

**National Pg 5**  
Samia wins kudos for minimum salary rise



**National Pg 4**  
Study on water availability in Dodoma



**National Pg 6**  
Users of 'manhood enhancement drugs'



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word with a charity organisation after handing over a donation of food items including rice, cooking oil, sugar and goats for use in Eid El Fitr for orphans and vulnerable children in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

## Govt ready for tabling Media Services Act amendments

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ALL is set for the National Assembly to amend the Media Services Act (MSA) of the year 2016 and its 2017 schedule of regulations.

Nape Nnauye, the minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology,

said yesterday that the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson had recently informed him that lawmakers are waiting for stakeholders to complete their reviews before the House takes up the matter.

Amendments will focus on some sections of

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## Zanzibar in MoU for boats factory

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sri Lanka's Hairu Engineering Co. to build fishing boats.

Suleiman Masoud Makame, the minister for Blue Economy and Fisheries, told the media that the signing indicates a good trend towards transforming the sector, noting that completion of projects in blue economy and marine products shall uplift Zanzibar's economy.

The government is determined to ensure the development of the blue economy to improve the welfare of Zanzibaris, he stated, underlining that the projects will be

a catalyst for realizing the vision of a blue economy.

The projects are expected to be completed within six months, he said, elaborating that they will benefit Isles residents by creating jobs, with expectations of 450 people being directly or indirectly employed.

The Sri-Lanka firm is committed to provide training for Zanzibaris engaged in the fisheries sector, and those cultivating seaweeds, he stated, affirming that the agreement provides for Zanzibar getting experts in particular sectors.

Providing jobs to our people would result in economic growth of individuals and the wider economy, he said, projecting the Isles'

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## 'Bulk importation curbs chaos in fuel price rises'

By Guardian Reporter

THE bulk procurement system (BPS) in petroleum remains the most effective way in containing the impact of the rapid rise in global oil prices and its spillover effect on prices of essential commodities at the local level, an expert has declared.

Michael Mjinja, the commissioner for petroleum and gas in the Ministry of Energy, said in a televised interview at the weekend that using BPS via the Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) has spared the country from fuel shortages as is the case in some neighbouring



**We have this assurance because of the system we use to determine how much fuel we should procure in bulk**

countries. "Oil prices are still going up," he stated, asserting that world market price stability was unlikely in the near future. What is important for us is that supply is guaranteed as existing oil supplies are sufficient and timely deliveries in bulk will continue as planned, he emphasised.

"We have this assurance because of the system we use to determine how much fuel we should procure in bulk," he stated, elaborating that it permits robust import plans for several months of fuel needs, on account of verifying vital information on market trends and needs.

Before bulk procurement came up, the threat of shortages lingered as traders imported fuel on the basis of individual projections of sales and profits at any particular moment thus lower imports and higher prices when there are sharp price hikes in the world market.

"The cost of importing fuel was high; cargos were

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## Muhimbili taps AfDB fund for new cardiovascular unit

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Fund has financed a new center of excellence for cardiovascular science in Dar es Salaam as part of a wider initiative on regional health response through high level biomedical training facilities.

The state-of-the-art facility slated for the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) is expected to bolster Tanzania's response against rising cases of heart diseases, by training medical staff in cardiovascular disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of heart

patients.

The project is the latest addition in MUHAS and Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) modernization drive, an aspect of a programme set out last week by the World Health Organization (WHO), with a \$70m programme for East African countries national healthcare priorities in tandem with policies of the UN agency.

The WHO East Africa health strategy will be undertaken from 2022 to 2027, where it aims at supporting the government's objective of improving health care with high quality training and further spread of medical specialists in regional and referral hospitals.

The legislature back in February urged the government to introduce a bill designed to facilitate universal health coverage (UHC), with MPs asserting that universal health coverage will help the majority of the population to access health services at all levels.

An AfDB chronicler says fifty years ago, the African Development Fund (ADF) was founded on one fundamental principle,

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A section of Dar es Salaam residents in final preparations for Eid el Fitr, purchasing clothes and shoes for family members along Congo Street yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma





# Zanzibar in MoU for boats factory

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economic growth at six to seven per cent next year, up from the current 4.4 per cent.

Dr Ameir Mshenga, executive director for the Zanzibar Fisheries Co. (ZAFICO), said the government is keenly implementing policies for developing the blue economy, citing directives from President Dr Hussein Mwinyi to enhance the blue economy through ZAFICO.

The company was consulting potential investors to set up projects in the sub-sector, he said, noting that Hairu Engineering Co. has shown readiness to work with the corporation

in developing the Isles' blue economy.

The Sri Lankan firm will construct a fishing boat factory at the Fungurefu Mkokotoni area in North Unguja, expected to put out hundreds of boats in a few years, while collaborating with the government in sardines packing and fish processing, construction of cold rooms for storage of marine products.

Zainulabdeen Mohamed Hairu, the firm's director general, said they have experienced employees set to share their skills with ZAFICO staff, assuring the government of full support in implementation of the projects. They will all be completed as scheduled, he added.



Minister of State in the President's Office Public Service and Good Governance Jenista Mhagama (in red) unveils a curtain to launch a registry office at Makanda village in Bahi district during her working visit aimed at issuing customary titles and laying foundation stones for the registry offices under the property and business formalisation programme. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# 'Bulk importation curbs chaos in fuel price rises'

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being delivered by small ships, causing congestion at the port and vessels used to wait at outer anchorage for up to 40 days. That kind of environment is no guarantee of availability of fuel," the commissioner intoned.

He said the system did not provide assurance of price stability as the government was unable to monitor and determine the exact price of oil and transportation costs, but there was also no capacity to ensure the availability of fuel was in line with demand.

The government set up bulk procurement to shield the public from potential supply chaos or instability, protecting the public from speculative prices and profiteering in times of supply crunches in the world market, he pointed out.

At present there are 39 wholesale oil companies each presenting their requirements and then the oil is imported in bulk, two months in advance to ensure there is no shortage. This helps the government to know how much the market needs and the amounts we have," he stated.

Kemilembe Kafanabo, petroleum business manager at the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), noted that tenders for importation of petroleum products are publicly announced to enable the

participation of all companies with capacity and criteria to import fuel at a competitive price.

"Importers who know how they can get this fuel cheaply have the opportunity to participate in the tenders. There are 23 companies regularly participating and as they are many it is not easy for them to link up in a commercial plot to hike the price of oil," he explained.

The bulk agency's responsibilities include gathering the requirements and coordinating the importation of the fuel, filing that information to EWURA for verification before importation is conducted, he said, in views echoed by researcher Dr Hoseana Lunogelo, who said that BPS is more beneficial to end-users than potential challenges it may pose.

Bulk procurement reduces costs as the bidder providing the lowest cost obtains the tender, while shipping costs are lower as the consignment is brought in bulk in one tonnage, eliminating waiting charges for vessels.

"The ship's waiting charges are always borne by the last buyer," the researcher noted, insisting that a free importation system would not allow setting reasonable cap prices as each consignment would have its own costing structure. Each importer would set prices and during this period it would have been disastrous," he added.

# Muhimbili taps AfDB fund for new cardiovascular unit

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to promote economic and social development in the lives of people in low-income and fragile African countries. "Today, the fund remains a staunch partner of these countries, touching the lives of millions of people across the continent."

Since its creation in 1972, the fund has been an important source of concessionary resources and technical support to low-income African

countries, including fragile states. It has invested \$45bn in 2,750 operations across more than 40 countries.

In the past five years alone, it helped connect 15.5m people to electricity, and supported 74m Africans with improved agriculture and food security. It also built or rehabilitated 8,700km of roads, enabled 50m people to gain access to transport and 42m people to access better water and sanitation, the chronicle affirms.

# World Forestry Congress kicks off 5-day run in Seoul

By Special Correspondent

THE World Forestry Congress, the world's largest gathering of foresters, kicked off its five-day run in Seoul on Monday. The 15th edition of the WFC will be running from Monday through Friday at Coex in Gangnam.

The WFC is the most influential global forestry gathering, held every six years under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

It's the first time the WFC has been held in South Korea, and it is also the first time in 44 years that the congress is being held in the Asia-Pacific region. It was last hosted in the region by Indonesia in 1978.

The congress is designed to allow people from the world's forestry sector to strengthen international cooperation with forest supporters and

related partners. The event has also functioned as a forum that provides participants with opportunities to exchange views and experiences on all aspects of forestry and the environment. By sharing expertise and experiences, the event aims to help identify the actions required to solve pending issues across the world.

Park Eun-sik, director general of international affairs bureau at the Korea Forest Service, said "(The government) has put its utmost efforts into the congress over the last two years, for which the country may not get another chance to host at another time."

*"(The government) has put its utmost efforts into the congress over the last two years, for which the country may not get another chance to host at another time."*

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the law and its regulations, to improve the working environment of journalists and the media industry at large, he stated at a media stakeholders' conference.

It brings together members of the Eastern Africa Editors Society (EAES) ahead of the 2022 World Press Freedom Day today expected to be graced by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, this year's theme being 'journalism under digital siege.'

The minister said that legislators are responsible for review and amendment of the country's laws as it is for the Media Services Act and its regulations, along with the Access to Information Act of 2016 (No. 6 of 2016).

Nnauye praised the Speaker for showing readiness to improve the law, leading to changes in how the media operates, thus enabling its smooth development.

"It is my hope that what is going to be discussed during this conference

# Govt ready for tabling Media Services Act amendments

will help in the anticipated review process," he said, underlining that this will help coming up with the best law draft endorsed by the legislature.

How far the law document is improved largely depends on the views of top media practitioners, he stated, highlighting that for the first time in the country, the World Press Freedom Day will be graced by the incumbent Head of State.

Since the World Press Freedom Day marking started these events have not been attended by an incumbent president, so the decision by President Samia to grace this event is a milestone and an indication that she values the media industry, the minister observed.

Dr Jim Yonazi, the permanent secretary, said the media industry plays an important role in economic development and a locally and international level, so the ministry is closely looking at digital media opportunities to enhance the industry's contribution to the national economy.

The ministry works with media stakeholders to create a conducive working environment for journalists, where their freedom and rights are protected, he said, noting that current media laws give the minister responsible for Information sweeping powers to punish media houses and journalists with no obligation for statutory consultation with law organs

or media arbitration bodies.

The minister has full powers to ban any publication or newspaper that prints information deemed to affect national security or public harmony, as it gives the government a direct say on the content of private media.

On issues that the government will deem to be of national importance, it wields this section to punish media houses; prohibits publication of cabinet matters even if it is demonstrated that the source document was valid, like a bona fide cabinet document.

The Act also requires users of all social media platforms to be licensed, along with freelance contributors and accredited correspondents, he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan offers seven million/- and a trophy to Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation (DAWASA), Chief Executive Officer, Eng Cyprian Luhemeja after he emerged the best employee for the year 2022/2023 of the financial, industrial, banking, utilities, processing industries trade union (FIBUCA), at the climax of the Workers' Day held in Dodoma on Sunday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# 'DTC to commence operations next year'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MINISTER for Education, Science and Technology Prof Adolf Mkenda has said that Dodoma Technical College (DTC) will commence its operations next year and instructed the ministry's officials to start looking for trainers and equipment.

He said in the first phase, the college will be able to accommodate 1,500 students who will study three courses which are energy, medical equipment and construction.

Speaking immediately after inspecting the construction of the college in Lugala under CRJE contractor, Prof Mkenda said the first

phase will be completed in December, this year and will cost 17.9bn/-.

"This is one of the largest colleges in the country and will take many students and when completed in all phases, it will have the capacity to take 3,000 students with the first phase costing about 18bn/-," he said.

The minister said there will also be an exchange of trainers from abroad so as to provide better technical education and skills for the country's development.

"We have colleges like this such as Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) that has its branches in Mbeya, Arusha and Mwanza, so the completion of this college will make them to become four

which will help produce experts in the technical areas

Prof Mkenda further said there 43 Vocational Educational and Training (VETA) colleges but the government aims to increase the number to 77 by the end of this year as many of the buildings were on construction stages.

"We have 25 district and four regional colleges that are under construction, the main task is to ensure the equipment is installed and have enough trainers in those colleges," he said.

He however said there are 831 public and private technical colleges in the country.

Prof Mkenda said: "Once the construction is completed by the end of this year, we will ask President Samia Suluhu Hassan to come and lay a foundation stone."

"Electricity and water services as well as road infrastructures are needed here, we expect that construction of the second phase will start in 2023 at a cost of 100bn/-, so we still have big construction after this," added.

Technical director in the ministry Dr Noel Mbonde said construction of technical and vocational training colleges will increase the number of employment to youth by 30 percent as over 150,000 graduates from technical colleges join the job market.





MISA-TAN chairperson, Salome Kitomari, speaks to The Guardian Managing Editor, Wallace Mauggo, before the start of the three-day World Press Freedom Day conference involving various African countries and various national and international organisations in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer

# Samia wins kudos for minimum salary rise

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCA) has said it has no doubts on President Samia Suluhu Hassan's statement over salary increase.

During commemorations of the international Workers Day on May 1st in Dodoma, President Samia promised workers to work on their salary increment request, but will not be pegged to what TUCA has proposed as a living wage due to economic crises.

Speaking to this paper yesterday, TUCA secretary general, Henry Mkunda, said: "We thank the President for his generosity in continuing to fulfill her earlier promises; we have received her statement positively."

Mkunda said they met with President Samia before May 2022 whereas they presented her with a number of requirements. He said during her speech on May Day, the President directed authorities to work on 13 out of the 16 requests presented to her prior to the commemorations.

The president asked ministers to follow up on the matter to make sure that the boards are facilitated to make an evaluation of wages and update pay in the various sectors, expressing sympathy for the concern on inability of current wage rates to cater for workers and their families.

TUCA had earlier pleaded for the lowest monthly wage rate of 1m/- for public servants, up from 300,000/-

approved in 2015, which the president said lacked an analysis of worker productivity and how it justifies the minimum wage demand.

TUCA said that in the private sector, the lowest pay rate stands at 60,000/- to 115,000/- depending on the sector since 2015, meanwhile as sector based wage calculation boards to set out hourly, daily, weekly and monthly pay rates have either not been formed, or not holding meetings if they had already been formed.

TUCA had also demanded in their address that the government change the 2014 regulation that retiring workers receive 25 per cent in lump sum and obtain the 75 per cent on a monthly basis spread over 13 years, asking that the 25 per cent be raised to 50 per cent.

The president said that more negotiations were needed to reach an accord between the two parties, in a similar manner as extending health insurance benefits to elders without such a facility, so that any such benefits do not harm the operational ability of the funds.

*TUCA had earlier pleaded for the lowest monthly wage rate of 1m/- for public servants, up from 300,000/- approved in 2015, which the president said lacked an analysis of worker productivity and how it justifies the minimum wage demand.*

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

# Police hold 20 suspects for committing crimes

POLICE in Mwanza are holding 20 suspects for committing crimes including allegedly killing Bwiru girls' secondary teacher.

Addressing reporters here yesterday Mwanza Regional Police Commander Ramadhan Ng'anzi said out of those arrested five people are suspected of breaking into the house of a teacher

at Bwiru girls' secondary school and instantly killing him.

In the incident, according to the RPC the suspects are accused of entering the house, striking him with a sharp object and stealing his belongings namely a television set,

electric iron as well as a cooking gas cylinder.

In the same development, the Immigration department in Mwanza had arrested 68 illegal immigrants from Ethiopia.

Speaking of the Ethiopian

immigrants, the regional migration officer for Mwanza Peter Mbaku said the suspects were arrested on 29 April at Sanjo village in Usagara Misungwi district in the area.

Mbaku said in collaboration with the police in the region, they

managed to arrest the suspects after getting intelligence reports from well wishers.

"The immigration department in collaboration with the police have arrested the suspects and will be charged with illegal entrance," he

said.

According to officials, the aliens were on their way to South Africa and were being kept by Tanzanian national Tarika Alex (26) who is also being held by the police.

Mbaku called upon residents to stop the tendency of keeping illegal immigrants, saying a 20 million fine or imprisonment of more than 20 years awaits such individuals.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## JOB VACANCY

**Job Title** : Finance and Administration Officer  
**Department/Unit** : Finance and Administration  
**Location** : Dar es Salaam  
**Duration** : Full-time Position  
**Reports to** : Director of Finance and Administration

**OVERVIEW:**

The Global Health Supply Chain Technical Assistance (GHSC-TA-TZ) program, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides expert technical assistance (TA) to Tanzania to strengthen country supply chain systems across all health elements, e.g., malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH). In coordination with in-country and development partners, GHSC assists Government of Tanzania health programs by providing strategic planning and implementation assistance; improving the delivery of health commodities to service sites; providing capacity building support to broaden stakeholders' understanding and engagement of the supply chain system; and strengthening enabling environments to improve supply chain performance.

**JOB SUMMARY:**

Responsible for providing overall finance and administrative support to the Finance and Administration Unit particularly in regards to review invoices, staff advances and expense reports, posting transactions into project accounting systems, initiating payments in mobile money system, assisting in developing VAT reporting to TRA and USAID and other administrative work assigned by your supervisor. This position will report to and working alongside with the Director of Finance Administration.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Responsibilities will include, but not limited to the following:

- Review advance and expense reports, as well as other expenses to ensure that all expenditures are processed in compliance with USAID rules and regulations, and that all transactions are processed according to internal procedures
- Maintain all accounting and procurement files electronically

- Assist in monthly accounting closeout
- Enter payments using mobile money payment system
- Support the Director of Finance and Administration in ensuring all procurement are processed according to USAID and internal rules and procedures
- Prepare purchase order (PO) and maintain it in electronic filing system
- Assist in developing VAT reporting to TRA and USAID
- Assist activity managers in workshop implementation as necessary. Activities including coordinating with vendors on conference facilities, travel coordination, travel to field to support per diem payments in trainings
- Withholding taxes deductions and payments, submit the WHT certificates to the vendors
- Manage the petty cash account
- Performing any other duty(ies) as may be assigned by his/her supervisor

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Recognized professional qualification in accounting
- High proficiency in Excel
- Excellent verbal and written English
- Communicates with colleagues in a clear and courteous manner
- Ability to take initiative and work in teams with minimum supervision
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Outlook required
- Financial experience with a USAID-funded project and knowledge of USAID rules and regulations preferred
- Able and willing to travel within the country when required and if necessary
- Experience working with an NGO an added advantage
- Must be able to maintain confidentiality for all company and staff proprietary matters

If you are interested in applying this position please send your resume, cover letter to [ghsc.recruitment@gmail.com](mailto:ghsc.recruitment@gmail.com). And kindly include title you are applying for in the subject line.

While we thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected for interview will be contacted. Deadline for submission shall be on **May 13, 2022**. GHSC - TA - TZ is an equal opportunity employer.

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## TANZANIA PORTLAND CEMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY



HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

## NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the 30th Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the above company will be held at:

**The Ramada Beach Resort, Grand Ocean Hall, Ground Floor  
Jangwani Beach, Plot 170-171,  
Mbezi Beach, Dar-es-Salaam,  
On Wednesday, 25th May, 2022 at 10:00 am.**

**AGENDA**

- Constitution of the Meeting: The Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting and determine if a quorum is present.
- To confirm the minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting held on **25th May 2021**.
- To Receive, Consider and, if thought fit, Adopt the Directors' Report, Auditors' Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021.
- To Receive, Consider and, if thought fit, Approve the Declaration of Dividend for Year 2021.
- To approve the appointment of the Statutory Auditors for the year ending 31st December 2022.
- To adopt the re-election of Mrs Ruth Zaipuna and Mr Oswald Urassa as directors who will represent minority shareholders on the company's Board of Directors until the Annual General Meeting to be held in Year 2025.
- Special Business: To approve and adopt amendments and updates to the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, as recommended by the Directors, mainly aimed at complying with the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange Continuing Listing Obligations"
- To transact any other business of the Company of which due notice has been received.

**By Order of the Board  
Dated 2nd May 2022**

**Company Secretary**

- Any member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote in his/ her stead. The proxy form is available on the company's website (<https://www.twigacement.com>).
- A proxy appointed need not be a member of the Company. A completed proxy form should be deposited at the company's registered office, Wazo Hill, Dar es Salaam not less than 24 hours before the time for holding the meeting, failing which it shall be invalid.
- Shareholders should come with their share certificates together with identity cards (e.g. Passport, Driving License, National ID, Employment ID, or Voters ID).
- A full set of audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 is available at the company's registered office at Wazo Hill, Dar es Salaam, or can be downloaded from the website (<https://www.twigacement.com>).



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## MKURABITA programme to resolve land disputes, provide employment - govt

By Guardian Reporter, Bahi

LAND formalisation, issuance of customary titles and completion of record keeping offices through the Property and Business Formalisation Programme (MKURABITA) in Msisi and Makanda villages in Bahi district, Dodoma Region will help resolve land disputes as well and provide employment opportunities in the areas, the government has stated.

Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State, President's Office, Public Services Management and Good Governance, said this here during her working visit aimed at issuing title deeds and laying the foundation stones at the Msisi and Makanda village offices built by MKURABITA.

Mhagama said the construction of the offices and land formalization in Bahi district will enable better record keeping that will help eliminate land disputes between farmers and pastoralists as well as those of person-to-person, adding that the government wants the formalisation to permanently eliminate all land disputes.

"The issuance of customary land title deeds are very important and has proved positively in supporting people to access capital and loans," she said.

She said the exercise has also increased the employment scope for young people, women and even the elderly as the title deeds give them the opportunity to borrow from financial institutions to thus run well their agricultural and entrepreneurship projects.

"Those who use these documents to borrow to raise capital for agriculture,

will have to find a workforce, and the need for manpower will provide employment opportunities, as it is a field that will require labor and even if the borrower will design another project other than agriculture he will also need manpower, this stimulate economic growth at individual and national level."

