

TRANSPORT



20 NEW WAGONS FOR THE CENTRAL RAILWAY PAGE 4

ENERGY



TOL SHAREHOLDERS APPROVE DISTRIBUTION OF DIVIDEND PAGE 5

DEVELOPMENT



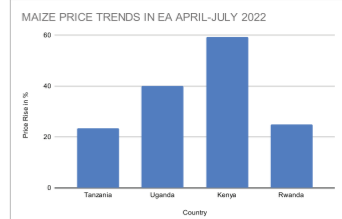
NGO, FOUNDATION BRING JOY TO VILLAGERS IN IHEFU PAGE 6



BUSINESS

Oil price set for weekly loss over economic slowdown

Oil prices are set to fall for the seventh week in a row as the global economy slows down, according to analysts. The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts a 0.5% drop in oil prices over the next month.



Tanzania records lowest maize prices growth in April-July in EA

Tanzania recorded the lowest growth in maize prices among East African countries from April to July 2022. The price increase was only 1.5% compared to a 4.5% increase in Kenya.

The Bank of Tanzania reported that the country's maize production fell by 1.5% in the first quarter of 2022. This is due to a combination of factors, including a late start to the planting season and a lack of rainfall.

Tanzania minerals production is expected to increase as the global crisis eases. The country's mineral production is projected to grow by 5% in 2022.

Mwalimu Commercial Bank Plc has reported a 1.3bn loss for the first half of 2022. The bank's losses were primarily due to a decline in its loan portfolio.

The growth was mostly attributed to an increase in production of diamonds and coal among other minerals, reads the report.

Another batch of 115 people departing from Ngorongoro

By Guardian Reporter

ANOTHER batch of 25 households with 115 people from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) has moved to Msomera village in Handeni District, Tanga Region together with

their livestock, making a total number of people who have relocated to 651. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that the voluntary relocation exercise is proceeding well with a total of 5,382 people from 1,002 households registered and agreed

to move to start a new life in the Msomera village. Speaking at an event to send off the fifth batch of the residents yesterday in Arusha, the premier said that those being settled at Msomera will find better standards of social services.

Over 100 houses have been built and work continues on 400 more houses to ensure that all those shifting are well accommodated, while the government was covering relocation costs by sending buses and trucks to carry people and their belongings.

Authorities were also compensating the residents for houses they are leaving in Ngorongoro, he elaborated, noting that the new residential houses have other services like ad-

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LHRC battles for accepting 2013 regional court ruling

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) yesterday called on the government to accept a 2013 judgment by the African Court on Human and People's Rights that directed it to allow independent candidates.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, LHRC executive director Anna Henga (pictured) appealed for the revival of the constitution-making process and completing it before the next general election slated for 2025.

This is the right time for Tanzania to take constitutional, legislative, and all other measures necessary to accommodate the ruling by the regional court, she said, noting that it is now more than seven years since the regional court issued its decision, affirming that Tanzania denies its citizens the right to be chosen and choose.

"We call on the government to implement on merit the ruling by the court to enable individuals to vie for any elective post," without being confined to registered political parties, she said.

The court ruling demanded that Tanzania ratifies the 2007 African Charter on Democracy and review the country's Basic Rights and Duties Enforcement Act of 1994, providing the procedure for enforcement of constitutional basic rights and duties.

Currently a person making a claim under the Act is required to submit an affidavit, which impedes civil society organizations' ability to offer legal aid for various individuals and organizations.

The law undermines the vital role that civil society and other independent groups play in advocacy for the rights of vulnerable groups or in holding the government accountable, she further asserted.

NGOs are the primary actors leading public interest litigation initiatives in the country, the leading activist underlined, elaborating that the law fosters risks of arbitrary detention, judicial or administrative harassment as reprisals against real or perceived critics of the public authorities.

The government needs to allow political parties to conduct rallies as per the constitution, a right the government has waved aside since 2016, she stated, insisting that the government should allow citizens and stakeholders to conduct debate about democratic rights and to ensure the new constitution is obtained before 2025.

In 2013, the African Court on Human and People's Rights issued its ruling in which named Tanzania is said to have violated its citizens' rights to freely participate in governing directly or through representatives regardless of their party affiliation.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured yesterday leading senior government and other officials in bidding farewell to 105 people from 25 households who were leaving their Ngorongoro Conservation Area residences in Arusha Region voluntarily to resettle at government cost at Msomera village in Handeni District, Tanga Region. Left is Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella. Photo: PMO

Egypt hails local climate change mitigation efforts

By Guardian Reporter

EGYPTIAN resident ambassador Mohamed Gaber Abulwafa has praised efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for climate change mitigation, as they make Tanzania and Africa a better place to live in. A statement by the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) quoted the minister,

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TRC hits roadblock in fare hike request

By Guardian Reporter

OBJECTIONS are being raised to the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) now seeking to raise its fares by 15 per cent, in an application to the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

In a meeting convened by the regulatory body's consumer consultative council (LATRA-CCC) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, transport stakeholders urged that TRC invest in improving operational systems and service providers before thinking of hiking fares.

The TRC proposal would hike fares for all train classes, citing the need to meet rising operational costs stemming from rising fuel prices, while stakeholders, passenger rights groups and LATRA officials brainstormed on eligibility for fare hikes.

Participants claimed that the

public was still struggling to access train services given its poor systems as administered by the responsible bodies, with Leo Ngowi, LATRA-CCC executive secretary saying the TRC request is not implementable at the moment as members of the public complain of poor services in accessing train services.

Despite the corporation introducing digital operating formats, most passengers get tickets at TRC offices, "so it is critical

to upgrade the system so that everyone can get their tickets at their fingertips," he stated.

Customers complain that they have to go to the train station a number of times as they are repeatedly told that tickets are sold out. This inconveniences many long distances travellers who urgently need tickets at that time, he elaborated.

After receiving the

request from TRC, the council launched a survey in various regions and found that consumers are not receiving quality train services. This is due to poor ticketing and shortage of wagons, which need to be addressed before the fare hike issue arises, he stated.

Passengers often have to travel to reach TRC offices to get tickets, costing them time and fare expenses, and then they are told that tickets are finished, the official claimed.

The public also claims that passengers spend many hours in stations as departure schedules are scarcely observed, impairing their ability to coordinate their activities if it involves travel by train, he affirmed.

"Demand for train transport services in the country is still high; he

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Another batch of 115 people departing from Ngorongoro

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adjacent pasture acreage.

There are large pasture areas for communal grazing plus cattle dips, farming areas and adequate water supply, he said, alluding to extension officers being stationed there to educate livestock keepers on modern ways of caring for animals, to get more benefits.

"Let me assure you that those moving to Msomera will enjoy all services in the area like roads, power, water, education and health facilities," he said.

He however pointed at groups of individuals campaigning that the relocation exercise was a violation of human rights, a claim he flatly discounted.

"The government values people's lives, and in the ongoing relocation exercise human rights are adhered to and those who have already relocated can witness this," he told the gathering



"The government values people's lives, and in the ongoing relocation exercise human rights are adhered to and those who have already relocated can witness this," he told the gathering

Those moving to Msomera need to ensure that they participate in the census exercise being conducted on Tuesday, August 23.

"You will be counted there at Msomera, so go and get prepared to receive the census clerks, this is a very important exercise which will help the government plan well for the area and the country," he emphasized.

Dr Pindi Chana, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, said that conservation and tourism activities contribute upwards of 17 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), thus sustainable conservation is paramount.

The relocation exercise is routine and stakeholders must be aware that the government was properly supervising it well, especially in protecting people's lives.

"Next week another batch of people will start their journey to Msomera. The government has prepared key infrastructure facilities to ensure that the residents live well," the minister added.



Dinesh Madhavan (R), President - Group Oncology and International - at India's Apollo Hospitals, exchanges greetings with Eclipse Group Africa chairman Zahir Damji shortly after they signed an MoU at the Indian High Commission offices in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on the setting up of a state-of-the-art diagnostic and cancer centre in the city's Msasani suburb. Looking on is India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan. Photo: Beatrice Philemon

TRC hits roadblock in fare hike request

FROM PAGE 1

said, urging TRC to invest in expanding access to trains to meet the demand.

The council also insists that

TRC ought to improve e-ticketing systems and work on tight train services, sending requests to raise fares in the future, he specified.

Hassan Shaban, a TRC official, said that from August 2021 to last March, fuel prices rose by 38 per-

cent thus greatly increasing operational costs.

TRC was making only a modest demand as it realises the situation that its customers face, he said, affirming that daily operational costs can't be met with current

fares.

Hassan Mchanjama, leader of the Passenger Defenders Association, urged TRC to put systems in place to control revenue collection as many people use train services without paying fares.

"We have witnessed the lower class wagon carrying 800 passengers, often twice the required number, so the corporation needs to fill these gaps to increase collections," he added.



Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Anna Henga (L) has an audience with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of Democracy Month, whose commemoration is meant to help enhance competitive politics in the country. The United Nations has designated September 15 as the International Day of Democracy. On this day the UN urges all governments to promote and uphold the principles of democracy, essentially a form of government in which citizens exercise power by voting. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Egypt hails local climate change mitigation efforts

FROM PAGE 1

Dr Selemani Jafo, as affirming that in the meeting on Thursday with the envoy, the diplomat said that since coming into office, President Samia has taken part in major international climate conferences and was pushing this agenda.

Under her leadership, Tanzania is implementing a number of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, pushing forward the global agenda of combating the effects of climate change under-

lined in the various high-level meetings in which she has participated, he said.

The envoy discussed preparations for the 27th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP27) slated for the resort city of Sharm El Sheikh later in November.

Tanzania ought to benefit from COP27 in view of its efforts and the stark reality of the effects of climate change in the country, he said, while the minister underlined that Tanzania's participation will focus on collaboration with stakeholders in environmental

protection efforts.

Tanzania has already started making preparations for the conference as our institutions and local stakeholders to show our work at the conference, he said, noting that experiencing challenges of environmental damage was a common theme in the continent. The conference will bring together these countries and the issue at present was how to use the platform, with Tanzania joining the international community to preserve forests. A call has been made to the heads of regions and districts to proceed with ensuring

that 1.5m trees are planted each year in order to support efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, the minister noted. Similarly, projects like the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), the Nyerere hydropower generation and rapid transit buses are now international model projects in handling climate change effects, he stated. Private sector stakeholders will be involved in implementing resolutions of the COP26 Conference and national strategies to mitigate climate change effects, he added.

Measles outbreak in Zimbabwe kills 157 children, says minister

HARARE

A measles outbreak in Zimbabwe has killed 157 children, most of whom were unvaccinated due to their family's religious beliefs, officials said.

The measles outbreak was first reported in the eastern Manicaland province in early April and has since spread to all parts of the country.

At least 2,056 cases have been reported and virtually all of the deaths have been children who were not vaccinated, Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa said.

Zimbabwe's Cabinet has invoked a law used to respond to disasters to deal with the outbreak, she said.

The government says it is embarking on a mass vaccination campaign targeting children aged between 6 months and 15 years old and is engaging traditional and faith leaders to support the drive.

Zimbabwe continued vaccinating children against measles even during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, but the drive has been hampered by religious groups that preach against vaccines.

The Christian sects are against modern medicine and tell their members to rely on self-proclaimed prophets for healing.

Church gatherings that have resumed following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions have "led to the spread of measles to previously unaffected areas," said the health ministry in a statement last week.

Measles is among the most infectious diseases in the world and mostly spreads in the air by coughing, sneezing or close contact. Symptoms include coughing, fever and a skin rash, while the risk of severe measles or dying from complications is high among unvaccinated children.



Church gatherings that have resumed following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions have "led to the spread of measles to previously unaffected areas," said the health ministry in a statement last week.

Outbreaks in unvaccinated and malnourished populations have been known to kill thousands. Scientists estimate that more than 90% of the population needs to be immunized to prevent measles outbreaks.

The World Health Organization in April warned of an increase in measles in vulnerable countries as a result of a disruption of services due to COVID-19. In July, UNICEF said about 25 million children worldwide have missed out on routine immunizations against common childhood diseases, calling it a "red alert" for child health.

Ruvuma RC calls on financial institutions to empower teachers

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Regional Commissioner Col. Laban Thomas has urged financial institutions to support the government's efforts to ensure that teachers are economically empowered.

RC Thomas said this yesterday at the launch of the teachers' symposium in Songea Municipality and Madaba Council.

The symposium was attended by Songea District Commissioner Pololot Mgema, and NMB Bank Manager in the Southern Zone, Janeth Shango.

Col. Thomas tasked banks to provide financial education to more people, especially in rural areas.

"It's the right time for banks in the country to invest more in government employees, including teachers," he said and cited an example of the NMB bank, which every year has a procedure to hold a teachers' symposium in various areas of the country.

He expressed satisfaction with the process of bringing together the stakeholders and giving them various instructions that will be able to raise them economically and not otherwise.

He explained further that NMB bank is one of the best financial institutions in the country and that it has done a good thing to see the importance of reaching out to organize a special day for teachers who are part of the big stakeholders who also need help in improving various developments in their areas where they live.

He added that the bank is the largest in the country with a large network of 227 branches in the country and even more than 800 ATMs continue to provide services, so it is a bank with more customers than others, which has more than 4 million customers.

He has asked them to become customers like the bank and has encouraged the management of the bank to continue preparing many programs not only for teachers but also for other government employees to give them the opportunity to know and increase awareness and services provided by the financial institution to the stakeholders of the public sector.



Tanga Regional Police Commander Safia Jongo (L) has a word with SUMA JKT officers responsible for the construction of Msomera Police Station in Handeni District, Tanga Region, on Thursday. She was on an inspection tour of the area, where pastoralists relocating from Ngorongoro Conservation Area are being resettled. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Phase II Mbagala-Gerezani BRT project 66 pc complete

By Guardian Reporter

CONSTRUCTION work on Phase II of the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT II) from Mbagala to Gerezani is now 66.6 per cent complete and is expected to be fully completed by February 2023.

Works and Transport Minister, Prof Makame Mbarawa made the disclosure in Dar es Salaam soon after inspection of the ongoing project, and explained that the work was progressing well and will be completed according to the agreed time.

"I am glad that the work was going on well and I will be making frequent visits to make sure the contractor finishes the work within the agreed time to alleviate road congestion in the City," he said.

He also called on the contractors to make sure they complete the second side of the fly-over at the Chang'ombe-

Kurasini junction by allowing vehicles to pass while they continue with other works.

He also called on them to complete the 80-m long bridge at BP area by December this year as well as other bridges by January 2023 in order to road congestion.

For his part, BRT II Project Supervisor, Eng Frank Mbiliyini said they expect the bridge at the port area to be completed by the end of October this year while in one other bridge, one side has been completed and vehicles allowed passing.

The project is among the government's strategies to reduce road congestion in the City of Dar es Salaam involving 2.3 kilometres that include the large pedestrian bridge at Mbagala, 27 bus stations, one workshop for buses, two main terminals at Mbagala and Kariakoo, 5 feeder bus stations and two fly-overs all to cost 217bn/-.

UNFPA, NBS sign additional 1.6bn to facilitate Housing and Population Census

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has signed a work plan with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for an additional \$705,000 (1.6bn/-) to facilitate achievement of the National Housing and Population Census set for August 23.

Wilfred Ochang, UNFPA country deputy representative said in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday that the additional support was aimed to comple-

ment the on-going government's efforts to ensure that the census exercise is well achieved.

He said UNFPA will continue to support preparations and the implementation of the census ensuring that data generated is of high-quality, widely accessible and enhances evidence-based decision making, accountability and transparency.

"We remain committed to continue with our support for Census, during and after the enumeration period. Some

more work remains and more support is therefore still required from all partners for the enumeration and post enumeration period," he said

Ochang commended the government and NBS for the efforts taken in the preparations of the important national exercise.

"More importantly, we are comforted by the decision taken today to make the 23rd of August 2022 a public holiday to give chance to everyone to be counted. This will also partly respond to the

needs of the diplomatic community," he added.

He said that the 2022 population and housing census is a major foundation for policymakers and development planners as the quality data that will be found from the exercise will help them plan well.

"We are proud to support the census exercise as we recognize the importance of data and accurate information to help in decision making and thus stimulate social and economic development,"

he said.

Early this year, UNFPA expressed its commitment to continue cooperating with Tanzania on ensuring the country makes progress and records success, especially on the coming Population and Housing Census to be held in August this year.

The assurance was made by the UNFPA Country representative Mark Bryan Schreiner shortly after he presented credentials to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Ambassa-

dor Liberata Mulamula at the Ministry's sub office in Dar es Salaam.

Accurate and up-to-date data that is generated from census is also the cornerstone of tracking progress towards national, regional and global development commitments - including Visions 2025 and 2050 for Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar respectively.

Tanzania is expected to hold its first digital Population and Housing census next week August that will be public holiday



Ruvuma regional commissioner Col Laban Thomas (2nd-L) launches NMB Bank Plc's 'Mwalimu Spesho' service in Songea municipality on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Activists call for more climate funding ahead of GCF meeting

KIGALI

CLIMATE change activists and conservationists are calling for more funds to be allocated to youth-led initiatives geared toward environmental protection.

They also suggest for 'big funders' to adopt a policy of allocating a specific quarter of funds to youth.

The call was made as they reacted to the upcoming 35th Meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board scheduled for March 2023 and will be held in Rwanda.

The Green Climate Fund is the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries to raise and realise their climate action plans towards low-emission, climate-resilient development.

The decision for Rwanda to host the high-profile meeting was announced at the recent GCF Board Meeting in South Korea.

Speaking about her expectations from the meeting, Honorene Isingizwe, an environmentalist who is also the Executive Director at Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE), GCF board meeting will present a unique opportunity for Rwanda but also called for the involvement of the youth in all aspects of climate planning.

TANGA EDUCATION SOCIETY [TES]

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the society will be held on Sunday, 28TH August, 2022, 10:00am at the Bhanji Laxman Hall-Popatlal English Medium Pre and Primary School Tanga. Members are requested to be on time.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE: +25522270096
DATE: 08/08/2022
REF: CA/IR/20/01/173

THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICER KINONDONI
P.O. BOX 376
DAR ES SALAAM.

REF: APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP FOR
MR MARINUS FORTUNE CHRISTIAN DOM

Whose photograph provided above is applying to the minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. Her/his nationality at present is ZIMBABWE country of origin ZIMBABWE occupation BUSINESS MAN. Employment address P.O. BOX 42514 USK. Has been in this country since 2001 apart from USM Region has also resided in USM.

Anyone who knows any reasons why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant should send a written and signed statement of facts to the commissioner-general of immigration P.O. Box 512, Dar es Salaam. Use reference DM AC/27/340/1959

Apollo Hospitals, Eclipse Group Africa to build diagnostic, cancer centre in Tanzania

By Beatrice Philemon

INDIA'S Apollo Hospitals and Dar es Salaam based Eclipse Group Africa have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to construct a state-of-the-art diagnostic and cancer centre in the country.

The centre to be built in Msanani area in Dar es Salaam will provide advanced and comprehensive diagnostic and cancer treatments.

Speaking after signing the MoU at the Indian High Commission in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening, Eclipse Group Africa Chairman, Zahir Damji said they are targeting patients from across the African continent.

"Africans from different countries will get a chance to receive quality cancer treatment as well as other health services in Tanzania. Completion of the centre

would provide relief to Tanzanians travelling to India for cancer treatment," said Damji.

A total of 2,500 cancer patients from Tanzania travel to India every year in search of cancer treatment; making India one of the successful countries in medical tourism, he added.

Damji noted that the 60 bedded state-of-the-art cancer centre will offer comprehensive cancer care right from diagnosis to treatment. It will also provide medical, surgical and radiation treatment to cancer patients across age groups from paediatric to adults.

With a team of experienced oncologists, cancer care management and the world's finest technology, the facility will ensure quality cancer care and treatment to Tanzanians.

The signing of the MoU was witnessed by India's Deputy Permanent Secretary in the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Lav Agarwal and Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan.

"Our collaboration with Apollo, a global healthcare leader is a matter of pride and gratitude. We will invest our energies in the greater good of the society," he stated.

Dinesh Madhavan, President of Group Oncology and International at Apollo Hospitals said: "In line with our vision to touch billions of lives across the globe and offer the finest quality clinical excellence, we have partnered with Eclipse Group of Africa to build a quality-driven cancer centre in Tanzania."

Madhavan said the aim is to strengthen Tanzania's healthcare ecosystem and support citizens including those from neighbouring countries in accessing quality cancer care without travelling miles for

treatment in India.

Apollo will also set up an advanced diagnostic centre that will offer high-end laboratory, ultrasound and imaging facilities. Easy access to high-end PET CT, CT and MRI services will enable the right and accurate diagnosis for the broad population of Tanzania.

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in India, Lav Agarwal lauded Apollo Hospitals and Eclipse Group Africa for taking initiatives that will help Tanzanians and other Africans to obtain quality cancer treatment. The collaboration between Apollo Hospital and Eclipse Group Africa will strengthen International relations and lay a foundation for many more strong associations to come, he said.

"It's a privilege to witness the beginning of a positive change

in the healthcare segment in Tanzania, I congratulate both parties and wish there will be many more great associations in the future," he said.

Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan said that India and Tanzania have been development partners for several years and an agreement on health and medicine was signed between the two countries in 2002.

Apollo Hospital is ranked among the best hospitals worldwide for providing advanced medical services and has touched the lives of over 150 million patients from over 140 countries.

The services offered include treatment of patients at the tertiary hospitals, consultation by specialists in the hinterlands through telemedicine, inspiring the young to become high-quality clinicians and supporting na-

BBC MEDIA ACTION
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD

Project Declaration by BBC Media Action

BBC Media Action herein announces an extension with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ireland (Irish Aid) worth Euros 350,000 for the project 'A National Conversation', continuing after July 2022 for another 12 months and a contract expansion with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania) for US Dollars 1,500,000 for their support to the 'Niambie: Broadcasting for Change' project from July 2022 for two and half years.

TASAF programme implementation in Madaba council wins govt's praises

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

JENISTA Mhagama, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) has praised the successful implementation of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) programme in the Mtyangimbole Village in Madaba Council, Ruwuma region.

Jenista gave the remarks yesterday when addressing the people of Mtyangimbole Village where she visited various TASAF beneficiaries in the village.

The minister also lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for accepting the continuation of the programme claiming that it has helped them get rid of various challenges they were facing from getting one meal to three meals a day.

She said that before the beneficiaries were included in the programme, there were some children who failed to attend classes. Since they were included in the programme, they have managed to attend school asking the leaders and executives of the council to identify the failed children who come from those households so that the government can educate them for free in technical colleges and give university loans to those who succeed to continue with higher education.

Minister Jenista warned the beneficiaries to stop using the funds of the programme for luxury activities including drinking alcohol as well as increasing the number of women while

asking the programme executives and village leaders to stop the habit of bringing in people who do not deserve to be included in the programme and leave those who deserve it.

Madaba MP, Dr Joseph Mhagama congratulated President Samia for agreeing to the continuation of the programme claiming that it has helped raise some of the beneficiaries economically where it has enabled them to run agriculture activities and improve their homes.

Some of the beneficiaries of the programme together have praised President Samia for agreeing to continue the programme which was started by his predecessors claiming that it has helped them educate their children.



Madaba MP, Dr Joseph Mhagama congratulated President Samia for agreeing to the continuation of the programme claiming that it has helped raise some of the beneficiaries economically where it has enabled them to run agriculture activities



Iringa district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo (2nd-R) cuts the ribbon yesterday to launch a Tigo shop. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dodoma young entrepreneurs produce domestic poultry cages to help farmers

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based Tusumuke Youth Entrepreneurs Group (TYEG) has embarked on a country-wide project for the production and marketing of locally-made chicken poultry cages aimed to help indigenous farmers reduce expenses in managing their executions.

Despite the increasing demand

for chicken meat (white meat) from across the country, most poultry farmers fail to handle their projects professionally due to high prices in obtaining modern cages, especially those from China.

TYEG Chairman, Christopher Dioniz told this paper that the group was producing modern, but low-cost locally-made cages with the capacity to harbour at least 100 chickens.

He said the group is marketing

the poultry cages at the patriotic prices of only 450,000/-, observing that those imported from overseas are sold at high prices of 750,000/-.

"We at helping local poultry farmers to cheat the high expenses likely facing them in handling their project, we have already introduced and sold the locally-made cages to the farmers within different six regions," Dioniz said, adding that they are receiving orders from poultry farmers across the country.

