April that brought home Marine veteran Trevor Reed in exchange for a Russian pilot convicted of drug trafficking conspiracy.

Russian news media have repeatedly raised speculation that she could be swapped for Russian arms trader Viktor Bout, nicknamed "The Merchant of Death," who is serving a 25-year sentence on conviction of conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens and providing aid to a terrorist organization.

Russia has agitated for Bout's release for years. But the discrepancy between Griner's case – she allegedly was found in possession of vape cartridges containing cannabis oil – and Bout's global dealings in deadly weapons could make such a swap unpalatable to the U.S.

Others have suggested that she could be traded in tandem with Paul Whelan, a former Marine and security director serving a 16-year sentence on an espionage conviction that the United States has repeatedly described as a set-up.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, asked Sunday on CNN whether a joint swap of Griner and Whelan for Bout was being considered, sidestepped the question.

"As a general proposition ... I have got no higher priority than making sure that Americans who are being illegally detained in one way or another around the world come home," he said. But "I can't comment in any detail on what we're doing, except to say this is an absolute priority."

Any swap would apparently require Griner to first be convicted and sentenced, then apply for a presidential pardon, Maria Yarmush, a lawyer specializing in international civil affairs, told Kremlin-funded TV channel RT.

AP

“

As a general proposition ... I have got no higher priority than making sure that Americans who are being illegally detained in one way or another around the world come home," he said. But "I can't comment in any detail on what we're doing, except to say this is an absolute priority

## Sean 'Diddy' Combs receives lifetime honour at BET Awards

LOS ANGELES

WITH a speech about his own inspirational dream for the Black community, Sean "Diddy" Combs channeled the spirit of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. while accepting the BET Awards' highest honor Sunday night.

After Combs received his Lifetime Achievement Award, the music mogul said God put a special message in his heart to deliver his "new dream." He was presented the award by Babyface and Ye (formerly known as Kanye West), who called Combs his "favorite artist" growing up.

"I got this dream of Black people being free," Combs said, with Babyface and Ye standing behind him at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. "I got this dream of us controlling our own destiny. I got this dream of us taking accountability and stop killing each other. I got this dream of us being rich and wealthy and living on the same block. I have this dream of us unifying."

The BET Awards celebrate the contributions that people of color have made through the entertainment realm, highlighting winners in 19 categories, including film and sports.

Doja Cat, Drake and Ari Lennox entered the awards with the most nominations, but came away with no trophies. Silk Sonic – formed by Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak – won two awards including album of the year for their project "An Evening with Silk Sonic."

The show's Oscar-nominated host, Taraji P. Henson, said Combs' influence is "big for the culture."

During Combs' speech, he paid homage to the late Andre Harrell, who launched his career, as well as his mother for working several jobs during his childhood and the late Kim Porter, his longtime girlfriend and mother of his three children.

"I miss you so much Kim," said Combs. Earlier, in a star-studded tribute performance to Combs, he dedicated an emotional video montage to Porter. The nostalgic tribute included appearances from Mary J. Blige, Lil Kim, Busta Rhymes, Jodeci, Shyne and Faith Evans.

Combs founded Bad Boy Records and is a three-time Grammy winner who has worked with a slew of top-tier artists including Notorious B.I.G., Blige, Usher, Lil Kim, Evans and 112. He created the fashion clothing line called Sean John, launched Revolt TV



Sean "Diddy" Combs accepts the lifetime achievement award at the BET Awards on Sunday, June 26, 2022, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

with a focus on music and has his own vodka. He also produced the reality show "Making the Band" for MTV. In 2004, the rapper-producer played Walter Lee Younger in the Broadway revival of "A Raisin in the Sun," which aired as a television adaptation four years later. He's also appeared in films including "Get Him to the Greek" and "Monster's Ball."

Past recipients of the award include Prince, Whitney Houston, Queen Latifah, Samuel L. Jackson, Lionel Richie, Anita Baker and New Edition. Babyface and Ye both called Combs a "legend."

"This man has been through and survived a lot of stuff and broke down a lot of doors so we can be standing - I know for me, that I can be here today," said Ye, wearing a black face covering. "He broke down so many doors of classism, taste, culture, swag."