On revenue collection, Mhagama said the land formalisation exercise has significant benefits in increasing the collections in Bahi district council and the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The minister further said the land formalisation has helped both men and women to own land legally and thus eliminating the misconception which was violating women rights in terms of land occupancy in the villages.

Dr Seraphia Mgembe, MKURABITA coordinator said her office spent a very short time to survey and formalise 1,483 farms in Msisi village and hailed cooperation issued by the villagers and leaders.

She said citizens who received the certificates have found the key to address poverty if they use the documents well which include applying for loans to run agricultural and entrepreneurial activities to boost their livelihoods economically.

A representative from NMB in Bahi Benson Mwanje said 15 villagers with customary titles in the villages of Msisi and Makanda have applied for loans and 15 others opened bank accounts.

"On May 5, NMB officers will be here to serve the villagers, this will include loans and account opening services," he added.

## MPs calls on government to remove tobacco from strategic commercial crops

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ACROSS-SECTION of members of Parliament have called on the government to disband the Tanzania Tobacco Board and remove the crop from among the strategic commercial crops in effort to protect people's health.

The lawmakers who are champions against non-communicable diseases said they are ready to spearhead the fight against the crop, saying it is harmful to producers, users as well as non-users.

They made the recommendations during a one-day seminar organized by the Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Association (TANNCDA), an organization that promotes awareness on NCDs.

The champion's chairperson, Special Seats MP, Bernadeta Mshashu (CCM) noted that the danger posed by the crop to farmers and other people in the country are greater than the revenues that goes to the government.

"From the look of things, something must be done as soon as possible and stop tobacco farming and the government should put more emphasis on other cash crops" she said.

Ubungu MP, Prof Kitila Mkumbo (CCM), argued that there should be no hesitation or fear when dealing with matters of human health. He called on his colleagues to join forces in the quest for the establishment of a law prohibiting use of tobacco in the country.

"We need to push for the change even it means coming up with a private motion in the parliament" he said, adding this should be done as soon as possible.

He stated that at inception, it was widely mentioned a cash crop, making farmers to rush to its production but it has proved non-profitable and farmers are in poverty, adding that the government should promote alternative crops in areas where tobacco is grown.

Kigoma South MP, Nashon Bidyanguze (CCM) said most farmers of tobacco do not have the knowledge on the effects of tobacco, right from the farm to the final users.

He told the meeting that many farmers in his constituency have resorted to other crops upon realization that tobacco farming is not profitable

at all, calling on the government to provide public education on the crop and other crops that can give farmers better income.

Special Seats MP, Salome Makamba (CHADEMA), argued that there are a lot of politics in tobacco production, urging her colleagues not to fear but to put a strong fight against the crop.

"As champions of NCDs, all we can do is to put a strong fight on production in the country in order to save lives" she said.

She the government should focus on alternative crops, look for other sources revenue and stop engaging in politics that surround tobacco.

In his presentation to the MPs, chairperson, Tobacco Control Task Force, Prof Theonest Mutabingwa noted that the side effects of tobacco are so many but people are not aware.

He said at least 27 percent of deaths in the country are due to non-communicable diseases and 32 percent of patients admitted at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute are due to effects of tobacco.

"The root cause might look simple but the nation spends about \$40mn/- per year in treatment of tobacco-related cancer," he said, adding that several countries have laws controlling tobacco yet Tanzania still lag behind.

The Executive Director of Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum, Lutgard Kokulinda Kagaruki in her presentation observed that tobacco is the one risk factor that is common to all major NCDs.

She said action on all NCD targets is important but world experts agree that the tobacco target is the KEY to achieving the overall reduction in premature deaths from NCDs.

"Tobacco is the only legal product that injures and kills half of its users when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer," she said.



**We need to push for the change even it means coming up with a private motion in the parliament**



Zanzibar's Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, Omar Said Shaaban (L) exchanges greetings with NMB's chief of wholesale banking, Alfred Shao at the Iftar that was prepared by NMB Bank in the Isles. Right is the bank's chief credit officer Benedicto Baragomwa and second left is senior manager for personal lending, Ally Ngingite. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Don't use land title deeds as guarantee to access loans, Bahi residents advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has called upon Bahi District residents in Dodoma Region not to use their land title deeds as guarantee to collect loans, instead develop them to increase income.

Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance), made the call at Msisi ward in the district when she toured the wards where the government has handed over 2,890

title deeds to residents under the business Formalizations Programme (MKURABITA).

The minister said the handing of the title deeds was a sign that they were new investors hence the need for the residents to make use of the documents to empower themselves economically. "I would love to hear that you have used the title deeds to borrow money for developing your farms and not otherwise," she said.

She said the government was

committed to ensure that agriculture was transformed hence it will use the title deeds to sensitize farmers to use their farms to grow short term crops such as sesame and sunflower which all have markets locally and abroad.

The minister hence called upon the farmers to put in place efforts to ensure they document their farms to them official to ensure they are guaranteed to have loans and move out of poverty.

The minister asked MKURABITA officials to keep record of the title

deeds issued to control eruption of land conflicts among residents.

Earlier when welcoming the minister District Commissioner for Bahi Mwanahamis Mukunda said the district was lucky to be among those whose resident's far have been documented.

Managing Director for MKURABITA Dr Seraphia Mgembe hailed the government for setting aside funds for the project which she was said was going to be beneficial to the residents.



Bukomela ward resident in Ushetu district council in Shinyanga region Laurent Charles airs his views to Ushetu MP Emmanuel Cherehani (not in the picture) on the lack of communication services, poor road conditions and lack of toilets at Ngokola primary school during the public rally yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Getrude Mbago

RESEARCHERS from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in collaboration with their colleagues from the United Kingdom (UK) have launched a study project aimed to monitor water availability and use in Dodoma city.

The scholars from the UK come from universities of Cardiff and City, will collaboratively work on the study which will identify water scarcity challenges in Dodoma and later come up with recommendations on the best ways to address them.

Speaking at the launching event here during the weekend, project leader and researcher from SUA Prof Japhet Kashaigili said the study is trying to look at how water is used and how they solve challenges during shortage of the liquid according to their needs.

"We are working to identify the

## SUA and UK researchers conduct study to monitor water availability in Dodoma

challenges and see how we can deal with the deficit but also make the shortage of water to not be a problem but an opportunity of coming up with more innovative ways to address it," Prof Kashaigili said.

In addition, he said the study will also look at what institutions were doing to address the challenge so that the results of a previous study that looked at groundwater in sub-Saharan Africa can be used in the current project to bring best answers that will boost water supply in Dodoma.

"The study will also look at what the community itself is doing to overcome the water challenges as researchers will have the opportunity to talk to

them to find out their strides and how what should be done to address the challenge," he explained.

Dr Adrian Healy, a researcher from Cardiff University said they have decided to conduct the study in Dodoma as it was one of the areas that have been facing water challenges for many years and now the problem has been exacerbated after the government relocation, something which has increased the number of people and water needs.

"Water is life, and if you do not have water it is very difficult to succeed in economic, social, health issues but also the lack of water affects even education issues so having enough water is very

important", Dr Healy said.

"Clean water is critical to all sectors. It is an important need for any human being, so the study is going to identify the challenges and later come up with solutions which will help address the challenge in Dodoma," he said.

He said for a country to attain its development goals, having steady water supply to people was a matter of paramount importance.

He cited an example of Cape Town city in South Africa that had experienced a water crisis in the last four years and used the best methods to deal with the challenge, something that could now serve as a lesson and a model for other cities in Africa.





Bank of Africa (BOA) CEO Adam Mihayo (L), greets one of the bank's customers during the Iftar hosted by the bank in Zanzibar over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

## Songwe DC suspends nine WEOs, VEOs for squandering 38m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

NINE wards and village executive officers in Songwe District have been suspended on suspicion of embezzling 38m/-, the amount which is a revenue collections in their areas.

Out of nine, two have been taken to courts for questioning by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

The move cropped up by ward councilors yesterday in the councilors' session as they discussed various issues while devising effective strategies to control funds' embezzlement from collections from available revenue sources.

Special Seats Councilor from Galula Ward, Paskalia Shitundu said they have been working together to create new sources of revenue to bring revenue to the council but some staff in the council have been squandering the money without taking action.

In his response, district council acting executive director Abdulkadir Mfilinge, said it was true that some unscrupulous executives chewed up the money they were collecting using electronic machines.

He said due to the presence of the money laundering they inspected all the executives and identified the nine who did not submitted 38,552,853/-,

among them Oscar Mayoyi and Fijabo Fijabo have been brought to court and seven others are being investigated by PCCB

According to Mfilinge, those who are being probed by PCCB are Hassan Kalinga, Elizebius Mbalamwezi, George Mhayo, Paulina Makelele, Tafani Kibona, Vicent Mpanzo and Jackson Mpigauzi.

He said that Mpigauzi was also accused of selling more than ten widow's cows.

"Councilors' arguments are valid, the council is ran on local revenue funds so if the consumption of those funds is not controlled the operation will stall," Mfilinge said, accusing the Ngayo Ward Executive to have chewed 2.8m/- and Paulina Makelele of Namkukwe ward to have chewed 8m/-.

Council chairman Abraham Sambira said the action taken by the executives was a sign and a lesson for others to increase attention and trust in revenue collections, as many collect and put them in their pockets instead of putting them in the council's account.

"A distance from one ward to another is 45km to 50 km so ward and village executives are the main revenue collection agents by using electronic machines so if they are not honest the operation of the council will falter," the chairman said.

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

## Missenyi DC directs teachers to follow code of conduct

MISSENYI District Commissioner Col. Wilson Sakulo has called upon teachers in the district to abide by rules and code of conduct guiding their profession to achieve intended results both in class and away.

Col Sakulo was speaking over the weekend at an event to mark the

International Labor Day organised by the Tanzania Teacher's Union (TTU).

He said teachers play a vital role towards achieving quality education, saying they ought to maintain ethical standards of the profession to ensure they were role models to the youth.

The DC condemned a tendency by some teachers who end up

impregnating their students saying the government will not hesitate to take actions against such teachers.

"There are some teachers, who instead of being true caretakers of our children, have turned to be sex abusers, this can't be tolerated," he said.

He said for a teacher, being accused of having sex with a minor

was unacceptable and could lead to disciplinary actions.

TTU celebrated the labour Day by launching a fundraising for the construction of its office building.

Various studies and media reports show that sex abuse is quite rampant among male teachers who abuse young girls.

For example a report by UNICEF in 2011 indicates that children experienced different forms of violence, including sexual and physical violence (84percent), and sexual and emotional violence (43percent).

In addressing the violence on women and children, the

government has established the National Plan of Action to End Violence (NPA-VAWC).

This Multispectral plan seeks to address violence in a comprehensive manner with interventions, including parenting education, safe schools, implementation and enforcement of laws.

## Govt vows to support SUA initiatives

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has vowed to support initiatives by the Sokoine University (SUA) for conducting research which are productive and linked to today's challenges.

Deputy Minister for Investment, Industries and Trade Exaud Kigahe made the promise over the weekend when he opened an operational meeting for business development and environment programme on the release of a report for the same.

Kigahe said the programme is implemented timely at a time when the government is implementing a policy for investment through trade.

"My hope is that in the next five years when the programme will be

completed, it will help to align trade activities from agriculture activities, wildlife and other sectors," said Kigahe.

The deputy minister said the aim is to ensure that horticultural production was a source for raw materials aimed at creating an inclusive economy suitable for all.

Prof Reuben Kadigi who is the lead researcher for the project said the aim of the meeting was to deliver preliminary outcomes of a study which was launched in 2019.

The programme, which is implemented by SUA in collaboration with other universities from 15 other African countries as well as from Asia, United Kingdom and Brazil, was launched in 2019 and will be implemented for five years up to 2024.

According to Prof Kadigi who is the leader of the programme was to ensure that agriculture was the main source of raw materials for poverty eradication.

He said one of the main foundations for progressive development was environmental protection, conservation and development of sub sectors.

A senior lecturer at SUA Dr Fulgence Mishili said the university will continue to offer consultative services to the government as well as research aimed at reducing poverty.

Dr Mishili said the aim of conducting the studies is to empower the government with tools and scientific evidence to implement various development plans.

## Herders appeal to govt to subsidise veterinary drugs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

HERDERS in the Southern Highlands regions have called on the government to subsidise veterinary drugs as it is doing in other sectors so as to reduce the cost of pesticides and other tools used in the sector.

They made the request yesterday here during the special livestock stakeholders meeting aimed at reviewing the Livestock Policy 2006.

The herders are complaining that the cost of inputs used on livestock was too high, something that affects their progress.

Chairman of the Matebete ranch pastoralists' cooperative union in Mbarali district, Lokordu Siloma, said the National Livestock Policy of 2006 is outdated in some areas especially on pastures.

He said the world was currently experiencing rapid technological changes but the pastoral policy still had the same old features which do not help the sector.

"Pastoralists are being pressured to

reduce livestock for value addition. But the authorities end up telling them to reduce the number of animals without giving them training and support to improve their activities," he said.

He added: "During drought season, pastoralists lose a lot of livestock, now we are being encouraged to reduce livestock so as to suit our pastoralist areas, we are also advised to add value to our animals so as to increase productivity but the cost of inputs are still high."

Chairperson of the Mwamala cooperative union in Rungwe district, Asha Lukasa said among the costs that afflict the farmers is the artificial insemination service.

She said currently, artificial insemination service per one animal is 35,000/- which is too costly for most of the pastoralists to afford and thus called on the government to subsidize it to reach 10,000/-.

She said many pastoralists are failing to improve their livestock due to high operating costs which makes them less

productive.

"We thank God as our dairy market in Rungwe is very good, the only problem is the cost of artificial insemination service, we ask for the government to reform the policy to provide us with input subsidies as it is in the agriculture sector," Asha added.

Opening the meeting, Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Dr Angelina Lutambi said despite the gaps issued by farmers in the National Livestock Policy 2006, the sector has continued to grow and it was contributing well in the country's development and Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Lutambi said before 2006 the livestock sector was contributing an average of 10.6trn/- in GDP but currently contributes 10.6trn/-.

"But also the number of livestock has increased significantly due to the implementation of this policy, in 2006/2007 cattle were 10.6 million but now they have reached 33.9 million, this is a great achievement in this sector," said Dr Lutambi.

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# Users of 'malehood enhancement drugs' at risk of losing their lives, experts warn

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

USERS of malehood enhancement drugs, without medical doctors' prescription are at risk of losing their lives as the drugs have the potential to dilate blood vessels, experts have warned.

Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) Director General Dr Adam Fimbo sounded the warning in Mbeya recently when speaking at a one-day meeting with editors from different media outlets in the country.

He said: "Malehood enhancement drugs are on top of the list when it comes to sales in the pharmacies compared to other drugs."

Dr Fimbo warned users to use those drugs only on a doctor's prescription and not otherwise.

The DG said the drug should be used by a person who has been professionally proven to be sexually promiscuous, but its use, including dose, must be approved by a physician.

"People are dying in guesthouses due to the incorrect use of these drugs. Our research in pharmacies has shown that these drugs are very famous leading to more purchases in the country," he stressed.

He said that their monitoring had revealed that the drugs were currently leading in purchases at pharmacies in the country, warning that they should be used only on a doctor's prescription and not otherwise.

Commenting on the history of drug use, Dr Fimbo said: "drugs for hypertensive patients were found to increase male potency."

"Therefore, some pharmaceutical manufacturers used the opportunity to manufacture malehood enhancement drugs. The problem

with these drugs is that they cause the blood vessels to dilate. If the blood vessels in the scalp dilate, the person dies."

Earlier, presenting the paper on tobacco product control, the Acting Director of Drug Control, Dr Yonah Mwalwisi, said the drugs used to treat the problem belong to a group called phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitors that improve blood circulation in the penile arteries.

Examples of these drugs are; Sildenafil, Tadalafil, Vardenafil and Avanafil; and of these four drugs, three are registered with TMDA and have different names; for example Sildenafil (Evoke, Erecto, Zwagra, Silmet, Njoi and Viagra), Tadalafil (Saheal and Cialis) and Vardenafil (Levitra)," he said.

Dr Mwalwisi stressed that the use of such drugs should be done by people who have been diagnosed with the condition and must be approved by a doctor and not otherwise.

Elaborating further on his observation, the acting director said the drugs should be given according to various criteria considered medically, noting that there are drugs of 25 mg, 50 mg and even 100 mg.



**Malehood enhancement drugs are on top of the list when it comes to sales in the pharmacies compared to other drugs**



Tanzania Midwives Association president Feddy Mwanga talks with journalists attending reproductive and population health issues workshop in Dar es Salaam over the weekend aimed at recognising the role of midwives. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE main opposition party—Chadema has called upon civil servants in the country to join activists in the quest for a new constitution which will set systems for promotions and wage increase.

Chadema deputy chairman for mainland Tundu Lissu made the call over the weekend when he addressed the party's youth in Mbeya rural who gathered to commemorate the International Labour Day.

Lissu attended the meeting via video from Belgium where he is residing for almost five years now since 2017 where he went for treatment after a failed assassination attempt by unknown assailants in Dodoma.

## Chadema calls upon civil servants to join quest for new constitution

Lissu said the current systems portrays civil servants as beggars and this has been portrayed in the sense that each year when commemorating the day civil servants have been raising issues and concerns but to no response.

He said the current system also makes salary increase and promotion of servants as presidential aid instead of being articulated in the constitution.

"This day has been translated into a special day for gaining political mileage by our politicians, instead of

responding to issues even concerns by civil servants," he said.

Lissu said there are countries in East Africa whose constitutions have clearly stated the rights of servants and their entitlement.

The chairman for youth wing of the party (Bavicha) John Pambalu asked the government to drop charges against some party members saying their cases were bail able.

He said the party and other opposition parties have undergone a tough time in the last five years

saying there is need for a change in constitution which will reduce presidential powers.

He said during the period, political parties were not allowed to conduct political rallies, to demonstrate as well as search for new members, against the constitution.

Chadema chairman for Mbeya city John Mwambigija said despite all the challenges they have gone through, it has remained strong and will continue implementing its constitutional mandates.

## Arusha-based hospital intends to be upgraded to referral status

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Arusha-based St. Elizabeth hospital is planning to conduct major improvements at the facility so as to persuade the government to upgrade it to a referral status.

Among the improvements is the construction of a four-storey building, which will enable it to serve more people from in and outside the region.

Doctor in charge at the hospital Dr Rohela Kaseriani revealed this yesterday when speaking on various improvement strategies of the facility.

He said once completed, the hospital will be able to provide more quality health services to more people, among others, including the intensive care unit (ICU) services, a modern

operating room, emergency building, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computerized Tomography Scan (CT Scan).

The St Elizabeth Hospital, famously known as "Kwa father Babu", is located at Ngarenaro suburb in Arusha. It started operations in 1974 as a dispensary, in 1984 it was upgraded to be a hospital and in 2011 it was further upgraded to become a designated hospital in Arusha.

"The hospital provides a wide range of outpatient and in-patient services, and also has clinics for ophthalmologists, pediatricians, non-surgical diseases, nasal diseases, ear and throat," he said.

The hospital also has enough and competent specialists including dermatologists, urologists,

gynecologists as well as in the services of orthopedics, laboratory tests, x-ray, ultra sound and surgery.

He said the church (Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha), was in the process to commence the rehabilitation work which included construction of the four-storey building for quality health services. "In the first phase, they will start with an outpatient building, which will facilitate provision of quality services to more people, among the services include the ICU, a modern operating room, emergency building, MRI, CT Scan, oxygen machine and Kangaroo mother care," he explained.

Currently the hospital has been transferring the patients to the Mount Meru referral hospital and the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC).



Arusha residents addressed in traditional attire enter at Arusha International Conference Centre last week to witness the launch of The Royal Tour film. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi



### UNITRANS TANZANIA LIMITED

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- Maintenance of main and feeder roads (Grading, Building & Skimming).
- Inspect the equipment for safe operation and or avoid unnecessary damage
- Immediately report to his supervisor on damage, destruction found during inspecting of machine before starting the shift
- Cleaning the equipment after operation
- other related duties within the framework which may be assigned by the immediate manager

##### Requirements

- Must be / have completed secondary school education (form IV and above)
- A minimum of 2 years' experience in motor grader related operation
- Posses a valid driving license (class E, F and G)
- Average communication skills (English)
- Certificate from VETA or any other institution.
- Certificate of service from previous employer(s)

Interested candidates may apply and send email with Subject of the position they are applying. Please attach application letter, CV, copy of valid licence, and copy of certificates to [iness.nangali@unitrans.africa](mailto:iness.nangali@unitrans.africa) not later than Monday, 10th May 2021 or send through post mail

Human Resources Manager  
Unitrans Tanzania Limited  
C/O P.O. BOX 50  
Kidatu

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted



# 'Lives of over 5,000 Iseche village residents in danger'

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

LIVES of over 5,000 residents of Iseche village, Mbuyuni ward in Songwe district, Mbeya Region are in danger, following construction of a new gold processing plant near water sources that are used by the citizens and animals.

Village executive officer (VEO) Justa Chuki expressed her disappointment on the investor's decision saying that 90 percent of the villagers depend on water from the source.

"I was surprised to see the tanks while also the stone grinding machines were working, when I asked the investor on why he constructed the plant at the water source, he replied that he had already agreed with district leaders," she said.

Village chairman Gaudence Otto acknowledged that he was there when the investor was buying the plot of land which he thought will be used for farming or house construction but was surprised to see 17 mineral processing

tanks being built without informing the office.

"I was there as a witness when the investor came to procure the land but he has changed the land use to construct the mineral processing plant which is contrary to what we agreed," he said.

Evaristi Macho, one of the residents said after seeing the investor conducting the activities near the water source, he and other villagers went to report to the village office which also had no answers.