Apart from selling the cages, the group also provides training to local poultry farmers on how best to create the said cages, a vital development that has created employment opportunities for more than 12 youths in different regions.

"It is a simple technology for producing reliable and effective cages," he noted, urging more poultry farmers to adopt the use of the cages.

In an effort to reduce chicken

feed expenses, the group in cooperation with the ministry of livestock has managed to import useful concentrates - 'Koudijs' from Holland for the production of chicken feed. Using the concentrate, Dioniz said the group is now able to produce highly nutritious chicken feed through a mixture of maize, lime and swam.

Koudijs concentrate is a concentrate containing all required micro-ingredients including vitamins,

minerals, amino acids, phosphates, additives and proteins.

The ratios are determined by the nutritional needs of your animals and by the composition of the main raw materials that you have available.

"We're marketing the feed at the prices between 1,100/- and 1,500/- in order to enable most common poultry farmers from across the country to feed their chicken professionally," he observed.



KPMG Tanzania tax director Nsanyiwa Donald) makes a presentation in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a consultative meeting involving the East African Community and the private sector. Organised by the East African Business Council, it focused in part on public sensitisation on the EAC's common external tariff. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Twenty new wagons for central railway from South Korea to arrive next month

By Guardian Reporter

TWENTY new wagons for the Central Railway are expected to arrive in the country in next month from South Korea which will reduce shortage on the Mpanda and Kigoma route.

Speaking in Kigoma, Deputy Minister for Transport Atupele Mwakibete said apart from the wagons, the government through the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) was renovating another 30 passenger wagons and 600 for cargo as part of implementing a plan to transport more goods on rail than on roads.

"The government was still implementing its plan to carry out huge renovations including increasing the number of wagons, I believe when the wagons arrive all the problems will be addressed," he said.

The Deputy Minister called upon TRC to end bureaucracy to attract more stakeholders into the sector, especially those who transport their goods via the Port of Dar es Salaam and other Ports such as that of Kigoma.

Kigoma District Commissioner Ester Mahawe hailed the government for efforts to renovate rail infrastructure which she said was going to ease transportation services in the country.

Emanuel Ntejo, the Head of security at TRC said the organisation was already in the final process to receive and allocate the wagons saying priority will be in regions with high population.

Ntejo added that TRC has so far completed the procurement processes to identify a contractor to carry out renovations at Kaliua to Mpanda then Tabora to Kigoma to ensure services are provided on time.

The Deputy Minister is in Kigoma region on a three days tour to inspect various projects which are being implemented under the transport sector which falls under his docket.

UN Women embarks on plan to address gendered crisis and economic recovery

By Beatrice Philemon

THE UN Women in Tanzania has launched a plan - 'Beyond COVID-19: A Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice' that provides a road map towards addressing gendered crisis and economic recovery and mitigation strategies.

The plan was officially launched in Dar es Salaam on Thursday by Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr Dorothy Gwajima.

He said the plan aims to ensure the needs of women are addressed and prioritized during COVID-19 and the on-going war between Russia and Ukraine.

She said, women and girls all over the world are affected by war, conflict, gender-

based violence and at the same time they struggle to care for their families.

"A number of women have lost their jobs and earnings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to come up with strategies to help them," said the minister.

She said while global billionaires' wealth increased by \$3.9 trillion, globally in 2019 and 2020, women lost more than 54 million jobs which is equal to a 4.2 percent decline in women's employment and a 3 percent decline in men's employment.

Also, across 45 countries, one in five women reported losing their job during the pandemic.

UN Women Tanzania Representative, Hodan Addou added that COVID -19 has drawn attention to interlocking crises that

systematically undermine gender equality and threaten the survival of people and the planet.

The launch was organised in light of one year of implementation of Tanzania's Generation Equality Forum commitment to advance women's economic justice and rights, with the aim of providing a platform for discussion on the country's gains on economic justice, and rights and to reflect on current economic challenges.

Also bring in country-level perspectives to inspire localized, gender-responsive policies and strategies for sustainable recovery and to strengthen the resilience of women against other crises.

She lauded the government of Sweden for their generous financial support to the

Feminist Plan.

According to her, global crises such as COVID-19, the economic impact of the war in Ukraine and the devastating effects of environmental degradation and climate change continue to affect millions of lives, destroying countless livelihoods and creating enormous economic damage to the world over.

"In UN Women's Feminist Plan, we have identified three areas that include jobs, care and climate - where we must see policies, action and investments. Let me highlight some of the proposals that we are making to ensure that gender equality, environmental sustainability and social justice are prioritized among on-going crises," she said.

She said investments in the care economy are critical to support women in the labour

force and the wellbeing of children and care-dependent adults and they can also create decent work.

Addou said the vulnerability of women's jobs has been brutally revealed during the pandemic and other global crises.

Urgent action is needed to strengthen gender-responsive social protection systems, food security, and decent work; and to move women out of the informal economy.

"One key message from the report is that we need to change not only what we do, but also how we do it, breaking the vicious cycle of economic insecurity, environmental destruction, and exclusionary politics," she said.

Lake Zone farmers counselled to register for subsidised fertilisers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

FARMERS in the Lake Zone have been required to emerge in big numbers at village government offices in their areas to register themselves to enable them to buy subsidised fertiliser.

In a telephone interview with this paper yesterday, Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) Acting Director for Lake Zone Hanafi Mohamed said a big percentage of districts in the Lake regions have received registration registers for the subsidised fertiliser.

Mohamed said the government has already provided subsidies on fertiliser valued at 150bn/- to assist farmers to cultivate crops profitably.

According to him, the authority was only waiting for the registers to register farmers needing the subsidised fertiliser and added that these have already arrived.

He said the fertiliser will be provided free of charge to every farmer who

registered, and added that every farmer has the right to get the fertiliser so long as he/she has been identified by the village government of the area he/she comes from.

Meanwhile, Mohamed called on Ward executives in the Lake Zone regions to make sure they tell the people to participate in the registration exercise.

During the period 2020-22, the price of one tonne of UREA type of fertiliser rose from USD 251 to 1,214, necessitating the government to allocate 150bn/- a subsidy to help farmers afford the price.



Mohamed said the government has already provided subsidies on fertiliser valued at 150bn/- to assist farmers to cultivate crops



Global Education Link director Abdulmalik Mollé briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam Thursday on ceremony set to be held in the city tomorrow for fresh Tanzanian graduates of overseas universities. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TOL Gases approves dividend of 40/- per share

By Guardian Correspondent

SHAREHOLDERS of TOL Gases Limited have approved the distribution of an annual dividend of 40/- per share an increase from 34.78/- per share that was distributed in 2020.

The rates were approved yesterday at the Annual General Meeting held in Dar es Salaam.

The company's financial statements for the year ending December 2021 report revenue growth by 25 percent

from 19.8bn/- to 24.8bn/- recorded in 2020 whereas profit after tax grew by 41 percent from 2.3bn/- recorded in 2020 to 3.3bn/- in the financial year 2021.

Recent operational reforms and expansion strategies have contributed to growth in the company's revenue and solidified its stance as a leading producer and supplier of industrial and medical gases in Tanzania and expanded its supply scope to other Southern African Development Community (SADC)

countries such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Malawi.

TOL Gases Board Chairman, Michael Shirima, commended the performance improvement and how the company stepped up its efforts to ensure the availability of medical Oxygen nationwide during the Covid-19 outbreak.

"Year 2021 was challenging due to the effects of Covid-19 on all segments of the economy and society at large. I

am pleased to report that the objective of keeping the nation supplied with medical oxygen at such a critical point was met, and I commend the Company for ensuring that sufficient medical oxygen was made available to patients at various health care facilities," he said.

Apart from reporting increased profits for the year 2021, TOL Gases Limited outlined the implementation of various strategies that are expected to significantly improve the financial performance of the Company.

The company has recently launched an additional carbon dioxide project in Rungwe District which will double the company's production capacity for food-grade carbon dioxide gas.

Commenting on the latest carbon dioxide plant, the chairman said it will double the company's production capacity for carbon dioxide and improve the financial performance of the company significantly.

"The company has continued to invest in embedding reliability into op-

erations and has invested significantly into new trucks and tankers to instill confidence in the company's ability to deliver products to our customers across the region reliably and efficiently," stated Shirima.

The additional carbon dioxide plant is located in Ikama village, Rungwe District in Mbeya and promises an increase in monthly revenue by 8.2 billion shillings, which is a 42 percent increase in revenue from carbon-dioxide production alone.



Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Ltd CEO Oscar Mgaya (L) and Habitat for Humanity International's Vice President for Africa, Maurice Makoloo, exchange documents in Dar es Salaam on Thursday shortly after signing an agreement on ways to tame housing challenges facing low-income earners. Looking on (C) is Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Ridhiwani Kikwete. Photo: Romana Mallya

TCDC to become cooperative bank

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) plans to expand and become a national bank to assist cooperative societies and members thereof get better services close to their areas.

The remarks were made here early this week by TCDC Chief Executive Officer, who is also the Registrar of Cooperatives, Dr Benson Ndiege as he briefed reporters on the bank's strategies.

Dr Ndiege said the aim of the bank is to assist cooperative societies to have access to capital and abandon the practice of accessing capital from the country's commercial banks.

He also said that when the cooperatives receive loans from commercial banks they are in fact assisting the banks to make profit instead of them; hence through the TCDC bank they will access capital without stringent conditions.

Dr Ndiege further said the country has numerous cooperatives hence if they join together to create a bank, it can become a huge bank than many of the existing banks.

"As for now we are required to have a capital of 15bn/- for boosting our bank and have already held talks with the government to revive the bank, what remains is only for us to get the capital required," he said.

He noted that the government has been putting in place various strategies to boost cooperatives in the country including hiring of cooperative officials in every district as well as registrars at regional level.

He said just recently the government handed out 130 motor cycles to cooperative officers countrywide to assist them to reach various cooperative societies in their areas.

According to him, the government's procedure that requires crops be sold through cooperatives aims to assist farmers themselves but the understanding on part of farmers was still little, and added that they will continue educating them.

Dr Ndiege called upon various government officials to make sure they work together with the commission to mobilise farmers to sell their crops through cooperatives.

"Some of the crops which are so far sold through cooperatives include coffee, cocoa, cashew nuts, tobacco and other cash crops hence we appeal to farmers to continue forming their societies," he said.

He added that they continue with strategies to strengthen cooperative societies by providing education on cooperatives to the people and their societies to make them function according to the requirements of the laws.

Construction of 95km Mkwaja-Mkange road set to open up Tanga, neighbouring regions

By Guardian Reporter

TANGA and surrounding regions are set to have more business and logistics opportunities following the construction of a 95.2 kilometer Mkwaja - Mkange road through a joint project between Kenya and Tanzania.

Minister for Works and Transport Prof Makame Mbarawa made the remarks when he inspected the construction of the project

worth 94.53bn/- and started in April this year.

The project allows a traveller to move from Bagamoyo-Saadani-Tanga-Horohoro to Lungalunga border in Kenya up to Mombasa and Lamu. Kenya is also constructing the road on its side.

"The project will open business opportunities for Tanga including the tourism sector where tourists from Kenya will directly visit Tanzania's attractive destinations," he said.

According to the minister, the tourist destinations to be easily accessed through the road include Saadani National Park and Zanzibar.

The minister called upon the contractor to work hard to ensure the project is completed on time as it is eagerly awaited by residents from both sides to improve their businesses.

On the compensations for the project, the minister called upon the Tanzania National

Roads Agency (TANROADS) to ensure they provide education to wananchi who at times are hesitant to pave way for the project.

"I call upon my fellow Tanzanians to please move out voluntarily so that this project can be completed as scheduled to ensure the benefits intended to the respective residents are achieved.

TANROADS Manager for Tanga, Eliazary Rweikiza said the project is now at 6.23-per-

cent with the contractor's camp at 100-percent complete.

It is expected that road's building will significantly influence the growth of tourism in the Saadani National Park, which he stated had a lot to offer that was unique to other parks.

The recent developments indicate that the dream to connect the East African coastline from Malindi to Bagamoyo through Tanga, Pangani and Saadani could be a reality soon.

Shaka warns unfaithful civil servants in Sikonge

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

CCM Ideology and Publicity Secretary Shaka Hamdu Shaka has pointed a finger at some unfaithful officials in Sikonge District Council, Tabora Region accusing them of stalling implementation of development projects by demanding bribes from contractors.

Shaka directed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in the region to closely monitor the officials who are said to hinder government efforts in bringing development to the people.

Shaka made the statement on Thursday during his visit to inspect progress on implementation for construction of the Sikonge district hospital.

"It is unfortunate that Sikonge is one of the districts with poor supervision of development projects; I am not pleased with the speed of management, development and completion of projects," said Shaka, adding the party will not remain tight-lipped when things are not done as planned.

"May I urge those who have been entrusted in the government to make sure they fulfil their responsibilities; you should work to help President Samia Suluhu Hassan towards improving provision of social services," he said.

Shaka said it is not fair to delay development projects that would benefit thousands of people simply because some dishonest officials want to be bribed by contractors.

"One of the reasons why these projects are stalled is because some of the council staff wants to be bribed; and the bad thing is that they demand huge amounts of money from contractors," said Shaka, tasking PCCB and the office of the District Commissioner to work on the matter.

He said Sikonge is a large district measuring 27,873 square kilometres hence the need to complete all the development projects to ensure proper provision of services to the people.

He accused district and regional leaders of failure to visit people in their villages, the thing that has been affecting provision of social services at public in-



Shinyanga mayor Elias Masumbuko (2nd-L) cuts the ribbon earlier this week to inaugurate a commuter minibus, bajaj and motorbike taxi stand at the municipality's main market after the facility was renovated at a cost of 147m/-. Right is the municipality's acting director, Getruda Gisema, and left is Chibe councillor John Kisandu. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

NGO, foundation bring joy to villagers in Ihefu

By Correspondent Francis Godwin, Mufindi

ULULATION engulfed Ihefu Village on Thursday after the Rural Development Organization (RDO) in collaboration with the Paul Due Jensen Foundation handed over a water project worth 850m/- to the village in Mufindi District, Iringa Region.

More delighted were women and girls, who were relieved from trekking long distances looking for water, which yet was not clean and safe

for human consumption.

Handing over the project here, RDO's executive director Fidelis Filipatali, said that the funds to implement the project have come from discounts from dealers of pipes and water pumps—GrundFos.

"We explained to our GrundFos colleagues that the money you give us as a top priority, we want things to be seen by the target citizens, let's join with mother Samia Suluhu Hassan our president to bring water to 100 percent, let's bring water to the

village of Ihefu and that's what happened." He said that the project will benefit and solve the challenges of more than 4207 thousand residents by getting clean and safe water at all times as the project has the capacity to supply approximately 114,000 liters of water for a distance of more than 19 kilometers.

GrundFos Tanzania Manager Ngusa Breck said: "For what happened here in Ihefu Village, I am very happy that you have involved all the people, you have involved

the government, you have involved ordinary citizens and I have seen the young people who are here and know the project well enough to be able to explain well how the machinery works."

"Here in Ihefu, we have succeeded in building 25 water stations to reduce Mother's burden of walking a long distance to follow the water as the policy says," Daniel Mwaisela chairman of the Board RDO Tanzania noted.

Godlisten Swai, the Rural Water

Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Mufindi District emphasized and urged the citizens and residents of Ihefu village to take care and protect all the infrastructures that complete this Water Project as a lot of money has been spent to complete it for their benefit saying "You Take care of it for it to Sustain".

Swai promised to provide cooperation to maintain and protect water sources and all infrastructures to ensure this project continues. "If you see anyone digging or play-

ing with a pipe or wanting to cut it, please reprimand him or take action if possible, and give information to the relevant authorities," he said.

"We will continue to cooperate with the residents of this area to ensure that this project continues, so we do not expect that this project will be built at the end of the day today, people will get services. At the end of the day after one month, the project will die," Deograsia Liganga, Community Development Officer Mufindi District.



Stinking garbage lies uncollected by the side of a Magomeni Kagera section of Morogoro Road, hugely inconveniencing residents of the area, passers-by and various other people. Correspondent Miraji Msala captured the scene yesterday, with sources saying municipal authorities had been nowhere around the place for days.

Many people required to get second dose of Covid-19 vaccine don't do so, govt says

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has said that a good number of people who are required to come back for a second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine are not doing so, something which needs more effort to ensure that they complete the full dose.

According to the available data from the Ministry of Health, over 1.5 million people who were required to complete their second dose of Pfizer and Sinopharm vaccines in July and August, haven't done so.

Speaking during the media training on Covi-19 vaccines in Dodoma this week, a health promotion specialist from the Ministry of Health Juliana Mshama said by getting two doses helps the body to get the required protection.

The training was organised by the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"By getting the jabs in full dose will help the body to get strong immune, so it is better for those who are yet to take the second shot to ensure that they attend a health facility to get it," she said.

She said a total of 775,398 people who were required to come back for second Covid-19 shots of Pfizer and Sinopharm on July 31, this year didn't get and a total of 872,821 people who were supposed to get second dose of the vaccines on August 14 are yet to get it.

"We have been taking a number of measures to ensure that people come back for the second dose, and this includes educating and counselling them well during their first intake; we also use community health providers especially at the grassroots level to sensitise people on vaccination," he said.

She however said the government cannot achieve this vital task alone, hence the need to work together with stakeholders such as the media, civil society, religious institutions and the private sector in order to make this possible.

She said the government is also struggling to dispel criticism and misinformation about coronavirus vaccines so as to ensure that more people get the doses.

She noted that as vaccines become widely available, there are some Tanzanians who are still undecided about getting vaccinated because of a complex web of moral, medical and political convictions.

Neville Meena from the TEF wanted journalists to increase efforts, and be more innovative in producing articles that will help encourage more Tanzanians to get the jabs.

Zanzibar first VP meets with political parties stakeholders' special taskforce

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FIRST Vice President of Zanzibar Othman Masoud Othman has met and held talks with the members of a special task force which was formed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to coordinate views of democracy and political parties' stakeholders.

Othman commended the task force for considering taking his views as well as discussing issues related to democracy and multiparty in the country.

Addressing journalists in Zanzibar shortly after meeting with the task force, the First Vice President called upon Isle residents to provide full cooperation to the task force by

giving their opinions which are likely to strengthen democracy as well as good governance.

He said the task force was formed for purposes of collecting views from democracy and political parties' stakeholders with a vision of improving multi-party democracy following a lot of complaints on elections and democracy in the country.

Othman said the task force also collects views on the best systems of operating the governments of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar for the benefit of citizens.

Commenting on the Union, he said there are still some union matters that have not been worked on and which require major

reforms.

He gave an example of the joint Finance Commission (JFC) that was established in 1984 in accordance with the country's Constitution which is mandated to determine such proportions of money to be contributed by the two governments and deposited into the 'Joint Finance Account' and analyse union revenue and expenditure and make recommendations to the two governments concerning the contributions and the allocation to each government.

He, however, said that despite the JFC's Act being enacted in 1996 and began working in August 2006 by submitting various proposals to the two sides of the union, it is

still not active.

"As days go by, the JFC seems to be losing its direction and its importance is no longer visible to citizens although it exists in accordance with the constitution," he said.

Othman insisted on the need to have an independent electoral commission which its responsibilities would be stipulated in the constitution. He said the electoral commission shouldn't be interfered with to ensure free and fair elections.

He said there should be special commissioners to oversee and conduct elections in the country.

"We need to improve ways on how we conduct our elections; to ensure fair and

free elections; we must have an independent electoral commission with special commissioners. This will enable the country to get the right chosen candidates," said the First Vice President.

The task force was formed on December 23, last year, to work on resolutions that were raised during the political stakeholders meeting organised by the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) between December 15 and 17, last year.

The 25-member task force, which is directly accountable to President Samia, had presented a number of resolutions that are divided into three implementation timelines ranging from a short, medium and long-term period.

Mpwapwa breeding multiplication programme for crossbred dairy cows

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

AFTER registering successful achievements in research and marketing of crossbred bulls in the country, the Mpwapwa-based Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) is now focusing on major efforts to produce dairy cattle.

Through a special programme christened 'Mpwapwa Breeding Multiplication' the famous center TALIRI Mpwapwa has so far managed to produce the country's distinguished cows and goats' species.

The so far produced animals have primarily been produced through crossbreeding of assorted species, including Boran, Tanzania Shorthorn, Sahiwal, Red Sindhi and Ayrshire and the flock are doing well in the market.

In an exclusive interview with The Guardian, TALIRI Mpwapwa Acting Director, Boniphace Malingilia said experience depicts that there's a shortage of dairy cows from across the country, the situation which calls for collective interventions.

"In order to overcome the existing shortage, we had decided to embark on a fresh bid to produce specific dairy cows, with capacity

to produce at least between 15 and 20 liters in a day," he informed.

He added that the dairy cows to be produced will be made available to the indigenous farmers at affordable prices.

Malingilia noted that the center was gearing to see that Tanzania's livestock industry is awash with improved animals for both milk and meat.

"Through crossbreeding processes we have so far been able to produce healthier bulls, with impressive market weight," he informed. With the general target to produce and market crossbred cows, Malingilia noted that the center was marketing the crossbred bulls at a price of at least 800,000/- per each, whereby other cows (females) are sold at a rate of 1m/-.

Moreover, in general efforts to spur performance of the sector, for the past four years, TALIRI implemented a four-year initiative, dubbed 'Climate Smart Dairy System Project'. With close cooperation with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), among others, the project enabled the dairy farmers to adopt use of advanced new forage varieties to help push for milk production.



A caterpillar said to have been deployed by Group Six International pictured earlier this week clearing the Kwala satellite city site in Kibaha District earmarked for the construction of a one-stop centre to accommodate the Tanzania Revenue Authority's customs offices. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DAWASA embarks on campaign to control human activities near water sources in Moro

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has embarked on a campaign to control human activities threatening the existence of water sources of rivers Mgeta, Mngazi and Dutumi in Morogoro region.

The authority said human activities such as grazing of livestock and

farming are threatening the sources of the precious liquid responsible for the whole region of Morogoro.

DAWASA Head of Environment Unit, Modesta Mushi said some farmers have diverted water from the rivers to their farms for irrigation. "The authority came to know the destruction after its officials visited the area to inspect Ruwu river water sources around river

Mgeta, Mngazi and Dutumi where they noticed human activities by farmers near the sources," she said.

She said villages of Dutumi and Mpina have been lacking enough water because much of the waters have been diverted for other activities such as farming.

She added that farmers have been conducting irrigation agriculture activities inside 60 meters from

the river water sources in Sesenga village and river Mgeta where they take huge amount of water by using water pumps.

"The only part which remains safe is river banks which were constructed last year which is 5.4 Kilometer," she said.

She said after the destruction of water sources they decided to conduct meeting to sensitize farmers

and pastoralist in Dakawa village to stop their activities around water sources.

Meanwhile, Director for Morogoro rural district Rehema Bwasi, commended DAWASA for the visit to inspect and identify challenges in various water sources in the region. "Destruction of water sources is not something we can tolerate because its consequences are huge

in lives of our people so it is better if we do regular visits like what you have done to make them sustainable," she said.

She said Morogoro District Council in collaboration with DAWASA will ensure there is no more destruction of water sources adding that they will also collaborate with Wami Ruwu Basin to make the malpractice are controlled.



A Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technician who gave his name as Christopher Ernest repairs a water pipe at Kimara Butchery in Ubungo municipality yesterday to ensure reliable supply of potable water to users. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Arusha Region leads in SIM card registration ratio

By Guardian Reporter

ARUSHA Region leads Tanzania Mainland in terms of the ratio of registered SIM cards to its population, according to recent communications statistics.

Although by June 2022 some 9,102,203 SIM cards had been registered in Dar es Salaam region; which has more than six million people, Arusha, with a population of 1.8 million, recorded 3,263,398.

The quarterly statistics, by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) shows that Mwanza with a population of 3,826,573, comes second after Dar es Salaam, with 3,376,532 registered SIM cards.

The national total 56,153,097 registered SIM cards. Ten regions have each registered more than two million.

Others, with their estimated population in brackets are Tabora 3,000,849 (2,291,623); Mbeya 2,961,516 (2,204,543); Morogoro 2,945,790 (2,730,058); Dodoma 2,864,302 (2,647,410); Kilimanjaro 2,211,867 (1,951,252); Tanga 2,098,929 (2,449,235) and Geita 2,050,124 (2,434,800).

It should be noted that the number of registered SIM cards exceeds that of individual users due to the possibility of multiple SIM card ownerships. Regulations allow the registration of up to five SIM cards for various uses, including voice, data and financial transactions. Poor and limited access also drives users to have backup SIM cards.