Combs' honor came on the same night when other big stars used the BET Awards to strongly criticize the Supreme Court's recent decision to strip away women's constitutional protection for abortion.

Henson took the stage as the show's host with an uplifting message about "Black excellence" before she launched into the court's overturning of the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling last week. The actor took

the stage after Lizzo opened the show with a flute solo in a glittery-gold outfit performing her single "About Damn Time."

"It's about damn time we talk about the fact that guns have more rights than a woman. It's a sad day in America," said Henson. She thanked Lizzo, who along with ticket seller and concert promotion company Live Nation recently donated \$1 million in tour proceeds to Planned Parenthood.

Grammy-nominated singer Janelle Monae held up their middle finger toward the Supreme Court before introducing nominees for best female R&B/pop artist.

"These artists are making art on our own terms, owning our truths and expressing ourselves freely and unapologetically in a world that tries to control and police our bodies, my body and our decisions, my body," said the singer, who also paid homage to the LGBTQ+ community. "F--- you Supreme Court. I know we're celebrating us right now, as we should. We absolutely deserve to celebrate – especially now we should celebrate our art by protecting our right and our truths." Afterwards, Monae introduced Grammy winner Jazmine Sullivan as the category's winner – who made a plea to men for their support of women.

"It's a hard time for us," Sullivan said. "I want to speak directly to

the men: We need y'all. We need y'all to stand up, stand up for us, stand up with us. If you've ever benefitted from a woman making one of the toughest decisions of her life, which is to terminate a pregnancy, you need to be standing. This is not just a woman's issue. This is everybody's issue. We need your support more than ever."

Latto gave an emotional speech after she won best new artist.

"It's giving pro-choice," said the rapper, who later performed her smash hit "Big Energy" with Mariah Carey. "It's never ever giving a man policing my body."

Singer Tems dedicated her best international act award to the many women who "dare to dream."

"Where I'm from, things like this don't happen," said the Lagos, Nigeria-born singer who won best collaboration with Justin Bieber and Wizkid for their song "Essence." "This is a dream. If you're watching me, I want you to imagine yourself as me because you are meant to be here too."

Jack Harlow performed "Poison" alongside Lil Wayne before Brandy hit the stage with him for his hit "First Class." While Harlow and Brandy performed, the camera turned to her brother, Ray J, who was seen dancing in the audience.

Chance the Rapper and Joey Bada\$\$ performed "The Highs & the Lows." In her pink gown, Muni Long opened her set with a snippet of "Time Machine" before her jam "Hrs & Hrs."

AP

## Brazilian clubs favourites to progress as Copa Libertadores returns

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

THE annual club battle between Brazil and Argentina revs up once more as the Copa Libertadores moves into the knockout stage this week.

Since a change of format in 2017 – making it a yearlong event rather than crammed into the first few months – the big two countries have dominated, and in 2022 they provide all but four of the 16 teams that will be whittled down to eight over the next two weeks.

In the past few campaigns, Brazil have held the upper hand, supplying the past three winners (Flamengo, Palmeiras x2) and both finalists in the previous two years (Palmeiras vs. Flamengo; Palmeiras vs. Santos.) The relative financial power of the Brazilian clubs continues to grow but, for a number of reasons, Argentine sides feel that they might be able to do better this time.

The country lost no clubs during the group phase: all six teams made it safely through, with the likes of Talleres and Colon doing better than expected and a young Velez Sarsfield side managing to save themselves after a bad start. And there is the guarantee of an Argentine semifinalist, as Talleres and Colon now meet each other, and the winner will move on to a quarterfinal against the victor of the clash between Velez Sarsfield and River Plate.

Champions in 2019, River are the overwhelming favourites to come through this mini-Argentine championship, even though they will soon be saying a fond farewell to their star man, Manchester City-bound striker Julian Alvarez.

It is true that River have made a

disappointing start to the domestic Argentine season, but so have Velez, Talleres and Colon. Perhaps more important, though, is the mere fact that the Argentine sides are in competitive action.