"When we went to ask the investor about the decision, he said that after completing the installation of the plant, he will construct two classrooms and an administrative office at the village's primary school. We asked him, who is going to use the classrooms if the water source will be destroyed and polluted?"

District environmental officer Jeremiah Kaulananga said his office wasn't aware of the investor's plant.

District council chairman Abraham

Sambila said after getting information that the environmental officer refused to grant the permit, he formed an investigation team to determine who had issued the permit while instructing the district executive director (DED) to suspend construction of the project.

"This project risks the lives of thousands of people as it has been built near a water source, how is it possible for an investor to build a project that will dump toxic water into a water source without the environmental officer knowing, we are going to investigate this," he explained.

Acting DED Abdulkadir Mfilinge assured the chairman that all the directives will be implemented and warned servants that stern actions will be taken against those who violate code of ethics in the public service.

Songwe District is one of the districts in the country that has regularly been facing cholera outbreaks due to use of unsafe water, but President Samia has provided 6bn/- for the construction of water projects.



Ubungu municipal council employee Francis Vicent marks residential code number at one of the homes at Manzese ward - Kilimani Street in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# TAS urges PwDs to be more vigilant

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) has called on people with disabilities and their families to take all precautions to ensure they avoid acts of violence against them.

TAS secretary general Musa Kabimba made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking to reporters to express his society's sorrow over the existence of reports of a survivor killing a young man with albinism.

"I urge people with albinism and their families to continue to take safety precautions at all times, including reporting to the police, to the authorities around them when

they see crime indicators so that they can be controlled quickly, including the early arrest of those involved," Kabimba said.

He said the party had sadly received reports of an amputation of a young man with albinism who is a resident of Mabibo Dar es Salaam, where apart from urging people with disabilities to take precautions, he asked the Police Force to hunt down and arrest the suspects.

The secretary added that the incident took place a few months after the exhumation of the body of an albino man named Heri Shekighenda in November last year in Tanga Region.

"We also called upon the relevant

ministries and units responsible for the welfare of people with disabilities to conduct public awareness campaigns on albinism and to denounce the misconceptions that contribute to the killing of albinos," he said.

In the matter of providing education, he called on the media, religious leaders, civil society organizations as well as other government officials to participate in educating the public to ensure the safety of albinos.

"In addition, we call for the completion of the process of approving the draft National Strategic Plan for People with Albinism (2022-2026) submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister in February this year."

By Guardian Reporter

THE Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) acting director general Eng Charles Sangweni has called upon the staff to work efficiently to continue producing positive results for the country's development.

Eng Sangweni made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when the authority's staff joined thousands of Tanzanians to celebrate the International Workers' Day 2022. The day was held at national level in Dodoma.

This year's celebrations' theme was centered on a plea to the government for salary increments and improvement of workers' welfare as the job continues.

Sangweni who is also the chairman of the PURA Workers Council said

# Work efficiently for country's development, PURA staff told

this year's Workers Day celebrations are the sixth for PURA to participate since its inception in 2015, and during this period there has been a rapid improvement in the institution including the increase in staffing and efficiency in the implementation of the authority's activities.

"This day is important to all of us, PURA workers, and all workers across the world because it reminds us of our duty to serve the people with integrity, unity, efficiency and with due rights," he added.

Chairman of the Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE) at PURA, Abbas Kisuju

said the authority has joined other institutions to commemorate May Day as a way to recognise the contribution of workers in the implementation of the authority's duties.

"This has also been an opportunity for us to connect with staff from other institutions and exchange ideas on solutions to the various challenges we face in our workplaces and thus continue working hard for the country's progress," he asserted.

PURA staff in both Dar es Salaam and Dodoma offices commemorated the day by participating in the peaceful rally held in the respective regions.

## SUGAR BOARD OF TANZANIA



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORTATION OF SUGAR FOR INDUSTRIAL USE FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 2022 TO JUNE 2023

- The Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) invites registered users of industrial sugar to submit their applications for importation of industrial sugar for the period of 2022/2023.
- All applications should be channeled through Agricultural Trade Management System (ATMIS). Before submitting the application, applicants must either register or update their registration particulars online, via the link <https://atmis.kilimo.go.tz/>, and select appropriate year 2022-2023.
- The application should be attached with a duly filled Form SBT-05 which can be downloaded from the link <https://www.sbt.go.tz> and be submitted to SBT not later than 9th May 2022. Should items 8 and 9 in Form SBT-05 show significant variance, detailed explanation and supporting evidence will be required to support your application.
- Applicants should provide separately detailed analysis on usage of sugar for 2021/2022, and the imports for the period to April, 2022 plus stocks and realistic projections to June 2022.
- For more information and support please contact the Board through contacts below;

Director General,  
Sugar Board of Tanzania,  
P. O. Box 4355, DAR ES SALAAM.  
Tel No. +255222111523  
E-mail: info@sbt.go.tz

SBT - 05

THE SUGAR BOARD OF TANZANIA			
B	APPLICATION FOR SUGAR IMPORT LICENCE: (Sugar for Industrial use)		Sr. No
1. I/We (Name and address of Applicant) _____			
Hereby apply for a sugar Import Licence Category B to import sugar for Industrial use as stated hereunder.			
2. Registration Certificate No. _____ dated _____			
3. Quantity of sugar to be imported _____ metric tons			
4. Period (month & year), from _____ 20 ____ to _____ 20 ____			
5. Single or multiple entry _____			
6. Port (s) of entry _____			
7. Last Import License was No. _____ for _____ tons			
8. Production from the last imported sugar (item 7) is per page 2 overleaf.			
9. Fill in the type and quantities of products to be produced from the sugar to be imported (item 3).			
Product	Quantity	Product	Quantity
(i)		(v)	
(ii)		(vi)	
(iii)		(vii)	
(iv)		(viii)	
(Give details) _____			
Signature:..... Designation:..... Date: .....			
For official use			

#### PRODUCTION (previous licence(s))

- Last Import Licence No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- Tons sugar imported \_\_\_\_\_
- Total tons sugar used \_\_\_\_\_
- Balance of Sugar if any. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Products produced		Sugar used (Ton or Kg)
(i)		
(ii)		
(iii)		
(iv)		
(v)		
(vi)		

#### CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATIONS OF IMPORT LICENCE (Industrial Sugar)

- By signing and submitting this application to the Board the applicant declares that if granted licence the sugar he will import will be solely for industrial use and shall not be sold or disposed of in any other manner.
- Licence granted under this application shall import Refined Sugar, Liquid Glucose, Dextrose Monohydrate, Molasses, Fructose and any form or type of sugar intended for industrial use.
- This application and any licence arising there-from is governed by the Sugar Import Regulations, 2010 as amended.



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## Why bancassurance is relevant with the drought, floods cycles at present

HERE is a rule that one can solve problems one at a time, not two at one particular moment, a situation that is beginning to confuse issues with regard to adapting to climate change. In relatively dry areas the big problem is drought, becoming more intensive and killing off hundreds or even thousands of livestock as it has lately happened in Simanjiro district, apart from Mandera and other counties in neighbouring Kenya. In Tanzania episodes of the death of large numbers of livestock from drought are few and far between but such scenarios are becoming annual cycles of devastation with our neighbours, evidently.

There is a set of dilemmas as to what to do in many parts of the country, whether the problem we need to adapt to is diminution of rainfall or it is excessive rainfall. Each has its explicit set of responses and each part of the country that faces such situation expects that the government will be in a position to positively react when such events occur, whether it is emergency aid or it is in relation to mechanisms of adaptation. But it doesn't appear that the relevant ministries are sufficiently prepared for either situations, and indeed we don't have models of reaction suitable for such emergencies like floods, or drawn out situations like droughts. Such issues are not in the mind until they happen, and when occur, solutions aren't in the mind.

Looking at the issue a bit closely, it seems that another level of looking at the climate change problem is needed, as the government puts all resources it can muster to ensure that roads, bridges, schools etc are working in a particular district. Then rains come in a few hours of thunderstorms and destroy everything, so the work has to start again, and it isn't assured that

work starts immediately. At times the government lacks even minimal safeguards against disasters because they aren't part of routine logistical planning, for instance when regional authorities in Mbeya extended just 50,000/- in assistance per family after floods.

When it comes to living with drought, and even flooding, new insurance mechanisms designed to take care of these situations are coming, for instance what is now known as bancassurance, where banks issue insurance policies as agents of life insurance firms in particular. Not that this is the first time such ideas have been floated but have scarcely worked, partly because of relatively poor design and absence of good vehicles to push whatever designs were laid out earlier. Yet with drought, floods all over the place, herders and farmers need to take up minimal insurance policies to see them through in any emergency.

The traditional response to these situations was state relief expenditure, often expecting considerable inputs in donor funds, but that presumes such events are rare and shock people across the world. That is no longer the case, in which case taking precautions for emergencies isn't just something to make the case for but can also be figured out at a regulatory level. Fire insurance is compulsory in commercial as well as industrial establishments, not just left to the occupant to think out, in which case drought and flooding threats need to be taken up as well. In urban areas thousands of petty traders have learned why it is vital to have insurance after a series of fires, a setting that applies to rural areas as well, with floods and droughts being heard in a regular manner. The crucial aspect about danger is that one doesn't wait for it to happen.

## Policy, constitutional safeguards vital on minimum wage pressures

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan was walking a tightrope in taking up the podium to address members of the various organisations involved with the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA), who decided to make the call for higher wages the only item on their placards. She left out the issue of what sort of rise in the minimum wage the government had decided, but assured the audience that the matter is vibrant, and had been worked upon, though decidedly not in line with TUCTA demands for one million shillings a month as minimum wage. We need to figure out if it is rational to make wages a matter for one to one discussion between the president and trade union organisations or it is directed to the National Assembly.

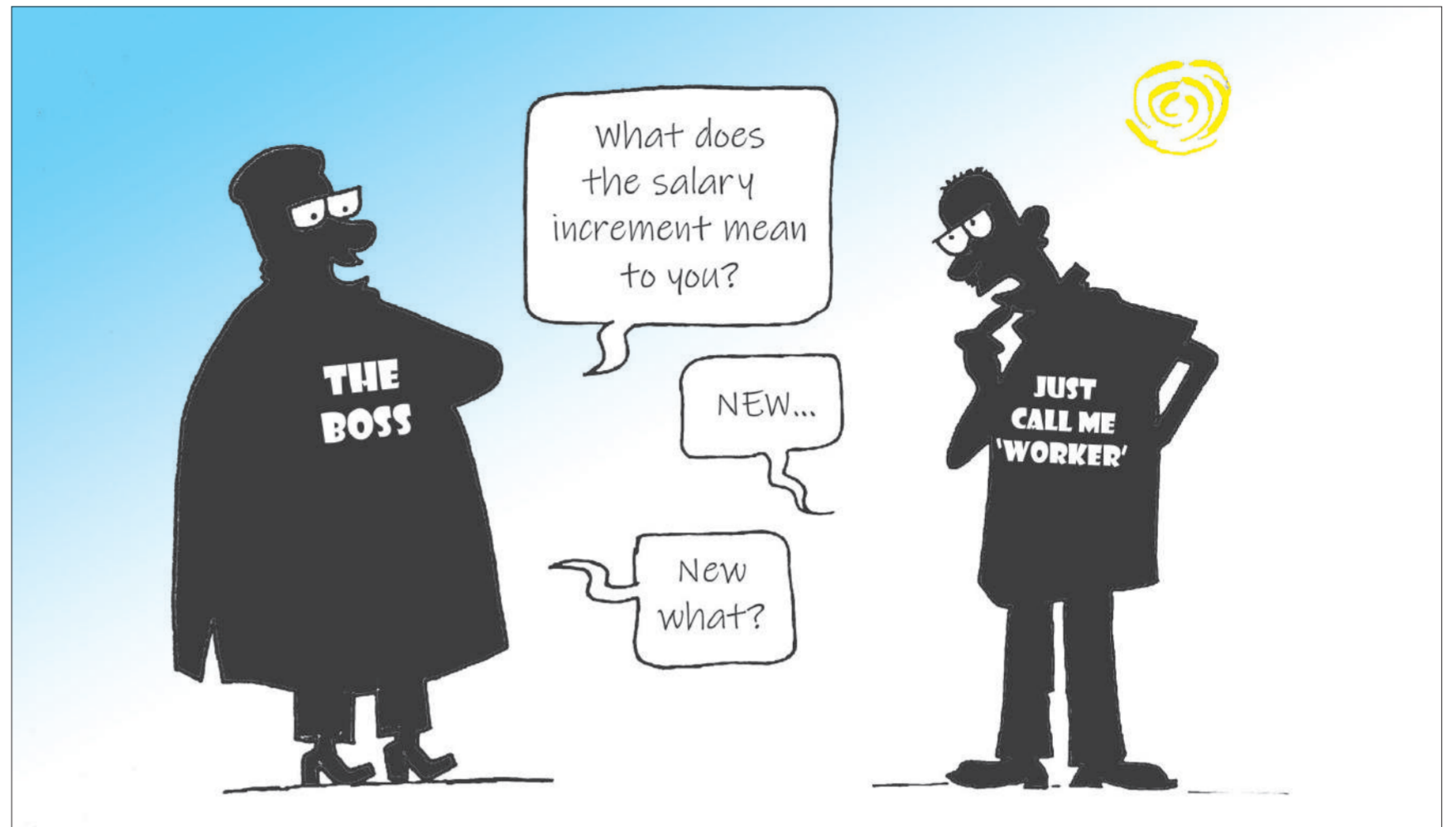
A few days before the May Day gathering, reports had it that an MP raised the issue of the president's promise of raising the minimum wage in this year's International Workers Day gathering, and the Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson is said to have commended the MP for raising the issue. The trouble with that situation is that it makes it a moral issue between workers and the president as to how much the state cares for them, whereas the real issue is elsewhere, how much potential damage can arise from a minimum wage rise. TUCTA for instance talks of a living wage as if that is a constitutional guarantee.

And there is another aspect to it, that statutory minimum wages for private sector casual employees in particular are pegged at a realistic level of 60,000/- to 150,000/- a month depending upon the kind of enterprise

that one is hired. Meanwhile, public sector employees are placed at 300,000/- minimum wage per month, and they demand 1m/- per month as if no one can live with the 0.3m/- they are offered, and they believe that there is a list of comfort things the government has to assure its employees, whereas that is an issue for preachers and other dispensers of wisdom on how to live. It isn't part of government roles.

President Samia pointed out in her remarks on the issue that TUCTA had merely listed items that a worker presumably needs with his family in a month, but not the productivity gain say across the past five years that could permit recalibrating the minimum wage level. By that gap alone the TUCTA proposal was anchored in quicksand, as it doesn't show its economic rationale, merely that the workers would be very happy to get a lot of money. Indeed the president chose not to call a spade a spade, by asking how TUCTA can explain why a vast number of workers live with 100,000/- per month and TUCTA says 1m/- should be the 'minimum' wage. How can it be the minimum if a tenth of it can also do as is the case now?

Now that we are in a market economy where investors have to do their sums about the lowest prices they can sell their produce and the highest prices for workers they can pay so as to sell their produce at the lowest prices, this annual ritual lays unnecessary traps and psychological pressures on top leadership. We need to be realistic that disturbing the market with new wages weakens the currency by a price spiral and must be avoided. MPs can ask for wage reviews and all stakeholders put out their ideas, not just TUCTA.



IN his sunset days, President Mwai Kibaki knew that the bell would soon toll for him and made peace with himself, family and everyone around him.

His eldest son, Jimmy Kibaki, recalls how the death in 2016 of their mother, Lucy Kibaki, became a major turning point for the family.

The former president started falling ill immediately after her burial, which made him realise that he would sooner than later be re-united with his sweetheart. And so, for the past six years, Mzee Kibaki always had his luggage packed, ready for the exit.

"Remember he had to be flown to South Africa for specialised treatment after our mum passed on. The experience and the ordeal changed everything. It was never going to be the same again," Jimmy recalled in an interview on Thursday.

Addressing the family before he was taken to the Nairobi Hospital ICU on Wednesday last week, after which he breathed his last on Friday, Kibaki had one wish for his children: "stay together, take care of my grandchildren".

If his last wish is honoured, he reminded the family, they shall have made the former First Lady and him proud and happy in the after life.

The presence of his grandchildren had become a commonplace at State House in his second and final term in office. In his retirement, they always surrounded him at his Muthaiga home whenever schools were in recess. His children say he enjoyed a special bond with the young ones. His oldest grandchild is 26.

Jimmy says that his father, "being a meticulous man," ensured he put his house in order before his death. He promises the country that there will be no family feuds over property in his father's absence, like has been the case among prominent families when the patriarch or matriarch dies.

"We have no reason to start fighting, we've been brought up well. As his children, we do not view his wealth as ours. No. For whatever wealth he has left, we only see ourselves as trustees for the next generation. Our duty is to increase what is there not to fight over it."

But even on his deathbed, Jimmy says, his father did his best to ease the family's worries despite the visible pain in his eyes. He'd prefer talking about other things.

"My father never wanted us to worry about him. Instead, he was more concerned about us, even in his sickness," he said.

He recalled how the military took over on being informed that their father, a former Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), had passed on.

"In death, we realised our dad belonged to Kenya, to the government and also to the military, not just to us the family. We were made to sign-off documents handing the body over to

## Revealed: Mwai Kibaki's last word to his family



the military. Even pathologists who prepared his body were from the military. Those from Lee funeral home were reduced to bystanders," he said.

In the midst of the mourning and coming to terms with his father's loss, he still sees hope for Kenya in the military and other efficiently run institutions.

"If you look at how they do their business, they are very professional and courteous. The military is evidence that institutions can work," he said with deep reflection.

As a father, Jimmy says Kibaki did not believe in spoon-feeding anybody, including his own children.

You had to roll up your sleeves, work and stand on your own.

"When you finished the university, it was up to you to decide what to do. If you wanted to go into business, he'd start you off. He'd then support you for the first six months to one year. After that, you'd be on your own. And if you needed help with getting employment, he'd also do it once and if you messed it up, it would be none of his business."

"He was of the mind that there is only so much you can do for your children. If you do everything for them, when will they ever grow up," he held.

He said his father took them for holidays whenever schools closed.

"His preferred destination was Mombasa. He made time for his family despite the demanding schedule of a public figure."

The children attended the best schools, best universities around the globe, in the US and the UK, and so he expected none of them to have an excuse for not excelling in life.

"He never administered any corporal punishment on us when we went astray, but he had his own way of putting his point across that he was not

happy with you. And that way, you'd actually feel terrible that mzee is not happy with you. You'd do your best to redeem yourself."

Mama Lucy Kibaki, the former First Lady, was the ultimate family disciplinarian.

"I can assure you she was quite effective at it," he stressed.

The former president was a staunch Catholic, believing it is the church that gave him a chance in life.

When the Consolata Missionaries wanted pupils to enroll in school, his father released him to go on an account that he was not very useful on the farm.

While President Kibaki was not a demanding type of a parent, he couldn't understand why someone would fail in class.

"He expected us to excel in school and respect people. When we didn't excel like some of us were a bit challenged, he couldn't understand what the problem was since he was an academic giant. He couldn't just get why someone would get below grade B in a subject. He was right," Jimmy says.

In his style of not imposing his views on children, Jimmy says he left it to them to decide whether to venture into active politics or not.

"He neither encouraged nor discouraged us from joining politics. Remember even for him, he never joined politics for the sake of it, like is the case among many. He joined politics in order to be appointed minister and later president since he believed he had something to offer and it could only be possible in that space," he says.

But the former Head of State asked him to 'engage closely' with Othaya residents, the region he represented in Parliament for half a century, perhaps the closest he came to urging Jimmy to get into politics, he recalls.

On whether he will be charged with being the political leader of the family, in the same fashion Baringo Senator Gideon Moi was crowned at the burial of his father Daniel Moi, and handed Mzee's symbolic rungu (baton), the younger Kibaki says the family will not follow that script.

"We're a bit private and conduct our affairs differently. Of course the family already sees me as one (political leader) but trust me, an announcement will be made when such a decision is arrived at," he told the Saturday Nation.

On Kibaki the head of government, he says his father had the patience of a mustard seed.

"He never showed his frustrations even when running a government with people whose vision may not have been in tandem with his. You remember the squabbling from day one of his presidency to the end, yet he had a country to lead and an economy to revive. He even battled an accident and had to overcome stroke to lead," he says.

Jimmy admires his father for many things and says the late president maximised on every opportunity he came across.

"Obviously, he was of superior intelligence but he also made the most out of opportunities life gave him. Success for Mzee meant that you knew what you were doing. He did tremendous amount of research and reading," he recalls.

Out of oppression

As president, Jimmy says his father listened keenly to experts in areas which he was not an authority.

"He would tell Muthaura (Head of Public Service Francis Muthaura), let's listen to doctors on this and that health policy for they know it better. But before hosting them, he would go ahead and read about the subject so that he is not just a passive listener."

And like is the case for every man, Kibaki too had his regrets.

"He felt that as he was moving at a very high speed to transform the country, a country that was just being liberated from many challenges, he felt he left a lot of people behind. He assumed the task would have been obvious for a people who were just coming out of oppression but that was not the case. He, in the end, felt he should have sought more consensus on this mission, that way, his presidency would have been better," Jimmy says.

Ultimately, he says, his father was more appreciated for what he did for the country in his retirement than when he was the country's chief executive.



The UN will be commemorating World Press Freedom Day tomorrow. The following article is part of a series of IPS features and opinion pieces focused on media freedom globally.

# World press freedom faces a perfect storm



Farhana Haque Rahman

TORONTO, Canada

Empowered by a global pandemic and the drum beats of war, the strongest despots are growing more despotic, and criminal cartels even more brazen in their violence. Extremists of various hues are also stepping out of the shadows.

Just when the world most needs press freedom to thrive, the liberties that societies only really treasure when they are emasculated are coming under more pressure from different directions, old and new.