Some corporate organisations communications policies require employees to use a dedicated mobile number for official communication; hence an individual needs for an additional SIM card.

MP advises young women to use social media platforms positively

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

SPECIAL seats Member of Parliament, Nema Lugangira (CCM) has challenged women to positively use digital platforms as a tactic to gain digital resilience with the Online Gender Based Violence (OGBV).

Lugangira who is also the Non-Governmental Organisation's (NGO's) parliamentary representative made the statement on Thursday in Dar es Salaam when officiating the launch

of 'Digital Voice Project' led by Zaina Foundation (NGO).

Lugangira said, due to the increased (OGBV) cases that affect women, it's time they recognize the need to value themselves and the content they post on social media platforms.

"There is need to utilise a positive space for women on digital platforms as a lot is experienced as far as digital violence," she said, stressing that whatever content they reveal online is reserved for their future consumption.

The MP who also chairs the African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance underlined that having an opportunity to lead the chamber has direct links with how she positively used her social media platforms.

Zaina Foundation Executive Director, Zaituni Njovu said despite the fruitful benefits of online media, OGBV has turned to be an enemy which needs to be fought at all cost.

"Internet is the third basic need after food

and water in Tanzania whereby the number of internet users increases daily despite challenges like lack of data protection laws.

Masjid TaQwa Sheikh from Kunduchi Mtongani in Dar es Salaam Mbaraka Bichamu said (OGBV) has overloaded clerics roles hence thanked Zaina Foundation decision to launch the project as it will boost their educative role upon their believers.

This project will further advocate the formulation of data protection law in Tanzania

that will recognise the right to privacy whereby internet users should be respected and protected into their private communication by considering that there is no general data protection legislation in Tanzania.

Digital voice project goes with the slogan "Be Online" which aims to ensure women are actively participating online by creating a safe environment for them through fighting against (OGBV) that decrease their participation online.

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Security cooperation making headway, not so for alliances

CONSENSUS was visible in the various issues addressed in the 42nd ordinary summit of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), whose first stage deliberations focused on food security, and the second stage on maritime security threats especially hunting the region's oil and gas industry. The focal point of the threat is northern Mozambique but its ramifications - and other impacts - reach much farther north. The strain on stability affects investments.

Reports on the final communiqué of the summit in Kinshasa showed the wish to expedite implementation of the SADC maritime integrated strategy and its action plan to curb threats on the Indian Ocean rim. There was an air of satisfaction on the creation of the SADC Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre that Dar hosts, but strengthening cooperation beyond information sharing on terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism will be difficult. It needs partners.

The problem about forging workable partnerships is that a knife edge situation has emerged around the world, where a country selects its security partners and can scarcely engage both the East and the West. That situation may lead to choices that influence global cooperation in pushing the wider SADC strategy at the multilateral level, namely 'promoting industrialization through agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and regional value chains for inclusive and resilient economic growth.' Security cooperation is working internally, largely.

The summit approved extension of the SADC military mission in Mozambique despite that it needs some protocols updated towards that effect. There is already a casualty tool in the mission, which has a higher combat

mandate in comparison with the United Nations mission in DRC, where a popular revolt on its presence flared up last month. The final communiqué expressed condolences to the governments and families of the nine deceased security aid personnel who died in the theatre of operations. Their work and impact is by and large visible. A note on the controversies haunting the summit on security cooperation was seen in the displeasure in the communiqué on moves in the United States concerning all forms of Russian military presence in African conflicts. A motion for US censure of countries inviting Russian units was approved by the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of the US Congress. It is a stark reminder of the need for choice in relation to cooperation, with the Western democratic camp or with others. Global conflicts push the issue to the forefront.

How far SADC and indeed the African Union can succeed on the issue by citing the principled position of non-alignment in any conflicts outside the continent is unclear. In the past non-alignment meant something as Africa was directly under the economic control of former colonial powers, often dictating who rules in which African country. Africa has larger economies now and proportionally Europe and even the US have shrunk somewhat, thus changes alliance matrices.

Africa has to accept that principles of the 1960s can no longer serve as the framework of international relations, but making principles positions on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Declaration of Human Rights. When these are taken into account, there will be no fence sitting but more peer pressure for conformity to global fair play rules. It's that simple.

Revolving fund design best for \$75.5m loan for input support

TREASURY officials have lately signed a \$75.5m (174.9bn/-) loan agreement with the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the Tanzania Agricultural Input Support Project (TAISP). The formal starting point is accelerating replacement of imports of fertiliser, as the Russia-Ukraine conflict has shown how it leads to imported inflation, shortages. It isn't a new lesson but circumstances change.

More significantly, the funds will facilitate the supply of subsidized fertiliser to ensure food security and stable prices. This is likely but there are trappings of recurrent expenditure whose results aren't guaranteed to provide results which work in the short term. Seed research has been around for decades, and we still depend on imported grain, so the effort at undertaking research on multiplying seeds for wheat and edible oil has a new urgency, but not necessarily quite new agents to make it a success. This is where strategic policy thinking could help.

This project is for once delivering a lesson that proclivity in research that at times arise from abundance of funds from organisations inclined to populist choices, hindering progress. Plenty of funds have been used up researching cassava and potatoes, while the country uses millions of dollars importing wheat. As this new facility is a loan, it will help if its use will be directed mainly to the private sector, to get on with farms and irrigation, and the sums.

If there is a revolving loan element where the funds are loaned to commercial banks from the Bank of Tanzania and the funds are repaid there, by the time the loan matures for repaying the AfDB, the grain self-sufficiency problem will be something of the past. But if the funds go to agro-sector public banks whose

non-performing loans are eventually absorbed by the Treasury, it is hard to see how the money will be promptly paid and re-issued as loans to others. Only in this manner can the country start building sustainability using such emergency fund. But as we are used to new loans on a daily basis, chances are that we shall take the loan as a routine transaction, and build no safeguards on its optimal use.

Remarks by top Treasury officials that the project will contribute to social and economic development by making food available and affordable reflect a short term outlook, for cycles of reducing malnutrition and hunger. When the core structural drawbacks making a country as vast as Tanzania rely in imported wheat or edible oil aren't addressed, by building local capacity rather than medium term food availability, the threat returns in future. It's always like that.

The fundamental drawback is that policy-wise the country is tuned to trusting public sector agents and fails to realise that these are perpetual demanders of public finances who never stand on their own feet. There is definitely a case for seed research and multiplication but a far more vital case exists for widening real producers repaying loans, expanding their farms to attain wheat or edible oil self-sufficiency. But it isn't how budgeting occurs in high level corridors and it will need a lot of willpower on the part of prudent policy designers to hold back impulse of spendthrift decision makers adoring public agencies' accolades. At times it is better to be criticised and take the country a higher level instead of being happy with short term self-congratulation that effectively recycles crises.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

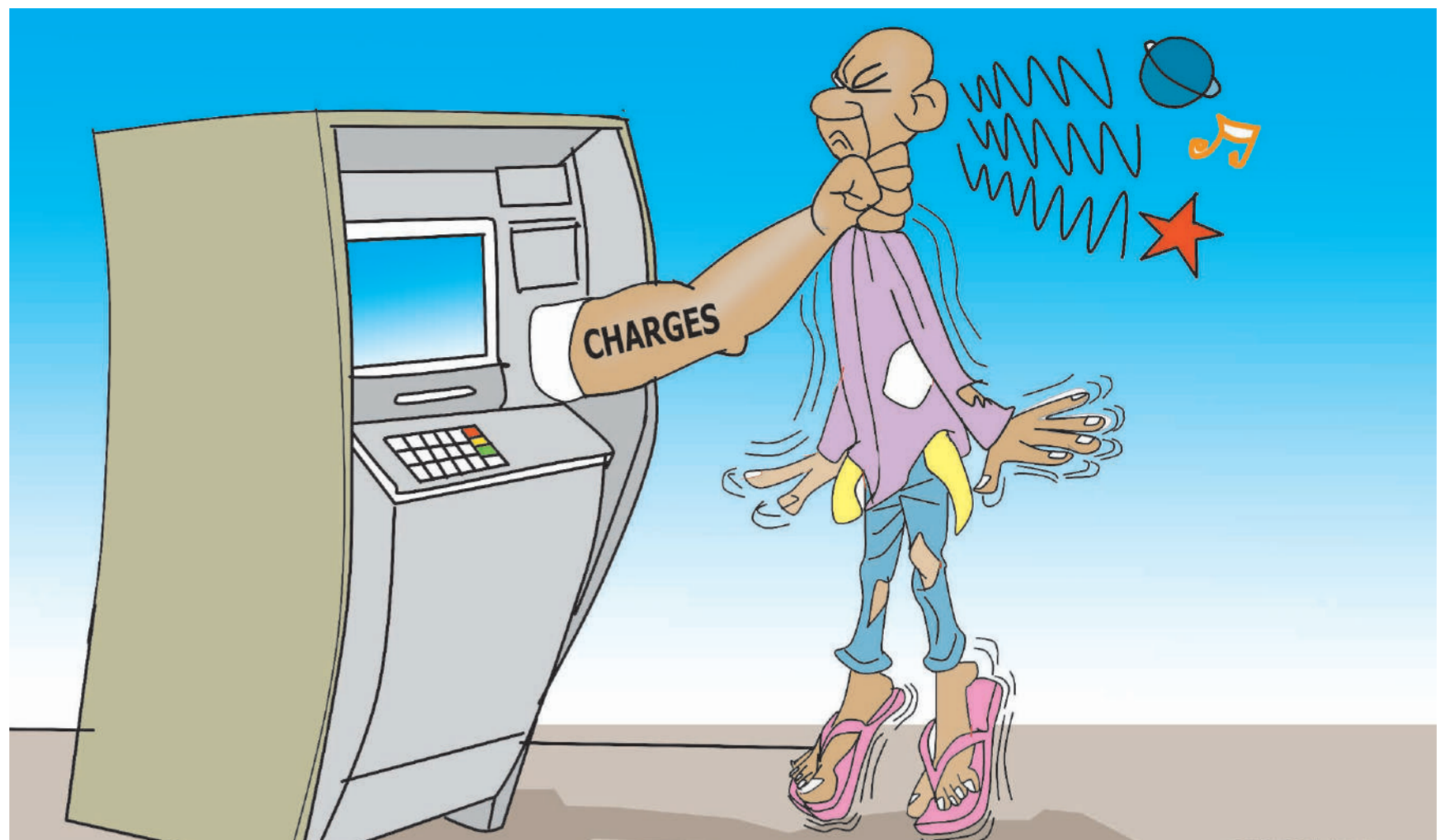
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Government discouraging investors

By Bob Wekesa

THE United States Department of State 2022 Investment Climate report on Liberia says the government of Liberia does much to discourage investors and investment.

"In practice, however, the government does much to discourage investors and investment. Some business leaders report it is difficult even to meet with government representatives to discuss new investment or policies damaging to the business climate," the report says.

It says further that a weak legal and regulatory framework, lack of transparency in contract awards, and widespread corruption inhibit foreign direct investment.

Investors are often treated as opportunities for graft, and government decisions affecting the business sector are driven more by political cronyism than investment climate considerations, the report states.

"Many businesses find it easy to operate illegally if the right political interests are being paid, whereas those that try to follow the rules receive little if any assistance from government agencies."

It detailed the Investment Act restricts market access for foreign investors, including U.S. investors, in certain economic sectors or industries.

Foreign and domestic private entities may own and establish business enterprises in many sectors.

However, it says the Liberian constitution restricts land ownership to citizens, but non-Liberians may hold long-term leases to land.

Examples are rubber, oil palm, and logging concessions that cover a quarter of Liberia's total land mass.

The National Investment Commission is the oversight agency to screen and monitor investments.

According to the report, the Investment Act and Revenue Code mandate that only Liberian citizens may operate businesses in certain sectors and industries, but it is not clear to what degree this mandate is enforced.

They include supply of sand; block making; peddling; travel agencies; retail sale of rice and cement; ice making and sale of ice; tire repair shops; and auto repair shops with an investment of less than USD 550,000.

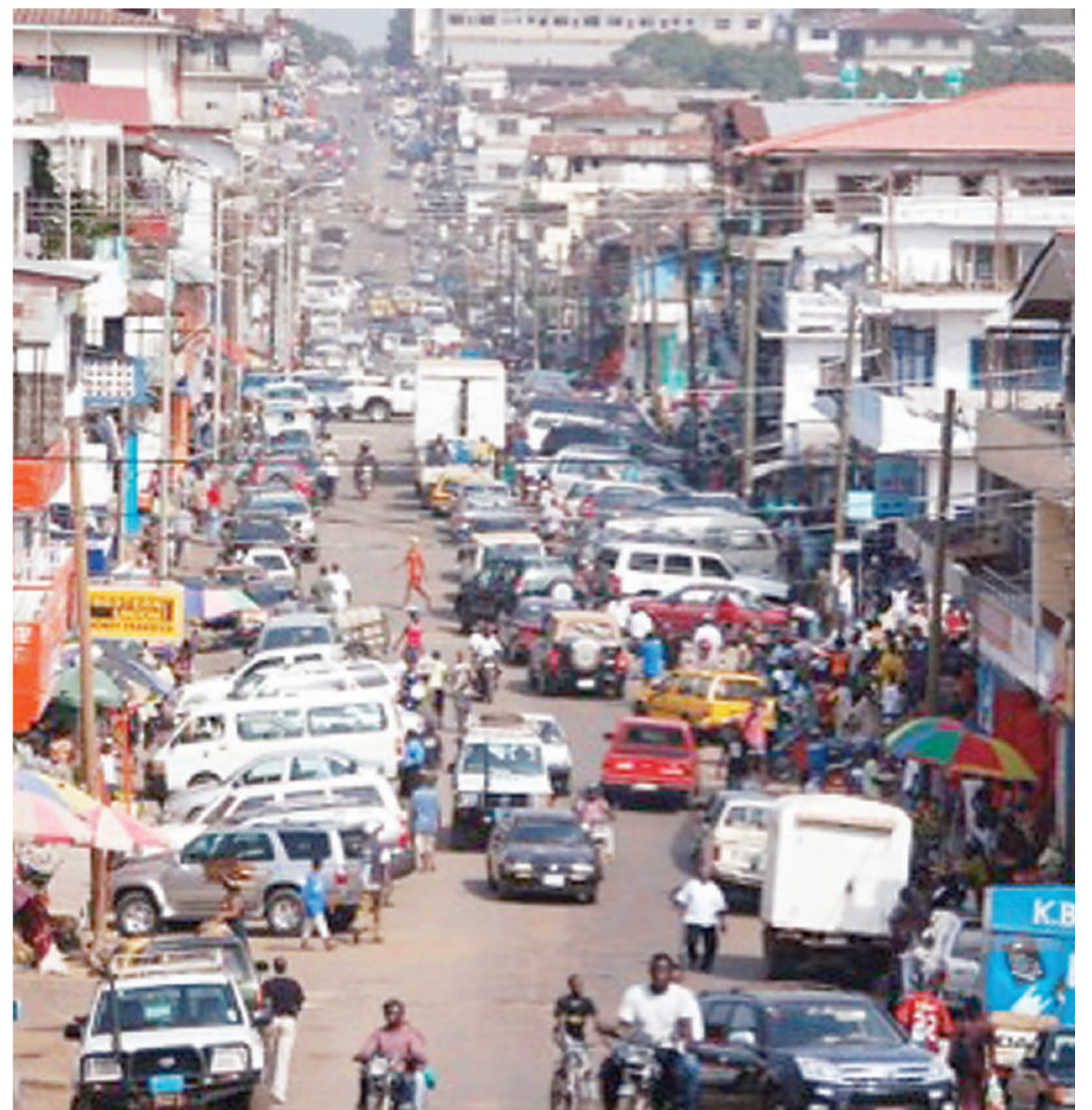
Other sectors or industries are shoe repair shops; retail sale of timber and planks; operation of gas stations; video clubs; operation of taxis; importation or sale of second-hand or used clothing and distribution in Liberia of locally manufactured products.

It also named the importation and sale of used cars (except authorized dealerships, which may deal in certified used vehicles of their make).

The report states that the Investment Act also sets minimum capital investment thresholds for foreign investors in other business activities, industries, and enterprises.

For enterprises owned exclusively by non-Liberians, the Act requires at least USD 500,000 in investment capital.

For foreign investors partnering with Liberians, the Act requires at least USD 300,000 in total capital investment and at least 25 percent aggregate Liberian ownership.



It notes that the Government of Liberia describes the country as "open for business" and supports programs and initiatives to foster commerce, including an ad hoc Business Climate Working Group (BCWG) to improve the investment climate.

During Liberia's National Judicial Conference in June 2021, the report recalls that President George Weah called on the Judiciary to partner with agencies on reforms to improve the investment climate.

It says the BCWG, chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, collaborates with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Liberia Business Registry (LBR), National Investment Commission (NIC), and Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA).

The National Investment Commission (NIC) is Liberia's investment promotion agency. It develops investment strategies, policies, and programs to attract foreign investment and negotiates investment contracts and concessions.

The NIC oversees the implementation of Liberia's 2010 Investment

Act and chairs an ad hoc Inter-Ministerial Concession Committee (IMCC).

In 2021, the report states, the NIC became a member of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) See link (<https://waipa.org/members/>). It also participates in the African Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) Forum.

However, in its executive summary, the report said Liberia offers opportunities for investment, especially in natural resources such as mining, agriculture, fishing, and forestry, but also in more specialized sectors such as energy, telecommunications, tourism, and financial services.

It notes that the economy, which was severely damaged by more than a decade of civil wars that ended in 2003, has been slowly recovering, but Liberia has yet to attain pre-war levels of development.

It states that Liberia's largely commodities-based economy relies heavily on imports even for most basic needs like fuel, clothing, and rice - Liberia's most important staple food.

It says the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many sectors of the economy, which contracted in 2019 and 2020.

"However, the World Bank and IMF expect per capita GDP to return to pre-COVID-19 levels by 2023. Growth will be driven mainly by the mining sector, although structural reforms are also expected to increase activity in agriculture and construction," the report says.

It notes that low human development indicators, expensive and unreliable electricity, poor roads, a lack of reliable internet access (especially outside urban areas), and pervasive government corruption constrain investment and development.

"Most of Liberia lacks reliable power, although efforts to expand access to the electricity grid are ongoing through an extension from the Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant, connection to the West Africa Power Pool, and other internationally supported energy projects."

By Peter Fabricius

Kenya's president-elect William Ruto faces contentious, uncertain road ahead

KENYAN elections inevitably end dramatically. So it was no surprise when fistfights erupted at Nairobi's national tallying centre on Monday. Four out of seven electoral commissioners walked out, 'disowning' the commission chairperson's declaration of Vice-President William Ruto as the narrow winner of the 9 August presidential election.

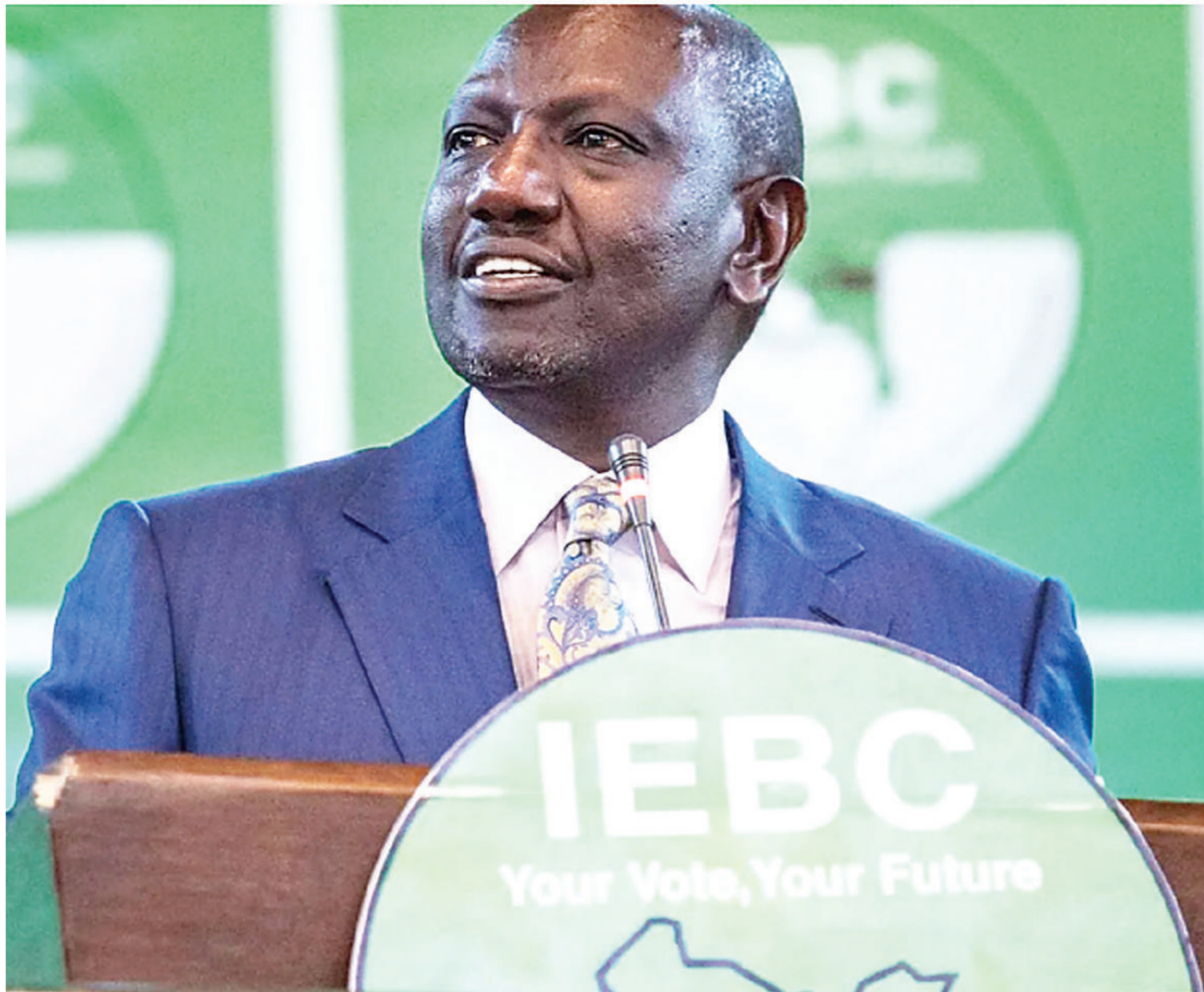
After six days of painstaking counting, Wafula Chebukati, Chairperson of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), announced that Ruto had won with 50.49% of the 14 213 027 votes cast – securing the 50% plus one vote needed to win. (Plus, at least 25% of the vote in at least 24 of the 47 counties – he passed that mark in 39 counties.)

Chebukati said Raila Odinga garnered 48.55% of the votes. The other two candidates received a combined 0.67%. Odinga dismissed the results as "illegal and unconstitutional" because Chebukati had "blatantly disregarded" the constitution and the law. This required the IEBC to make decisions unanimously, or at least by a majority of commissioners, he said, whereas Ruto's win was declared by only three of seven commissioners.

Odinga said he'd ask the Supreme Court to overturn the result. Fortunately, he also asked his supporters to remain calm and peaceful. So far there's been little violence in the wake of the elections – unlike in 2007 when over 1,000 died. One IEBC returning officer did however disappear last week and was later found dead, evidently tortured.

The Supreme Court will need to unpick the legality of Chebukati's decision and Odinga's challenge. But the IEBC chairperson's announcement doesn't appear at odds with the reality of the 9 August voting. The electronic voter registration and transmission system results were carefully cross-checked over six days against paper results from the 46,229 polling stations and 47 county tallying centres. These were shown to all the parties' agents and posted on the IEBC website.

The local Elections Observation Group said its parallel voter tabu-



Kenya's President-elect William Ruto addresses the nation in Nairobi on 15 August 2022.

lation estimates of a random sample of 1,000 polling stations were "consistent with IEBC's official results." And when IEBC Vice-Chairperson Juliana Cherera and her three fellow dissident commissioners revealed on Tuesday why they'd disowned Chebukati's results, their explanation made no sense.