Over the past few years, the Argentine clubs have paid a price at this point in the year: The Libertadores resumes with the knockout games and, at the very point at which the action gets more serious, the country is still coming back from holiday. With the domestic season traditionally coming to a close at the end of May, the teams have not played for a month and have been active in the transfer market, which can unbalance a squad in the early stages. This is obviously poor preparation for a decisive Libertadores game.

This year, though, as a result of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar being played in November, there has been a reorganisation. Argentina started its new league campaign earlier than usual and the sides have been in ac-

tion through June, so they will not be rusty.

This should be a big help in the two Brazil-Argentina clashes in this round. The glamour tie is between two giants, Boca Juniors and Corinthians – a replay of the 2012 final and a third meeting this year after they both won their home games when matched in the group stage.

The other Brazil-Argentina clash closes the round on the next two Thursdays. In the first leg, Fortaleza host Estudiantes up in the North East of Brazil. Under impressive Argentine coach Juan Pablo Vojvoda, Fortaleza are thoroughly enjoying their first Libertadores campaign, and it will be fascinating to see if they have met their match against an Estudiantes side which mixes tight defensive and canny game management with flashes of talent.

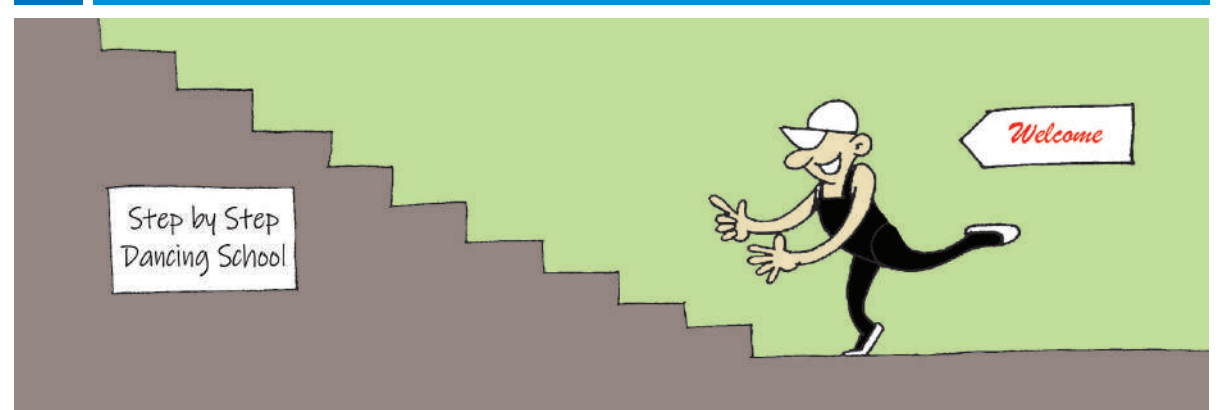
The six Brazilian teams have managed to avoid each other in this round, though future clashes would seem inevitable as they are clear fa-

vourites in the matches against non-Argentine opposition.

Two of them face clubs from Paraguay. Champions in the last two years and leaders of the Brazilian first division, Palmeiras are overwhelming favourites against Cerro Porteno; while Athletico Paranaense, resurgent since the appointment of Luiz Felipe Scolari, will back themselves to get past Libertad, whom they already met in the group stage. It was a victory apiece back then, but Scolari has Athletico roaring up Brazil's first division table and confidence is high.

The remaining ties feature clubs from Brazil against opponents from the north of the continent who find themselves in contrasting situations. Winners in 2019, Flamengo are up against Tolima of Colombia – a side that could be suffering from too much football given they are also in the midst of a two-legged final for the Colombian championship, having gone down 3-1 to Atletico Nacional de Medellin in the first match.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Sean 'Diddy' Combs receives  
lifetime honor at BET Awards

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanga's Mkwakwani Stadium.

## Mgunda eyes Coastal Union improvement ahead of NBC Premier League clash vs Geita Gold FC

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

COASTAL Union is now shaping up for the side's last NBC Premier League match against Geita Gold FC, with the former's head coach Juma Mgunda being eager to change techniques.