The 2021 World Press Freedom Index measured by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) declined last year, and is 12% down since first issued in 2013. RSF reported "a dramatic deterioration in people's access to information and an increase in obstacles to news coverage". The coronavirus pandemic was cited as widely used to block journalists' access to information.

Lest you think that this deterioration is the preserve of less developed countries under autocratic rule, RSF noted an increase in attacks against journalists and arbitrary arrests in Germany, France, Italy and several other European states.

This year - as we approach World Press Freedom Day on May 3 - is measurably worse already, notably in Russia and China, but also in Mexico with an escalation of targeted killings of journalists by suspected drug traffickers.

Some 200 Russian journalists and several dozen foreign reporters have left Russia since the passing of a draconian media law on March 4 which criminalises "deliberately false" information. It outlaws calling the invasion of Ukraine a "war". In addition Russia is still applying its "foreign agents" legislation to punish and intimidate critical media

outlets, including PASMI dedicated exclusively to fighting corruption.

"The Russian authorities' crackdown on independent media is escalating at breakneck speed. Evidently unsatisfied with merely blocking critical news sites or forcing reporters into exile, the Kremlin now seeks to incarcerate journalists who report on anti-war protests or Russian soldiers who refuse to fight in Ukraine," Amnesty International said on April 14 commenting on the arrests of two journalists in the Russian republics of Altay and Khakassia.

"Apart from state propaganda, there is no media landscape in Russia," Journalist Alexey Kovalyov, now based in Riga, told Al Jazeera. The power of that propaganda must not be underestimated. Accounts are widespread of people living in Ukraine telling relatives in Russia that they are being bombed by the Russian army but their own family members refuse to believe them.

The "world's biggest jailer of press freedom defenders", reports RSF, is however China, with 115 men and women currently incarcerated. China ranks 177 out of the 180 countries and territories surveyed. "Media freedom in China is declining at breakneck speed," the Foreign Correspondents Club (FCC) stated in January. China has labelled the FCC an "illegal organisation" and appears in its rhetoric to be encouraging an exodus of foreign journalists.

Free media in Hong Kong, once among the freest in Asia, has been almost completely dismantled, according to Hong Kong Watch, a UK-based advocacy group. Its recent report followed the HK FCC's announcement it would suspend its Human Rights Press Awards as it risked violating the city's national security law imposed by Beijing in 2020.

Whereas Russia and China are deploying "lawfare" against independent journalists and big companies in developed countries are stifling the press with "vexatious" lawsuits, it is more a legal wasteland or absence of the state that is killing journalists in Mexico, among others.

A wave of murders has targeted at least eight journalists so far this year, with seven killed in all of 2021, making Mexico under populist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador one of the most dangerous countries for the press. Journalists, in the words of Adela Navarro Bello, director of the Tijuana weekly Zeta, are "caught in the crossfire between the threats and bullets of narco-traffickers and organised crime and the threats and verbal attacks and attempts to morally annihilate us from the federal and state governments".

International human rights organisation Article 19 says the Mexican government's denial of what is happening "results in no urgent measures being taken to stop this brutal spiral of violence".

A similar pattern is seen in Bangladesh where suspected narco-traffickers killed Bangladeshi journalist Mohiuddin Sarker Nayeem on April 13.

The Committee to Protect Journalists publishes an annual Global Impunity Index and notes that no one has been held to account in 81% of journalist murders worldwide over the past 10 years. Somalia tops the list, with Mexico ranked 6th and Bangladesh 11th.

State-sponsored or tolerated violence and political persecution aside, world press freedom is also being eroded in an insidious way in places where such freedoms are commonly understood to be vital in sustaining well-functioning democracies. Coupled with the apparently unstoppable rise of social media as a source of information - some surveys suggest 50% of adults in the US and UK get their news from social media - the state of much of the traditional press, digital or not, is far from healthy.

The annual Digital News Report by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism found the US ranked last in media trust, at 29%, among 92,000 news consumers polled in 46 countries. (Finland came top).

Governments must not be passive while the same powerful corporate lobbies that have spent fortunes over decades spreading climate dis/misinformation in traditional media now feed on the rapacity of

Big Tech social media, which are failing to disclose comprehensive policies to combat this. Climate disinformation as a threat to climate action is highlighted in the latest UN Climate Reports.

Press offices of international organisations, particularly the UN and large INGOs, also have a particular responsibility to uphold media freedom by eschewing the corporate dark arts of delay, denial and obfuscation.

A new proposal by the EU executive to protect journalists and campaigners from so-called vexatious lawsuits is highly welcome. The move would target "strategic lawsuits against public participation" known as Slapps, where the rich misuse legal means to silence troublesome investigative reporters and NGOs.

No press freedom, no democracy. Just like freedom of speech, that does not mean a free press can publish whatever it wants. Both need to be defined and, in these very dark times, defended.

Farhana Haque Rahman is Senior Vice President of IPS Inter Press Service and Executive Director IPS North America, including its UN Bureau; she served as the elected Director General of IPS from 2015-2019. A journalist and communications expert, she is a former senior official of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

NAIROBI

# Government ministries must collaborate to end teenage pregnancy crisis in Kenya

The Ministry of Health in Kenya recently reported there were 45,754 cases of adolescent pregnancies between January and February this year - that translates to 700 cases a day. Of the total number, at least 2000 of these cases resulted from sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), a figure which is likely lower than the reality.

What is more is that every week, 98 girls were reported to have contracted HIV in the study period.

Having been a teenage mother myself and now a sexual and reproductive health advocate, the worrisome statistics hit close to home. As Kenyans, we have cultivated and normalized a culture of public outcry on issues of concern and shortly thereafter, swiftly moving on.

This must change. We must pay attention to this crisis and address it. The price to pay if current trends continue is too high, as this directly touches on the lives of the future of our great Republic.

The effects of teenage pregnancy are often deleterious affecting that affect the social and, economic aspects of young mothers. Consider that often, teenage mothers drop out of school due to the stigma, and are inadequately supported postpartum to return to school in their new status of motherhood.

Disruptions in education ultimately perpetuate a vicious economic dependency cycle, often on people who abuse their vulnerability. There are also health risks involved like infections and obstetric fistula among others - as well as mental health challenges including anxiety and depression. Additionally, babies born to adolescents are more likely to have low birth weight and severe neonatal conditions.

The startling figures from earlier this year point to two scenarios. On the one hand is that adolescents are engaging in consensual sex amongst themselves. This could be attributed to curiosity and the raging hormonal changes that come flooding in at puberty.

On the other hand, incidents could point to a sexual and gender based violence crisis that is perpetuating the teenage pregnancy crisis in the country. For both scenarios, Kenya has a robust legal and policy framework to prevent these crises that must be better employed.

The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, explicitly guarantees the right to reproductive health in Article 43. This is working in tandem with the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health



Credit: Michael Duff/ UNFPA

Policy (2015) that employs a preventive approach to teenage pregnancy through, among others, the access to correct sexual and reproductive health information.

Additionally, is the Return to School Policy that provides guidelines on the reintegration of adolescent mothers to school, postpartum. Addition-

ally, the Children's Act, the Sexual Offences Act and the Penal Code all prescribe strict punishment for sexual and gender based violence.

These are complemented by the Kenya School Health Policy which ideally safeguards learners from the same.

So, there are laws, but the

problem lies in the implementation - or lack thereof, of these solid frameworks.

Implementation is additionally hindered when duty bearers misinterpret or are unaware of their own policies. Just recently, a senior Ministry of Health official publicly stated that giving contraceptives to minors is a criminal offense

punishable by a jail term of up to 20 years.

This is however not a true representation of the existing legal and policy framework. In his erroneous statement that pointed to a draft policy that is yet to be passed, the ministry official misled millions of Kenyans.

The crisis at hand shows

how critical it is for adolescents to receive correct information on sexual and reproductive health, products and services to make wise decisions. Opponents argue that this would increase promiscuity among adolescents.

However, that perspective remains an inadequate rejoinder because the fact of the matter is that whether we like it or not, teenagers are having sex - a lot of it too. They therefore need to freely make informed decisions that protect their health and their future.

As we move into the month of May which is dedicated to preventing and ending teenage pregnancies worldwide, the Kenyan government must intentionally work on ending the scourge that has persisted over the years.

The Ministry of Health must provide products and services for prevention and mitigation in accordance with the law. The Ministry of Education must work to standardize and deliver comprehensive sexuality education across the country.

To galvanize this, Kenya must reaffirm the regional Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People in Eastern and Southern Africa which it signed in 2013 but shied away from recommitting to in December 2021.

The Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government under which security falls, must work to investigate and provide evidence for the prosecution of perpetrators.

The Ministry of Culture must also fight against harmful traditional practices that feed into the crises. This should all be in collaboration with the relevant ministries that house the youth affairs and gender affairs dockets respectively. Until then, the health, life and future of Kenyan girls hang in the balance.

Stephanie Musho is a human rights lawyer and a Senior New Voices Fellow at the Aspen Institute





# Breaking vicious cycle of trafficking for sexual exploitation

KIGALI

Desperate to escape the rural area where she was engaged in the informal economy in Kayonza, a district in Eastern Rwanda, Sharon\* made a long and arduous journey to Kenya in the hope of a well-paid job.

An unidentified individual contacted her, paid for her ticket, and gave her a modest amount of pocket money to travel to Kenya by road. The person told the 19-year-old she was traveling to take up an "employment opportunity".

However, Sharon found herself in sexual servitude at a karaoke bar on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Sharon's job was to bow elegantly to all customers at the door and usher them inside the bar.

"I was also hired as a nightclub dancer and sometimes forced by my employer to engage in sexual intercourse with clients to earn a living," the high school graduate told IPS in an interview.

Like Sharon, activists say the number of young women from rural areas trafficked into the sex trade across many East African countries is growing. The young women are lured with the promise of good jobs or marriage. Instead, they are sold into prostitution in cities such as Nairobi (Kenya) and Kampala (Uganda).

Both activists and lawmakers warn that people with hidden agendas could target young women from Rwanda.

The process of trafficking most of these young women into neighboring countries is complex. It involves false promises to their families and victims in which they are promised a "better life", activists say.

In many cases, traffickers lure young women from rural villages to neighboring countries with the promise of well-paid work. Then, victims are transferred to people who become their enslavers - especially in dubious hotels and karaoke bars.

While Rwanda has tried to combat human trafficking, law enforcement agencies stress that the main challenge revolves around the financial and other assistance for repatriated victims. Limited budgets of the institutions in charge of investigation and rehabilitation of the victims have meant that these programmes are not working optimally.

The chairperson of the East African Legislative Assembly's Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution, Fatuma Ndingiza, warned that if no urgent measures are undertaken, the problem is likely to worsen.

"Most of these young women without employment were victims of a



Rural women are often targeted by human traffickers and taken across borders in Africa and forced to become sex workers. Credit: Aimable Twahirwa/IPS

well-established human trafficking ring operating under the guise of employment agencies in the region," Ndingiza told IPS.

The latest figures by Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) indicate that 119 cases of human trafficking, illegal migration, and smuggling of migrants in the region were investigated in the last three years.

These involved 215 victims, among whom 165 were females

and 59 males.

Driven by the demand for cheap labor and commercial sex, trafficking rings across the East African region capitalize primarily on economic and social vulnerabilities to exploit their victims, experts said.

But estimates by the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) show that the lack of relevant legislation and needed administrative institutions across the

East African region have continued to give traffickers and smugglers an undue advantage to carry on their activities.

To prevent human trafficking, Rwanda has adopted several measures, including passing a new law in 2018.

Under the current legislation, offenders face up to 15 years of imprisonment, but activists say this measure is not enough deterrent.

Although law enforcement officers were trained in combatting human trafficking, Evariste Murwanashyaka, a fervent defender of human rights who is based in Kigali, told IPS that enforcing laws is a challenge, mainly because it is hard to detect women who are engaged in sex work or other forms of sexual exploitation in neighboring countries.

Murwanashyaka is the Program

Manager of Rwandan based Umbrella of Human Rights Organization known as 'Collectif des Ligues et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme' (CLADHO)

"Young women are still more likely to become targets of trafficking due to the growing demand for sexual slavery across the region," he said.

Now with the COVID-19 pandemic, activists say there is not only a lack of awareness but people, especially youth, who are unaware they are victims of a human trafficking offense.

"Most informal job offers from abroad for these young people [from Rwanda] are associated with illicit businesses, such as human trafficking, mainly of women, and their sexual and labor exploitation," Murwanashyaka told IPS.

According to the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, the increasing unemployment rates, malnourishment, and school closures have increased human trafficking.

Meanwhile, RIB spokesperson, Dr Thierry Murangira is convinced that human trafficking is a transnational organized crime.

"Transnational organized crimes require the involvement of more than one jurisdiction and regional cooperation to investigate and prosecute the crime," he said.

This article is part of a series of features from across the globe on human trafficking. IPS coverage is supported by the Airways Aviation Group.

The Global Sustainability Network (GSN) is pursuing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 8 with a special emphasis on Goal 8.7, which "takes immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms".

The origins of the GSN come from the endeavors of the Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders signed on 2 December 2014. Religious leaders of various faiths gathered to work together "to defend the dignity and freedom of the human being against the extreme forms of the globalization of indifference, such as exploitation, forced labor, prostitution, human trafficking".

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



CAPITAL RADIO



By Peter Makwanya

**O**N the context of climate change and many other developmental paradigms, Africa is found lacking in many aspects.

Africa is said to lack technology transfer, lacks mainstreaming climate policy into developmental goals, lacks documentation of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) and information management, intellectual property rights and patenting, ambition and political will, among others.

The list is quite long and disappointing, but what is essentially African is underdevelopment. It is up to Africa to demonstrate and prove to the world that these perceived lacks are a result of what is continued to be stolen and repackaged in developed countries, come back to Africa either as new knowledge or products.

The continent has been accused of lacking reliable scientific data, climate research and innovation. In other words, nothing originates from Africa, except raw materials, poverty and lack of political will to fight the impacts of climate change. All these are challenges and information gaps that stand on the continent's desire to move forward and fight the impacts of climate change without assistance from developed countries.

The continent needs to get actively involved in climate change activities that influence the people's knowledge and awareness of the climate change.

With regard to knowledge and information about climate change, the continent needs to move from awareness levels to information packaging and dissemination.

People need comprehensive knowledge of climate change, not basic informa-



## Africa needs to overcome climate change information gaps

tion, which many in the continent still lack.

Even climate awareness levels are still low on the continent to the extent that the majority cannot link the climate impacts to their local situations. These are knowledge and information gaps which have wide implications on climate change.

While the continent still struggles on awareness levels because it cannot find its own climate initiatives, it also needs to do away with falsehoods, climate propaganda and improve on political will to fight climate change.

How much knowledgeable are foot soldiers, climate knowledge brokers and activists on the ground about climate change issues? Even when climate knowledge and awareness is prevailing, how are issues of gatekeeping and ring fencing han-

dled, amid toxic politics?

Knowledge about how much climate-induced disasters and hazards, in the form of floods, droughts and epidemics, impact on livelihoods and social cohesion should be firmly in the public domain. More State-driven programmes to mainstream the youths and schoolchildren into climate change activities are needed to groom and strengthen their climate knowledge and resilience.

Access to climate knowledge, education and information to all children and the youth in interdisciplinary ways across the curricula require support, commitment and consistency. All these initiatives lead to enlightenment on climate change and sustainable development.

It is also significant to find out how much climate

change is demystified, discussed at family level and carried over to school as common knowledge just as how religious issues are propagated and emphasised.

If climate change information is not treated this way, then information blackout would affect children and the youth's future.

The continent's adaptation gaps are a reference of where Africa stands and its placement on the global emission information gaps map. How much are these climate inactions and their related costs known and their effect on human livelihoods?

The continent needs strong climate voices and demonstrates ambition to make climate change a priority, not an afterthought or talk about it when it suits them or when there are

monetary values and opportunities along the way.

With emerging and recurring disasters, issues of loss and damage are inherent and in the public domain too. The knowledge of communicating and quantifying them in terms of losses and costs is not yet available.

Climate-related mental health issues remain mystified and continue to be treated as spiritual or traditional rather than climate-induced.

Therefore, the continent needs to graduate from that kind of knowledge and mainstream it in every sector.

The other issue Africa should demystify is the impact of population density on climate change, which is not always discussed openly or discouraged in many African set ups.

As a continent, these is-

suues are often referred to as high fertility levels and the rights for women to reproduce.

No one is against reproduction and birth right, but when population increases, there is need for more resources and space. If the resources and space shrink then there are scarcities, leading to conflicts.

The continent continues to experience knowledge and information gaps in the manner in which the majority treat early warning systems and weather forecasting. These have been overtaken by climate change, and should be integrated with technological developments rather than exclusively traditional lenses.

The continent should be very worried when its IKS medical breakthroughs and

innovations are rejected on the global stage and treated as lacking enough research, even by the World Health Organisation. This means that there is some place, somewhere or some destination waiting to authenticate and quality control Africa's knowledge and information. The other point of concern is why renewable energy as a panacea to energy poverty and power challenges to Africa, is not yet highly understood by the people who are supposed to benefit from such transitions. This also includes the benefits to be realised from carbon markets and credits. All these remain knowledge and information gaps on the African continent despite publicity onslaughts from developed countries.

On topical adaptation and mitigation issues, Africa's

adaptation funding gaps continue to widen, due to the delays and rigours associated in requesting and releasing the pledged funds from multinational donors.

When those finances happen to arrive then it will depend on how the African countries would handle or channel them.

Obviously, if the finances are not channeled to good and intended uses, then the source of the funds would not be happy.

The success of all climate change adaptation and mitigation also requires climate change media reporting expertise which should facilitate information education communication and narrow knowledge and information gaps in the audience. Lack of climate media reporting expertise is when journalists fail to understand the climate change issues they are reporting on or when they politicize the climate initiatives.

Climate change by its problematic nature needs to be situated in its African context while influenced by global projections and reported using African lenses and perspectives. This is important for reporting to meet the needs of the target audiences.

Despite the availability of water bodies in many African countries, nations continue to rely on rain fed agriculture without exploiting opportunities brought about by Mechanisation and irrigation.

In many African countries, irrigation becomes an afterthought, especially when drought is upon them. All the above discussions are a cause for concern and cannot be separated from climate injustice issues that the global landscape is trying to eradicate and place the people at the centre of climate resilience and mitigation.

## Young Africans engage in local, global climate conversations through Catholic youth network

By Special Correspondent

**W**HEN Allen Ottaro grew up in Nakuru on the foothills of the Mau Forest complex about 100 miles west of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, the region experienced sufficient rainfall. Ottaro recalls going to school while it was drizzling and returning home through evening rain.

But after a few years he started noticing subtle changes in rainfall patterns: water shortages compounded by long dry spells – something that was rare. Ottaro and his siblings had to walk more than a mile to fetch water from a Catholic parish, which had a borehole that supplied water to residents in the area at a subsidized fee.

African communities, including Nairobi, are widely viewed as some of the most vulnerable to climate change despite having contributed the least to its causes. Youths' experience living with the adverse effects of environmental degradation is creating a growing network of young Catholics across the continent – and the globe – working to ensure a better future for the planet.

As a young man, Ottaro founded the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability Africa, or CYNESA, a grassroots lay organization that aims to empower youth across the African continent to get involved in working for a better climate.

"The main aim of coming up with the network was to bring everybody on board, especially the youth in the church, to battle climate catastrophes," said Ottaro who is also the network's executive director.

Experiencing the effects of climate change irritated Ottaro. As a boy, his lifestyle did not cause the environmental degradation his community faced. He felt that all he could do was to cope with the heartbreaking situation.

But later in life, he connected these environmental issues to the destruction of the Mau Forest, which is also the country's main water source. That spurred him to start environmental conservation plans to battle the problem. He founded CYNESA in 2011 with like-minded



friends.

Catholic teaching, especially Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," helped the network to connect faith and environmental conservation.

"Catholic faith calls on every believer to examine the relationship with God, with each other and with all of creation," Ottaro told EarthBeat, where he serves on the advisory panel.

"Pope Francis also reminds us that we cannot adequately love and care for the poor and vulnerable in our communities, without care for our common home that we all share, which is the planet."

"For us, our faith is a faith that does justice and so we have to get involved in building a

better world," said Ottaro, who has served on the global membership council for the Laudato Si' Movement since it was founded as the Global Catholic Climate Movement in 2015. He cites an excerpt from Laudato Si': "Young people demand change, they wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."

CYNESA has expanded its network in Kenya, working with various dioceses, and has spread to African countries including Ghana, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia to promote environmental conservation.

"We have a small office in Nairobi which hosts the CYNESA secretariat, a small team of five volunteers who run the day-to-day affairs

of the network. Our dream is to have CYNESA wherever there are Catholic youth," Ottaro said.

Ottaro lauded Fr. Innocent Wefon of the Mill Hill Missionaries from Cameroon for supporting the network and starting a CYNESA chapter in Duala when he was sent there four years ago after studying in Kenya. However, he acknowledged the network faces numerous challenges because of the size of the continent, its diverse languages and the difficulties and costs involved in traveling around Africa.

"We hope that we can find more resources for our work to be able to reach more young people in more African nations," Ottaro said.

"We've already conducted youth workshops on care for our common home in Uganda,

Nigeria, Burundi, Botswana and Cape Verde, which have set the foundation for eventually establishing chapters there."

According to the 2019 United Nations' world population survey, sub-Saharan Africa has more than 226 million youth, which the survey defined as people between ages 15 and 24. That's 20% of the population. This high and rising number is causing a lot of environmental challenges. But many young people in Africa are also forcing change through environmental conservation activities to save the planet.

According to a survey by the UN Environment Programme, or UNEP, each year approximately 12 million hectares (30 acres) of forest are destroyed globally due to increasing population and the scramble for natural resources. The survey also noted that deforestation is responsible for more than 25% of global greenhouse gasses.

Speaking in Nairobi during the recognition of environmental conservation youth heroes in 2019, Garrette Clark, sustainable lifestyles program officer at UNEP, said that youth are the right people to be involved in conservation due to their numbers and their remaining years of life on Earth.

"Involving the young people in matters pertaining to conservation could help a great deal to curb the perils of climate change," Philip Osano, center director of Stockholm Environment Institute said.

Speaking during the 2022 Youth Environment Assembly at the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi, Osano urged environmentalists to give youth more opportunities to contribute to the sustainability of nature and protection of future generations. Ottaro strives to do just that.

In 2019, CYNESA organized an international conference marking the fourth anniversary of Laudato Si' in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund Africa, the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and UNEP.



# Landmark UN report issues stark call for sustainable land management to save human health

DOMINIC

With 50% of humanity affected by land degradation, the world must move to a 'crisis footing' to conserve, restore and use land resources sustainably, a major UN report has said.

Released on April 27, the landmark Global Land Outlook by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification provides a sobering account of the state of the earth's land and calls for ambitious plans for sustainable land use to protect human health.

Compiled over five years, in collaboration with 21 partner organizations, the report is considered the most comprehensive meta-analysis of land issues to date. Known as GLO2, it builds on the 2017 land outlook report, which assessed the consequences of deforestation and widespread unsustainable agricultural practices on human and ecosystem health, food security and stable livelihoods.

"We have already degraded nearly 40% and altered 70% of the land. We cannot afford to have another 'lost decade' for nature and need to act now for a future of life in harmony with nature. The GLO2 shows pathways, enablers and knowledge that we should apply to effectively implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework," said Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary, UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

With a reminder that



The protected Kent Falls and Park in Connecticut, USA. GLO2 report calls on governments to create parks and restore wetlands to enhance citizens' quality of life. Credit: Alison Kentish/IPS

restoration targets, with the largest emitters of greenhouse gases helping developing countries to restore their land resources.

"As a global community, we can no longer rely on incremental reforms within traditional planning and development frameworks to address the profound development and sustainability challenges we are facing in coming decades. A rapid transformation in land use and management practices that place people and nature at the center of our planning is needed, prioritizing job creation and building vital skill sets while giving voice to women and youth who have been traditionally marginalized from decision making," said Nichole Barger, report steering committee member, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado.

Sizer agrees.

"We urgently need to see governments committed to protecting what's left to restore a lot of what has been lost in terms of tree cover, forests, wetlands, freshwater systems, coastal ecosystems. This is absolutely key for protecting our food production systems, restoring the soil and providing livelihoods, particularly in rural communities," he told IPS.

The GLO2 has been released in what is expected to be a watershed year for action on land and biodiversity issues, including the hosting of the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 15), scheduled for May 9-20 in Côte d'Ivoire. That event is expected to focus on reviving global degraded lands and soils.

"As we come out of the pandemic, building back after the economic impact that this has had as well as the opportunity to create lots of jobs by restoring nature and managing the land and in a more responsible way is a great opportunity to stimulate economies to achieve more sustainability, and recover more quickly from this pandemic as well as reduced the risk of future pandemics," said Sizer.

And what does failure to act mean?

According to the GLO2, by 2050 an additional area the size of South America will be degraded if the world continues along the current trajectory.

land is a finite resource, the report warns that current management and use are escalating the risk of 'widespread, abrupt and irreversible environmental changes.'

It also focuses heavily on solutions - particularly land, soil, forest and other ecosystems protection and restoration.

"The report is highlighting the importance of protecting remaining tropical forests, especially of managing wildlife and biodiversity in a much more careful way, protecting and restoring to recover from some of the damage that has been done. It highlights the enormous opportunity globally for restoration of landscapes around the world, the potential for that to contribute to improving the production of food, protection of biodiversity, storage of carbon and the provision of livelihoods. There are enormous employment opportunities related to those activities, and in turn help to make our economies more resilient,"

Tropical Forest Ecologist Dr Nigel Sizer told IPS.

Sizer, who is the Executive Director of Preventing Pandemics at the Source Coalition, says the report gives the world the wake-up call it needs to take urgent action to end forest destruction and protect human health.

"Our relationship with nature is so broken. We have heard a lot about climate change and the extinction of animal and plant species. What people did not realize so much is that pandemics are primarily a result of spillover viruses from wildlife, often related to the trade in wildlife species, deforestation and other exploitative aspects of our relationship with nature. This report highlights the massive amount of land degradation, forest loss and loss of biodiversity that is going on globally, and provides a very important call to address those challenges, especially to governments," he said.

The GLO2 is calling for increasingly ambitious land

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 276 00--

3 letters: LOP, KEY, ADE, SRI

4 letters: LOU, KAKA, HARE, EYES, DOOM, MAID, OOSE

5 letters: GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, OTAKU, DREAD, YIELD,

6 letters: EDITOR, INDIAN, STRIPE

7 letters: TUESDAY, ENDURED, ENAMOUR, ALLOTED

9 letters: EMIRATE, TUG OF LOVE

CLUES: Across

- defection
- Togo's Capital
- a risky or daring journey
- the size of a dose of medicine
- a person that loads something
- a wooden frame for holding an artist's work in progress
- talk nonsense
- the active male principle of the Universe in Chinese philosophy
- consecrate
- a metal weapon
- a thing that is difficult to understand

Down:

- revelled
- deliberately destroy
- infests human skin and hair
- facts
- each of the limbs on which a person or animal walks and stands
- on one's own
- not often
- the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, which determines its character
- bristle
- carbonated water
- a cot
- put, lay

## RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One





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# Eat African countries see post Covid-19 economic recovery

By Smart Money Reporter

COUNTRIES in the East African Community that have released reports in the fourth quarter 2021 indicate sustained economic recovery on their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rates from the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. Highlights of the fourth quarter GDP (October to December) by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows there is notable economic growth for the region's countries. Tanzania's economy for instance expanded by 4.9 percent in 2021 up from 4.8 percent in the similar period in 2020. During the fourth quarter in 2021, GDP in absolute terms at current prices increased to 43.4trillion/- up from 40.4trillion/- recorded in the corresponding quarter in 2020. Meanwhile, quarterly GDP at 2015 constant prices also increased to 36.9trillion/- up in 2021 from 35.2trillion/- in the period under review in 2020, equivalent to a growth of 4.9 percent. Going by the growth trends for other countries of the region, Rwanda's economy expanded by 10.3 percent in 2021 up from a negative growth of 0.6 percent in 2020. Uganda's economy expanded by 5.2 percent in 2021 up from a negative growth of 0.4 in 2020. Up to the release of the highlights last week, no reports for the period under review are available from the remaining Partner States. Compilation of the fourth quarter GDP of the period under review used data from all economic activities. Compilation is consistent with the United Nations Sta-

tistics Division's 2008 System of National Accounts.

According to the World Economic Outlook (WEO) January 2022 report, economic growth in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region is expected to expand to 4.0 percent, equivalent to an increase by 0.3 percentage points compared to the October 2021 projection.

Economic growth for selected countries in the region indicate that South Africa economy expanded by 1.2 percent in the fourth quarter in 2021 compared to 2.5 percent increase in the corresponding period in 2020.

Other economic performance in the region include Mozambique's economy expanded to 3.3 percent in 2021 up from a negative growth of 1.8 percent in 2020, Seychelle's economy expanded to 0.1 percent in 2021 up from a negative growth of 5.0 percent in 2020 and Mauritius's economy expanded to 6.2 percent up from a negative growth of 11.9 percent in 2020.

The projection of economic growth among sub-Saharan Africa countries consistent with the WEO January 2022 report indicates economic growth by 4.0 percent about 0.3 percentage point higher than the October 2021 projection.

South Africa economy is projected to grow by 4.6 percent in 2021 compared to a negative growth of 6.4 in 2020. Meanwhile, Nigeria's economy is projected to grow at 3.0 percent in 2021 up from a negative growth of 1.8 percent in 2020.

# Embassies doubted for public funds embezzlement worth 8.48billion/-

By Francis Kajubi

SIX embassies and high commissions are doubted to have procured goods and services totaling 8.48billion/- which was not contained in the respective missions' annual procurement plans and diverged intentionally, Smart Money has learnt.

The Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for the fiscal year covering 2020/21 points out the Tanzania High Commission in Burundi Bujumbura as the leading office in the public funds diverging process as it diverged 682.22million/-.

According to the CAG report, Tanzania Embassy in Havana comes next in the list by diverging 624.26mn/- followed by Tanzania Embassy in Harare which diverged 247.85mn/-.

The CAG further notes that Ethiopia in Addis Ababa Diverged 186.67mn/- while Tanzania Embassy in Doha diverged 109.36mn/- and the Tanzania Embassy in Abu Dhabi diverged 13.50mn/-.

"Since these procurements were not in the annual procurement plan, it is my view that the gap was due to improper planning during the budget preparation," states CAG Charles Kichere in the report.

Going by the Public Procurement Act, 2011 (as amended in 2016), Section 69(7) requires a procur-

ing entity to draw up procurement plans for those requirements for which sufficient funds have been included in the approved budget in the current financial year or if payment will be due in the subsequent financial year, such payment have been budgeted for.

"I recommend the Management of Missions concerned to prepare realistic budget estimates which are used for preparation of annual procurement plans," states Kichere.

In the same vain, CAG doubted the delay to Implement contractual obligations on rehabilitation of office and chancery buildings at the embassies worth a US\$2.1million (6.62bn/-).

The review on procurement and contract management at the Embassies and High Commissions revealed that the Embassies and High Commission at different periods had engaged various contractors in their host countries to undertake various rehabilitation works of the Chancery and residential buildings.

The CAG found out that there was a significant delay to rehabilitate the Mission's buildings for a period ranging from 48 to 120 months.

From the noted delays, various irregularities were identified from the two Commissions namely the High Commission in Kampala and the Tanzania High Commission in Maputo which the CAG says they



CAG Charles Kichere.

require to be placed under government's attention.

Details for the two scenarios shows that on June 4th 2018, the Kampala Commission received 1.78bn/- (US\$783.12million) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, for rehabilitation of the Chancery building at Kampala.

As a result, the commission was instructed by the ministry to proceed with the implementation of the project regarding the rehabilitation of the respective buildings. In that case, the commission managed to obtain four bidders (Contractor) for the task.

However, CAG Kichere noted that the commission had failed to award the contract because the respective bidders had quoted high prices for the task beyond the available funds of 1.78bn/-.

In the second scenario the CAG found out that the Mozambique government donated the building to the Tanzania High Commission at Maputo which was planned to be used for office, staff residence, and commercial purposes.

However, up to the time of audit in December 2021, the CAG found that the building was under rehabilitation for 10 years since the signing of rehabilitation contract works on January 17th 2012 with M/s Messrs Constructors do Montego at contract sum of US\$3.01million (revised) and original completion time of January 16th 2013.

"Further, I revealed that the contractor had abandoned the site during my project site visit in December 2021," states Kichere.

Control activities are defined under Paragraph 3.5 of the Ministry of Finance Guidelines for Enhancing Internal Control Frameworks in Public Sector Organizations as of December 2014 as policies and procedures designed to identify and mitigate risks to achieve internal control objectives.

It includes internal control procedure manuals, which can either include financial and administrative controls or a series of procedure manuals.

Circular No. 5 of 2019 of the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance requires all accounting officers to in-

stall and use MUSE as their accounting system. It is further required by Circular No. 7 from the Accountant General for the preparation of 2020/21 financial statements that all financial statements are to be generated from an Integrated Financial Management System.

The circular further provides guidance on public sector entities that do not have accounting software to prepare their annual financial statements using the Government Accounting Consolidation System (GACS).

However, during the audit of Tanzania's Embassies and High Commissions, CAG discovered that Embassies and High Commissions were yet to be installed with MUSE Accounting System, while the financial statements were not derived from GACS as per the Accountant General's directives.

In the absence of an integrated financial management system, the CAG says that budgetary and financial activities could not be directly monitored by the ministry of finance and planning.

"I also recommend that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, expedite the process of installing and using integrated financial management systems within the Tanzania embassies and high commissions" concludes CAG Kichere.

# MTN Uganda's mobile money deposits grow to Sh959.9bn

KAMPALA

MTN held Sh959.9bn in mobile money deposits for the period ended December 2021, according to details published in the telecom's financial results.

This was an increase of more than Sh304.6b from Sh655.3b the telecom held in the same period in 2020.

It is the first time MTN has published details of its mo-

bile money business, whose regulation was last year moved to Bank of Uganda.

Under the National Payment Systems Act, the law requires that mobile money, which largely is a financial function, is separated from telecommunications services.

Therefore, under the law, MTN, just like other telcos that operate mobile money businesses, are re-



Customers at a mobile money kiosk in Kampala.

quired to publish details of their financial position.

During the period, MTN noted, the mobile money business registered a profit of Sh89.8b, which signals the growing strength of mobile money on the entire business.

The Sh89.8b, according

to the financial results, contributed a 26.3 percent share of MTN's gross profits, which during the period stood at Sh340.4b.

The financial results take into account direct network operating costs, other operating expenses, employee benefits, selling distribution

and marketing expense, increase in impairment of trade receivables, depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment and right-of-use assets and amortisation of intangible assets.

During the period, MTN said, assets attributed

to the mobile money business stood at Sh1.06 trillion, which was a 32.3 percent contribution to the telecom's Sh3.29 trillion total assets.

Mobile money is currently one of MTN's largest revenue earners and is projected to grow further as the company engages in different financial innovations provided for under the National Payment Systems Act.

Payments for property and equipment stood at Sh517b while purchase of intangible assets stood at Sh1.2 trillion.

**Income tax**

According to details in the MTN financial results, mobile money income tax expense stood at Sh38.3b, while net cash invested in various activities stood at Sh12.58b.

During the period ended December 2021 provisioned Sh665b to cater for unplanned eventualities while exchange rate losses stood at Sh80b.

# Non-issuance of loans to women entrepreneurs stand at 450mn/-

By Francis Kajubi

THE Women Development Fund (WDF) had during the 2020/21 financial year failed to issue any loans to women entrepreneurs as stipulated in its annual plans.

The Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report reveals that WDF had planned to issue loans worth 450mn/-

which was absolutely not achieved.

"During the review of the WDF plan for the financial year 2020/21, I found that the Women Development Fund had planned to issue loans worth 450mn/- to women entrepreneurs and recover a total sum of 300mn/- from beneficiaries of previous loans," says CAG Charles Kichere.

He asserts that WDF had recovered

loans amounting to 20.59mn/- (equivalent to seven per cent) out of the plan to recover a total sum of 300mn/-.

Consequently, the CAG viewed that the Fund had seriously underperformed on its core objective, which has potentially affected the women entrepreneurs toward being self-employed in productive activities aimed at increasing income and promotion

of their well-being. According to the Ministry of Finance and Planning regulations, women funds fall under the category of special funds are established by the government to collect funds that are to be used for a specific activity and special funds provide an extra level of accountability and transparency to taxpayers that their money will go toward executing the intended purpose.

"I recommend the government to review the functioning of the fund and look at the best ways to improve the fund so that the fund achieve its objective of helping women overcome poverty through self-reliance," says CAG Kichere.

The Women Development Fund was established by the government following the pronouncement of the parlia-

ment on August 1993 and Section 17 (1) of the Exchequer and Audit Ordinance (Cap 439) of 1961.

The Fund's main objective is to provide soft loans to women entrepreneurs as a means of empowering them economically and build the habit of saving and credit, establish and expand their projects and raise the living standards of their families.





Standard Chartered Bank Kenya chief executive Kariuki Ngari.

## StanChart targets Sh222m from sale of iconic property

NAIROBI

STANDARD Chartered Bank Kenya is seeking to sell its iconic Treasury Square building in Mombasa valued at Sh222 million and which houses its first branch in the country that was opened in 1911.

The transaction is expected to earn the lender significant capital gains, contributing to its income in the current financial year. Treasury Square, gazetted as a heritage site, is a freehold property.

"The property was designated as held for sale in June 2020. Due to the impact of Covid-19 management has not been able to sell the asset within one year from the

date of the initial sale decision," StanChart says in its latest annual report.

"As the circumstances were beyond the group's control, in line with the group's accounting policy the asset has been retained as held for sale at 31 December 2021. Management remains committed to selling the property."

StanChart joins other companies in selling properties, including Sanlam Kenya.

The bank did not say whether it will keep the branch at Treasury Square after selling the property.

StanChart has closed scores of branches over the past decade, saying it will now prioritise locations with significant traffic as it

seeks to grow its retail client base.

The bank has also invested heavily in digital banking solutions, reducing the need to expand brick-and-mortar operations.

"Our goal is to scale the business profitably, powered by digitisation and partnerships," StanChart's chief executive Kariuki Ngari said of the bank's mass retail strategy.

"We now have a range of proven digital capabilities, enhanced data analytics, and our remodelled risk framework has been thoroughly stress-tested, which means we can substantially and economically scale up our mass retail presence."

The lender says more than 92 percent of its institutional

clients rely on its digital banking platform Straight2Bank for various services including payments.

StanChart's net income rose by two-thirds to Sh9 billion last year from Sh5.4 billion a year earlier.

The profit growth was driven by lower costs and higher non-interest income. Loan loss provision shrank by Sh1.8 billion to Sh2 billion, contributing to operating expenses falling 17.2 percent to Sh16.5 billion.

Non-interest income including fees rose by a quarter to Sh10.3 billion.

Total interest income, however, shrank by Sh1.4 billion to Sh22.2 billion as the bank reduced its investment in government debt securities.

CURRENT NEWS

## EU is ramping up efforts to ban Russian oil imports

BELIN

THE European Union may agree to a ban on Russian oil imports by the end of this week, despite concerns that this would further boost oil prices.

This weekend that EU members were discussing a phase-out approach that would see Russian oil imports decline gradually until the end of the year.

The Financial Times, however, later that the timeline for phasing out Russian has been moved up to several months.

According to the FT report, Germany, one of the biggest importers of Russian crude, had initially asked for more time to prepare for the phase-out of Russian oil, or until the end of the year. Now, the German government appears to have become bolder and ready to give up Russian oil in several months.

"We're asking for a considered wind-down period," Jörg Kukies, adviser to German Prime Minister Olaf Scholz, told the Financial Times. "We want to stop buying Russian oil, but we need a bit of time to make sure we can get other sources of oil into our country."

On Sunday, German Economy Minister Robert Habeck that complete independence from Russian oil was possible by late summer. Early on Monday, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that such a ban, once imposed, could last for years.

Despite wide agreement on the oil embargo, it could still fail because there are EU members, notably Hungary, which has since the very beginning opposed measures against Russian energy imports.

Decisions on sanctions need to be approved unani-

mously by all EU members.

The aim of the sanctions is to reduce Russia's oil and gas revenues, which funds the Kremlin's war chest, but without causing turmoil on international oil markets.

Unfortunately, right now it looks like the turmoil cannot be avoided given the volume of Russian energy exports. Russia is the largest exporter of crude oil and oil products, and also the largest exporter of natural gas.

Besides Russia's fossil fuel industry, the next round of sanctions will also target more banks as well as access to consultancy and cloud services.

The oil embargo could be upheld for years, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock has said. Her Green ally Robert Habeck said complete independence from Russian oil was possible by late summer.

"And we are preparing this in such a way, that we could if necessary keep it up over the coming years," Baerbock told Germany's ARD television on Sunday.

Her statement comes after Economy and Climate Minister Robert Habeck said Sunday that he expects Germany could be fully independent of Russian crude oil imports by the end of summer. The Economy and Climate Ministry said the goal was "realistic" in a tweet.

**What did Germany's economy and climate minister say?**

"All these steps that we are taking require an enormous joint effort from all actors and they also mean costs that are felt by both the economy and consumers," said Habeck in a statement.

He added the steps being taken to wean Germany off Russian energy "are necessary if we no longer

want to be blackmailed by Russia."

Speaking later, after a meeting with business associations, Habeck admitted that higher prices in Germany were there for the long run, as the state could not cushion all energy price increases.

"That is the bitter and the hard truth," he said.

But he said that for a number of firms, the consequences of higher energy costs would not kick in until 2023, as many companies had long-term contracts on fixed terms.

Later on Monday, Habeck said that most of the current energy supplies arriving from Russia go to the Schwedt refinery near Berlin.

The minister acknowledged that losing those supplies could result in a "bumpy" situation for the capital and surrounding region, with price hikes and shortages, but that wouldn't result in Germany "slipping into an oil crisis."

He said the issue of an oil embargo would be discussed at an EU energy ministers meeting in Brussels, attended by also India. Still, he added that "other countries aren't so far yet and I think that needs to be respected."

However, responding to Habeck's comments, the city of Schwedt issued a statement calling into question his assurances that an embargo was "feasible," and accusing the government of "dictating terms from afar" for the city's main business.

The German central bank has said cutting the country off entirely from all Russian energy could increase inflation and severely hamper economic growth, potentially turning a predicted 3% GDP boost in 2022 to a 2% decline.

## PS expresses worries over placing street signboards ahead of Census

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology, Mohammed Hamisi has expressed worries over placing of street signboards under the national postcode system for residential address is not properly done would affect the scheduled August 23 national Housing and Population Census.

He made the remarks over the weekend when speaking to leaders in Manyara Region during his tour to inspect the on-going installation of street signboards. He said in most places, district directors have raised concerns over higher prices of the poles.

According to him, the current

exercise is meant to collect information and placing of street signboards.

Presenting a report on implementation of the national postcode system for residential address in Manyara Region, Coordinator, Alphonse Malimbiche said they have so far registered a total of 372,455 postcodes in the national postcode system, equivalent to 103 per cent.

He said the target is to collect 362,987 postcodes. He said that Manyara received 885.4m/- from the central government which was distributed to all the seven districts. He said the region also disbursed some 240.07m/- to support implementation of the exercise, making a total of 1.125bn/-.

He said execution of the national postcode system for residential addresses have benefited 1,637 young Tanzania through temporary jobs as well as having all the roads and houses provided with specific names. He said the exercise has been completed as scheduled.

Babati District Executive Director, Anna Mbogo said they have successfully identified 95,412, roads (4,070) and installed 30 poles.

Mbogo mentioned some of the challenges encountered during the service as higher prices of poles, noting the district requires a total of 120,000 poles to complete the exercise.

Worth 28bn/- the system operates by following the name of the

street and roads, house or building number and postcode—a special digital system that identifies the area to deliver postal services where in Tanzania it starts at the county, district, regional and regional levels.

In Tanzania, residential address project is being implemented by the Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology, in collaboration with President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, with the aim of facilitating communication, delivery of government services to citizens and the implementation of social, economic and administrative activities.

## New round of Kenya-US trade talks start

NAIROBI

THE US government and Kenya will from Tuesday start another round of trade talks, signalling a fresh direction after the Biden administration froze Trump-era negotiations on the free trade agreement.

"Kenya-US trade and investments experts are set to have in-person meetings scheduled for 3rd May to 6th May," said Kenya's trade ministry while announcing the meetings will not be open to the press.

Assistant United States Trade Representative (USTR) for African Affairs Constance Hamilton lead a delegation to Kenya to explore opportunities for



US President Joe Biden meets with his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, DC.

enhanced trade and investment engagement, USTR spokesperson Adam Hodge told Reuters on Friday.

The delegation will include subject-matter experts from USTR and the Departments of State, Labour, Commerce and Agriculture,

he said.

The visit follows recent meetings between top US trade negotiator Katherine Tai and Kenyan Cabinet Secretary Betty Maina in which they agreed to deepened trade ties.

The US has until now re-

mained mum on the fate of the free trade pact after meetings between Kenya and US last year, signalling a deadlock.

Kenya wanted to do a deal with Washington before the expiry of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa),

which allows sub-Saharan African countries to export thousands of products to the US without tariffs or quotas until 2025.

The proposed trade deal has faced delays after the Biden administration sought more time to scrutinise the pact negotiated by Donald Trump.

The Biden administration instead focused on dialogues with trading partners.

Hodge said the US delegation would seek to collaborate with their counterparts on a way to "generate inclusive growth" that benefits workers, attracts investment and promotes regional economic integration.



## Pioneer House owners lose Sh117m bomb claim

NAIROBI

THE owners of Pioneer House on Moi Avenue have lost a bid to be paid Sh117 million by two insurance companies over the damages to the building that was caused by the August 7, 1998 bomb blast.

Justice Wilfrida Okwany dismissed the claim by Pioneer Holdings (Africa) Ltd, saying the destruction was an act of terrorism, which was not covered by the insurance policy between the owners and Jubilee Insurance and collapsed Concord Insurance.

Evidence tendered in court showed that Pioneer Holdings purchased a policy in 1995 where Jubilee and Concord were to compensate it at 70 percent and 30 percent, respectively in case of damage caused by fire,

explosion, riot, strike, and malicious damage.

"I find that the defendants provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the activities that led to the explosion at the American Embassy Building whose effect spilled over and caused damage to the plaintiff's Pioneer House, were terrorism-related," the judge said.

The twin blast caused by Al-Qaeda, in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi led to the death of 250 people and injured more than 5,000 in the two cities.

Pioneer had claimed that following the blast, an engineer conducted structural integrity on the building and assessed the damage at Sh117.9 million. The building owners wrote to the two underwriters demanding liability in 1998.

The court was also told that the owners got a

grant from the American embassy of Sh22.9 million for the damages suffered but Pioneer said it was not a substitute for the insurance claim.

In her judgment, Justice Okwany noted that the insurance policy was still in place when the blast occurred but added that Pioneer signed a clause that excluded terrorism acts from the policy.

"The defendant however repudiated liability based on an alleged exclusion clause in the insurance policy that excluded the defendants' liability under the insurance contract if the explosion, which caused the loss, was occasioned by acts of terrorism," the judge said.

She said the explosion cannot be equated to a normal explosion covered under the insurance policy.



# How to design your data strategy

CAPE TOWN

IN today's fast-moving and competitive business environment, a data strategy is a ticket to play, no matter what the size of your organisation is or in which industry sector it operates.

The good news is that it can be faster and easier to create a data strategy than many businesses imagine, especially when you weigh the effort against the value it delivers.

Nonetheless, most enterprises have some work to do. One global study from KPMG reveals that 57% of enterprises do not have a data strategy and only 32% fully utilise their customer data. One potential stumbling block, in my view, is not knowing where to begin. The right starting point for a data strategy is the business requirements.

The use cases

By starting with a robust business case, an organisation can ensure that the data strategy and the business strategy are aligned and that the investments into data will deliver distinct and trackable outcomes for the business.

Creating a data strategy is about understanding the requirements for individual projects and use cases, and building out a multi-dimensional data solution that accommodates each of them.

Some potential use cases

include: Analytics through reporting. Data democratisation through self-service reporting tools. Knowing your customer through data augmentation and segmentation. Next best actions for revenue generation. Forecasting through machine learning and Commercialisation of data (data monetisation).

Knowing where the data is

Understanding which data you have access to and where it might be found is the next step in fleshing out a data strategy. Most structured data will be stored in databases across the organisation either on-premise or in the cloud – this transactional data can be easily pulled into a centralised repository for analytics and processing.

However, some of the richest data organisations can access today includes flat files, data accessed through application programming interfaces and unstructured data such as images, audio and video. There are also many third-party data sources, ranging from public government databases and social media platforms to business partner systems.

Full data discovery can take some time, however, investing in discovering, data cataloguing and meta data management will pay significant dividends. Don't underestimate the importance of understanding the



Simon Harvey, Data Executive at new-age systems integrator.

quality of your data. Data wrangling accounts for up to 70% of the time expended in data projects, but it's necessary since improving the quality and availability of data can dramatically reduce the time it takes to implement future data projects.

Putting the data infrastructure in place

The technical infrastructure that underpins your data strategy is not just about what data you will leverage, but also what the underlying technology is and who the vendors are. You might require extensive vendor sup-

port in implementing projects using vendor provided environments for your data pipelines (extraction, transformation and loading), data lakes and data warehouses, machine learning and visualisation.

Your data strategy is a long-term programme that affects multiple business cases and departments. The accuracy of the data it collates will be instrumental in many of your critical business decisions. As such, the vendors and service providers you choose will have significant bearing on the success of your data strategy.

Your vendor of choice needs to earn the trust of your organisation and provide a solution that is tried, tested and certified. Technology is only as good as the people behind it, and understanding the technology administrative, maintenance and support requirements is critical in terms of choosing the right solutions. As such, your vendor should offer a roadmap that makes the people requirement clear from the start.

This should include a clear view of which training and support it will offer to your internal teams and the associ-

ated costs. Skills for some data competencies, technologies and products are scarcer and more expensive than for others, so it's important to understand what your requirements will be. You can outsource some aspects of data strategy and operations to a systems integrator.

Govern data across the entire organisation

Data sovereignty, governance and compliance are becoming ever more critical. Your data strategy should enable you to comply with the organisation's data privacy regulations and security best practices in terms of access. The ability to identify, tag and report on data use is essential for auditing as is the introduction of anomaly detection on data movement. The physical location of the stored data is also a key legal consideration.

Embracing the change

Some data projects, like improving operations through automation, will demand wide-ranging changes in the organisational culture and how people work. Successful change management depends on high-level sponsorship, diversified stakeholder involvement and early adopter champions. However, other data projects like dynamic reporting and data-driven decision making have clearer non impacting business value that the whole organ-

isation can easily adopt.

Keep it going

Unfortunately, implementing a data strategy isn't a once off event and data operations is becoming more complex, especially with the introduction of AI into the environment. Having the right resources to maintain the environment, the right processes including both DevOps and MLOps as well as the right technologies like code repositories and monitoring tools are all critical components to take into account.

Designing your data strategy using the steps outlined above will help you to take into account both strategy and execution. This significantly increases your odds of success in delivering the desired outcomes for each of your use cases. Your use cases should, however, each have their own execution timelines with quick wins, priority or significant value projects done first.

If you follow agile and new product methodologies, you will be able to map out your projects and aim to get some minimum viable projects out of development and into production as soon as possible. This will demonstrate the business value of your data strategy in the shortest amount of time. "Start small and grow successfully" should be your mantra.

## Lipa na M-Pesa to hide identity of subscribers

NAIROBI

SAFARICOM will at the end of June start blocking customer contact details when making payments through Lipa na M-Pesa to curb personal information being traded to advertisers or leaking to fraudsters.

The telco will only display the first name of subscribers making payments through the platform and a few digits of their phone number, effectively hiding the contact of the customer.

This is akin to the model banks use when sending account numbers to avoid disclosing details of their clients, and Safaricom is adopting the model in line with the data protection law, which was enacted in 2019 to protect privacy.

"At the end of June, phone numbers and full names of subscribers making transactions will no longer be relayed to partners," Safaricom told merchants.

"Only the first name will be passed along and the phone number of the subscriber making the transaction will be masked (obfuscated). For example, if a person named John Doe with a phone number +254(redacted) makes a payment the only data that will be passed along is [John, +254XXXXX654]."

At present, people paying for goods and services leave their numbers and names with thousands of merchants.

With access to consumers' phone numbers and buying habits, the merchants use the personal information to send unsolicited advertising through text messages.

The information can also be sold to third parties without consent in breach of the data protection law. The data protection law sets out restrictions on how personally identifiable data obtained by firms and government entities can be handled, stored and shared.

"Pursuant to the Data Protection Act 2019 which came into law on 25th November 2019, Safaricom will be changing how they share data with Lipa na M-Pesa Partners in general," said Safaricom.

"Safaricom and its partners are required to take action to minimise the

use and transfer of sensitive data such as names and phone numbers during the processing of transactions."

Safaricom's move to curb use of clients' data by third parties comes amid revelations that more than a fifth of Kenyan companies shared customers' financial and personal information without consent.

A survey by consultancy Ernst & Young (EY) shows that 41 percent of firms transferred client data to third-party service providers. More than half or 53 percent of these companies or 21.7 percent of firms captured in the EY survey did not seek the approval of their customers.

This violates the law that restricts the handling and sharing of personal data firms and government entities obtain.

Individuals in breach risk a maximum fine of Sh3 million or 10 years in jail, while firms risk a fine of up to Sh5

million or one percent of annual turnover.

The personal information was mainly shared for analysis, processing transactions, sending SMS alerts or to advertisers.

Some firms passed client data to partners in business, while others gave information to law enforcement officers for investigations.

The EY survey said there were also instances of selling the data to vendors. Sharing of client information to third parties has led to unregulated text messages, unsolicited emails or notifications of services and products such as insurance policies.

Individuals also risk having their identities cloned, exposing customers to financial fraud.

Data has been described as the "new oil" and brokers play a huge role in extracting value from personal informa-

tion in all its forms. They collect it from various sources, including census information, surveys, public records and loyalty card programmes. They then sell the data.

Kenya ranks third among countries that receive the most spam messages, averaging 102 per month per subscriber, according to data from Truecaller, the Stockholm-based caller identification app.

Merchant payments through M-Pesa have grown, especially during Covid-19 as consumers increasingly make cashless transactions to avoid contracting the highly infectious virus.

Lipa na M-Pesa was launched in June 2013 and has aggressively recruited merchants across the country, including large and small businesses such as fuel stations, supermarkets, corner shops and eateries.

This has seen it overtake the card payments – run by banks and their global payments technology partners such as Visa and Mastercard – that have largely focused on serving formal retailers. Active Lipa na M-Pesa merchants grew by 72.8 percent to 387,000, highlighting the impact of increased preference for cashless transactions.

Safaricom's till and pay-bill service have risen to take an 85.8 percent market share of non-cash payments for ordinary goods and services, underlining the entrenchment of the mobile money platform in everyday transactions.

For merchants, the use of cashless payments has the benefit of reducing revenue leakages besides eliminating the risks and costs of handling notes and coins.

Cashless payments are expected to grow in the coming years, partly due to increased digitisation and lowering of fees by payment service providers.

Kenya, however, still relies heavily on hard cash through which more than 90 percent of transactions are settled.

Lipa na M-Pesa is part of the expansion of the mobile money platform into an ecosystem offering payments, cash transfers, credit, insurance, savings and investment services.

## Consumer rights bill has been shelved since 2016 – lobbyists

KAMPALA

GOVERNMENT and Parliament have not shown interest in debating and enacting the Consumer Rights Bill, which was first tabled in Parliament in 2016, consumer rights lobbyists have said.

Speaking at the launch of Consumer Choice Awards due on August 19, Mr Julius Sekyewa the Skyren Consults chief executive officer, said the Bill, which would shield consumers and traders from exploitative trade practices, continues to gather dust thus exposing a large number of Ugandan to health and financial challenges.

"Most bills are rushed [because] they are politically driven. Consumers do not know where to run to once they are not satisfied with the goods or services offered to them because there are no definite laws to deal with such as problem. The [Consumer Rights] Bill has been in Parliament since 2016.

We need to know why," he said, wondering how such a Bill, which impacts almost all Ugandans has remained on the shelves of Parliament for this long.

On the other hand, following increased public outcry over the poor qual-

ity of consumer products on the Ugandan market, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) has started engagements with other law enforcing entities to find means to protect consumers from substandard goods.

Speaking at a sensitisation conference on UNBS mandate in Kampala on Wednesday, UNBS executive director Ben Manyindo said their major duty is about consumer protection where they must ensure that the public consume goods that meet the required standards.

He, however, said there have been persistent complaints from the public that consumers were being exposed to substandard goods something that needed the relevant entities to come together to promote human life and enable the consumer get value for money.

"Our mandate deals with goods that do not meet standards and those are the goods were trying to eliminate.

"Such goods come to the market through importation of poor quality goods, locally manufactured goods especially from SME's, adulterated products and those that get expired while still on the market," he said.

VIEW FROM THE TOP





## WORLD

## Conflict in Ukraine aggravating triple crisis in Africa - UN chief

DAKAR

THE ongoing conflict in Ukraine has aggravated the food, energy and finance crisis in Africa, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said here on Sunday evening.

During a joint press conference with Senegalese President Macky Sall, Guterres said he had set up a Global Response Group to help mobilize United Nations agencies, development banks and other international organizations to mitigate the

effects of the crisis, particularly in Africa.

Guterres called for lifting all unnecessary export restrictions to establish "a steady flow of food and energy" in open markets, and to control food prices.

"There will be no real solution to the problems of food security without reintegrating the agricultural production of Ukraine, as well as the food and fertilizer production of Russia and Belarus in world markets," he said.

Regarding energy crisis, the UN chief urged all



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during a press conference with Senegal's president during his West Africa tour, in Dakar on Sunday. AFP

countries to release strategic stocks and additional reserves for countries in need by accelerating the promotion of renewable energies.

"International financial institutions should urgently put in place debt re-

lief mechanisms to increase liquidity and fiscal space for developing countries," he said.

Guterres arrived in Dakar Saturday evening. He also will visit Niger and Nigeria.

## Beijing ups restrictions to contain latest virus flare-ups

BEIJING

BEIJING now has six high-risk areas and 23 medium-risk areas for COVID-19.

According to Ding Jianhua with the Beijing Municipal Commerce Bureau, many cases in the latest upsurge in Beijing were infected at restaurants.

Thus, to reduce the risk of cross-infection, restaurants in Beijing will suspend eat-in and switch to delivery services from May 1 to 4.

Beijing is also preparing to construct makeshift hospitals for a rainy day.

So far, about 4,000 beds have been reserved for COVID-19 infections in Beijing, and more venues are being transformed into large-scale makeshift hospitals in case of need, Li Ang, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Health Com-



The staff checks the within-48-hour nucleic acid negative certificate of tourists in the pedestrian street of Qianmen Street in Beijing on Saturday. XINHUA

mission, told a press conference on Saturday.

"The makeshift hospitals are

built to treat mild cases and asymptomatic carriers, which is an effective means to block

the spread of the epidemic. It's also vital to reduce overuse of medical resources and ensure

that citizens get medical treatment in time," said Li.

Li added that residents need not panic as there are currently "not so many patients in Beijing, but we should plan ahead."

A negative nucleic acid test result is required to enter public venues during the Labor Day holiday.

Parks, open venues for entertainment and cultural activities will cap the number of visitors at half of the maximum flow during the holiday.

The city government also requires people who enter public places or take public transport to hold a negative nucleic acid test within seven days starting from May 5.

Nucleic acid testing will be made available to citizens free of charge from May 3 to facilitate the public.

## Weak economy, political impasse spoil Sudanese Eid joy

KHARTOUM

A WEAK economy and a lingering political impasse have spoiled the joy of the Sudanese people in the run-up to this year's Eid al-Fitr, the festival of breaking the fast that marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Many Sudanese people have been unable to afford the Eid necessities for their families because of high inflation and their poor economic conditions, and some even have no access to shops as protests demanding a return to civilian rule have persisted since the general commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, 2021 and dissolved the Sovereign Council and the government.

"We cannot reach the markets because of the demonstrations and the closure of the streets and bridges," Ahmed Abdul-Rahman, a senior employee at the Agricultural Bank in the capital Khartoum, told Xinhua.

In the face of the high price of commodities, Abdul-Rahman has tried to make the most of his meager pay by only purchasing things for his children who are still obli-

ous of what is going on around them.

The declining purchasing power of the customers has impacted businesses in Khartoum's Bahri market, one of the city's largest. "Because of the political crisis and the poor economy, business activities have largely stagnated, and people's purchasing power is weak," Husam El-Din Hamza, a dealer at Bahri market, told Xinhua.

"The situation is now completely different from that of three years ago," Widad Hassan Mahdi, an employee at a private sector company in Khartoum, told Xinhua. She said pessimism about the country's future is felt, dampening the Eid atmosphere.

Sudan has been plagued by an economic crisis since the secession of South Sudan in 2011, which costs Sudan 75 percent of its oil revenues. Its economic crisis turned for the worse after the United States and international agencies suspended aid after the declaration of a state of emergency in the country on Oct. 25, 2021.

The United States has suspended 700 million dollars in economic aid to Sudan, while the World Bank failed to offer Sudan 500 million



Citizens gather around an ice seller to buy ice blocks in Khartoum, Sudan, April 19, 2022. Xinhua

dollars due in November 2021.

The International Monetary Fund also halted the 150 million dollars in special drawing rights for Sudan. Sudan's debt relief process under the Heavily Indebted

Poor Countries Initiative of the IMF has also been suspended.

In a recent press conference, Volker Perthes, head of the UN Integrated Transitional Assistance Mission in Sudan, warned that

unless the current political crisis in Sudan is resolved, the country risks sliding further into instability and jeopardizing its important political, social, and economic progress.

## Uganda in urgent need for funds as refugee figures swell

KAMPALA

RELIEF agencies in Uganda say urgent funds are needed to cater to the critical needs of thousands of refugees fleeing fighting in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and sporadic clashes in South Sudan.

UN refugee agency figures show that the number of refugees fleeing into the country since January has reached more than 50 percent of the anticipated 67,000 new arrivals by end of this year.

Since January, Uganda has received over 35,000 refugees, a third of whom arrived in the past three weeks from the DRC, fleeing intense fighting in the North Kivu and Ituri provinces, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office here.

UNHCR and 44 other relief agencies in the country on April 29 launched an emergency appeal of 47.8 million U.S. dollars to cover a three-month initial urgent response for an influx of up to 60,000 refugees.

Esther Anyakun, Uganda's Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugee said the funds are needed to provide urgent assistance to new arrival refugees, mainly women and children in dire need of protection.

She said Uganda continues to offer safe asylum to people fleeing, making it the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa.

Joel Boutroux, UNHCR Representative in Uganda said the country's asylum policy must continue to be supported generously. Boutroux said the emergency funds will be used to cater for protection, food, shelter and essential household items.

Funding will also support urgently needed healthcare supplies, and water, sanitation and hygiene services required to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases, according to UNHCR.

Francis Iwa, Executive Director of Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants, a local nongovernmental organization, said, "While the world's attention is focused on Ukraine, we urge for peace in the DRC."

Failing this, interagency partners need additional resources and supplies to meet the humanitarian imperative of the people who have fled to Uganda."

The funding appeal comes at a time when Uganda's response to the over 1.5 million refugees in the country is critically underfunded. An interagency report said as of the end of March, only 41 million dollars had been received against the country's refugee response plan of 804 million dollars in funding needs for 2022.

There are ongoing regional efforts to pacify mineral-rich eastern DRC, which has faced decades of war.

Regional leaders at a recent meeting in the Kenyan capital Nairobi directed all armed groups in the DRC to participate unconditionally in the political process to resolve their grievances.

They also directed that a regional force be deployed to fight rebel insurgency in the country. Following regional initiatives, the DRC government is engaged in peace talks with the different warring parties in the eastern part of the country.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame at a recent meeting in Uganda said a regional approach is needed to address the Congolese situation.

"This time we must insist on working together because these people have suffered a lot. I told President Kenyatta that if we don't come in as a region, Congo may become like Sudan," Museveni said. President Uhuru Kenyatta is Kenya's president and chairperson of the East African Community, a regional bloc bringing together Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, South Sudan, and DRC.

"They need to talk without leaving anyone behind," Kagame said, noting that the Congolese security situation must be addressed once and for all.