They said the combined percentages for all four candidates announced by Chebukati totalled 100.01%, and the 0.01% discrepancy amounted to 142,130 votes. This could be enough to reduce Ruto's total to below the 50% plus one vote threshold to

avoid a run-off. Yet, as hundreds of Kenyans mockingly reminded Cherera on social media, 0.01% of 14,213,027 is 1,421, not 142,130, and 1,421 votes weren't nearly enough to reduce Ruto's total to below half. The 0.01% was merely a rounding-off error. Chebukati later said that Cherera and the other dissident commissioners tried to pressure him to declare that neither candidate had achieved a majority, so a run-off was needed. He also insisted that as the national returning officer, he wasn't obliged to follow the majority of commissioners.

So it's hard to see how the Supreme Court would uphold Odinga's challenge this time – unlike in 2017 when it annulled president Uhuru Kenyatta's victory over him. That was because IEBC mishandling of the election forced a re-run (which Odinga then boycotted because he said the IEBC had not been reformed in the meantime).

Many Kenyans believe Cherera and Co, appointed by Kenyatta, were doing his bidding. He backed his old rival Odinga in the contest, abandoning his vice-president. So the election was also a defeat for Keny-

atta, who hoped to help instal an ally in State House to look after his interests. Instead, he now has someone in the highest office who probably feels betrayed by him. Kenyatta's own Kikuyu ethnic community largely abandoned him, it seems.

In the Kikuyu heartland of Central Province, "former Kenyatta supporters overwhelmingly backed Ruto over Odinga, despite Kenyatta's support for the latter," said Kenya specialist Nic Cheeseman, democracy professor at the University of Birmingham. The Kikuyu, Kenya's largest ethnic group, were a key swing vote in this election. For the first time, there was no serious Kikuyu candidate on the ballot, so both Ruto and Odinga chose Kikuyus as their running mates.

But Ruto beat Odinga not only in Kirinyaga county, the home of Odinga's would-be vice-president, former justice minister Martha Karua, but also at Kenyatta's own polling station, analysts said. "It was not so much about Karua but about president Kenyatta who many voters in the region felt had betrayed his deputy and instead opted to support his fierce rival Odinga," Kenyan political analyst John Charo told The Africa Report.

Ruto boasted in his victory speech that he had "raised the bar" by campaigning on issues other than ethnic affiliations. He even praised Odinga for doing the same. There was some truth in that. Ruto presented himself as the candidate of the underdog. His catchy slogan about championing 'hustlers' against 'dynasties' – a sharp swipe at Odinga and Kenyatta, both sons of post-independence leaders – seemingly resonated, especially with younger voters struggling to find jobs.

Cheeseman believes economic factors play a big part in elections, especially in these polls. "But there is no doubt that ethnicity continues to be an important factor, though in complex ways, reinforced by other factors such as lived experiences and horizontal inequalities," he said.

"Odinga carried the vast majority of the vote among his Luo community in Nyanza, as did Ruto in his strongholds in the Rift Valley. In other provinces, such as Western and Coast, with no 'homegrown' candidate standing for the presidency, the vote was much more likely to be split."

How might Ruto govern? To his allies, he is energetic and efficient; to his critics, ruthless and corrupt. And though the case has been suspended, he remains indicted by the International Criminal Court for allegedly inciting his supporters to violence after the 2007 poll.

Ruto inherits a divided country and debt reaching 70% of GDP, prompting the African Development Bank to assess Kenya as being at "high risk of debt distress." This is due largely to extravagant projects Kenyatta undertook. Ruto has promised to cut back on such projects and create a more open government.

How much of this will happen – and whether the hustlers will get their hustle or the elite will continue to luxuriate – remains to be seen.

DM

Zimbabwe's monetary authorities battle to prop up currency amid market indiscipline

HARARE

OVER the past three months, the Zimbabwean monetary and fiscal authorities have announced various measures to try to halt the depreciation of the Zimbabwean dollar (ZWL) by curbing speculative activity.

The latest of the measures is the introduction of gold coins into the market on July 25 by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), the country's central bank. According to the RBZ, the coins are an alternative stable investment product for value preservation, which should help to stabilize the exchange rate, and prices to curb inflation.

Announcing his mid-term monetary policy statement last week, RBZ Governor John Mangudya said the central bank was pleased by the uptake of the coins, adding that it plans to release smaller units of gold coins into the market in November this year.

The move is meant to allow ordinary Zimbabweans to buy them since the first coins released last month are exorbitantly priced, he said. The coins entered the market at 1,823.83 U.S. dollars, a figure which is beyond the reach of many.

"Following the successful launch of the gold coins on July 25, 2022, and in response to public demand, the Bank shall introduce and release into the market gold coins in units of a tenth ounce, quarter ounce and half an ounce for sale with effect from mid-November, 2022," said Mangudya.

He said the features, characteristics, sale terms and conditions of the smaller coins shall remain the same as the current trading arrangements of the gold coins in circulation.

The gold coins have liquid asset status, prescribed asset status, can be tradable and used as collateral, and can be bought back. Individuals, domestic corporations including institutional investors are allowed to buy the gold coins in both local and foreign currency while international buyers can only buy the coins in foreign currencies that include the U.S. dollar, South African rand and the British pound.

Fluctuations will be experienced in the U.S. dollar and Zimbabwean dollar prices as a result of the movement in the international price of gold and the exchange rate, Mangudya said. He said the smallest coin, containing just over 3.11 grams of gold, will cost 188.48 U.S. dollars or local currency equivalent at the interbank rate, at one-tenth of the first gold coin released in July.

The coins, also known as the Mosi-Oa-Tunya, which means the Smoke that Thunders in the local language, referring to the Victoria Falls, weigh one troy ounce each with a purity of 22 carats. Mangudya



The file photo taken, on Feb. 8, 2022, shows makeshift markets in Mbare, south of downtown Harare, Zimbabwe. Xinhua

said the actual price of the small gold coin, when it is introduced, will be the world price of gold for one-tenth of a troy ounce plus a 5 percent minting and distribution fee.

The introduction of the gold coins is part of the central bank's measures to tackle the country's currency crisis through exchange rate stabilization.

Mangudya said as of Aug. 10, a total of 4,475 gold coins had been sold, realizing 3.7 billion Zimbabwean dollars (about 10.22 million U.S. dollars), of which 90 percent was paid in local currency and the balance in foreign currency.

"The high demand for the gold coins will assist in mopping up excess liquidity from the market and thus strengthen the demand and enhance the value of the local currency," the central bank governor said. "The Bank shall continue to release additional gold coins into the market on an ongoing basis in line with demand."

Apart from releasing the gold coins, the central bank has been reviewing bank policy rates since the beginning of the year in line with exchange rates in a bid to tame inflation and bolster the Zimbabwean dollar.

The bank policy rate was increased from 60 percent in January 2022 to 80 percent in April and further to 200 percent in June 2022. According to Mangudya, the increase in policy rates and its alignment to the minimum lending rate has gone a long way in reducing speculative borrowing and stabilizing the exchange rate.

The central bank chief noted that the increase in interest rates and the introduction of the gold coins have gone a long way in preserving the value of the local currency, reducing liquidity in the market and reducing foreign currency demand on the parallel market and thus stabilizing the exchange rate and prices.

Persistence Gwanyanya, the economist

and member of the RBZ Monetary Policy Committee, told Xinhua that the gold coins were a policy instrument that the RBZ was using to mop up excess liquidity from the few contractors, institutional investors and pension funds that hold the bulk of the country's excess liquidity that is being used to drive up parallel market activity.

"As you drive demand for the gold coins, the Zimbabwean dollar strengthens. We have started seeing that happening and the Zimbabwean dollar will continue strengthening as the RBZ sucks liquidity from the market and from those with high volumes of local currency," he said.

Gwanyanya said before the injection of the gold coins, the exchange rate on the parallel market had depreciated to 1 USD:850 ZWL but a few weeks after, the rate firmed to around 1 USD:750 ZWL and is continuing to strengthen with rates of 1 USD:600 ZWL-720 ZWL now in the market.

Zimbabwe reintroduced the local currency in 2019 after abandoning it in 2009 when it was hit by hyperinflation.

Confederation of Zimbabwe Retailers President Denford Mutashu told Xinhua that the appetite for gold coins since its introduction was encouraging and the coins were providing much-needed competition to the U.S. dollar.

"The parallel market exchange rate has not only stabilized but came down from 900 ZWL:1 USD to the current average of 650 ZWL:1 USD. Consequently, prices of basic commodities came down with cooking oil prices reducing from an average of 56 U.S. dollars per box to the current average of 50 U.S. dollars per box," Mutashu said.

He, however, expressed concern that sugar prices continued to go up in local currency from an average of 609,000 ZWL per tonne last week to 709,000 ZWL per tonne Monday this week.

"Business should ensure the consumers benefit from the current stability through responsible pricing," he said. Also, to arrest further depreciation of the Zimbabwean dollar, the government has taken steps to review its procurement approach to minimize the practice of forward exchange rate pricing that was being pursued by its suppliers of goods and services.

Mangudya is also upbeat about the monthly inflation outlook, noting that the policy measures they have announced so far have begun to tame inflation.

"As a result of the measures, month-on-month inflation, which had increased to 30.7 percent in June 2022, decelerated to 25.6 percent in July 2022. The exchange rate has also largely stabilized during the month of July 2022 following the implementation of the tight monetary policy measures," he said.

Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said the fiscal side was working very hard to curb speculative activities.

"There is a lot that we are doing and we have made sure that either we are tackling domestic factors or acting on external factors and those together have gone a long way in stabilizing inflation and the exchange rate," he said.

Xinhua

LONDON

PLANS for a high-wage, high-growth economy lie in ruins as Britain's Conservative prime minister struggles to answer a cost-of-living crisis, compounded by rising worker unrest.

GABORONE, Aug. 18 (Xinhua) -- When 45-year-old Zhen Xiaojuan from east China's Fujian Province left to start her business in Botswana some 15 years ago, little did she know her goods would sell beyond the borders of the southern African country.

Haskins Street in Francistown, Botswana's second-largest city, where Zhen's shop is located, has now become one of the most popular streets in the country.

From dawn to dusk, a myriad of Chinese-made products sold in the street attracts scores of citizens and wholesale shoppers from Botswana and neighboring countries, as far as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Lesotho. From clothes, furniture, house fittings and bicycles to electronic items like television sets, radios and mobile phones and motorbikes, the Chinese-made imports have offered Botswana affordable and quality options.

"Chinese-made products have won the hearts of Botswana, Zimbabweans, Zambians and Basotho (citizens of Lesotho). And we are setting up a mini Chinatown here in Francistown," Zhen told Xinhua in an interview, who sells clothes, shoes, duvets, jewelry and beauty products.

A few Chinese businesspeople, mainly from Fujian Province on the east China seaboard, had first started their business ventures in Francistown, about 430 km northeast of Gaborone, Botswana's capital, around 2005. In the following years, however, the Chinese business community has gradually grown in small numbers, she said.

Weng Yongbiao, the chairperson of the Francistown Chinese Chamber of

Botswana's Chinatown showcases growth of China-Africa trade link



Wholesale shoppers are seen by a shop in Haskins Street laden with Chinese products in Francistown, Botswana, on July 28, 2022. Xinhua

Commerce, said at least 70 members have signed up their membership with the chamber.

"But we are expecting more to come to Francistown

to operate businesses. This is being fostered by the ever flourishing China-Botswana bilateral relations," said Weng, adding that the people of Botswana are

friendly and have made it easy for Chinese merchants to use Botswana as a launch pad for Chinese-made products to reach other countries.

China-Africa trade last year reached an all-time high, showing resilience amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the latest data released by the General Administration of Customs of China.

The latest data showed that total bilateral trade between China and Botswana in 2021 reached 428.1 million U.S. dollars, up 32.6 percent year on year, with Botswana exporting 172.6 million dollars of goods to China, up 97.3 percent year on year.

Tafadzwa Mathambo, an economics lecturer at Gaborone University College of Law and Professional Studies, attribute the love for Chinese goods by people of many countries neighboring Botswana to their affordability and quality.

"Chinese brands are embraced because they are affordable and of good quality," said Mathambo, adding that with incomes shrinking for some people and stagnating for others, the Chinese goods are offering good bargains to consumers and jobs to the sellers.

Ellen Zimuto, a Zimbabwean buyer, said she travels to Botswana twice a month to buy goods wholesale for resale in Bulawayo, the second largest city of Zimbabwe, where she owns a shop. "I have created an employment opportunity for three people who work at my shop while I am traveling to buy more goods," said Zimuto.

Besides those working in shops, some locals like Tinny Mthobi have found a niche in food vending just adjacent to the lane of shops owned by the Chinese nationals. She said she serves mostly Zimbabweans and Zambians who come to buy Chinese products with breakfast and lunch.

"I am very grateful to these Chinese because if it was not for them, I would not be able to sell food because our population is too small," she said.

Botswana's population is estimated at 2,346,179, according to the 2022 population and housing census conducted by Statistics Botswana. **Xinhua**

Would early elections resolve Sudan's political crisis?

By Zhong Yin

A foreign journalist who has been living in China for 15 years recently shared a story about Chinese democracy on a TV show.

KHARTOUM, Aug. 18 (Xinhua) -- With the political crisis in Sudan still in deadlock, calls for early elections are raised every now and then as the last solution. However, such calls have provoked a division among different factions and further complicated the already prolonged crisis.

For supporters, they see early elections as an appropriate way to end the current political impasse, while the opponents regard them as merely a "political maneuver."

"It is difficult to reach a consensual political settlement among all parties, but since the crisis must be resolved, early elections can be a suitable solution," Abdul-Raziq Ziyada, a Sudanese political analyst, told Xinhua.

"Each party is entrenched in its position, while the country is suffering from a constitutional vacuum. The crisis, if continued, is not in the interest of any party and has serious consequences," he explained.

"An early election is a democratic tool used when parties fail to agree on a political vision," Ziyada noted.

However, Abdul-Khaliq Mahjoub, another Sudanese political analyst, believed that the so-called early elections were just a "political maneuver" by the ruling military institution in Sudan.

"Under the current circumstances, it is not possible to hold fair, transparent and credible elections," he told Xinhua.

According to Mahjoub, complex procedures are needed for holding the elections, including "meeting constitutional, legal, political and economic requirements, establishing an independent commission, and conducting a population census."

Without all these procedures, "it will be distorted elections that do not comply with international standards, not to mention that it will not be transparent and fair for lack of political consensus," he said.

Mahjoub also highlighted the need for political parties to agree on a mechanism to manage the transitional period before reaching the stage of general elections.

In Sudan, the Forces of Freedom and Change alliance, the coalition which led the popular revolution that toppled former President Omar al-Bashir, have clearly expressed its opposition to early elections.

In contrast, Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan have



Sudan ruler Al-Burhan has suggested the option of early elections if the political parties failed to agree on a common vision for managing the transitional period. File Photo

suggested, on more than one occasion, the option of early elections if the political parties failed to agree on a common vision for managing the transitional period.

Sudan has been suffering a political crisis af-

ter Al-Burhan, also the general commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces, declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, 2021 and dissolved the transitional sovereign council and the government.

Since then, the capital Khartoum and other cities have been witnessing continued protests demanding a return to civilian rule.

Xinhua

RADIO JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Cotton farmers farm themselves into poverty in Zimbabwe - govt

GOKWE, Zimbabwe

FOR many years, Silibaziso Handa has grown cotton on her five hectares of land in Mavhulele village in Zimbabwe's Gokwe South District.

But even at the age of 63, she is still growing the cash crop despite facing poverty.

Widowed and taking care of four orphaned grandchildren, she has made sure to plant cotton each farming season.

Handa has however kept complaining that for all the years she has toiled growing the crop, very little has changed in her life.

Before her husband, Pritchard, died a decade ago, they farmed cotton together.

"Money would come in bits during the time my husband was alive, and we were at least grateful for that. But that money would only buy food and the cotton seeds we needed for the next season," she said.

She claimed there were always excuses from cotton buyers from the Cotton Company of Zimbabwe to buy the white gold.

Handa lost three of her daughters to AIDS, and with her three other daughters married and living in cities with their own families, she has had to remain at her rural homestead in the company of her orphaned grandchildren, whose parents also succumbed to AIDS a few years back.

Aged 17, 18, 20 and 22, for lack of school fees, the grandchildren – all of whom are girls – dropped out of school and now focus more on growing cotton with their grandmother, even as they get next to nothing after selling a couple of cotton bales.

In fact, cotton farmers like Handa and her grandchildren are farming themselves into poverty in this southern African nation, getting zero returns from their sweat at the end of each farming season.

For their growing plight as cotton farmers, many like Handa have had to pin the blame on the local currency preyed on by Zimbabwe's ballooning inflation.

Cotton itself is bought using the local currency, even as it has been rendered almost worthless by inflation, which hovers above



257 per cent in Zimbabwe.

Prior to 2018, when the multi-currency system was in place, a single kilogram of cotton was priced at \$1.42 in 2015 and \$1.51 in 2017.

But that is a thing of the past now, with cotton sold only in Zimbabwe dollars, meaning cotton farmers like Handa have to perpetually battle with poverty with zero benefits from their sweat.

"The money has no value, even if it comes, and this is made worse by payments that often come

late when the local currency would have been chewed away by inflation," said Handa.

At the official exchange rate of about one US dollar to 408 Zimbabwean dollars, a single kilogram of cotton costs between \$0.53 and \$0.68.

Yet as inflation erodes the Zimbabwean dollar, local cotton buyers are said to be vanishing for months on end before availing payments to poor farmers like Handa.

That has meant by the time many cotton farm-

ers like Handa get paid for their cotton deliveries, the money they receive would have lost value.

In Zimbabwe's regions like Gokwe in Midlands Province, even as they earn poorly from selling the white gold, the farmers still cling to growing the crop.

"Many cotton-growing farmers here incur losses on growing cotton. But every farming season, they still go back to growing the crop, even if it may mean they have to borrow the inputs, remaining poor in the process," Mathias Mucherera, a government agricultural extension officer based in Midlands Province, told Anadolu Agency.

As such, as the cotton farmers fall deeper and deeper into poverty, cotton deliveries in Zimbabwe last year jumped to 116,052 tons from 82,479 tons in 2020 following subsidies and increased government support to farmers, according to the Cotton Company of Zimbabwe.

Handa has said she wonders why many of them have descended into poverty when recorded sales of cotton are on the rise in the country.

But recently, with corruption rocking the cotton farming industry, Gokwe Nembudziya legislator Justice Mayor Wadyajena was arrested following a case related to stockpiles of cotton farming inputs which were of late reportedly found stashed at a warehouse linked to him in his constituency.

Ironically, Wadyajena chairs the

Zimbabwe parliament's portfolio committee on land and agriculture.

For Handa and many other cotton farmers here, as politicians like Wadyajena reportedly devour what should be theirs, poverty has become the order of the day.

"It's as if we farm poverty as we insist on growing cotton. Nothing seems to change for me, and I struggle to even buy food and farm inputs despite growing cotton every year," she said.

Yet, said Handa, farmers like herself have had no choice except to keep growing cotton with the hope of earning better returns each season, but the result has been the same every year.

She has to battle it out fending for her four orphaned grandchildren, who still look up to her for support.

Cotton prices have also fallen over the years here, and that has meant that the situation is getting worse and worse for farmers like Handa.

"Cotton is not paying any longer," she said.

In fact, with poor pricing of the white gold here, some cotton farmers, like 68-year-old Eliva Mhere, a resident of Gokwe, are quitting growing the crop, citing poor returns where a kilogram of cotton is now priced way below \$0.50.

"I have stopped growing cotton because it only makes me poorer because of how its prices have kept falling," she said.

Monkeypox cases hit 35,000 in 92 countries, says WHO

GENEVA

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has said monkeypox infections continue to rise globally, with more than 35,000 cases across 92 countries and territories and 12 deaths.

WHO Director General, Dr Adhanom Ghebreyesus, disclosed this while speaking at a news conference from WHO headquarters in Geneva yesterday.

"Almost 7,500 cases were reported last week, a 20 percent increase over the previous week, which was also 20 percent more than the week before," he said.

According to him, the majority of cases are being reported from Europe and the Americas,

and mostly among men who have sex with men.

Ghebreyesus said that the primary focus for all countries must be to ensure they are ready for monkeypox and to stop transmission.

He said countries should focus on stopping monkeypox transmission by using effective public health tools, including enhanced disease surveillance, careful contact tracing, tailored risk communication and community engagement, and risk reduction measures.

Currently, global supplies of monkeypox vaccines are limited, as is data about their effectiveness, noting that WHO is in contact with manufacturers

and with countries and organisations willing to share vaccine doses.

"We remain concerned that the inequitable access to vaccines we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic will be repeated, and that the poorest will continue to be left behind," he said.

Speaking on COVID-19, the WHO chief said COVID-19 deaths had also increased over the last four weeks, rising by 35 percent, with 15,000 lives lost in the past week alone.

"Fifteen thousand deaths a week is completely unacceptable when we have all the tools to prevent infections and save lives.

"Although everyone might be tired of COVID-19 but virus is not tired of us," he said.

Omicron remains the dominant variant, with the BA.5 sub-variant accounting for more than 90 percent of genome sequences shared in the last month.

Ghebreyesus reported that it is becoming harder to understand how the virus might be changing.

The number of sequences shared per week has fallen by 90 percent since the beginning of the year, and the number of countries sharing sequences has also dropped by 75 percent.

He warned that with colder weather approaching in the

northern hemisphere, and people spending more time indoors, the risk for more intense transmissions will only increase.

"But none of us is helpless - please get vaccinated if you are not, and if you need a booster, get one," he advised.

In addition, he said measures such as wearing a mask and avoiding crowds, especially indoors should be embraced.

"There is a lot of talk about learning to live with this virus. But we cannot live with 15,000 deaths a week".

The WHO chief also highlighted the on-going crisis in the Horn of Africa, where millions are facing starvation and disease due to drought, conflict,

climate change and rising prices for food, fuel and fertilizer.

WHO has provided more than \$16 million from an emergency fund to meet the needs, but more support is required.

The agency is appealing for \$123.7 million which will be used to prevent and control outbreaks, treat malnutrition, and provide essential health services as well as medicines.

Ghebreyesus said the drought was compounding the "man-made catastrophe" in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, where war has raged for nearly two years.

Some six million people are under siege by Ethiopian and Eritrean forces, he said, "Sealed

off from the outside world, with no telecommunications, no banking services and very limited electricity and fuel."

According to him, as a result, they are facing multiple outbreaks of malaria, anthrax, cholera, diarrhea and more.

"This unimaginable cruelty must end. The only solution is peace."

He, however, appealed for greater global attention to the situation in Tigray.

"I can tell you that the humanitarian crisis in Tigray is more than in Ukraine, without any exaggeration. And I said it many months ago; maybe the reason is the colour of the skin of the people in Tigray".

Preparations in high gear for 2nd EA regional tourism expo

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) is organising the 2nd EAC Regional Tourism EXPO (EARTE'22) to be held in Burundi's capital-Bujumbura from September 3rd to 30th, 2022.

The EXPO aims to promote EAC as a single tourism destination, provide a platform for tourism service providers' business to business (B2B) engagements, create awareness on tourism investment opportunities and address the challenges affecting the tourism and wildlife sectors in the region.

The theme for the 2022 EXPO is 'Rethinking Tourism for Social Economic Development in the East African Community' that resonates with the United Nations World Tourism Day theme that provoke tourism destinations and stakeholders around the world to remodel tourism following the devastating impact of COVID-19 in the Sector.

Speaking ahead of the EXPO, Christophe Bazivamo, EAC Deputy Secretary General in Charge of Productive and Social Sectors said that there are strong signs of tourism recovery in all the EAC partner states.

"We have noted that the tourism business is coming back and we are confident that by 2024 the region will have fully recovered. We have all it takes including unmatched scenery, abundant wildlife, rich culture and opportunities for business to ensure the region's tourism industry are vibrant," added Bazivamo.

He noted that the upcoming EXPO will undoubtedly play a very instrumental role in tourism recovery as it provides an opportunity for partner states to tell potential travellers from all over the world and within the region.

"All EAC partner states are ready to receive visitors and they can indeed enjoy multi-destination tourism packages," he said.

The EAC official disclosed that preparations by the Burundi national organizing committee with support from the EAC Secretariat and regional steering committee are in high gear and the government of Burundi is committed to ensure that the 2nd EXPO is held successfully.

Bazivamo encouraged all tourism service providers in EAC to take advantage of the EXPO to showcase their offerings and engage with buyers from the region as well as from around the world".

The EXPO will kick-off with registration of Exhibitors and a networking event on 23rd September 2022 followed by three days of exhibitions, seminars and investment forum from September 24th to 26th at Cercle Hippique de Bujumbura grounds and World Tourism Day celebrations on September 27th, 2022.

The hosted buyers comprising international travel agents and travel trade partners will be taken on familiarization trips to different tourism sites in Burundi from September 27th to 30th, 2022.

The 2022 EXPO is expected to attract over 250 exhibitors from over 10 countries, 120 international and regional travel agents and buyers as well as 2500 trade visitors.

The 1st EAC Regional Tourism EXPO was held in Arusha, Tanzania in October 2021 after the decision to have the EXPO an annual event was made by the Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management in July 2021.

About 185 exhibitors participated at the EXPO against the projected 150 exhibitors and the event attracted over



2,700 trade visitors.

The tourism sector is one of the most important areas of cooperation for EAC owing to its contribution to the econo-

mies of partner states in terms of GDP (about 10%), export earnings (17%) and jobs (about 7%).

Its multiplier effect and linkages with

other sectors that are instrumental in our integration such as agriculture, transport and manufacturing are quite immense.

The EAC total annual arrivals reached 6.98 million in 2019. It is projected that the number would increase to about 14.05 million in 2025.

AFRICAN leaders are increasingly aspiring to "modernise" their cities. That is to make them "globally competitive" and "smart". The hope is to strategically position cities in Africa to drive the continent's much-needed socio-economic transformation.

But these aspirations tend to marginalise and antagonise the informal sector. The sector encompasses the suite of economic activities by workers and economic units that are - in law or in practice - not covered (or insufficiently covered) by formal arrangements.

We are a team of international scholars researching sustainable cities in Africa. In our latest paper, we explore the dual role played by the informal sector in Africa's urban economy. On the one hand, it plays a positive role. It provides employment, securing household income and savings, provides household basic needs and boosts civic engagement.

But the sector also plays a negative role. It contributes to social and gender inequality, insecurity, congestion and pollution.

Overall, we found that the informal sector has a lot to offer the future of African cities. We therefore recommend that public policy focuses more on regularising the sector, instead of displacing it. This is often done to make way for elitist big capital projects.

Also, we warn that ignoring or marginalising the millions of people whose livelihoods depend on the sector could spell a social bloodbath on the continent.

The 'smart cities' craze in Africa

There has been a resurgent interest in building so-called "smart", "modern", "globally competitive" cities in Africa. Some are seeking to build entirely new cities. But, for the most part, most governments want to put cities on the "map" through large-scale redevelopment or by "modernising" existing city districts.

African cities have long been blamed for not serving as engines of growth and structural transformation as their counterparts did during Europe's Industrial Revolution. This makes it refreshing that leaders on the continent are seeking to turn things around.

Africa's informal sector has problems, but the answer isn't to marginalise it



African leaders must recognise the enormous potentials of the continent's informal workers and begin to integrate them better into their city-building visions and strategies.

The problem, however, is that these visions of city modernisation tend to heavily marginalise and antagonise the informal sector in their design and execution. Some even have a strong focus on displacing informal workers and activities - particularly hawkers and hawking, slum dwellers and slum settlements - from the central business districts of the cities.

For instance, early this year, the authorities in Nigeria sent a combined team of police, military and other law enforcement officials to destroy a Port Harcourt informal settlement that

housed some 15,000 families.

Their counterparts in Ghana are currently conducting similar exercises.

These decisions are often justified on the grounds that informal workers and their activities generate "congestion", "crime", "filth/grime", and "disorderliness".

In other words, they impede sustainable city-making, and hence, must be eradicated.

But is this premise backed by the evidence? This is the question our team recently interrogated.

We conclude that the informal sector is rather the goose laying Africa's golden

eggs.

Unpacking the data

We argue in our paper that African leaders must re-think the informal sector as a potential site for innovation and solutions.

Consider its employment creation potential for instance. In 2018, a study by the International Labour Organization (ILO) found that the informal sector employs some 89.2% of the total labour force in sub-Saharan Africa if agriculture is included.

Even without agriculture, the share of informal employment is still significant:

76.8% in central Africa, without agriculture, the sector's share of employment hovered at 78.8% and 91% with agriculture. In east Africa, the contributions stood at 76.6% without agriculture and 91.6% with agriculture. The figures for southern and western Africa hovered around 36.1% and 87% without agriculture and 40.2% and 92.4% when agriculture is included.

The informal sector also makes other important contributions to Africa's economy. In 2000, the gross value additions of Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo's informal sector (including agriculture) hovered around 71.6%, 55.8%, 51.5%, and 72.5% of the countries' total GDPs.

The sector's contribution to housing too is substantial. The most notable form of informal housing, popularly called "slums", provide accommodation to millions of urban dwellers on the continent.

The United Nations' data suggest that Nigeria's share of urban population that are accommodated in slums as of 2015 stood at 50.2%. That of Ethiopia was 73.9%; Uganda's 53.6%; Tanzania's 50.7%. Ghana and Rwanda's hovered around 37.9% and 53.2%, respectively.

Clearly, the informal sector oils Africa's urban economy in many important ways. This makes it highly unlikely that any visions of transforming lives on the continent can succeed without taking the sector into adequate account.

More importantly, the millions of working-class people whose lives depend on the sector have shown consistently that they won't take their continuing marginalisation lying down. They frequently resist eviction orders.

Perhaps, their most profound moment of resistance was witnessed at the height of the COVID pandemic.

Many African governments imposed

lockdowns to limit community transmission of the virus. However, after subjecting informal workers to extensive brutalities, they still refused to comply, forcing many governments to suspend the lockdowns. The pandemic has shown that the continuing systematic marginalisation of informal workers in city-making heralds more trouble for the future.

Informality at the heart of city-making

The issue is not that city authorities must allow informal workers and activities to go unchecked. They clearly have a responsibility to deal with the problems in the sector to ensure the security and health of the public. This includes the informal workers themselves.

The problem with current approaches is that they largely dispossess the workers and displace them to make way for big capital projects which serve the needs of a privileged few.

African leaders must recognise the enormous potentials of the continent's informal workers and begin to integrate them better into their city-building visions and strategies.

The recent integration of informal waste collectors/recyclers - popularly called Zabbaleen - in waste management in Cairo, Egypt's capital, offers great lessons.

The Zabbaleen had long been neglected for so-called "formal" private companies which, however, continued to prove inefficient and structurally unable to navigate the narrow streets of several neighbourhoods of Cairo.

When Cairo authorities finally recognised that the Zabbaleen are better suited for the job, they changed course and brought them onboard. The emerging evidence suggests that the change is paying some fruitful dividends in improved sanitation.

Cairo's progressive example paints a powerful image of how the capabilities of informal workers could be seriously incorporated and integrated into building African cities. Hopefully, more of such interventions will be replicated in other sectors of the continent's urban economy.

IPS

JOHANNESBURG

COVID-19: Scientists warn that it's not over till it's over

AFTER two years of economic and social upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries, including South Africa, have lifted the tough protocols such as lockdowns, the mandatory wearing of masks and social distancing.

COVID fatigue, the global economic bloodbath, devastating social and mental health impacts, and the hope that large-scale vaccinations provided sufficient herd immunity, persuaded these governments to lift the suffocating protocols.

But experts warn that we should not be lulled into a false sense of security.

According to the Statista Research Service, outbreaks of COVID-19 continue to be confirmed in almost every country in the world. The virus has infected nearly 566 million people worldwide, with the number of deaths at almost 6.4 million. The most severely affected countries include the US, India, Brazil, France and Germany.

Thankfully, the deadly Delta variant is no longer a significant threat. The emergence of Omicron, which is more easily transmitted, has raised concern among scientists because it constantly mutates, as evident from its swift evolution from the BA.2 lineage to Omicron.B4 and B5.

Dr Waasila Jassat of the South African National Institute

for Communicable Diseases (NICD) says that South Africa has a high number of Omicron cases but fortunately experienced only a small rise in hospitalisations and deaths during its BA.4 and BA.5 wave. Quoted in the scientific journal Nature, she warns that older adults are still at high risk and that the new strains are more immune to vaccinations.

A panel of experts at a recent webinar in Johannesburg, titled: "Is COVID 19 over? Or is it still lurking in the shadows? An African response to the pandemic", expressed concern at the unknowns related to the mutating nature of Omicron.

They reviewed the devastating impact of the lockdown measures, the lessons learnt from our handling of the pandemic, and explored alternate and less drastic ways to deal with future pandemics.

Psychiatrist Dr Surendran Pillay said the pandemic had led to an increase in mental health problems, including depression and anxiety, resulting not only from the illness and deaths but also from job losses and economic fallout.

"The other complication that has to be managed is the associated increase in poverty that comes with COVID. Africa is not the wealthiest region. With COVID coming, we are not giving attention to people's other needs. We can't neglect communities' needs because the anxieties and psychiatric aspect of the lack of food or lack of housing or other eco-

nom complications that come from COVID are just as important."

Pillay also speaks of the impact on children.

"We have a whole generation of kids who spent two years behind masks, and important stages in their lives like recognising facial expressions were lost for them."

Dr Samantha Potgieter, an expert on infectious diseases from the University of the Free State, says there's hope that future pandemics will be better managed due to the lessons learnt this time.

"Unfortunately, we certainly can't say that COVID is over, and if I were to guess what the future holds, I think the hope is that as repeated infections occur and vaccine boosters are fine-tuned, we will continue to see waves of the disease but with less and less disruption of our lives."

The role of the media also came under scrutiny. Ogechi Ekeanyawu, the Sub-Saharan regional editor of the African Science podcast, speaks about the critical role of the media in disseminating "credible and scientifically backed" information about vaccines and treatment during a pandemic.

In the era of social media, "where anyone can come with a camera or any text that they like to put out," she says, "it is important that all information is verified and authentic".

"We're looking at the science, listening to the scientists,

making sure that they have a larger voice; so, sort of centring their voices in our reports so that we are not misinformed at any point in time."

She also notes that the media had ignored monkeypox, which the World Health Organization recently declared a public health emergency until it spread to Europe and other developed countries.

"It has always existed here, particularly in West Africa in countries like Congo and Nigeria, but all of a sudden, it is now a global concern, and people are now talking about research. Monkeypox existed all the while here, and there was no spotlight on it."

Dr Subshnee Munien, an environmental scientist, warns that even if COVID ends, infectious diseases and pandemics are "going to be more frequent than we'd like to believe".

She says COVID has devastated the poorest of the poor and exposed "what needs to be done for us to be better prepared for the next infectious event."

The message was clear: "This is no time for complacency; we need to learn from our experience of COVID to be able to deal with future pandemics in a more constructive and less disruptive way.

IPS



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
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Oil price set for weekly loss over economic slowdown

TEXAS

Oil is heading for a weekly loss as lingering concerns over an economic slowdown overshadowed signs of improving US demand.

West Texas Intermediate futures dropped below \$90 a barrel on Friday and are down more than 2 percent for the week after another period of choppy trading.

While US gasoline demand has picked up after pump prices tumbled, concerns about weakening economic growth continue to hang over the market.

Oil has given up all of the gains put on after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and hit the lowest level in more than six months earlier this week before clawing back some losses.

Traders are also watching for any progress on the Iranian nuclear deal, which could lead to more crude flows from the OPEC producer.

"Although weaker demand growth has eased supply concerns, limited spare oil production capacity is a concern for the rest of this year and 2023," said Victor Shum, vice president of energy consulting at S&P Global Commodity Insights. Higher Iranian ex-

ports, weaker Chinese demand, or severe changes to Russian flows could alter the balance and lead to a sharp shift in prices, he added.

The market will also be digesting mixed policy signals from Federal Reserve officials on interest rates. St. Louis's James Bullard urged another 75 basis-point move while Kansas City's Esther George struck a more cautious tone, saying the pace of hikes is up for debate. The dollar has also strengthened this week, adding to headwinds for commodities.

The gap between prompt Brent crude futures and the second month contract -- a measure of the market's reading of near term supply and demand tightness -- has narrowed significantly recently.

The spread was 87 cents a barrel in backwardation, compared with \$2.08 at the start of the month.

The new OPEC Secretary-General, Haitham Al-Ghais, said this week that global demand was healthy enough to absorb any additional flows from Iran should the deal come to fruition.

He added that markets face a supply squeeze and spare production capacity is dwindling.

Oil Poised to Eke Out Weekly Loss

WTI whipsawed by economic slowdown concerns, better US demand



Tanzania minerals production see increase amid global crisis

By Francis Kajubi

PRODUCTION of minerals has continued to expand in Tanzania, making the mining sector vibrant amid ongoing global crisis caused by Covid-19 and Russia war with Ukraine.

Figures from the highlights on the national accounts performance for the first quarter of this year by the National Bureau of statistics (NBS) shows production of minerals such as diamond, coal and silver increased in the quarter ending March 2022.

NBS figures show that diamond production had increased to 115,784 carats during the first quarter of this year up from 3,571 carats as of March 2021.

Mining and quarrying activities increased by 8.5 percent in the first quarter ending March

2022 compared to 9 percent growth observed in the similar quarter ending March 2021.

"The growth was mainly attributed to an increase in production of diamond and coal among other minerals," reads the NBS highlights.

During the period under review, NBS figures show that coal production increased to 452,071 tons up from 190,932 tons, translating into growth of 57.76 percent.

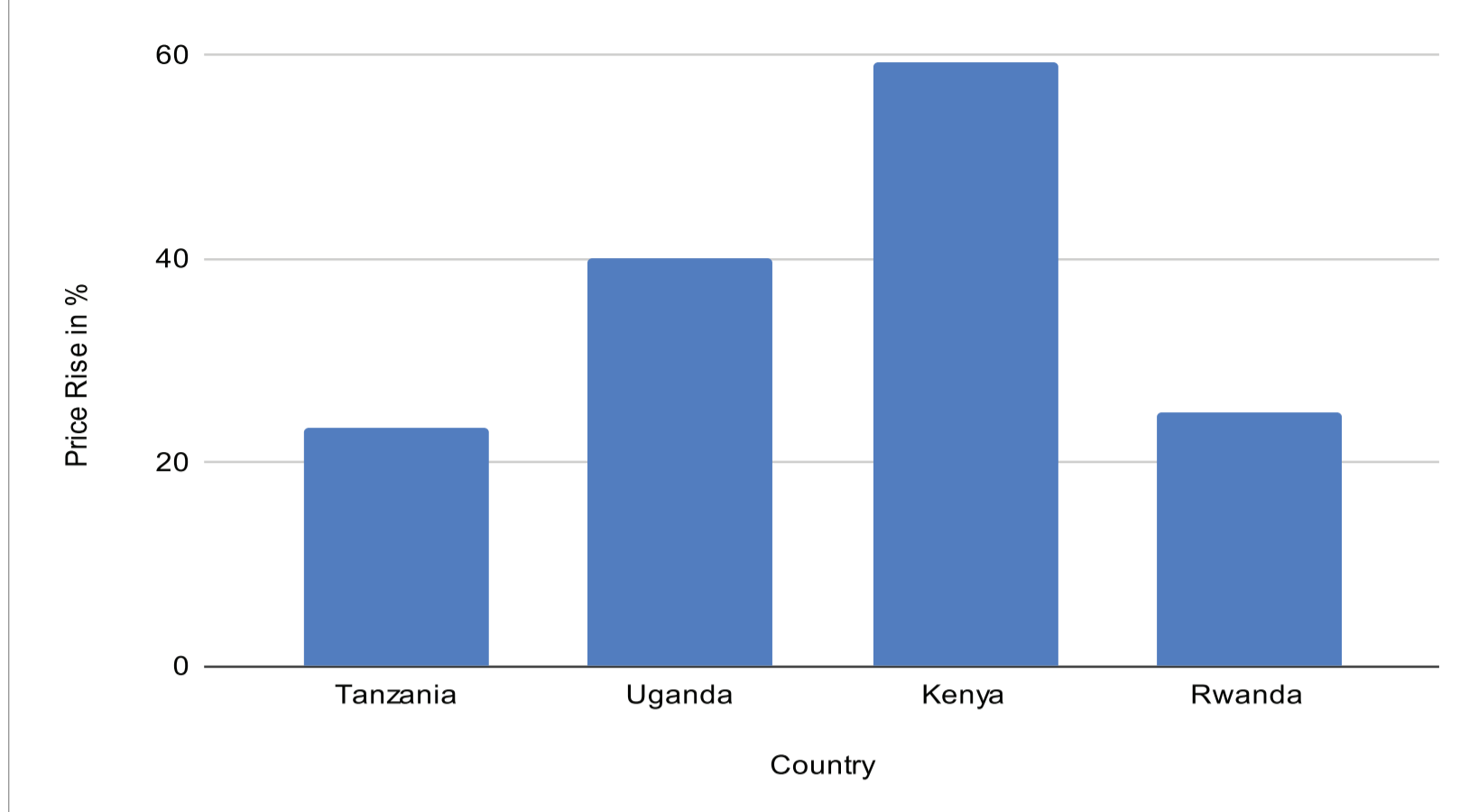
Silver production had bounced to 3,037 tons during the reviewed quarter up from 629 tons the corresponding period in 2021. Silver production stood at 3,128 tons in 2020.

BoT states that value for mineral exports grew to \$425million the year ending March 2022 up from \$406million the corresponding period 2021.



"The growth was mainly attributed to an increase in production of diamond and coal among other minerals," reads the NBS highlights.

MAIZE PRICE TRENDS IN EA APRIL-JULY 2022



Tanzania records lowest maize prices growth in April-July in EA

By Guardian Reporter

Food commodity prices in Tanzania recorded upward trends during the second quarter and July, with price of maize jumping by 23.40 percent, the lowest among East African countries.

According to Africa Food Trade and Resilience Initiative (AFTRI) price and policy by weekly monitor report published this week, Tanzanian consumers spent less extra amount in obtaining maize and maize flour than Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda consumers.

The report shows the increase of maize commodity price in Uganda during the reported period was 40 percent, while in Kenya and Rwanda were 59.2 percent

and 25 percent respectively.

The report shows the maize price in Tanzania grew to 78,300/- per 100 kilogramme in June from 63,450/- in April. On monthly basis between May and June, the price jumped by 10 percent.

However, reports from markets have shown that the price of maize is currently ranging from 90,000/- to 120,000/- in different regions.

In Uganda, the report shows the price of maize jumped to Ush1,656.3 per kilo in June from Ush1,382 per kilo in April, which is 40 percent.

The price of maize meal/flour in Uganda also increased by 45 percent during the reviewed period as data shows one kilo was sold at Ush2,691 in June from

Ush2,388 in April. The prices continued to rise to Ush3,144 by July 15, according to the report.

"This could be attributed to low yields as a result of poor weather conditions across most production areas at the critical stages of the maize crop, creating food shortage in these sub-regions," AFTRI says.

In Kenya, the price of maize also experienced similar trends after increasing to Ksh62 per kilo in June from Ksh49 per kilo in April. By July 15 this year, the report shows one kilo of maize jumped to Ksh78, which is an increase of 59 percent.

This experienced amid the government of Kenya (GoK) suspension of all levies on the importation of maize for three months effective 1st July 2022.

The Kenyan government has also announced a four-week subsidy programme to bring the price of sifted maize flour prices to Ksh100, which stabilized prices.

However Kenyan agriculture cabinet secretary Peter Munya announced on August 13 the suspension of maize flour subsidy due to inadequate funds from the treasury.

"Due to inadequate exchequer releases from the National Treasury, it has been decided that, the Maize Flour Subsidy Program be suspended with immediate effect," Mr Munya said.

Last month, Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta announced stimulus measures to cushion Kenyans against the high cost of living, effectively lowering the cost of maize flour.

The Head of State said a 2kilogram-packet of Unga would retail at Sh100 down from an average of Sh225 following talks with millers at State House, Nairobi.

"I note with regret that the cost of a 2 kg pack of maize-meal remains out of reach for many, as it is currently retailing at an average of Sh205," Kenyatta said after a meeting with Millers at State House.

In Rwanda, the report shows the price of maize increased to Rfr500 in July from Rfr400 in April which is 25 percent while those of maize flour increased to Rfr900 from Rfr800 respectively.

"Between the 10 and 24 July period, with maize and maize meal prices rising by 19.9 percent and 5.9 percent respectively," AFTRI says.

Mwalimu Commercial Bank Plc clears 1.3bn losses, earning profit in H1, 2022

By Guardian Reporter

Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Mwalimu Commercial Bank Plc (MCB) recorded a post-tax profit of 6mn/- during the first half of this year, clearing 1.3bn/- losses recorded during similar period of last year.

On quarterly basis the bank earned a profit of 101mn/- during the second quarter of this year from a loss of 403mn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year.

Unaudited bank's financial statement for the second quarter of this year has shown earnings per share also increased to 0.10/- during the first half of this year from a loss of 21.85/- last year.

On quarterly basis earnings per share was 1.63/- in Q2, 2022 from a loss of 6.52/- in Q2, 2021.

According to a statement net interest income increased to 2.3bn/- during the first half of this year from 1.5bn/- in the first half of last year while non-interest income jumped to 1.02bn/- from 279mn/- respectively.

The report shows fees and commission also improved considerably to 939mn/- from 278mn/- respectively while number of employees increased to 60 from 53 in two existing bank's branches.

The bank improved its balance sheet by increasing total assets to 75.5bn/- during the second quarter of this year from 67.8bn/- during the first quarter of this year due to expansion of cash, balance with Bank of Tanzania, interbank loan receivables and lending.

Loans, advances and overdraft in-



Mwalimu Commercial Bank Plc managing director Richard Makungwa speaks at a previous annual general meeting. Others seated are board members. PHOTO/FILE

creased to 49.2bn/- in Q2, 2022 from 45.1bn/- recorded in Q1, 2022 while interbank loan receivables increased to 14bn/- from 11.9bn/- respectively.

The bank's cash also increased during the second quarter to 1.1bn/- from 261mn/- during the first quarter while balance with BoT slightly went up to 5.7bn/- from 5.3bn/- respectively.

However, the bank did not record any investment in government securities during the first two quarters of this year.

Deposits increased to 55.5bn/- during the second quarter of this year from 48.4bn/- during the first quarter while interbank flow items slightly went up to 1.2bn/- from 1bn/- respectively.

The statement shows shareholders fund slightly increased to 15.9bn/- from 15.8bn/- respectively.

Non-performing loans and advances amounted 604mn/- during the second quarter this year from 574mn/- recorded during the first quarter while the rate NPLs to total

gross loan remained low at 1.2 percent from 1.3 percent respectively, far below regulatory benchmark of 5 percent.

Cash provided by operating activities gained from a loss of 1.9bn/- during the first half of last year to a profit of 2.2bn/- during the first half of this year.

The DSE market report on Thursday showed the bank's share price closed at 395/- with a market capitalization of 24.42bn/- and ranked 18th largest out of 28 listed companies.

Locals are fully equipped to participate in implementing energy projects, says CEOrt

By Francis Kajubi

THE CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt) has said Tanzanians firms are fully equipped financially and technologically to grab any emerging opportunity in energy sector projects through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Speaking at a special discussion with the Minister for Energy January Makamba themed 'Driving Private Sector Participation within the Energy Sector' held on Thursday evening in Dar es Salaam, CEOrt Tanzania Chairman David Tarimo, said the 170 members of the business community are well-prepared and ready to take the lead in the ongoing projects planned by the ministry of energy.

"Though there are a few areas among the ongoing ministry's projects that call for full knowledge transfer from foreign expertise; there are areas, such as services and financing that CEOrt can play its role through the local content segment," said Tarimo.

According to him, CEOrt members are ready to take part in projects such as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), upstream offshore gas development project in Lindi and Mtwara

regions and projects related to renewable energies.

"In a time when a global energy transition is in progress, the CEOrt is taking into consideration its impact on emerging opportunities on the continent, as well as investment decisions to be made," he said.

Tarimo said the next phase in Tanzania's energy sector is expected to focus on promoting investment and growth, therefore making private sector leaders a crucial element by relying on their strategic input and participation in unlocking the country's budding potential was important.

Tarimo said the CEOrt was honoured to welcome Makamba to discuss on how to go about the investment opportunities in the energy sector, as he has been encouraging full local private sector participation in the diverse energy value chain.

"Committed to enhanced collaboration with government, the CEOrt looks forward to facilitating this engagement between the minister and private sector leaders to further explore the role of energy in driving a sustainable and prosperous energy future," he added.

On his part Makamba said the min-



CEO Roundtable Tanzania chairman David Tarimo

istry will during the 2022/23 financial year execution embrace the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC and Financing) model with the private sector to play a major role in implementation of Rural Energy Agency (REA) projects.

"There are about 53 projects under the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) that the private sector can participate in under the EPC model. In this regard, the ministry is confident that the CEOrt has all it takes to explore these opportunities.

However, during the financial year the ministry will initiate a special program of supporting small growing energy generation projects by small and medium entrepreneurs with a special dedicated funding worth 2bn/-" said Makamba.

He said the ministry will also during this financial year allocate 500mn/- in research projects related to cleaner and green energy.

He added that this is another area that the ministry needs to work hand in hand with the private sector, and CEOrt in particular.

Germany's Aviareps to open offices in Tanzania and Kenya

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

Aviareps, the international representation, marketing and Communications Company for aviation, tourism, hospitality, and food & beverage brands has announced the opening of new offices in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi in October.

The offices will create a permanent Aviareps presence in Tanzania and Kenya to provide specialized GSA representation services as well as marketing and public relations support, tailored to aviation and tourism brands seeking to expand their market presence in two countries.

"With the international expertise, networks and know-how and a specialized team in place, Aviareps will provide professional support and on the ground expertise to help clients grow in Tanzania and Kenya," said a press release issued by Aviareps.

This move will extend Aviareps international network to 65 offices in 58 countries.

Edgar Lacker, CEO Aviareps: "We are excited to expand our office network in Africa and look forward to offering our GSA, public relations and marketing services in Tanzania and Kenya to our existing and to new clients. We see a huge potential in the markets, especially for the aviation industry."

Aviareps Tanzania and Aviareps Kenya will be run under the regional leadership of Gilles Gosselin, Vice President Africa and General Manager France.

Lacker was quoted saying the positive economic developments in Kenya and Tanzania in the last years are opening the doors for tourism to the citizens.

"We expect demand for international travel to increase and see this as a unique opportunity for airlines and destinations to grow in Tanzania and Kenya. I'm sure that many of our international clients and those seeking representation in Tanzania or Kenya will take the opportunity to grow with Aviareps in these markets," he noted.

Kenya and Tanzania are

both among the African countries with the fastest growing and most developed economies. Tanzania had an average real GDP growth rate of 6.3 percent over the past decade (2010-2019).



"Over the past decade, Kenya has made significant political and economic reforms that have contributed to sustained economic growth, social development, and political stability gains, with successful established a diverse and dynamic economy," it said.

In 2021, Tanzania economy grew by 4.3 percent and reached \$67.8 billion and in 2020 marked an important milestone for Tanzania, when it formally graduated from low-income country to lower-middle-income country status.

The most important airports in Tanzania are Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, served by 20 airlines, Kilimanjaro International Airport in Arusha, served by 13 airlines, and Abeid Amani Karume International Air -

port in Zanzibar, served by 8 airlines.

"Over the past decade, Kenya has made significant political and economic reforms that have contributed to sustained economic growth, social development, and political stability gains, with successful established a diverse and dynamic economy," it said.

Between 2010 and 2018, Kenya had an annual average GDP growth of 5.9 percent and reached a GDP of \$110 billion in 2021.

Though Kenya's economy was severely disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, it has staged a strong recovery, according to the World Bank.

Kenya's largest airport is Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, served by 39 airlines, followed by Mombasa Moi International Airport in Mombasa, served by 9 airlines.



NBC Bank head of products and sales Abel Kaseko (2nd L) announces winners of the deposits mobilisation campaign draw. Others (from - L) are a representative of the Tanzania Gaming Board Elibariki Sengasenga, NBC marketing manager Alina Kimaryo and NBC head of public relations Godwin Semuny PHOTO/COURTESY

NBC Bank announces four winners of deposits mobilisation campaign draw

By Guardian Correspondent

NBC Bank has announced four winners of deposit mobilization campaign draw, who will have a chance to travel to Qatar to witness the early stages of the 2022 FIFA World Cup tournament, which expected to start in November.

The winners including Abdallah Tangarisi from Singida, Victor George Mwafunga from Dar es Salaam, Colonel Leonard Hinju from Songea and Mpoki

Wamakimbika from Mbeya were announced mid this week in Dar es Salaam during the raffle draw.

NBC Bank head of products and sales Abel Kaseko said during announcing the winners that the savings mobilization campaign, which started in April this year, aimed at promoting savings culture among Tanzanians.

However, Kaseko said the draw was planned to be held in October, but was conducted this week due to logistics arrangement, as Federation of Inter-

national Football Associations (FIFA) directed the bank to obtain winners before September.

"Due to reasons beyond our control, we have decided to conduct the draw earlier as planned to enable early completion of logistic arrangements for the winners to travel to Qatar in November," he said.

He said the bank will cover all expenses for all four winners of the draw including accommodation, round trip air tickets and other expenses related to their

trip to Qatar.

Kaseko said the winners are expected to depart in Dar es Salaam before the start of the tournament and travel logistic arrangement will start soon.

The draw required NBC Bank customers to grow their deposits regularly from April to September to a balance of 7mn/- for group one whereby two winners have won normal seats at the stadium, and 10mn/- for group two of which two winners have won VIP seats at the stadium.

Ogilvy Africa appoints Ojing as managing partner

By Guardian Reporter

The Leading marketing and communications network, Ogilvy Africa has announced the appointment of George Ojing (pictured) as Managing Partner for its Kenya agency.

He will be responsible for leading the agency's mandate on a sizeable portfolio of its brands, managed from the Nairobi offices. Prior to this appointment, George has run a successful consulting firm as founder and CEO, advising MSMEs and Development Partners on their marketing and digital transformation goals.

He has extensive marketing experience having held various positions and roles in Media Planning, Account Management, Business Development, Strategy and Management.

In a career spanning over two

decades, George has run his own consultancy, worked with leading global agency networks such as McCann Worldwide and TBWA, local agencies such as Scanad & Oxygene, and been a part of the Ogilvy group in Africa.

"During his years away from Ogilvy, George has gained new skills and a sharp local perspective. He's a grown-up who's seen various industries and managed companies through various business cycles. The combination of his old skills and new should be an asset to our agency in Kenya as we further strengthen our leadership position on the continent. We are delighted to welcome George back into the Ogilvy Africa family," said Vikas Mehta - CEO, Ogilvy Africa, on the occasion.

This appointment is aligned to Ogilvy Africa's unique oper-



ating model, One Ogilvy, which allows clients and brands to cut through the complexity of agency structures and create a seamless omnichannel experience for their consumers, across touchpoints.

George holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Design from the University of Nairobi and is an alumnus of Strathmore Business School.

On joining Ogilvy Africa, Kenya George said "I am excited to be joining a company with such a strong record of creativity. I am a firm and ardent believer that any individual in marketing and communications should fully live and embrace the spirit of creativity, irrespective of their specific roles. I hope that my people-first approach to leadership and passion for moulding the next generation of marketers will enable us to deliver exciting and impactful growth for our clients."

Ogilvy Africa is the largest network agency on the continent catering to 39 countries with a team of 900 people across Central, East and West Africa.



Aviareps CEO Edgar Lacker

Kenya President-elect inherits KSh500bn of unpaid SMEs bills

NAIROBI

Kenya's new President will inherit more than Ksh500 billion owed to suppliers and contractors by ministries and State agencies in bills that have exposed many small and medium-sized businesses to closures and auctions.

Latest Treasury statistics show pending bills climbed to KSh504.7 billion at the end of the last financial year in June, a 40.39 per cent jump over KSh359.5 billion the previous year, making it the biggest annual jump on record.

Cash-strapped parastatals, including public universities, account for the largest share of the unpaid bills, which is hurting cash flow among suppliers and contractors with State deals.

Many Kenyan small and medium-sized businesses bid for government contracts because the State is the biggest spender in the country.

The arrears have continued to mount amid tough rules requiring payments be made within 60 days of goods or services being supplied.

Surprisingly, half of the KSh145.20 billion new arrears for the last financial year were accrued in the April-June period after Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani directed



President-elect William Ruto addresses his inaugural meeting with Kenya Kwanza leaders at his official residence in Nairobi on August 17, 2022. PHOTO: NMG

State entities to clear verified bills before the year closed in June.

"Continued delays in payment of pending bills to entities that provide goods and services to both national and county governments have affected liquidity and operations of these entities," Mr Yatani warned when he delivered the last Budget Speech of the outgoing Jubilee administration on April 7.

"In a number of cases, this has led to the closure of businesses, affecting the livelihoods of the suppliers."

The late payments are in turn hitting the financial sector, where lenders are saddled with non-performing loans that jumped to new highs in the wake of Covid-19 economic hardships.

The mounting unpaid bills largely by cash-strapped parastatals, including public universities, have led to asset seizures by banks, triggering business closures and joblessness.

A large number of business people who have contracts with the government have ended up being blacklisted by credit reference bureaus after falling behind on loan repayments or defaulting, hurting chances of

borrowing in future.

Auctioneers say repossessions among government suppliers had increased in recent years, highlighting the risks of doing business with the State.

The unpaid bills burden is one of the economic headaches in the overflowing in-tray of the incoming president.

"In a number of cases, this has led to the closure of businesses, affecting the livelihoods of the suppliers."

The Association of Public Sector General Suppliers (APSGS) is collecting signatures from members with a view to seeking legal interpretation on how the mounting pending bills will be paid by the new government.

World Bank warns increased food prices would trigger global crisis

By Guardian Correspondent

Record high food prices have triggered a global crisis that will drive millions more into extreme poverty, magnifying hunger and malnutrition, while threatening to erase hard-won gains in development, according to the World Bank's Food Price Index for August.

"The war in Ukraine, supply chain disruptions, and the continued economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic are reversing years of development gains and pushing food prices to all-time highs," it says.

"Rising food prices have a greater impact on people in low- and middle-income countries, since they spend a larger share of their income on food than people in high-income countries."

Information from between April and July 2022 shows high inflation in almost all low- and middle-income countries; 92.9 percent of low-income countries, 92.7 percent of lower-middle-income countries, and 89 percent of upper-middle-income countries have seen inflation levels above 5 percent, with many experiencing double-digit inflation.

The share of high-income countries with high inflation has also increased sharply, with about 83.3 percent experiencing high food price inflation.

As of August 11, 2022, the Agricultural Price Index was 1 percent higher than two weeks ago. Both maize and wheat prices are

2 percent higher compared to January 2022, while rice prices are about 6 percent higher. Compared to the January 2021 average, maize and wheat price indices are 20 percent higher, while the rice price index is 16 percent lower.

According to the World Bank's April 2022 Commodity Markets Outlook, the war in Ukraine has altered global patterns of trade, production, and consumption of commodities in ways that will keep prices at historically high levels through the end of 2024 exacerbating food insecurity and inflation.

Following the start of the war in Ukraine, trade-related policies imposed by countries have surged.

The global food crisis has been partially made worse by the growing number of food trade restrictions put in place by countries with a goal of increasing domestic supply and reducing prices.

As of August 11, at least 23 countries have implemented 33 food export bans, and at least seven have implemented 11 export-limiting measures.

By June 2022 the number of acute food insecure people - whose access to food in the short term has been restricted to the point that their lives and livelihoods are at risk - increased to 345 million in 82 countries according to WFP.

In addition, WFP and FAO warned that acute food insecurity could worsen in 20 countries or areas during June to September 2022.

AGRA supports Ethiopia to attract investments on crops value chain

ADDIS ABABA

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has provided three documents to officials from the government of Ethiopia in supporting the country in investment prioritization and implementation of three flagship programs.

The statement issued by Agri said the programs are designed to promote local production, marketing and consumption of four critical agricultural items; wheat, rice, oil seeds and animal feed.

The flagship documents have been designed in accordance with the governments' policies to reduce the import of commodities by enhancing local production, which is one of the focus areas of the Government of Ethiopia.

The three flagship documents titled - the National Wheat Flagship program (NWFP), the National Rice Flagship Program (NRFP), and the Oil Seeds and Animal Feed Production Flagship Program (OSAP) will support investment and implementation of the country's vision leading towards food sovereignty and security.

During the event, AGRA also provided three additional knowledge products.

Two books from a market-led integrated value chain development program are focusing on maize, wheat, teff and haricot bean value chains, and a booklet outlining AGRA's experience on targeted secondment of technical experts to the ministry of agriculture.

The knowledge products aim at informing the design of future investments and interventions in the sector.

"The knowledge documents we are handing over today are instrumental to Ethiopia's agricultural development and were requested by the Ministry of Agriculture. AGRA as a demand-driven institution could not be an initiator, rather a supporter" said Hailemariam Dessalegn, the former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and current AGRA Board Chair.

He continued... "The flagship documents are both implementation and resource mobilization tools. AGRA will continue providing the support needed for quick implementation through our existing consortia, which are equipped to enhance integrated delivery of critical services to farmers through the effective coordination of private investments."

Oumer Hussein, the Minister of Agriculture in Ethiopia said, "with increasing urbanization there has been an increase in domestic demand for imported rice in the country".

"The production of these knowledge products, emerging from national and international experiences would enhance our rice development program, and help achieving our aspired goal of reducing imported rice and improving food security," Oumer said.

From the perspectives of wheat, the NWFP responds to the widening gap between production and consumption.

Wheat consumption in the country has grown at the rate of 6% p.a. in the last decade leading to increased reliance on imports. In 2020 alone, Ethiopia imported \$320million worth of wheat.

UZALO

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

TUESDAY 16 Aug	WEDNESDAY 17 Aug	THURSDAY 18 Aug	FRIDAY 19 Aug	SATURDAY 20 Aug	SUNDAY 21 Aug
5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 KUMEKUCHA	6:00 KUMEKUCHA
6:40 KUMEKUCHA	6:40 KUMEKUCHA	6:40 KUMEKUCHA	6:40 KUMEKUCHA	6:40 HABARI	6:40 HABARI
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:00 HABARI	7:00 HABARI
8:00 KUMEKUCHA MICHEZO	8:00 KUMEKUCHA MICHEZO	8:00 KUMEKUCHA MICHEZO	8:00 KUMEKUCHA MICHEZO	7:00 HABARI	7:00 HABARI
8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO	9:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO	9:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO	9:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO	9:00 WATOTO WETU	9:00 WATOTO WETU
9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	10:00 WATOTO WETU	10:00 WATOTO WETU
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Shamba lulu	10:00 Shamba lulu
10:25 Jagina rpt	10:25 Jagina rpt	10:25 Jagina rpt	10:25 Jagina rpt	10:05 Habari za saa	10:05 Habari za saa
10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base	11:00 The Base
11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base	11:00 The Base
11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:05 Habari za saa	11:05 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa
12:30 Afiya ya jamii	12:30 Afiya ya jamii	12:30 Afiya ya jamii	12:30 Afiya ya jamii	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
13:00 Ripoti Maalum	13:00 Ripoti Maalum	13:00 Ripoti Maalum	13:00 Ripoti Maalum	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa
13:40 Shikabamba	13:40 Shikabamba	13:40 Shikabamba	13:40 Shikabamba	13:00 Shamsam rpt	13:00 Shamsam rpt
13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:40 Igizo rpt: Rebeca	13:40 Igizo rpt: Rebeca
14:00 Shikabamba	14:00 Shikabamba	14:00 Shikabamba	14:00 Shikabamba	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa
14:15 Igizo rpt: Rebeca	14:15 Igizo rpt: Rebeca	14:15 Igizo rpt: Rebeca	14:15 Igizo rpt: Rebeca	14:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO	14:00 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO
14:40 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Brela	14:40 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Brela	14:40 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Brela	14:40 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Brela	14:00 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	14:00 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty
14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Habari	14:00 Habari
15:00 Meza Huru	15:00 Meza Huru	15:00 Meza Huru	15:00 Meza Huru	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
16:30 Watoto wetu	16:30 Watoto wetu	16:30 Watoto wetu	16:30 Watoto wetu	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	21:45 Chetu ni chetu	21:45 Chetu ni chetu
17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo
18:00 Mapishi	18:00 Mapishi	18:00 Mapishi	18:00 Mapishi	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari
18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base
19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba		
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF		
21:45 Chetu ni chetu	21:45 Chetu ni chetu	21:45 Chetu ni chetu	21:45 Chetu ni chetu		
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo		
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari		
23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base		
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera		
02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV		

CAPITAL

Tues 16 Aug	Wed 17 Aug	Thurs 18 Aug
06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Lies that Bind	16:00 Series rpt: Lies that Bind	16:00 Series rpt: Lies that Bind
16:30 Capchat rpt	16:30 Capchat rpt	16:30 Capchat rpt
17:00 Meza huru	17:00 Meza huru	17:00 Meza huru
19:30 Innovation	19:30 Innovation	19:30 Innovation
19:30 Our Earth	19:30 Our Earth	19:30 Our Earth
20:00 Series: Lies that Bind	20:00 Series: Lies that Bind	20:00 Series: Lies that Bind
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime	21:30 Capital Prime	21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt	22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt	22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa	22:30 Eco@Africa	22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Strikes bring London's transport network to a halt

LONDON

LONDON'S transport network ground to a halt on Friday as train and bus workers held strikes over pay and conditions, the latest in a summer of labor market disputes as double-digit inflation eats into wages.

All London Underground and Overground train lines were suspended or part suspended and dozens of bus routes in the west of the city were disrupted, Transport for London (TfL) said.

Tens of thousands of workers from the wider national rail network walked out on Thursday and will do so again on Saturday.

Commuters across the country have already endured disruption from rail strikes this year, organized by unions

demanding pay and conditions for their members that better reflect the soaring cost of living caused by energy price-driven inflation.

Data showed inflation at 10.1 percent in July, the highest since February 1982, as rising energy costs resulting from the conflict between Russia and Ukraine hit consumers directly through their household bills, and indirectly through rising food prices.

That has led to a standoff between firms, who say rising costs and falling demand limit their room to negotiate, unions who say their workers cannot afford to live and the government, which is worried that big wage increases may fuel inflation.

"We don't want to be in a 1970s vicious circle where you end up with salaries in-



Platforms at Waterloo Station are closed as members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union (RMT) began fresh nationwide strikes in a bitter dispute over pay, jobs and conditions in London, on Thursday, AP

creasing, inflation increasing and so on and so forth. You never get out of this," Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told the BBC.

The RMT said the underground strike was in response to a lack of assurances about jobs and pensions from TfL. In a letter to Shapps, the union accused him of waging ideological war against rail workers.

TfL is itself in prolonged negotiations with

the government after the expiration of an emergency state funding deal, in part necessitated by a post-pandemic fall in passengers.

Workers in other British industries are also planning future strikes or moving towards industrial action. These include port workers, lawyers, teachers, nurses, firefighters, and waste collection, airport and postal staff.

Agencies

Wang proposes China-Africa community with shared future

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday made a proposal on building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era at a meeting reviewing the progress made in China-Africa cooperation.

In November last year, the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was held in Dakar, Senegal, during which China announced to implement nine programs jointly with African countries, demonstrating its continued commitment to Africa and the sustained momentum of China-Africa cooperation.

At Thursday's coordinators' meeting on the implementation of the outcomes of the 8th ministerial conference held in virtual format, Wang said China and Africa had jointly implemented the outcomes with good progress and brought tangible benefits to the African people.

China and Africa have worked with absolute sincerity to safeguard international fairness and

justice, push forward infrastructural construction to facilitate the industrialization drive of Africa, jointly cope with global food crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, pursue sustainable development through clean energy cooperation and climate change response, and promote regional peace and stability, Wang said.

Noting that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the African Union (AU), Wang said China and Africa should unite more closely to pursue common development and revitalization, and earnestly build a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era.

He then put forward a five-point proposal:

First, both sides should uphold the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and strengthen unity and mutual assistance. China is ready to work with Africa to carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, practice true multilateralism and jointly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

Second, both sides should be



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (second right) chairs the coordinators' meeting on the implementation of the follow-up actions of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in virtual format in Beijing on Thursday. XINHUA

committed to common development. China will continue to take an active role in Africa's major infrastructure construction, continue to increase imports from Africa, support the growth of Africa's agriculture and manufacturing industries, and expand cooperation in emerging industries.

Third, both sides should be committed to independence and jointly promote regional peace. China will continue to support African solutions to Af-

rican issues, oppose external interference in the internal affairs of African countries, and oppose creating confrontations and conflicts in Africa.

Fourth, both sides should uphold traditional friendship and promote people-to-people exchanges. China is ready to overcome difficulties caused by the pandemic and help African students who previously studied in China to return. China supports think tanks, media, non-governmental organizations,

youth and women of both sides to strengthen exchanges and cooperation.

Fifth, both sides should adhere to openness and win-win cooperation to promote the sound development of international cooperation with Africa.

The meeting was attended by Aissata Tall Sall, foreign minister of Senegal, the African co-chair country of the FOCAC, as well as representatives of African sub-regions and the AU Commission, and diplomatic envoys of African countries in China.

They reaffirmed their adherence to the principles of international fairness and justice and non-interference in internal affairs, their adherence to the one-China principle, and their firm support for China's efforts to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The African side is willing to work with China to continue to strengthen the construction of forum mechanisms and promote the continuous upgrading of Africa-China cooperation, according to the African diplomats.

Xinhua

US CDC admits falling short in response to COVID-19

LOS ANGELES

THE chief of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday acknowledged that the agency had failed to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic, and announced plans for extensive changes.

"To be frank, we are responsible for some pretty dramatic, pretty public mistakes, from testing to data to communications," said CDC Director Rochelle Walensky in a video distributed to the agency's roughly 11,000 employees.

"For 75 years, CDC and public health have been preparing for COVID-19, and in our big moment, our performance did not reliably meet expectations," she said in a statement.

"My goal is a new, public health, action-oriented culture at CDC that emphasizes accountability, collaboration, communication and timeliness," she said.

Walensky appointed Mary Wakefield, former deputy health secretary in the Obama



In this April 23, 2020 file photo, a sign is seen by the entrance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. AFP

administration, to lead the efforts for change.

Walensky laid out several organizational changes the CDC will take over the coming months to correct missteps and failures that occurred during the last two and a half years of the pandemic, according to a report

of CNBC, citing a fact sheet.

The organizational changes are focused on sharing data more quickly and making public health guidance easier for people to understand, according to the report.

The CDC is also creating an equity office to make sure the agency's workforce reflects

the US population and better communicates public health guidance across all groups.

The recommendations for change come from an internal review of the CDC's structure, systems and processes that Walensky ordered in April.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDC repeatedly faced criticism for its response, including initial delays in developing coronavirus test, severe eligibility limits to get tested, confusing public health recommendations, and releasing data too slowly.

Some public health experts complained that US briefings on the pandemic relied on data from other countries, such as the United Kingdom and Israel.

Even under the Biden administration, which appointed Walensky to lead the agency, its guidance and decision-making on masking, isolation and quarantine, and booster doses have been repeatedly faulted as slow, opaque and confusing, said a report of The Washington Post. Agencies

UN urges Israel to allow humanitarian workers to remain in Palestine

UNITED NATIONS

ISRAEL should allow human rights and humanitarian organizations to continue their work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the United Nations said on Thursday.

On Thursday morning, Israeli forces broke into, searched and sealed the offices of seven Palestinian human rights and humanitarian organizations in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, the UN News reported.

Their property was confiscated and destroyed and military orders about closing the offices were left at the premises.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Palestine Lynn Hastings said that attempted closures "affect all institutions working to promote human rights and development and are delivering assistance."

The United Nations and its partners take seriously allegations of funding terrorism as well as the Israeli designations of these entities as unlawful and/or terror organizations, according to the UN News.

Despite offers to review the accusations to determine if funds have been diverted, Israeli authorities have not given any compelling evidence to UN agencies nor NGO partners working in the OPT to support these designations. Several member states recently announced that the evidence which was shared with them does not justify the designations.

"The attempted closures of these organization of-fices represent the latest in a series of actions by Israel that are further limiting the ability of human rights, humanitarian and development work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which affect all institutions working to promote human rights, development and delivering assistance," the UN agencies and the Association of International Development Agencies said in a statement.

The statement reiterated a previous one issued November upholding that counter-terrorism legislation must be in accordance with obligations under international law, particularly international humanitarian law and human rights law.

This includes full respect for the rights to freedom of association and expression. It cannot be applied to legitimate human rights and humanitarian work; the breadth of the Israeli 2016 Anti-Terrorism legislation and its impact on the presumption of innocence present serious concerns under international law.

"We urge the government of Israel to refrain from any action that would prevent these organizations from continuing their critical human rights, humanitarian and development work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," the statement concluded.

Xinhua

Russian envoy says US is so hung up on sanctions it doesn't see they failed

WASHINGTON

RUSSIAN Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov on Thursday said the US is so hung up on sanctions that it doesn't see they failed.

"Hung up on restrictions, Washington can't see that its strategy of choice has failed," the embassy's press service quoted him as saying. "It's evident that the attempts to strangle, rip to shreds our economy have failed."

All the US has achieved is a destabilization of the world economy that was already struggling amid the fallout from the pandemic, the ambassador said. "The restrictions backlash at the masterminds of the sanctions madness," he said.

Routine business ties have fallen prey to the US policy of sanctions, he said.

"Another result of Washington's chaotic pileup of meaningless restrictions is that they cause huge costs to businesses and ordinary citizens.

Financial institutions and international companies, intimidated by US regulators, are wary of carrying out routine operations.

It has even come to the point that when the government attempts to explain to firms there are exceptions to the sanctions, namely in the food sector, that doesn't work," he said.

On February 24 Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a special military operation in response to a request for help by the heads of the Donbass republics. The West retaliated to the Russian decision by imposing sweeping sanctions on the country.

Agencies



RESOLVING the Taiwan question and realizing China's complete reunification is a shared aspiration of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation. It is indispensable for the realization of China's rejuvenation. It is also a historic mission of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The CPC, the Chinese government, and the Chinese people have striven for decades to achieve this goal.

Against the backdrop of global changes unseen in a century, China's cause of complete national reunification is facing new challenges. On Aug. 10, the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council and the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China published a white paper titled "The Taiwan Question and China's Reunifi-

Complete reunification of China is an unstoppable trend

cation in the New Era," which reiterated the fact that Taiwan is part of China, demonstrated the resolve of the CPC and the Chinese people and their commitment to national reunification, and emphasized the position and policies of the CPC and the Chinese government in the new era.

The CPC and the Chinese government have the strength and the confidence to deal with complexities and overcome risks and threats, and the ability to take great strides forward on the path to national reunification.

The course the CPC has taken, the achievements it has made and the experience it has accumulated in resolving the Taiwan question and realizing national

reunification have fully demonstrated that the CPC has always been the spine of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation, exercising strong leadership in realizing national rejuvenation and reunification.

After the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the Chinese nation has achieved a historic transformation from standing upright to becoming prosperous and growing in strength, and national rejuvenation is driven by an unstoppable force. This marks a new starting point for reunification.

Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, the CPC and the Chinese govern-

ment have adopted new and innovative measures in relation to Taiwan. They have continued to chart the course of cross-Straits relations, safeguard peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, and promote progress towards national reunification.

"The Taiwan question arose as a result of weakness and chaos in our nation, and it will be resolved as national rejuvenation becomes a reality," said Xi, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. The realization of complete national reunification is driven by the history and culture of the Chinese nation and determined by the momentum towards and circumstances surrounding China's na-

tional rejuvenation.

China's development and progress, and in particular the steady increases in its economic power, technological strength, and national defense capabilities, are an effective curb against separatist activities and interference from external forces. They also provide broad space and great opportunities for cross-Straits exchanges and cooperation.

The CPC has united the Chinese people and led them in embarking on the new journey of building China into a modern socialist country in all respects. The country has many strengths and favorable conditions for further development, and these have become the driving force

for reunification. Never before has China been so close to, confident in, and capable of achieving the goal of national rejuvenation. The same is true when it comes to its goal of complete national reunification.

There is but one China and Taiwan is part of China. This is an indisputable fact supported by history and the law. Taiwan has never been a state; its status as part of China is unalterable.

However, in recent years, the Taiwan authorities, led by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), have redoubled their efforts to divide the country, and some external forces have tried to exploit Taiwan to contain China, prevent the Chinese nation from achieving complete reunification, and halt the process of national rejuvenation.

People's Daily

Russian lawmaker says talks in Lvov didn't guarantee Ukraine will stop 'nuclear blackmail'

MOSCOW

STATE Duma Committee on International Affairs Chairman Leonid Slutsky said the talks of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in Lvov on Thursday didn't provide guarantees that Ukraine will halt a "nuclear blackmail."

"The situation around the Zaporozhye NPP is only heating up. And the talks in Lvov have not yet given clear guarantees of an end to nuclear blackmail from the Ukrainian side," he said.

According to the lawmaker, Kiev "repeats false accusations against Russia like mantras, completely distorting the picture of what is happening today in Zaporozhye."

"In this situation, it's really necessary to compare notes. And quite likely, it could be the format of an extraordinary meeting of the Duma Council," he said. The lawmaker said State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin has indicated that he would discuss with the leaders of parliamentary factions on Monday the possibility of holding that meeting.

Zelensky, Guterres and Erdogan held talks in Lvov on Thursday. It was decided that the UN would support the mission of IAEA inspectors to the Zaporozhye NPP if Moscow and Kiev agreed to the visit. Turkey will help to rebuild Ukraine's infrastructure that was destroyed.

According to statements by the sides, the prospects for the development and settlement of the Ukrainian conflict were discussed at the talks. However, the office of the UN Secretary General said that there's still a long way to go before negotiations to halt the hostilities could start.

Agencies

Rushdie attack suspect pleads not guilty to attempted murder

MAYVILLE, NY

THE man accused of stabbing novelist Salman Rushdie last week in western New York pleaded not guilty to second-degree attempted murder and assault charges on Thursday and was held without bail.

Hadi Matar, 24, is accused of wounding Rushdie, 75, on Friday just before the "The Satanic Verses" author was to deliver a lecture on stage at an educational retreat near Lake Erie. Rushdie was hospitalized with serious injuries in what writers and politicians around the world decried as an attack on the freedom of expression.

Matar was arraigned at the Chautauqua County Courthouse on an indictment returned earlier in the day by a grand jury that charged him with one count of second-degree attempted murder, which carries a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison, and one count of second-degree assault.

He has been in jail since his arrest and wore a gray-striped jumpsuit, a white COVID-19 face mask and his hands were shackled.

Judge David Foley ordered Matar to have no contact with Rushdie and agreed to a request by his defense lawyer to issue a temporary gag order barring the parties from discussing the case in the media. He said he would consider the defense's request to release Matar on bail.

Matar will return for another hearing next month. The attack came 33 years after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then Iran's supreme leader, issued a fatwa, or religious edict, calling on Muslims to assassinate Rushdie a few months after "The Satanic Verses" was published. Some Muslims saw passages about the Prophet Muhammad as blasphemous.

Rushdie, who was born in India to a Muslim Kashmiri family, has lived with a bounty on his head, and spent nine years in hiding under British police protection.

In 1998, Iran's pro-reform government of President Mohammad Khatami distanced itself from the fatwa, saying the threat against Rushdie was over.

But the multimillion-dollar bounty has since grown and the fatwa was never lifted: Khomeini's successor, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was suspended from Twitter in 2019 for saying the fatwa against Rushdie was "irrevocable."

In an interview published by the New York Post on Wednesday, Matar said he respected Khomeini but would not say if he was inspired by the fatwa. He said he had "read a couple of pages" of "The Satanic Verses" and watched YouTube videos of the author.

"I don't like him very much," Matar said of Rushdie, as reported in the Post. "He's someone who attacked Islam, he attacked their beliefs, the belief systems."

Iran's foreign ministry said on Monday that Tehran should not be accused of being involved in the attack. Matar is believed to have acted alone, police have said.

Matar is a Shi'ite Muslim who was born in California to a family from Lebanon.

Prosecutors say he traveled to Chautauqua Institution, a retreat about 19 km from Lake Erie, where he bought a pass to Rushdie's lecture.

Witnesses said there were no obvious security checks at the venue and that Matar did not speak as he attacked the author. He was arrested at the scene by a New York State Police trooper after being wrestled to the ground by audience members.

Rushdie sustained severe injuries in the attack, including nerve damage in his arm, wounds to his liver, and the likely loss of an eye, his agent said. But his condition has been improving since the weekend, and he was taken off a ventilator.

Agencies

Drought-hit Europe sees impacts on people's livelihoods

LELYSTAD

VIEWED from the sky, the Afsluitdijk is like a long wall running 32 kilometers straight through the sea, defending Lake IJssel, the largest freshwater lake in the Netherlands, from the intrusion of seawater.

With a long drought this summer, the iconic Dutch flood control project, consisting of a major dam and a causeway, has kept its flood gates closed to prevent fresh water from flowing into the sea and help Lake IJssel maintain its water level.

For hundreds of years, flooding has always been a problem for the Dutch people, who have built infrastructures including dams and dykes to protect some 55 percent flood-prone areas in the country.

In recent years, however, the Netherlands has been experiencing extreme drought due to climate change, and water shortage is becoming a new challenge for the "land of water."

This summer, the Netherlands has once again encountered an extreme drought, with the water level of inland rivers and lakes declining to historical lows. Agriculture, shipping and nature are particularly affected.

Besides imposing restrictions on farmland irrigation in some areas, the Dutch government has called on the public to save water, suggesting less car washing, less watering of flowers, and less bathing, etc.

At the same time, similar scenes of drought and water scarcity have occurred in some other European countries.

Ildiko Fonyodi, a 43-year-old Hungarian horse riding trainer, had to quit her job at an equestrian center in the suburb of Budapest after the owners chose to close it because the drought had made the expenses unaffordable.

Her income was cut in half as she had to leave her students



Photo taken on Aug. 17, 2022 shows a view of the artificial Broc lake near Nice, Alpes-Maritimes, southern France. Xinhua

and 20 horses.

"Horses need hay and straw on a daily basis, but because of the aridity, it has become a very scarce and expensive commodity," she explained to Xinhua.

"The wells of the center have also dried off, so after the practices, we cannot water the horses anymore. These are expensive and sensitive animals, worth tens of thousands of euros each, and we can only go through them with wet sponges," she added.

In Slovenia, water-saving measures have been taken since early July, including restrictions on beach showers, lawn watering, car washes, swimming pool filling and private yard flushing.

By mid-July, restrictions were ex-

tended to agricultural irrigation and industrial water use. Recently, the hydropower station on the Soca River in the west of the country was forced to shut down twice due to low water level, affecting production and residents' use of electricity.

In Belgium, 18 cities in the southern French-speaking Wallonia region have also imposed water restrictions, with another five cities closely monitoring the situation. In Spain, some supermarkets have started rationing ice cubes, and several supermarket chains have limited customers to two bags of ice per person.

Climate experts point out that climate change is behind the current extreme drought in Europe.

Friederike Otto, a climatologist who works as a senior lecturer at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London, said global warming is responsible for the increase in droughts in many parts of Europe, especially the Mediterranean.

Dutch water expert Martin Drenth told Xinhua that the general trend in the future is that there will be more and regular droughts in Europe.

Mike Rivington, senior scientist at the James Hutton Institute in Britain, said the drought is "a warning sign" that water needs to be taken more seriously because of its impact on nature's ability to function and provide society with the necessities of life.

The European Commission said in its Drought in Europe report in July that while drought mitigation strategies are of the utmost importance now, so is tackling the root cause of the problem: climate change and its disruption of the planet's water cycle.

"Further efforts are needed also for preventively adapting to the changing weather patterns by climate-proofing energy supply and applying sustainable solutions in agriculture," said the report.

Xinhua

China launches first terrestrial ecosystem carbon monitoring satellite

CHINA recently successfully launched a terrestrial ecosystem carbon monitoring satellite from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.

Named "Goumang," the satellite is expected to provide remote sensing services and improve the efficiency and accuracy of carbon sink measurement, providing important support for the country's efforts to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

As a scientific research satellite under the framework of China's medium and long-term development plan of national civilian space infrastructure, Goumang will operate in a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 506 kilometers, inclined 97.4 degrees, according to Cao Haiyi, chief designer of Goumang.

The satellite is able to detect and measure such factors as vegetation biomass, atmospheric aerosol and chlorophyll fluorescence through comprehensive remote sensing means, including laser, multi-angle, multi-spectral, hyperspectral, and polarization. The satellite can provide a wide variety of services, such as monitoring carbon in the terrestrial ecosystem, surveying and monitoring terrestrial ecology and resources, monitoring and evaluating major environmental protection projects, monitoring the atmospheric environment, and obtaining data about the effect of aerosols on climate change.

Moreover, the satellite will also meet the needs for the determination of vertical control points, disaster monitoring and evaluation, and agricultural forecasting. It will significantly boost quantitative land remote sensing in China.

The satellite can obtain information about global forest carbon sinks through both active and passive remote sensing. This will help enhance the country's capability to monitor and measure carbon sinks in various ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, wetlands and desertified land. Equipped with payloads including laser radar, multi-angle and multi-spectral camera, hyperspectral detector and polarization imager, Goumang can monitor key data on carbon sink capacity of forests, including plant height, vegetation coverage, chlorophyll fluorescence, and PM2.5 concentrations, helping improve the efficiency and accuracy of carbon sink measurement. The multi-beam laser radar enables the satellite to measure the height of



A terrestrial ecosystem carbon monitoring satellite, named "Goumang," is sent into orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province. (China National Space Administration/Zheng Taotao)

a tree by calculating the difference between the time when the laser beams scan the crown of the tree and the time when the laser beams scan the ground.

Through statistical analysis and application tests, the research and development (R&D) team has managed to use five laser devices on the radar to emit laser beams 200 times in one second, eventually shortening the distance between two objects to be monitored from several thousand meters to several hundred meters and significantly improving the accuracy of plant height measurement.

The satellite has five multi-spectral cameras, which can help monitor the Earth from five angles. This enables the satellite to accurately measure vegetation coverage and the density of forests. The five multi-spectral cameras can help the satellite create a three-dimensional map with high accuracy of the distribution of vegetation in the area monitored by the satellite.

The satellite's ability to accurately map the distribution of chlorophyll fluorescence offers important support for the efficient and precise measurement of carbon sinks. To improve the accuracy of detecting the spectrum of chlorophyll fluorescence, which emits only a very small amount of energy, a hyperspectral detector has been installed in the satellite and the theory of grating spectrometer has been applied, which increased the spectral

resolution by tenfold, enabling the device to detect even the most subtle change in daylight intensity.

In order to remove the atmospheric effects, a polarization imager has been installed on the satellite, which is able to detect PM2.5 concentrations from 35 angles and obtain information about horizontal PM2.5 concentrations.

In addition, the satellite is also equipped with a laser radar, which can help monitor longitudinal PM2.5 concentrations. These two payloads enable the satellite to provide information about PM2.5 concentrations from three dimensions, guaranteeing a higher level of accuracy for atmospheric correction.

The launch of Goumang marked the 430th mission of the Long March rocket family. Also launched on the same rocket were two small satellites, namely the Jiaotong 4 and the Minhang Youth.

The Jiaotong 4 will be used to collect information about ship movements and flight statuses around the globe, as well as information about the global Internet of Things (IoT). The Minhang Youth, which is designated as a platform for young students to partake in space science research and engineering practice activities, including satellite design, satellite R&D, satellite payloads, and satellite launch, will carry out applied scientific research on space-Earth integrated carbon source monitoring.

People's Daily

DPRK criticises ROK president after aid offer

SEOUL

KIM YO-JONG, sister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's leader Kim Jong-un, said yesterday that the president of the Republic of Korea should stop "talking nonsense" after he reiterated that his country was willing to provide economic aid in return for nuclear disarmament.

Her comments mark the first time a senior DPRK official has commented directly on what ROK President Yoon Suk-yeol has called an "audacious" plan - first proposed in May and which he talked about again on Wednesday at a news conference to mark his first 100 days in office.

"It would have been more favorable for his image to shut his mouth, rather than talking nonsense as he had nothing better to say," Kim Yo-jong said in a statement.

According to state news agency KCNA, she called Yoon "really simple and still childish" to think that he could trade economic cooperation for the DPRK's honour and nuclear weapons. "No one barters its destiny for corn cake."

Kwon Young-se, the ROK unification minister who handles relations with the DPRK, expressed regret over Kim Yo-jong's slamming of the ROK leader and rejection of Seoul's proposal.

"I express deep regret over Kim Yo-jong's very disrespectful and indecent criticism of our president," Kwon told a parliamentary

session.

While Yoon has said he is willing to provide phased economic aid to the DPRK if it ended nuclear weapons development and began denuclearisation, he has also pushed to increase the ROK's military deterrence against the DPRK. The ROK has resumed long-suspended joint drills with the United States, including major field exercises due to begin next week.

On Wednesday, a US State Department spokesman said Washington supports Yoon's policies, but Kim said the joint drills show that the allies' talk of diplomacy is insincere.

"We make it clear that we will not sit face to face with him," she said of Yoon.

Experts say the ROK's latest economic plan is similar to proposals by previous leaders, including those during the summits between the then-US President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un.

"Yoon's initiative adds to a long list of failed offers involving South Korea promises to provide economic benefits to North Korea ... These were the same assumptions that were behind a succession of failed efforts to jump-start denuclearisation talks," Scott Snyder, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank, said in a blog post on Thursday, referring to the DPRK as North Korea and the ROK as South Korea.

Agencies



President Yoon Suk-yeol of the Republic of Korea speaks at a news conference to mark his first 100 days in office at the presidential office in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday. AP

Karia challenges Dar outfits, condemns fans' behaviours

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF)'s president Wallace Karia has challenged the country's clubs, Simba SC, Young Africans SC (Yanga), Geita Gold FC, and Azam FC to prepare well for the 2022/23 CAF inter-club competitions which will officially start in September.

CAF announced the schedule for the preliminary games of the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup on Tuesday, with Azam FC getting the chance to start the first round of the Confederation Cup.

Karia has said that Tanzania's clubs should be careful in their preparations to have good participation in CAF inter-club events.

The TFF leader noted: "Clubs need to prepare for continental competitions because there is an increase in competitiveness, I'm sure we have good teams that can fight, so I urge the leaders and players to prepare well."

"Tanzania has had the honour of sending four teams to the continental competitions, to continue to defend these positions, our clubs must fight to reach the top stages," Karia added.

Karia further condemned the tendency of some soccer fans in the country to welcome and cheer foreign teams when they come to the country to play in the continental show-downs' duels against local teams.

"It's good that habits of welcoming and cheering foreign sides stop immediately because we are frustrating our efforts," Karia stressed.

Simba SC will meet Nyasa Big Bullets FC of Malawi while Yanga will meet Zalan FC of South Sudan in the preliminary stage games of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League.

The winner of the game between Simba SC and Nyasa Big Bullets will meet the winner of a clash between Red Arrows FC of Zambia and Primeiro de Agosto of Angola in the second stage before advancing to the group stage.

The winner between Yanga and Zalan FC will meet the winner of a tie between St. George SC of Ethiopia and Al Hilal of Sudan in the second stage before advancing to the group stage.

As for Geita Gold FC, they will meet Hilal Al Sahil of Sudan in the preliminary stage of the CAF Confederation Cup, and the winner of that stage will meet Pyramid FC of Egypt.



Tanzania Football Federation's president, Wallace Karia.

Dar boxer resumes training ahead of international bout

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

TANZANIAN boxer Twaha Kassim has resumed camp to prepare for an international bout that is expected to take place on September 24 in a region that will be announced later.

Kassim was last seen in the ring in March when he came up against Alex Kabangu from DR Congo in Morogoro and won by unanimous decision.

He won points from all of the fight's judges that scored 80-72, 79-73, and 80-72 to see the pugilist emerge victorious in the fight and lay his hands on African Boxing Union (ABU) Super Middleweight title.

The Morogoro native is determined to continue showing his competence in bouts that will have the boxer facing opponents, especially those from abroad. His bout is expected to take place in Mtwara.

Speaking from Morogoro, the 30-year-old said he returned to his training camp at the end of last week hoping to do well in his fight after being out of action for more than five months.

He has said that his mission is to ensure

that he continues to please Tanzanians who have been following him every day as he knocks out other boxers in the ring.

Kassim pointed out: "I will fight an opponent from abroad, when the time comes he will be announced publicly by the promoter of the fight, my fans should not be under any pressure, I am there for them, well prepared to box at my best."

The Orthodox stance boxer revealed: "I am preparing for them, I will not let them down because I'm used to giving them a taste of victory every time I get a chance to step into the ring. I know the value of my nation's flag, I will fight for all Tanzanians."

According to Boxrec, Kassim holds a record of 28 bouts, 19 wins, eight of which were garnered by way of Knockout, eight losses, and one was ruled as a draw.

He began his career on May 25, 2013, at the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro, winning by points against Daniel Koshoja.

The pugilist went on to win eight bouts before losing to compatriot, Idd Pialari of Dar es Salaam, by unanimous decision in 2016 for the vacant World Boxing Federation (WBF) African Welterweight title.

On Premier League readiness and CAF potential in Community Shield derby



Yanga's Congolese attacker, Fiston Mayele, jubilates after scoring against Simba SC in the 2022/23 Premier League's curtain raiser, the Community Shield clash, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. Yanga garnered a 2-1 victory. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

BY CORRESPONDENT JOHN KIMBUTE

CITY giants Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, restored 'respect' from their archrivals Simba SC after having lost pace in the perennial claim to supremacy, in the rival matches with foreign champion clubs for the club days of the two city giants.

Yanga lost 2-0 to Uganda champions Vipers SC, and then Simba SC won by the game margin over Saint George of Ethiopia, a major club in that country.

Broadly apart, it was clear that Simba SC had retained its edge in a match that matters, proving itself.

Quite apart from how the two sides approached the derby, and how this affected their performance, what is surprising is that the often observed rule in top-level competition remained unscathed, enabling Simba SC fans to at least breathe.

It was seen in the club-days encounters that Simba SC won its international friendly while Yanga lost its encounter, reaffirming the rule that the Jangwani Street club has plenty to work upon so that it features sufficiently well in international tournaments.

Still, then the club reaffirmed the now familiar dominance over the Msimbazi Street giants in local competitions, and this sentiment of superiority by an international criterion was at pains to be maintained.

It similarly reinforced the Yanga line of defense that their bad showing in last year's CAF Champions League preliminaries had

more to do with player transfer shenanigans rather than squad depth.

It spreads the belief among the fan base that repeated wins over their age-old rivals were a CAF sign.

One unsavory rule about football is that the more prepared a team looks at a late stage of preliminaries to a tournament, the easier it stands to lose out later, as it may satisfy itself with the level of preparations, far too early.

Several times in the past Yanga looked like they had a fantastic registration drive, only to falter at the hands of their archrivals, and quite perceptibly.

This time they appeared to falsify that kind of prognosis, reaffirming their pre-season dominance by vivid demonstration.

Yet there was some unfinished work in that demonstration, and that leads back to where the tradition stands, as the picture emerging from the Community Shield tie is that preparations are complete.

In that case, it gives an impression of the Premier League kicking off with Yanga in a position to repeat its dominance shown last year and complement that show with good standing in the CAF premier club competition, as this year its transfers are not contested.

Half of that tale is likely to be true and half false.

The true part is that, yes, its transfers are not contested and thus it has good potential to do better in the CAF tourney, but the fact that its players were already together for a while at the time they played Vipers SC tells another side of the story.

The idea that defeating Simba SC in the Community Shield implies doing what it has been doing for several years in CAF tournaments is not easy to demonstrate.

Even then nothing specific was demonstrated by the sound loss to the Ugandan champions.

It is thus an open issue whether Yanga is demonstrably better this year than last year, as all indications are that this is the case, but the loss to Vipers SC, not an avowedly strong side south of the Sahara, was sufficient.

At the same time, the idea that Simba SC is a weaker side this year as compared to Yanga jumps the gun with a gratuitous assumption that preparations are completed, whereas a fortnight was remaining to finish player recruitment and signing.

Similarly, Simba SC has a new coach just getting used to the team, and thus its field organization was not at its best.

This is another touchy issue that could prove a failing in the Jangwani Street outfit's organizational drive, in that it may have reached its peak at the

end of pre-season activities, while the length of the registration window attests to the impression that even as the league starts, it continues.

The technical bench uses early matches - here, starting with the Community Shield encounter - to either estimate or scales the level of team building and squad depth that is needed.

Simba SC may have an advantage in that regard by the cry to sign Central African Republic's Cesar Manzoki Lobi that has Congolese origin, and rapidly enough.

An online chronicler wrote in October 2020 that the player had been 'cleared to play for Vipers SC after agreeing to a two-year term for an undisclosed fee.'

In that case, the player ought to be free at the end of October as he has claimed, while Vipers SC's claims that he has another year are not reflected in the chronicler entry.

And no new contract has likely been entered as the two-year contract was still being played out, but there will be pressure for Simba SC to soften the Vipers SC position to avoid contractual chicanery making the player ineligible for duty.

Whether there will be the need for a fee to get the matter done or solve it legally is a different issue, but this pressure is likely to help Simba SC brighten its play makeup.

Zanzibar's Police FC garners sponsorship

BY CORRESPONDENT FAUSTINE SHIJA

DAR ES SALAAM'S GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd has entered into a sponsorship agreement with Zanzibar Premier League outfit, Police FC.

Speaking during the ceremony for handing over various sports equipment to the club, Chief Marketing Officer of GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd, Salman Karmal said Zanzibar has a lot of talent but due to a lack of sponsors for the Isles Premier League, a lot of talent is going to waste.

Karmal noted that the arrival of companies like Azam Media Ltd, and People's Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) has nevertheless awakened the league, which is of late followed by plenty of people.

He said that having realized the opportunity, the company has decided to venture into the league and has started sponsoring Zanzibar's Police FC.

"This one-year contract will allow Police FC to get all equipment needed for the team, the goal is to help it do well in the league while being in a good environment," Karmal revealed.

He said that the sponsorship gears towards supporting the efforts of Zanzibar's President Hussein Mwinyi in ensuring that the sports policy is fulfilled in practice.

The official disclosed: "We



Dar es Salaam's GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd's Chief Marketing Officer, Salman Karmal (2nd R) presents sports equipment to Zanzibar's Police FC Chairman, Hamad Khamis Hamad, yesterday during the ceremony to hand over the equipment as part of the sponsorship for the club in 2022/23 Zanzibar Premier League. Looking on (R) is GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd's Marketing and Communications Manager, Smart Deus. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

started sponsorship in football by sponsoring Mwanza's Mbao FC which was relegated, we saw the benefit, and this season we have sponsored Singida Big Stars FC."

"We have seen it is also good to come to Zanzibar to support the efforts to promote Zanzibar football and support the government's efforts to ensure that the sports policy is implemented," Karmal added.

Police FC's Chairman, Hamad Khamis Hamad, thanked GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd for sponsoring the team while promising to make good use of the sponsorship.

He further revealed the sponsorship will reduce the burden on the Police force in serving the team.

"This sponsorship will increase the morale of the players

as well, and in appreciating what GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd has done, Police FC will make sure it performs well in the league," Hamad noted.

He also asked other companies to follow the example of GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd by backing the clubs owned by government institutions to enable them to do well.

Woman says it was her, R. Kelly in key video at 2008 trial

CHICAGO

A WOMAN who has been central to R. Kelly's legal troubles for more than two decades testified Thursday that the R&B singer sexually abused her "hundreds" of times before she turned 18 and that it was her and Kelly in a videotape that was at the heart of his 2008 child pornography trial, at which he was acquitted.

Jane – the pseudonym for the now 37-year-old woman as she testified – paused, tugged at a necklace and dabbed her eyes with a tissue as she said publicly for the first time that the girl in the video was her and that the man was Kelly.

When the prosecutor asked how old she was at the time, she said quietly: "14." Kelly, 55, would have been around 30 years old at the time.

In addition to charges of child pornography and enticement of minors, Kelly faces charges of conspiring to rig that 2008 trial by intimidating and paying off the girl to ensure she didn't testify then.

Some jurors who presided over that 2008 trial, which was on state charges, said that they had no choice but to acquit the R&B star because the girl – by then an adult – didn't testify. On the stand Thursday, Jane conceded that she lied to a state grand jury in 2002 when she said that it was not her in the video.

"I was afraid something bad would happen to Robert," she told jurors about why she didn't tell the truth then, referring to Kelly by his full first name. "I was protecting him."

She added there was another reason she lied about the identity of the person in the video. "I also did not want that person to be me," she told jurors. "I was ashamed."

Dressed in a white dress coat and removing a face mask before testifying, Jane remained on the witness stand for over four hours for the government. Kelly's attorney was scheduled to get her chance to cross-examine Jane starting Friday morning.

A prosecutor asked Jane toward the end of the day Thursday why she decided in recent years to begin speaking honestly about what happened with Kelly, who Jane said she continued to care for and sometimes live with into her 20s.

"I became exhausted living with his lies," she answered. She added that federal prosecutors assured her she would not be charged with lying to authorities if she testified truthfully at this trial.

Earlier, Jane also became emotional when she was asked to explain why Kelly can be seen handing money to her in the video. She said it was a precaution against anyone accusing him of abusing a child if the video ever fell into the hands of authorities.

"If anyone saw the tape ... he wanted it to appear as if I was a prostitute," Jane said.

She described her parents confronting Kelly in the early 2000s about whether he was having sex with their daughter. Kelly dropped to his knees and begged her parents to forgive him, Jane testified. She said she later implored her parents not to do anything to get Kelly in trouble, telling them she loved him.

As she spoke, Kelly mostly stared down at the defense table and rarely looked up at her. She, too, rarely looked in his direction.

Earlier, she testified that Kelly sexually abused her "hundreds" of times before she turned 18 years old, starting when she was 15. She said they were having oral sex in the video and that she was 14 at the time.

Jane told jurors that in the late 1990s when she was 13, she asked the Grammy award-winning singer to be her godfather because she saw him as an inspiration and mentor.

She said within weeks, Kelly would call her and say sexual things. She told jurors she was 15 when they first had intercourse.

Asked by a prosecutor how she would know what to do sexually, Jane answered, "He would tell me what to do." Asked how many times they had sex before she turned 18, she answered quietly: "Uncountable times. ... Hundreds."

A federal judge in New York sentenced Kelly to a 30-year prison sentence this year for his 2021 conviction for using his fame to sexually abuse fans.

During opening statements Wednesday, prosecutor Jason Julien sought to prepare jurors for the testimony of accusers including Jane, reminding them that a core issue at trial remained the exploitation of often scared and confused children – even though the accusers who would speak to jurors are now grown adults.

Kelly's lead attorney, meanwhile, implored jurors not to accept what she said was the prosecution's portrayal of her client as "a monster," explaining that because of intellectual challenges including illiteracy, Kelly was forced to rely on others as his career took off and was sometimes led astray by those close to him.

Speaking softly and tentatively when she first took the stand Thursday, Jane described her upbringing in a musical family in a Chicago suburb, including that she was homeschooled because she was in a touring musical group that she joined when she was about 12.

Jane first met Kelly in the late 1990s when she was in junior high school. She had tagged along to Kelly's Chicago recording studio with her aunt, a professional singer who worked with Kelly. Soon after that meeting, Jane told her parents that Kelly was going to be her godfather.

Prosecutors have said Kelly shot the video of Jane in a log cabin-themed room at his North Side Chicago home between 1998 and 2000. In it, the girl is heard calling the man "daddy."

In the early 2000s, an aunt of Jane showed her parents a copy of a video she said depicted their daughter having sex with Kelly. When they confronted Kelly, he told them, "You're with me or against me," a government filing says.

The parents took it as a threat. Kelly, who rose from poverty on Chicago's South Side to become a star singer, songwriter and producer, knew a conviction in 2008 would effectively end his life as he knew it, and so prosecutors say he conspired to fix that trial.

Kelly has been trailed for decades by complaints and allegations about his sexual behavior. The scrutiny intensified after the #MeToo era and the 2019 six-part documentary "Surviving R. Kelly."

Kelly also faces four counts of enticement of minors for sex at the Chicago trial – one each for four other accusers. They, too, are expected to testify.

Two Kelly associates, Derrel McDavid and Milton Brown, are co-defendants. McDavid is accused of helping Kelly fix the 2008 trial, while Brown is charged with receiving child pornography. Like Kelly, they also have denied wrongdoing.

AP

Liverpool clash threatens more misery for Man Utd

LONDON

ROOTED to the bottom of the Premier League for the first time in 30 years, Manchester United's disastrous start to the season on and off the field could still get worse when they face Liverpool on Monday.

Always one of the biggest clashes in the English football calendar, Liverpool's visit to Old Trafford has taken on even more importance after a difficult few weeks for both clubs.

Liverpool's title hopes have already been hit by draws against Fulham and Crystal Palace to leave Jurgen Klopp's men four points adrift of defending champions Manchester City.

However, Liverpool's woes of an early season injury crisis and the absence of Darwin Nunez due to his ill-discipline that cost the Uruguayan a red card on his home debut, pale into insignificance compared to United's troubles.

Erik ten Hag is off to the worst start of any United manager for over 100 years after a 4-0 humbling at the hands of Brentford followed Brighton's first ever win at Old Trafford on the opening weekend of the season.

A large-scale protest by United fans is planned before kick-off aimed at the club's owners, the Glazer family.

"A fish rots from the head," said the Manchester United Supporters Trust this week with pressure rising on the Americans to consider selling the club.

Elon Musk joked he was buying the Red Devils this week, while Britain's richest man Jim Ratcliffe has signalled his interest.

The lack of a coordinated transfer strategy has left Ten Hag to work with largely the same squad that suffered 5-0 and 4-0 thrashings at the hands of Liverpool in their two meetings last season.

Ten Hag, though, also has questions to ask after pushing for the signing of Lisandro Martinez from his old club Ajax despite the Argentine centre-back's diminutive frame seemingly being unsuited to the rigours of the Premier League.

Martinez was hauled off at half-time against Brentford with United already trailing 4-0, but Ten Hag conceded afterwards all 11 of his starting line-up could have been replaced.

Brentford players covered 13.8 kilometres more in that match and Ten Hag



Jurgen Klopp

Erik ten Hag

reportedly responded by cancelling a planned day off to make his squad run that distance the day after defeat last Saturday.

But it is on the pitch he needs a response with Liverpool also wounded for their trip to Manchester.

"Newcastle test for City

City's transformation into the dominant club in English football over the past decade thanks to the flow of investment from Abu Dhabi appeared under the ownership of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund.

But Newcastle's first summer transfer window under the new regime has been surprisingly quiet with Nick Pope and Sven Botman the only new faces at St James' Park.

They have still enjoyed a strong start to the season with four points from their first two games, but City's visit will give an early indication as to how seriously the Magpies could challenge for a top-four finish.

"No money for Rodgers
Leicester are the only Premier League club yet to spend any money in the window and manager Brendan Rodgers is not expecting that to change due to the state of the club's finances.

"I spent my summer holidays convincing players to come but when I come back the reality of the situation is there and we are unable to follow through with it," said Rodgers on Thursday.

"I don't run the finances of the club. I

run the football department and if they say we can't sign a player I trust the club that it's the case."

The Foxes long-serving captain Kasper Schmeichel joined Nice earlier this month and more key players could still leave with Wesley Fofana a target for Chelsea, while Newcastle have had bids rejected for James Maddison.

After just one point from their opening two games, Leicester badly need a win when Southampton visit on Saturday to lift the mood around the King Power ahead of a tough run of fixtures that includes trips to Chelsea and Tottenham in their next five games.

Meanwhile, Tottenham boss Antonio Conte expects to take his place on the touchline for Saturday's visit of Wolves despite being sent off after a fiery 2-2 draw against Chelsea at the weekend.

Conte and Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel, also sent off, twice came face-to-face in physical confrontations as the Italian celebrated Tottenham twice coming from behind to snatch a point thanks to Harry Kane's 96th-minute equaliser.

Both coaches have been charged by the Football Association with improper conduct and have until Thursday evening to accept or appeal.

Unlike when a player is sent off though, Conte and Tuchel will not necessarily receive a ban.

"We have to accept and have respect for every decision, but I think sometimes this type of situation can happen," Conte said on Thursday.

"It's not the first time, it won't be the last time that two coaches are not in the right way or do not agree."

"But the most important thing is we have to move on, to have respect for each other. And for me, the situation finishes there."

Conte continued the feud with Tuchel after the game by posting on Instagram that the German would have deserved to be tripped up when he charged down the touchline to celebrate Reece James's strike that put Chelsea 2-1 up.

"After this type of situation you can learn a lot," added Conte. "At the same time I think that for many situations I was really good to keep calm and don't have an excessive reaction in the situation."

Spurs will be without central defender Cristian Romero for Saturday's match after he picked up an injury in the Chelsea clash.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today
Tottenham v Wolves (1130), Leicester v Southampton, Crystal Palace v Aston Villa, Everton v Nottingham Forest, Fulham v Brentford (all 1400), Bournemouth v Arsenal (1630)

Tomorrow
Leeds v Chelsea, West Ham v Brighton (both 1300), Newcastle v Manchester City (1530)

Monday
Manchester United v Liverpool (1900)

AFP

Barcelona looking for 'patience' despite spending spree

MADRID

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez called for "patience" after his side's draw with Rayo Vallecano in their season opener, but will know the team are expected to challenge for the La Liga title this season after a raft of high-profile signings.

Barca struggled in front of goal in the disappointing stalemate at the Camp Nou last weekend and face a tricky trip to Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Andreas Christensen all made their debuts from the start against Rayo and Franck Kessie made his first competitive appearance for the club as a substitute.

Barcelona, who have struggled financially in the last two years, are also waiting to be able to register France defender Jules Kounde after his arrival from Sevilla. But Xavi has called for calm from supporters as he looks to bed in the new players.

"I understand the disappointment,

the expectations are really high," Xavi said after the Rayo game.

"We will have to analyse the game, improve and continue to believe in the style of play."

"Rayo defended well. It was harder for us to create than usual."

"It's a shame because we wanted to show the fans that we are on the right track. It is disappointing, but we ask for patience and for people to believe in this team."

Xavi helped turn the Catalan giants' fortunes around last season, leading them to a second-placed finish after taking over with their top-four hopes in doubt.

Barca still ended 13 points adrift of champions Real Madrid, who started their title defence with a come-from-behind victory at Almeria.

Carlo Ancelotti's Champions League winners play their second straight away game, taking on Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Real trailed newly-promoted Almeria for much of their first match of the campaign until Lucas Vazquez's equaliser, before David Alaba came off the bench to score the winner with his first touch from a free-kick.

The most impressive performance from one of the title hopefuls came from Atletico Madrid.

Alvaro Morata scored twice in a comfortable 3-0 win at Getafe as Diego Simeone's side, who won the title in 2021, laid down an early marker.

The Spain striker, who spent the past two seasons on loan at Juventus, has been linked with a possible move away from the Estadio Metropolitano, with Manchester United reportedly interested.

"Everyone at the club hopes he continues," said Simeone.

"He is working very well, in an extraordinary way. I think that all footballers need to have confidence to do important things."



Xavi Hernandez

"He came back with great humility and wanting to work."

Atletico host Villarreal, who also won 3-0 last weekend against Real Valladolid, on Sunday.

*Player to watch: Takefusa Kubo

Japan's Kubo marked his debut for Real Sociedad with the only goal in their victory at Cadiz last week. The 21-year-old was signed from Real Madrid last month after loan spells at Real Mallorca, Villarreal and Getafe. Kubo will be hoping to impress on Sunday against Barcelona, where he featured

as a youth player.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

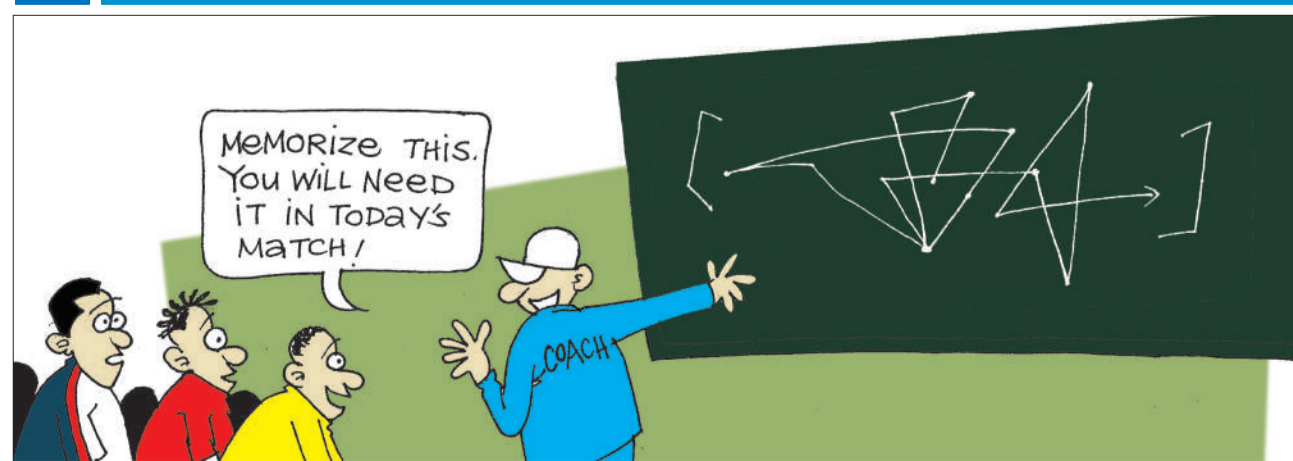
Today
Osasuna v Cadiz (1530), Real Mallorca v Real Betis (1730), Celta Vigo v Real Madrid (2000)

Tomorrow
Athletic Bilbao v Valencia (1530), Atletico Madrid v Villarreal (1730), Real Sociedad v Barcelona (2000)

Monday
Elche v Almeria (1800), Girona v Getafe (2000)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

On Premier League readiness and CAF potential in Community Shield derby

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18

Yanga inks commercial sales deal with Dar firm

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

DAR ES SALAAM-based marketing and commercial management agency Jackson Group has been appointed by Young Africans (Yanga) to serve as a commercial sales partner for the reigning NBC Premier League champions.

The two sides agreed to a two-year deal in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Under the agreement, Jackson Group will serve as Yanga's lead agency on selected sponsorship opportunities, having beaten several agencies.

The marketing agency will secure and handle commercial opportunities for Yanga, alias 'Timu Ya Wananchi'.

Hersi Said, Yanga's president, stated: "We are pleased to sign the document that will bring about a relationship between Yanga and Jackson Group, a company that is going to be responsible for bringing the commercial relationship with sponsors and partners to Yanga."

The Yanga boss noted: "Jackson Group is a local company operated by an experienced CEO in marketing and commercial, Kelvin Twissa. His history speaks for itself in marketing. The company was founded in 2015 to create commercial collaboration with different stakeholders."

He pointed out: "As Yanga, in our transformation process, one of the agenda was to create a system that would transform this club into one of the big African clubs.

Part of the transformation was restructuring the club. We all know that very soon the club would have investors who were not part of the previous constitution."

The Yanga boss disclosed: "The new structure will unlock the 49% shares to be sold to investors and the 51% that will be owned by the club. In that context, we have a high responsibility, especially in my leadership capacity, to work on the transformation that was endorsed by the club members in the AGM in July 2021."

Commenting on the collaboration, CEO of Jackson Group, Kelvin Twissa, said: "We are delighted to work with the most successful club in Tanzanian. Our work is to help Yanga. Yanga has a big history. History is about titles, and players. They are marketable, it is an honour to be representing this legendary institution."

He noted: "Football business is only possible when the rights owners, meaning Yanga and those who pay for the rights get what they want out of the deal."

Last season, Yanga returned to the pinnacle of Tanzania football after claiming its 28th Premier League crown and fourth Federation Cup title. The club also won the Community Shield.

Off the pitch, the club has renewed its sponsorship with betting firm SportPesa Tanzania for the next three years.

Poulsen unveils squad for CHAN Qualifiers tie against Uganda



Tanzania's senior national soccer squad 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA's senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen has announced his 25-man squad to prepare for the 2022 African Nations Championship qualifiers against Uganda slated for next week.

Tanzania will face Uganda in the first leg on August 28 at Ben-

jamin Mkapa Stadium while the return leg will be played on September 3 at the latter's home turf of St. Mary's Stadium, Kitende.

The winner on aggregate qualifies for the final tournament slated for January in Algeria. Tanzania eliminated Somalia in the previous round.

'Taifa Stars' composition has three goalkeepers, eight defenders, seven midfielders, and as many forwards.

The players have been summoned from six clubs in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League which will take a two-week break to allow Taifa Stars' preparation for the game.

The Danish tactician Poulsen has called Azam FC right full-back Nathaniel Chilambo for the first time.

There is no place for experienced defensive midfielder Mudathir Yahya who is clubless

after leaving Azam FC, while the club's youngster Tepsie Evance has once again been overlooked.

Simba SC's new signing Habib Kyombo has been recalled after missing for the last three years.

According to Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), the called-up players will enter the residential camp on Sunday.

Taifa Stars full squad:

Goalkeepers: Aishi Manula (Simba SC), Aboutwalib Mshery (Yanga), and Beno Kakolanya (Simba SC).

Defenders: Kibwana Shomari (Yanga), Shomari Kapombe (Simba SC), Mohamed Hussein (Simba SC), Paschal Msindo (Azam FC), Nathaniel Chilambo (Azam FC), Dickson Job (Yanga), Bakari Mwamnyeto (Yanga) and Kennedy Juma (Simba SC)

Midfielders: Sospeter Bajana (Azam FC), Jonas Mkude (Simba SC), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba SC), Kelvin Nashon (Geita Gold FC), Feisal Salum, (Yanga), Farid Musa (Yanga), and Salum Abubakar (Yanga)

Forwards: Abdulhamis Suleiman (Azam FC), Reliants Lusajo (Namungo FC), Kibu Denis (Simba SC), Habib Kyombo (Simba SC), George Mpole (Geita Gold FC), Anwar Jabir (Kagera Sugar), and Danny Lyanga (Geita Gold FC)

In a related development, Tanzania's U-23 football side has been drawn against South Sudan in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

The two sides will meet in the first round according to the showdown draw held in Cairo, Egypt on Thursday.

If Tanzania's U-23 side eliminates South Sudan's U-23 side, the former will play in the second round against Nigeria's U-23 team which was given a bye in the first round.

It will be an eight-team final tournament to be played in Morocco in June 2023 and the top three teams will qualify for the Olympic Games to be held in France in 2024.

Simba SC targets successive wins in 2022/23 NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC will be confident of a win when it

welcomes Kagera Sugar on matchday 2 of the NBC Premier League 2022/23 season in Dar es Salaam today.

The Msimbazi Reds, on the one hand, started their campaign at home to Geita Gold FC and lived up to the expectation

with a comprehensive 3-0 win over the latter to go top of the table on superior goal difference.

Selemani Matola, Simba SC assistant coach, expects a tough game, noting it would be an interesting encounter between the two sides over the weekend.

Matola revealed: "There is no easy game when Simba SC and Kagera Sugar meet on the pitch, it is always a tough battle but we are prepared to get the desired results. We are well prepared and focused for the battle."

The gaffer added: "Every game has its approach, we can go into this game with the same plan we used against Geita Gold FC. We need to

win and play well, that's what Simba SC fans expect from us."

Matola stated: "So far we have a clean bill of health, it is up to the technical bench to choose who to start with against Geita Gold FC."

The gaffer that is as well former Simba SC midfielder revealed: "We have indeed had finishing issues, it is a problem we had since last season but we are working on it."

"We got three goals in the last game, it is not easy to get three against a team like Geita Gold FC, we are tirelessly trying to resolve that on the training pitch."

Matola revealed: "A team is a collection of eleven players on the

pitch, you can not depend on one player, he is a human being, not a machine, he gets tired. We have to make sure we play well when Clatous Chama is unavailable."

Shomari Kapombe, Simba SC captain added their squad is ready and well motivated to keep their winning start against Kagera Sugar.

Kapombe revealed: "We are glad our preparations for this game have been smooth. All players are fit and ready to face Kagera Sugar, I believe we are going to battle Kagera Sugar because they will come into this game seeking to bounce back from their opening loss to Azam FC."

The fullback pointed out: "We lost the Com-

munity Shield game but managed to bounce back with a victory against Geita Gold FC, we are prepared to keep our winning start so that we attain six points in our first two games this season."

On the other hand, Kagera Sugar will be out to make amends after faltering against Azam FC in the opener on Wednesday.

Head coach Francis Baraza acknowledged they are facing a big team that is changing.

Baraza stated: "It will be a tough game, both sides have strengthened their squads. We respect Simba SC is a big team, they have added good players."

The gaffer revealed: "You have to prepare for every game, our plan for

the game against Azam FC did not work though I salute my boys. The boys worked hard but it was a bad day in the office."

Baraza noted: "This is another game, we all know it is a good match, Simba SC has a new coach who is trying to integrate new players, any coach goes through this."

The Kagera Sugar gaffer revealed: "Simba SC is a big team, we must show them respect, we come as underdogs but 90 minutes will decide the outcome of the game."

"The midfield battle will decide the game, whoever wins control of the midfield has a greater chance of winning this one."



Simba SC players celebrate a goal the side notched in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie against Geita Gold FC that took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

JUST TELL ME. WHAT MAKES YOU TICK