The Tanga club will come up against Geita Gold FC in one of the Premier League's 30th round fixtures, which will be as well the top-flight's climax, slated for tomorrow at Mkwakwani Stadium.

Coastal Union had earlier suffered a 1-0 loss to Kagera Sugar in the top-flight clash that took place at the stadium last weekend.

Kagera Sugar's victory foiled Coastal Union's efforts to finish in the NBC Premier League top four.

The success propelled Kagera Sugar to the sixth position which was earlier occupied by Coastal Union, with the former collecting 38 points.

The results also pushed Coastal Union one position down, given the side trails Kagera Sugar by a point.

Mgunda told The Guardian after his team's Monday training session at Popatal ground in Tanga he has seen some shortcomings and he, as a result, offered his players more techniques ahead of tomorrow's match.

"In the last match my squad played hard but the mistake we committed was a golden opportunity for Kagera Sugar that notched three points," he said.

Mgunda noted: "Therefore in this training, I have given my players more techniques."

The side's spokesperson Miraji Wandu pointed out that it is focusing on collecting 40 points in the league after its pursuit of a top-four finish was foiled by Kagera Sugar.

"Kagera Sugar frustrated our dreams to stay in top four, our current efforts target emerging victorious in the last match against Geita Gold FC despite the facts that the latter also dreams of the top four



Juma Mgunda

## Mosimane impressed by Yanga's NBC Premier League trophy parade



Tanzania Football Federation president, Wallace Karia (2nd R), Tanzania Premier League Board's Chairman, Steven Mnguto (L), Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera (2nd L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Innocent Bashungwa (C), and NBC Bank Managing Director, Theobald Sabi, prepare to hand over this season's top-flight silverware and gold medals to champions, Yanga, after the outfit's tie against Mbeya City FC that took place at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER Al Ahly head coach, Pitso Mosimane, has said Africa needs to see more trophy parades like the one conducted by Tanzania's NBC Premier League champion Young Africans, alias Yanga, in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The Jangwani Street side paraded the top-flight title across the city's streets and how the whole affair was conducted caught the eye of the South Africa Premier Soccer League and CAF Champions League-winning coach.

Yanga received the trophy, the club's 28th, and record-extending title, in Mbeya on Saturday after settling for a 1-1 draw with Mbeya City FC at Sokoine Stadium.

"Congratulations Young Africans, Africa (outfits) can also do trophy parades like European teams, we need to see more of these parades because it shows the love and passion of the supporters... the beauty of African football," Mosimane stated via his Twitter account.

Yanga emerged as the NBC Premier League champion with three games to go and the

outfit is unbeaten with the top-flight reaching climax tomorrow.

The club has consequently ended a four-year dominance by age-old rival Simba SC in the top flight.

The last time the Jangwani Street side lifted the trophy was in the 2016/17 season before Simba's dominance saw it turn into winners on four straight occasions.

As Yanga celebrated its success this season, the club's trophy parade started at the Julius Nyerere International Airport after the outfit had returned from Mbeya.

The procession later followed the Kamata, Msimbazi, Swahili/Twiga, and Samora streets in Dar es Salaam.

In 29 games, Yanga managed to win 21 and settled for a draw in eight of them. The Dar es Salaam football giant scored 48 goals and conceded just eight as it kept 21 clean sheets.

The champions are only one game away from becoming Tanzania's invincibles in a season they registered the most goals, most points, most wins, best goal difference, best defensive record, and most clean sheets.

The heavyweights will play their last game against Mtibwa Sugar in Dar es Salaam tomorrow before facing Coastal Union in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup final in Arusha on Saturday.

So far, Yanga has made one new signing after completing a deal to bring attacker, Lazarus Kambole.

The Zambian striker that was formerly at South African outfit Kaizer Chiefs has been recruited ahead of the 2022/23 season when the Tanzanian club will also compete in the CAF Champions League.

## Tanga sports followers laud government for renovating Mkwakwani Stadium

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

WITH Tanga's Mkwakwani Stadium having been listed as one of five stadia to be renovated by the government, sports stakeholders in the region have hailed the move.

The government confirmed the project via the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports's 2022/23 fiscal year budget that was tabled in Dodoma.