Xinhua



A South Sudanese woman carrying her baby is seen at the Kuluba Refugee reception center in border region between South Sudan and Uganda. File photo

## China determined to promote balanced, coordinated and inclusive global development

CHINESE President Xi Jinping called on countries to "work together to promote economic recovery" and stressed that they should stay committed to building an open world economy, increase macro policy coordination and keep global industrial and supply chains stable to promote balanced, coordinated and inclusive global development when addressing the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022 via video link on April 21.

Countries should follow a people-centered approach, place development and people's well-being high on the agenda and advance practical cooperation in such key areas as poverty reduction, food security, development

financing and industrialization, in a bid to address uneven and inadequate development, Xi pointed out, adding that China is working with the international community on the solid implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) he proposed last year.

Xi's proposals demonstrate China's sense of responsibility and unwavering commitment to advancing the global development cause and build a global community of development with a shared future.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously eroded the gains the world has made in poverty reduction over the past decade. Uneven recovery is aggravating inequality across the world, further widening the North-South divide,"

Xi noted.

The impacts of the Ukraine crisis have continued to spill over into more regions, putting more strain on the world economy, which has already faced with fragile and weak recovery.

Changes of the world, of the times and of history are posing severe challenges to the global development cause, which must be taken seriously by humanity.

The pandemic has resulted in the relapse of several emerging nations into poverty and instability. Numerous people in developed countries are also living through a hard time due to the pandemic.

"Safety and health are the prerequisite for human development and prog-

ress," Xi said, emphasizing the need of countries supporting each other; better coordinating response measures and improving global public health governance, so as to form strong international synergy against the pandemic.

More than 10 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered globally, but about 83 percent of Africa's population has yet to receive a single dose. The top priority for countries at the moment is to close the immunization gap.

China has honored its commitment to making Chinese COVID vaccines a global public good and tried to ensure their accessibility and affordability in developing countries, according to Xi.

The country has provided over 21 billion doses of vaccines to more than

120 countries and international organizations, and will follow through the pledged donation of 600 million and 150 million doses of vaccines to Africa and ASEAN countries respectively.

The global industrial and supply chains have been disrupted; commodity prices continue to climb; and energy supply remains tight. These risks amplify one another and exacerbate the uncertainties surrounding economic recovery.

The global low inflation environment has notably changed, and the risks of inflation driven by multiple factors are surfacing.

If major economies slammed on the brakes or took a U-turn in their monetary policies, there would be serious negative spillovers. They would present

challenges to global economic and financial stability.

Xi urged countries to increase macro policy coordination, turn to science and technology for more growth drivers, keep global industrial and supply chains stable, and prevent serious negative spillovers from policy adjustments in some countries to promote balanced, coordinated and inclusive global development.

In the planet that we call home, humankind shares the same future.

Only by staying on top of the dominant trend of economic globalization and adhering to the times' tendency of peace, development and win-win cooperation can human beings jointly surmount difficulties and embrace a brighter future.

People's Daily



## Russia won't try to complete Ukraine operation by Victory Day, Lavrov says

MOSCOW

MOSCOW won't set artificial timeframes for its military operation in Ukraine in order to complete it by Victory Day, celebrated on May 9, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Italy's Mediaset broadcaster.

"Our troops won't artificially base their activities on a specific date, including Victory Day," he pointed out in response to a question. "We will solemnly celebrate May 9 the way we always do," Lavrov added.

According to him, the pace of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine first and foremost depends "on the need to mitigate risks for civilians and Russian troops."

Lavrov noted that the operation was particularly aimed at ensuring the safety of civilians and making sure that there were no threats from Ukraine to civilians and Russia, "which would be related to offensive weapons and the spread of Nazi ideas that the West is try-



ing to downplay."

"I've seen reports on NBC, I've read the National Interest magazine. Serious articles have started to appear there that are warning against playing games with Nazis, like it happened in 1935-1938," the Russian top diplomat emphasized.

Agencies

## Cameroon drum-makers cash in on its popularity

YAOUNDE

In Ekali, a village on the outskirts of Cameroon's capital city Yaounde, the rhythms of tam-tam, a centuries-old traditional drum fills the air.

Martin Mbezele Zambo has made a name for himself in the village as one of the best tam-tam drum makers.

At 42, Zambo has spent most of his life manufacturing all sizes and colors of tam-tam and other typical African drums.

"I have been doing this job for 25 years," Zambo said when Xinhua visited his workshop on a working day.

It was a windy, sunny day and sunset was still a couple of hours away. The wind whistled through trees and the sound of singing birds echoed through Ekali. Zambo and six other drum-makers were buried in work. They used a tree trunk that is sourced from a nearby forest and with an iron hollow it in a rectangular form to produce the tam-tam.

They also produced other drums by putting an animal skin over the top of the hollowed trunk, stretching it, and tying it down, or made the Balafon instrument by using a series of wooden bars, or keys and rest them on a bamboo frame.

It is an ancestral know-how that is passed on from generation to generation, said Zambo.

"I was trained (to make drums) by my big brother, who was trained by my grandfather," he said and added that in the past, their grandparents spent months making a tam-tam, today it takes two to four days.

"My great grandfather trained my grandfather who trained my father who trained me," said Jules Atangana, Zambo's neighbor who is also an artisan.

The sound and notes of the drum vary according to the wood and the shape hollowed out of it. Tam-tam is sounded by being struck with sticks.

Drums are providing a living for young people who can make or play them. On a good day, Zambo sells one tam-tam for 25,000 xaf (approximately 40 US dollars), especially to foreigners who come from neighboring Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

"This job allows me to feed my family, my children go to school, they have never been expelled from school for lack of money," said Zambo who is a father of three.

"I just bought a piece of land thanks to this work," added 35-year-old Atangana who left school early to pursue his passion.

Tam-tam is not just an instrument that is played in church, weddings and other ceremonies, it's also an important communication tool that enhances the rich cultural diversity of Cameroon, said James Ngwang, a traditional leader in the country's Northwest region.

"At the time there were no loudspeakers or telephone, the instrument was used, and is still used in villages to pass on messages. Each sound represents a particular message and people have to listen carefully to understand the meaning," Ngwang said. "The sound could be announcing death or enthronement of a king or the beginning of a farming season or any other major event. It is still used for that purpose in many places in Africa," he added.

As Cameroon joins the rest of the world to commemorate International Workers' Day, both Zambo and Atangana appeal to the government to support their job which they said can contribute to employment significantly.

"If really the government can take care of us especially by providing material such as chainsaw, machetes, and boots, it will boost the sector," said Zambo.

"COVID-19 really affected our job but we are back in business. Government can make this business become international by assisting us to attend international exhibitions in other to export our culture and sell the instrument," added Atangana.

Xinhua



Artisans work in a tam-tam workshop in Centre region, Cameroon, April 29, 2022. Xinhua

## Sound ecology brings better life to people in Nyingchi, Tibet

ECOLOGY is the most important resource in Nyingchi, southwest China's Tibet autonomous region. In recent years, the city has strengthened ecological protection and restoration, and continuously improved its ecological environment.

Based on its advantages of sound ecology and natural beauty, Nyingchi has vigorously developed characteristic tourism and made ecotourism the most direct and effective channel for increasing the income of local farmers and herdspeople.

In Nyingchi, which hosts China's second largest forestry area, logging used to be a major source of income for local people. Over 20 years ago, Lulang township, Bayi district of Nyingchi, had long been a state-owned forest farm.

Since Tibet completely banned logging in natural forests for commercial purposes at the end of the 20th century, Lulang township has accelerated the transformation of its growth model and concentrated efforts on ecotourism development.

In 2017, Lulang International Tourism Town, a key tourism project in the township, opened for business, thanks to the assistance provided by south China's Guangdong province under China's "pairing assistance" program. In Lulang International Tourism Town, a sewage treatment plant by the roadside is particularly eye-catching.

The plant, which cost more than 25 million yuan (\$3.8 million), was built for achieving the goal of net zero emissions of greenhouse gases in the town, said Wangdu, director of the Lulang Scenic Area Management Committee.

Wangdu noted that other environmental protection facilities and projects, including household waste treatment facility and landscape project, have also been introduced for the realization of the goal.

A good ecological environment represents the resources that Lulang



Photo shows peach blossoms in Bome county, Nyingchi city, southwest China's Tibet autonomous region. File photo

people rely on to live a better life, noted Wangdu, who believes that only by building to high standards environmental protection facilities such as waste transfer station and sewage treatment plant and formulating strict rules and regulations on environmental protection can the local government ensure that the operation and maintenance of the town does not cause a burden to the environment.

Apart from Lulang township, environmental awareness has been integrated into the development of many other places in Nyingchi besides.

A high-standard sanitary landfill to the west of Bome county, Nyingchi, and in the south side of No. 318 National Highway is under construction. Bome county's decision to build high-standard waste treatment facilities was based on its full consideration of local economic growth and development prospects of tourism.

The landfill, built with assistance from Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, under the "pairing assistance" program, will not pollute the soil and groundwater and can preliminarily ensure that it will emit no offensive odor, posing little threat to nearby residents' production or way of life.

"Green" is rarely seen in the Grand Canyon of Nujiang River, which seems to be dominated by taupes stones. Surprisingly, clusters of cactuses and pomegranate trees can be found on many hillsides of Tsawarong township, Zayu county, Nyingchi, in the Grand Canyon of Nujiang River, which inject vitality into the canyon.

The cactuses naturally grow in the region and turn into trees when they are old enough. "Our cactus clusters marvelously form woods. Nowadays, more and more tourists from Yunnan province are attracted to the cactus woods, and many often stop to take pictures there," said secretary of the Communist Party of China branch of Zuobu village, Tsawarong township.

The pomegranate trees have been planted in recent years. Villagers only grew pomegranate trees near their houses in the past; since 2018, Tsawarong township has gradually built characteristic pomegranate tree planting bases based on its plan for poverty alleviation and ecological restoration, according to Wu Mingjun, secretary of the Party committee of Tsawarong township and deputy director of the standing committee of the people's congress of Zayu county.

The township has planted 289,100 soft-seed pomegranate trees covering an area of over 6,400 mu (about 427 hectares), Wu said, adding that in a bumper year, these pomegranate trees are expected to produce a total of 3,000 tons of pomegranates with an output value of 36.9 million yuan, which can increase the per capita income of residents in

the township by about 5,700 yuan.

In the past five years, Nyingchi has planted 360,000 mu of trees, brought under control 450,000 mu of desertification areas, tending 180,000 mu of forests, and built more than 10,000 mu of fine varieties of nursery stock.

This year, it plans to green over 20,000 mu of land, including more than 15,500 mu of trees planted under key ecological restoration projects.

In the future, Nyingchi will continue to intensify efforts to restore ecosystems in key areas and carry out ecological restoration and afforestation projects, including ecological restoration at the confluence of rivers, to improve the quality and stability of its ecosystems.

While Nyingchi's ecological environment improves, local people also enjoy a better life.

With the advancements of infrastructure projects in Nyingchi in recent years, including the expansion of Nyingchi Mainling Airport and the construction of Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway and High Grade Highway, the bottlenecks hindering Nyingchi's ecotourism development have been removed, which allows the city to give full play to its ecological advantages.

Last year, various tourism entities in Nyingchi city drove 27,500 farmers and herdspeople to switch to a job in the tourism sector, a year-on-year increase of 4 percent.

People's Daily

## China's armed forces always a force of justice safeguarding world peace

RECENTLY, 15 members of the 12th Chinese peacekeeping engineering contingent to South Sudan received the Sector Commander's Commendation conferred by the Sector West Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Brigadier General Measho Hagos Seyum for their outstanding achievements and great contributions in recent peacekeeping work.

For a long time, China's Blue Helmets have built a strong defense line to safeguard peace in regions beset by conflict, demonstrating China's sense of responsibility as a major country.

Peace is an aspiration and lofty goal shared by all mankind. UN Peacekeeping, as instrument developed for peace and began in 1948, is aimed at helping countries torn by conflict to create conditions for lasting peace, and has become an important means of safeguarding world peace and security.

Over the past more than 70 years, UN peacekeepers have made selfless devotion and sacrifices in some of the toughest and most dangerous places in the world, while Blue Helmets have become a symbol of peace and hope in war-ravaged lands and Chinese Blue Helmets have grown into a key force in the UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs).

In April 1990, China's armed forces dispatched five military observers to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and embarked on a new voyage as a participant in the UNPKOs. On April 16, 1992, China dispatched its first formed military unit of Blue Helmets to Cambodia for UN peacekeeping mission.

Over the past 30 years or so, China's armed forces have contributed a growing number of peacekeepers across an expanding range of deployments.

From a few military observers at the outset of its involvement, China's armed forces are now sending both formed units and military professionals. Chinese military peacekeepers serve on the UN missions in engineer, medical, transport, helicopter, force protection and



All 410 members of the 19th batch of Chinese peacekeeping force to Lebanon are awarded the United Nations Peace Medal of Honor during a ceremony at the Chinese troops' camp in Hanniyah village in southern Lebanon, June 16, 2021.

infantry units, and as staff officers, military observers and seconded officers.

Batches of Chinese military peacekeepers have embarked on one mission after another with courage and fortitude, becoming steadfast guardians of world peace.

Since 1992, China has sent nearly 50,000 peacekeepers to 25 UNPKOs in more than 20 countries and regions, including Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, Sudan, Lebanon, Cyprus, South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic.

China is the second largest contributor to both peacekeeping assessment and UN membership fees, and the largest troop-contributing country (TCC) among the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

There are many touching stories about how Chinese peacekeeping forces have brought with them peace, security and the light of hope and warmth to people in war-torn areas.

Since 2013, China has dispatched nine peacekeeping units to Mali, where they carried out duties including armed patrols and armed escorts and earned the reputation of "des troupes d'élite" of Sector East of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

Over the past 16 years since the deployment of Chinese peacekeeping troops in Lebanon, Chinese peacekeepers successfully completed tasks including engineering construction and maintenance, provid-

ing medical services and humanitarian assistance, as well as clearing mines and explosives, during which they created the record of zero casualties for such tasks.

The Chinese medical units in the DRC have run a twinning project in SOS Children's Village Bukavu to offer help for 19 years. Touched by the love and care from the units, children in the village called the female members their Chinese mothers.

In UNMISS, Chinese military peacekeepers have provided agricultural techniques, farming tools and vegetable seeds to local people. They were invited by local middle schools to teach lessons on Chinese culture and language.

Chinese military peacekeepers are not only guard-

ians of peace but also messengers of friendship.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, said China's contribution to UNPKOs is "very important".

Peace needs to be fought for and safeguarded. China is a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of international order. And China's armed forces will always be a force of justice safeguarding world peace.

China's Blue Helmets have constantly injected positive energy into world peace and will continue forging ahead courageously and unwaveringly to safeguard peace with a strong sense of discipline and responsibility.

People's Daily





Yanga winger, Ducape Moloko (L), negotiates his way past Simba SC fullback Mohamed Hussein when the outfits locked horns in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League match, which took place in Dar es Salaam last Saturday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## How Yanga and Simba SC shared the spoils in Premier League clash

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

LAST Saturday, all roads led to the stately Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam as the storied Dar derby between Yanga and Simba SC took center stage.

Encounters between the two fierce archrivals are often do-or-die battles and this was no different last Saturday.

Indeed, in what was a gripping contest, the match proved to be an epic battle that sadly and ultimately ended in a scoreless sharing of the spoils.

Interestingly, heading into the eagerly awaited clash, Yanga had the advantage as they have been comfortably ensconced in first place on the table for a lengthy stretch of the season.

Unfortunately for Simba SC, the Msimbazi Street outfit has been relegated to playing second fiddle to Yanga from the early days of the season to date.

This trend of course is in sharp contrast to the last four years which were unassailable and commandingly dominated by Simba SC, who picked up four league trophies on the trot during this time frame.

However, at last, it seems as if the pendulum of momentum has swung Yanga's way as the Jangwani Street side sits prettily atop the league table with a hefty 55 points and they have not lost even a single game thus far this season.

Indeed, Yanga's admirable undefeated streak has doubtlessly been one of the major talking points of this season.

As for Simba SC, they lie in second

place on the table with 42 points which means that the road to league glory for them is paved with many an obstacle seeing as they are presently 13 points behind their old foes.

Still, whichever way the cookie crumbles, one expects that the two-horse race for the title will take some yet more unexpected and exciting twists and turns before the climax of the league campaign.

Switching gears, eight men's and women's teams will be our flag-bearers at the prestigious East African Netball Championship, which is set to begin on May 8, this year.

Indeed, this is cheering news for netball enthusiasts in the country as our netball clubs have rarely featured at international showpiece events in recent years.

Come to think of it, pretty much the same could be said about our national netball team, the Taifa Queens, who have plummeted in the global netball rankings due to their conspicuous absence from the international netball scene.

Having said that though, it deserves to be reiterated that the fact that our netball clubs will jockey for top honours at the East African Netball Championship is positively heartening news for local netball.

It is dearly hoped then that our representatives will not only give a good account of themselves at the regional championship but that they will leave their mark on the competition.

## FIFA punishes Senegal for fan disorder, lasers at Salah

ZURICH

FIFA fined Senegal's soccer federation 175,000 Swiss francs (\$180,000) yesterday for fan disorder at a World Cup play-off game, including shining laser pointers at Egypt star Mohamed Salah in the penalty shootout.

Salah's face was a blur of vivid green light when he prepared to take his penalty, which he blasted over the bar. Senegal went on to win the shootout in Dakar in March with Salah's Liverpool teammate Sadio Mané scoring the decisive spot kick.

FIFA said its disciplinary committee also looked into a pitch invasion by Senegal fans, an offensive banner and the national federation's "failure to ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadium."

Senegal was also ordered to play a future competitive game in an empty stadium.

The FIFA disciplinary panel also judged dozens of similar cases from World Cup qualifying games played since January and handed out several other fines and stadium closures.

Nigeria was punished with a 150,000 Swiss francs (\$154,000) fine and one-game stadium closure. Fans invaded the field in Abuja and there were other incidents of disorder after Nigeria was eliminated at home by Ghana in their playoff.

FIFA imposed fines of 125,000 Swiss francs (\$128,000) on Congo and 100,000 Swiss francs (\$103,000) on Lebanon in similar cases at games against Morocco and Syria, respectively. Both got one-game stadium closures.

Discrimination by fans of Chile and Colombia at their home games, plus other offenses, resulted in total fines of 95,000 Swiss francs (\$98,000) and 55,000 Swiss francs (\$56,500), respectively.

AP

## Sadio Mane could become a legend by teamwork, not as a solo maestro

By Correspondent John Kimbute

WITH chances of another Ballon d'Or title for the two traditional rivals diminishing despite several hat tricks for Cristiano Ronaldo at Manchester United in the outgoing season, top-level voices are being heard about the eligibility of Liverpool striker, Sadio Mane.

That prospect is interesting for Africa because the striker is not just African but also plays for an African country like a few other possible contestants for the golden boot, in the previous season and the outgoing patch.

Earlier it was Sadio Mane's colleague who won the UEFA Champions League with Chelsea and the Africa Cup of Nations with Senegal but he was overlooked, perhaps because he didn't also win the England Premier League title.

For once, Sadio Mane was picked the best player in the AFCON finals ahead of his goalkeeper colleague, which some of us found disappointing, as the sterling nerves of Eduard Mendy saw through both his club side and the national team, but yardsticks differ, and personal sentiments matter considerably.

In any case, strikers have an advantage over other team members when prizes are thought of, as their particular skills make a difference in a more enthralling manner than say stopping a run that was leading to the goal.

All the same distinguished defenders or midfielders, let alone goalies, often grab coveted prizes.

One powerful voice making the case for Mane in the Ballon d'Or contest was his coach, Jurgen Klopp after he put up another sterling performance solidifying the club's pursuit of the league title and the

UEFA Champions League after a solid 4-0 win against beleaguered Manchester United.

Yet Sadio Mane does not exude the sort of mention or gladiator respect that can at least be said of his attacking partner Mohamed Salah of Egypt who was being touted for the prize after an African Nations Cup and superb performance in the UEFA Champions League and the Premier League.

Again, a win by Mendy would also be out of a solo performance at goal, the team winning a title isn't just down to the goalie, but his role can be gauged.

It is unclear if a Sadio Mane prize at the UEFA top level would be a dis-appointment, as usually, it requires an inspiring figure, one who carries the hope of whatever team he plays, which it is doubtful if this placard fits with Sadio Mane.

With the possible exception of Senegal where he is a player holding the hopes



Sadio Mane

of so many, and thus not many contests could be raised when he was picked CAF player of the tournament after the last CAF Nations Cup finals, Liverpool is a different environment altogether.

It will be hard to say that Mane symbolizes Liverpool in like manner as it is with the national side, surely.

At the same time, despite not being the formidable trailblazer at the club level and incontestably at the heart of its winning spirit, it is evident he is one among a list of players where no leader is visible, just a good formation.

The question that could be posed is how many players Klopp could realistically have put up as Ballon d'Or candidates from his team, or he may have settled for Mane due to his sterling performance that night as well as the fact that he was already crowned CAF player of its latest Nations Cup finals?

He said to win such a

trophy one has to win something (with the team or teams he plays for), and he expects that Liverpool shall win one major title among those they are pursuing or a couple of titles.

Admittedly, were Liverpool to win both the UEFA and Premier League contentions, chances of a Ballon d'Or winner coming from its ranks would be quite high, if not unavoidable.

But it is possibly the only situation in which Sadio Mane (not to speak of Salah, perhaps) would be considered, as merely reaching the final (in the UEFA Champions League) would limit the possible selection to an inspiring figure, which in Liverpool it is rather clear Salah is better placed for citation than the Senegalese international.

But it is just hypothetical as the side winning the UEFA title would similarly have a perfectly eligible contestant, dashing all hopes for either Liverpool

to produce the player, or get a most inspiring player from its ranks.

What can therefore be surmised about what Klopp intimated is that it was a bit early for the assertion of actual eligibility, though it is possible to admit that chances are on the horizon that Mane could make it to the shortlist (five players best placed for the prize).

When it comes to Africa, chances were Mendy last year was picked as the best player after the UEFA Champions League title and the Nations Cup trophy to add up but no one was thinking of him, even in Africa where his colleague Mane took the prize.

With Egypt not having won the last Nations Cup, Salah would need to make inspiring performances in the final matches in case his club picks the UEFA or both titles, be cited as the most inspiring player, and thus assured of the trophy.

With Egypt not having won the last Nations Cup, Salah would need to make inspiring performances in the final matches in case his club picks the UEFA or both titles, be cited as the most inspiring player, and thus assured of the trophy.

## Simba SC admits facing difficulty in 2021/22 Premier League title race

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MAINLAND Tanzania soccer champion, Simba SC, has started losing hope of defending this season's NBC Premier League title after failing to beat an age-old rival, Yanga, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

The match that was eagerly awaited by Tanzania football fans and soccer followers in neighbouring countries ended in a 0-0 draw.

Simba SC Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, admitted the points gap between his club and Yanga has grown significantly, despite having many games left before the culmination of this season.

He said Simba SC is currently seeking to make sure it wins all of its fixtures to achieve the goal of getting maximum points, and if their opponent, Yanga, loses it will be a comfort to the former.

Ally revealed: "The Premier League top honour race for Simba SC is difficult as our opponent continues to collect a lot of points."

The official pointed out: "We will fight to win our matches and see what happens at the end of the season but the reality is that the gap has been huge."

Simba SC has collected 42 points after last Saturday's result against Yanga that keeps on leading the Premier League with 55 points.

In another development, Ruvi Shooting Information and Communication Department's Officer, Masau Bwire, said it is time for Yanga to concede loss after Simba SC failed to defeat the former last Saturday.



Simba SC Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally.

Bwire stated so before the Premier League match between Ruvi Shooting and Yanga that is penned for tomorrow at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma.

The official said their squad is ready for the game and it is determined to prove to local soccer supporters that it will be the first team to emerge victorious against Yanga.

Bwire pointed out: "Our coach Boniface Mkwasa has built up the youngsters psychologically, and we

have confirmed that because we are with everyone on our team, so we believe Yanga is going to lose."

"I may be saying this, but I know people are mocking me by saying I am having fun, but let me assure you we are good enough to fight and beat Yanga," the official revealed.

"We have brought this game to Kigoma to entertain our fans here, and nothing more than beating this team that has not conceded defeat

since the start of the season," Bwire noted.

In the first round of this season's Premier League, Yanga beat Ruvi Shooting 3-1 at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Jangwani Street giants' goals were scored by midfielders, Feisal Salum, Mukoko Tonombe, and defender Djuma Shaban.

Ruvi Shooting attacker, Shaban Msala, netted the club's only goal.



## Champions League matchups: Liverpool, Man City defend leads

LONDON

THE Champions League is heading toward a third all-English final in four seasons unless Spanish rivals can overturn first-leg losses.

Here's a look at second-leg matches in the semifinals taking place this week:

TODAY:

VILLARREAL-LIVERPOOL (0-2)

Villarreal surpassed expectations to reach the final four after upsetting former champions Juventus and Bayern Munich, and Liverpool was unable to inflict a knockout blow at Anfield.

Still, Unai Emery, a master of strategy in knockout competitions, faces the enormous challenge of engineering a comeback over a Liverpool side that is seeking a historic quadruple of the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup titles.

Villarreal will rely on an attack that shares with Real Madrid the highest number of goals scored at home in the Spanish league this season (38). At its Estadio de la Cerámica, Villarreal also beat Bayern Munich 1-0 in the quarterfinals and had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Juventus despite outplaying the Italian side.

Emery is hoping that Gerard Moreno can play after he missed the first match with a leg injury, but the Spain striker remains doubtful. Emery rested several starters, including forward Arnaut Danjuma, during Saturday's 2-1 loss to Alavés that left Villarreal seventh in the Spanish league. For the team from a small town near Spain's eastern coast, winning the Champions League is the only way back into the competition next season.

Liverpool made five changes from the side that beat Villarreal when it played at Newcastle on Saturday despite being involved in a Premier League title race. The second-place team managed to secure the 1-0 win that kept it a point behind Manchester City, all while star striker Mohamed Salah was only needed on the field for 25 minutes. Fabinho and Thiago Alcántara also only came on in the second half while Ibrahima Konate and Trent Alexander-Arnold didn't come off the bench at all as the depth of the squad was clear.

Liverpool, which beat Tottenham in the 2019 Champions League final, has already won the League Cup this season and plays the FA Cup final against Chelsea in two weeks.

TOMORROW:

REAL MADRID-MANCHESTER CITY (3-4)

After the hugely entertaining seven-goal opener, it's the eagerly awaited second instalment of the record 13-time European champions against the ruthless attacking machine of Pep Guardiola's City. With City dominating the first leg at home for long stretches, the slender loss ensured the defeat wasn't as painful for Madrid as it could have been, thanks to another couple of goals from Karim Benzema.

Even though he only played the last 30 minutes against Espanyol on Saturday, the France forward still had time to score and complete a 4-0 win. It's now 42 goals from 42 appearances this campaign – the form that will put him in contention for the Ballon D'Or.

Carlo Ancelotti could afford to rest Benzema for most of the domestic game given Madrid's league dominance, and a record-extending 35th league title was wrapped up. Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and playmaker Luka Modric were among the only regular starters in the starting lineup along with holding midfielder Casemiro, who made his comeback from injury after missing the first leg.

His return should help to solidify a defense that was overwhelmed by City's passing attack in the first leg and was lucky to not concede even more goals.

While Madrid's players were recovering from Saturday night's celebrations through the streets of the Spanish capital, City's squad was resting up after another win in its defense of the Premier League title. Beating Leeds 4-0 kept City a point ahead of Liverpool and Kevin De Bruyne didn't need to be called on at all.

City lost last season's final to Chelsea and is seeking its first Champions League title.

AP

## Thiago has Liverpool dancing to a different beat

LONDON

LIVERPOOL'S fast and furious football under Jurgen Klopp had already delivered a Champions League and Premier League title by the time Thiago Alcántara arrived at Anfield to much fanfare two years ago.

Few players in the history of the game can match the Spaniard's medal haul that includes 11 league titles and Champions League glory with both Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

However, Thiago was not an obvious fit for Klopp's energy-sapping demands of his midfielders.

Initial scepticism was borne out during a difficult first year in England for the 31-year-old. Thiago was just one of Klopp's key men to miss a large portion of the season due to injury.

Yet, even when he was fit, there was criticism that the man whose ability to put his foot on the ball and control the tempo of the game moved too slowly for Liverpool's swashbuckling style.

"Thank God these people don't make decisions," said Klopp on the critics.

"He was unlucky with injuries and stuff like this at the start, but when he is fit he can give the game a real rhythm.

"He's got an eye for that, he calms the game down in the right moments, he has a sensational overview of the game."

That vision has come to the fore as Liverpool approach immortality by winning an unprecedented quadruple.

AFP

# Why Real Madrid's 35th LaLiga title might be their grittiest win yet

By Graham Hunter, ESPN  
Spain writer

THERE'S no question that Real Madrid are not only the best team in Spain, but also worthy champions of LaLiga. During their title march there have been guts, glory, magnificence, intensity and, from Karim Benzema, one of the great single-season performances of any footballer for Los Blancos in living memory.

None of which erases how much of an odd, angular, unusual triumph this has been -- a truth that actually makes Madrid's achievement all the more notable.

Having dealt with Espanyol and clinched the title with Saturday's comprehensive 4-0 win, there remains the possibility that more Champions League glory might follow against Manchester City on Wednesday at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. Right now, it's still feasible that Carlo Ancelotti's side becomes only the second Real Madrid squad to be Spanish and European champions since 1958. Let that possibility sink in for a moment. It's astonishing. Let's hope they pull it off.

But, for now, try to put in perspective what a diamond in the rough this LaLiga title has been.

Madrid played their first three matches away from home, nominally a disadvantaged start, then their first Bernabeu game in front of just 19,000 fans. Did you remember that? Building works, COVID restrictions -- this glittering season began a little inauspiciously.

On the subject of the Bernabeu, stadium redevelopment, with its associated venue dislocation, vast investment and reduced contact with fans, can become vastly expensive and even threatens a club's very status -- never mind their ability to win the big prizes. So to win this long slog trophy in the midst of all that disruption is laudable.

It was the Stamford Bridge redevelopment that put Chelsea on the brink of bankruptcy and made their purchase by Roman Abramovich so vital... and so simple. In Glasgow, the Old Firm giants both faced extreme financial and social trauma, plus trophy dearths, when they needed vast upgrades to Parkhead and Ibrox, respectively.

Valencia's stadium nightmare -- one they don't want, another sitting half-built and unused -- nearly finished them as a club. Even the subsidised cost of the Allianz Arena, opened for World Cup 2006, left Bayern Munich financially compromised for a few years such that they lost two of the four Bundesliga titles up for grabs while it was being built.

And just ask any Arsenal fan about whether the cost of the Emirates Stadium, and the loss of Highbury, has (in the short and mid-term) helped or hindered the club's finances and the match day atmosphere?

While building a football palace (the current cost of which is €800 million) which will rival any sports stadium in the world, and which will imminently make the club uber-dominant in Spanish football, Real Madrid have consis-



Real Madrid extended their record haul of LaLiga titles to 35 by winning the 2021-22 season.

tently been frugal (in relative terms) during transfer windows and as a result, only bought one significant player last summer: 18-year-old Eduardo Camavinga who cost €30m up front and who, notwithstanding that he profiles as a potentially exceptional talent, started just 10 LaLiga matches before this weekend.

Are you surprised that there's extra merit in a title win which wasn't vastly fuelled by expensive reinforcements? Get real. Or ... get Real.

David Alaba has been a Lynchpin but arrived on a free transfer -- good, well-planned, successful business.

For Madrid to be playing in a work-in-progress, reduced-capacity stadium where fan atmosphere has been deflated, and without huge investment to come to the aid of the legs and lungs of a team whose first-choice XI this season (with an average age of 29) features veterans aged 32, 34, and 36 who have played 180 matches between them, is an incredibly significant achievement.

There are more anomalies about Madrid's 35th title, but only their third in the past 10 years. Take the Sevilla games. Our champions twice gifted their most dogged pursuers a lead when they played, but then forced one of Los Blancos' most favoured words, "remon-tada" ("comeback"), on them in each occasion.

The more dramatic of those two "will they, won't they" matches was in Seville, a hotbed of passion and searing heat. Madrid, apparently tiring, in the midst of the most extraordinary Champions League performances allowed Julen Lopetegui's side to get a two-goal start, look like they were going to crush the league leaders and then took Sevilla to the cleaners.

The power, the passion, the invention and the determination of that 3-2 win at the Sanchez Pizjuan stadium, having trailed 2-0 and playing without their brilliant midfielder enforcer Casemiro, will live long in the memory of the victors, the vanquished and

any neutral lucky enough to have been watching.

It's an oddity, too, that Madrid have wrapped this up having only had to play their bitter city enemies Atletico Madrid once (a 2-0 win) and having lost their home Clásico 4-0 to Barcelona. But, nevertheless, think of things like this: Ancelotti's team lost just three times before clinching LaLiga. After each setback, the reaction was immense. The mark of proper champions.

Defeat in Barcelona to Espanyol was unexpected and limp. Their next result? An immediate trip back to the same city, a Camp Nou Clásico and a 2-1 win which was much more comprehensive and classy than the scoreline suggests.

Defeat to Getafe? Dopey and sloppy as it was, Los Blancos followed up immediately with a 4-1 thrashing of Valencia, who love to cause Madrid mischief whenever they can. A power-play response.

The home humiliation against Xavi's revitalised Barca? The response was four straight wins before this weekend, 10 goals scored, six of those points gathered on the road. Phoenixes have risen from the ashes with less remarkable audacity than Luka Modric, Benzema, Thibaut Courtois et al.

It's a likeable and oft-quoted nicety that this trophy completes the "re-poker" (as Spain's football community calls a five-time triumph) of An-

celotti's league title wins in Europe's top leagues. He's special, he's fun to be around, he was an important footballer and his coaching career has ascended him to become European soccer royalty -- wise, beneficent, inspirational to his subjects. All conquering.

But let's not mess around. If you've coached Juventus, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea, Bayern and Madrid, it's a reasonable bet that you'll accumulate league-winning trophies -- no?

It's satisfying to see Ancelotti add LaLiga to his Premier League, Serie A, Bundesliga and Ligue 1 titles; an achievement to mark him down as a cosmopolitan, continental polyglot as well as a manager par excellence. But this is a championship win that, I'll argue, has its three podium positions filled by Courtois, the utterly preternatural will to win exhibited by Modric and a clutch of other on-pitch generals plus, in pole position, the startling brilliance of the Vinicius-Benzema partnership.

A total of 90 goals and assists since August across all competitions from the Frenchman and Brazilian. Literally astonishing. Vinicius was four when Benzema produced his first senior goal assist (for Lyon against Metz), and if the Brazilian attacker plays until he's 36, which is a reasonable hypothesis, Benzema will be eyeing his 50th birthday. They are an-

other footballing version of the "Odd Couple."

But even if you are a broken-spirited Atleti, Barca or Sevilla fan, you'd have to be massively mean-spirited too in order not to admit that the "Vin-Ben" duo invent some fantastic freestyle jazz out there on the pitch. What once was no-look football, because Vinicius hadn't been trained to add tactics to his testosterone, is now no-look football because these two go out and riff on an innate understanding of their mutual tempo and rhythm. Barely a glance is required between them in order for a goal chance to be carved out or tucked away.

In a true sense, they bring the essence of street football to the stadiums of LaLiga every weekend. Bless them a thousand times. Invention, wit, risk, will-to-win, kick-me-if-you-dare, now-you-see-me-now-you-don't stuff -- I'm going to call the sum total ... magic.

We went through several weeks when Madrid, idling in a low gear until the Grand Prix weekends arrived, needed Courtois to be startlingly good. Usually in "minor" games, when some of the team were in third gear, not fifth, the towering Belgian who, alongside Modric, has gradually assumed a leadership role in this group, would paw away some fantastic effort from his top left or right hand corner and charge down a marauding attacker to save

the day in close combat.

His fingerprints are on this trophy as much as they were on each ball he tipped over the bar or around the post in a variety of demanding tests around this country. Had he been injured and out for six or seven games, Madrid certainly would not be wearing the crown this early, and perhaps not at all. But he wasn't, they are and they deserve admiration and applause.

Of course, given that football is like the ocean's tides -- flowing in only to ebb out and flow back again -- there will be a relatively limited time for back-slapping and lording it over vanquished, weakened foes. Then it'll all begin again.

Madrid have remedial work to do in their first XI and in their squad. Their test now is to repeat. Again and again and again. The thing which has been beyond them for over thirty years, during which Madrid have only once won back-to-back LaLiga titles.

But put your ear to the ground: Benzema performing like a 28-year-old, Vinicius playing like he's in paradise, Modric still gripped by a fanatical drive to keep winning, Kylian Mbappe potentially joining midfield, defensive reinforcements like Antonio Rudiger, the Bernabéu full, fervent and making more money than ever before.

Salute this title, but heed and hear the rumble of a Madrid era coming.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Why Real Madrid's 35th LaLiga title might be their grittiest win yet

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Ihefu SC's head coach, Zubeir Katwila.

## Katwila: Ihefu SC yet to garner promotion to Premier League despite posting wins

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

MBEYA-based Championship League outfit Ihefu SC head coach, Zubeir Katwila, has said despite coming out victorious in two important matches played recently, the squad is not guaranteed promotion to 2022/23 Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

Katwila revealed his outfit has hardly nailed a place in next season's Premier League, pointing out he sees there is a daunting task ahead of the squad because all remaining matches are tough.

Ihefu SC had last week played two games out of five remaining fixtures, with the outfit challenging Dar es Salaam-based club, DTB FC, in a quest for promotion to next season's top flight.

The Championship League leader, DTB FC, is also fighting for a place in the 2022/23 Premier League.

Ihefu SC emerged victorious in fixtures against Kitayosce FC, beating the latter 2-1 at the former's venue, Highland Estates Stadium, in Mbarali on April 23.

The Mbeya squad moreover recorded the win in an away game against African Sports at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga last Sunday, in which the former posted a 2-1 win.

Up to date, Ihefu SC has already played 27 games according to Championship League fixtures which have had the squad amassing 56 points, three adrift of league leader DTB FC.

The tactician revealed: "I would like to say that these two matches have not guaranteed my team promotion to next season's Premier League, but to put things in perspective, anything can happen in the three remaining matches."

"My players and I must pull up our socks to make sure we win all remaining matches," he said.

In the three remaining matches involving Ihefu SC, it will lock horns with Pan African, and JKT Tanzania FC at Highland Estates Stadium in Mbeya.

Ihefu SC will later battle it out in one away match against Ndanda FC which will be played at Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium in Mtwara.

## Simba SC eyes return to victory in NBC Premier League, confronts Namungo FC



Simba SC winger, Bernard Morrison (C), attempts to beat Namungo FC goalkeeper Jonathan Nahimana when the two outfits met in this season's NBC Premier League tie which took place in Dar es Salaam in January.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

2021/22 NBC Premier League's defending champion Simba SC is eyeing a return to winning ways in the league ahead of the side's away clash with Namungo FC at Ilulu Stadium, Lindi today afternoon.

Simba SC is coming off two frustrating draws that left the club trailing runaway league leader, Yanga, by 13 points.

Pablo Franco, Simba SC's head coach, understands the title race is over, it is all about if Yanga can go the remainder of the season unbeaten, and, with Azam FC, Namungo FC, and Simba SC ties out of Yanga's way, it is hard to bet against.

Pablo is facing the most challenging period of his Simba SC career to date.

The 2021/22 CAF

Confederation Cup quarterfinal exit coupled with the recent draws in the NBC Premier League has brought criticism to the tactician.

The priority for Simba SC at the moment is to get the win against Namungo FC and stop

the run of two games without a victory in the process and finish the season strongly.

Simba SC has claimed 16 points from 10 away matches this season.

Both league defeats for Simba SC this season have come out of

matches played out of Dar es Salaam, a 1-0 loss against Mbeya City FC was followed by a similar loss away to Kagera Sugar.

Simba SC will, on the one hand, count on Congolese attacker Chris Mugalu, Med-

die Kagere, and the returning John Bocco to score the much-needed goals.

On the other hand, Namungo FC suffered a 2-1 loss away to Yanga on April 23 but remained in the hunt for a top-three finish, which would earn African club football for the 2022/23 season.

They have claimed 16 points from 10 home matches so far this season.

The danger-man in Namungo FC is Reliants Lusajo, who has so far scored 10 league goals and sits third on the goal scorers' ladder behind Yanga striker Fiston Mayele and Geita Gold FC's George Mpole.

In head-to-head stats, Simba SC and Namungo FC have met in five league matches since the 2019/20 season.

The Msimbazi Reds boast an unbeaten record, with four wins and one draw from the quartet of games.

The Dar giants have recorded one win and one draw from two away matches in the rivalry.

When the teams met earlier this season, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in November 2021, Simba SC claimed a 1-0 home win thanks to a late goal netted by Meddie Kagere.

## Azam FC aims to reclaim third spot with Kagera coup

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC will hope to reclaim third place when the squad confronts Kagera Sugar in the NBC Premier League clash in Kagera, kick-off at 16h00.

A win for coach Abdhamid Moalin's charges would see them climb above Namungo FC into third depending on the outcome of the latter's results against Simba SC.

Azam FC was held to a frustrating 2-2 draw against Geita Gold FC on the former's last matchday.

The Dar es Salaam outfit, however, has remained in the hunt to finish ahead of Namungo FC who have played one more game as the league enters the home stretch.

The 2013/14 Premier League champions have claimed 18 points from 10 home matches so far this season.

Coach Moalin will look towards Zambian attacker, Rodgers Kola, for goals.

It has been a very good few weeks for Kola, as he has reignited his Azam FC career and is now a member of their first eleven.

Very few would have expected the Zambian international to be a pivotal figure at the core of Azam FC, but here we are.



Azam FC goal-getter Prince Dube (R) challenges Kagera Sugar center back as the clubs locked horns in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash which took place in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

After drawing a blank once again against Geita Gold FC, this would be another chance for striker

Prince Dube to repay his coach's faith in front of goal.

The Zimbabwean's form

has been the subject of much debate among supporters, with his record of one goal in this season

hardly befitting a striker who was banging goals for fun last season before his injury.

Meanwhile, Kagera Sugar has been resurgent since the turn of the year and is on a four-game unbeaten run.

Head coach Francis Baraza has managed to turn around their form, taking them out of relegation scrap, and placing them nicely in the top half of the table.

In an intriguing top-four race, Kagera Sugar is in for a shout if they play their cards in the remaining nine games.

This has been a breakout season for Erick Mwijage, as he is now Kagera Sugar's top scorer with four goals and one assist to his name.

He is Kagera Sugar's big-

gest goal threat and he will be hoping that he can play his way into Tanzania's national squad for the upcoming AFCON qualifiers.

In head-to-head stats, Azam FC and Kagera Sugar have met in 23 league matches since 2010/11.

The Ice cream makers have claimed 14 wins compared to four for Kagera Sugar, while five matches have been drawn.

The Chamazi side has recorded eight wins, two draws, and two defeats from 12 home matches in the rivalry.

When the teams met earlier this season, at the Kaitaba Stadium in December, they played out a goalless draw.

The results broke a two-game losing streak in this rivalry for Kagera Sugar.

## Flexibles

by David Chikoko

THINGS ARE MOVING TOO FAST...



ROYAL TOUR

KARIAKOO DERBY

MAY DAY

FARE HIKE

PRESS FREEDOM