The stakeholders said the government's option to give the Mkwakwani Stadium facelift is commendable.

They pointed out that Mkwakwani Stadium's ability to host various events and sports tournaments has influenced the government's decision to include the stadium in the project.

The events that can take place at the stadium include soccer leagues ranging from the ones played at the regional level to Premier League.

While tabling the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports's budget, Minister Mohamed Mchengherwa explained to the Parliament the government has set aside 10bn/- for renovating five stadia in Mbeya, Mwanza, Dodoma, Arusha, and Tanga.

Chief government spokesperson, Gerson Mwigwa, stated at a press conference that was held in Dodoma earlier this month that the government has decided to renovate the facilities instead of constructing new ones because of costs.

He pointed out that much as the stadia are owned by the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, the government entered an agreement with the party to renovate the facilities and insisted they will meet standards.

Mkwakwani Stadium manager, Nassoro Makau, appreciated the government's move, adding the renovation will boost their efforts in renovating some sections of the stadium.

He said Tanga is one of the regions with Premier League outfits.

Coastal Union is using Mkwakwani Stadium as the home venue for the league clashes.

According to him, the venue more-over hosts national events, so, the government opted to renovate it because of the facility's potential.

Makau further explained the sections that most need renovation are the pitch and VIP stands.

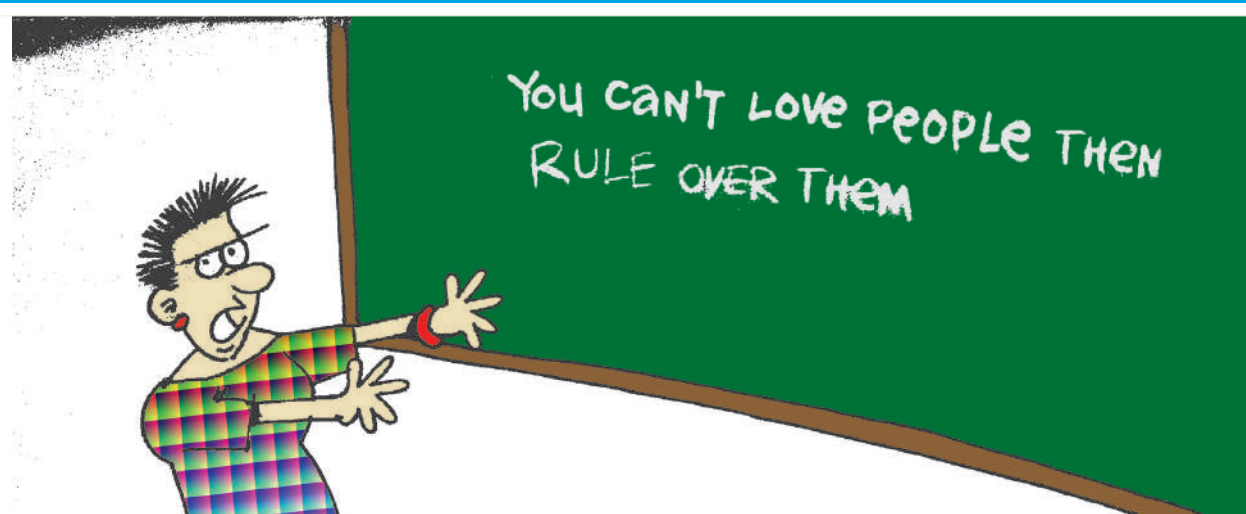
The leader noted: "We would like to thank and congratulate President Samia Suluhu Hassan for seeing to it Mkwakwani Stadium is one of five stadia to be renovated."

Makau stated: "Frequently we spent our little budget to renovate some parts of the stadium, the funds were not sufficient but this move will boost our efforts."

“

We would like to thank and congratulate President Samia Suluhu Hassan for seeing to it Mkwakwani Stadium is one of five stadia to be renovated

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**5 EATV TUESDAY**

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**MJADALA**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
11:55 MPYA  
12:00 Mperampera  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 5SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mperampera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Bongo Hits  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

**MJADALA** is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping process.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planef Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM