



**National Pg 3**  
Police arrest four for transporting khat



**National Pg 6**  
TARI in drive to spur rice production



**National Pg 7**  
MP offers gas cylinders for women



# Ministry wants LPG sold in smaller units

## Health access improves, with skeleton staffing

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ACCESS to health services is being improved in Dodoma Region despite existing shortage of health staff, the regional secretariat has affirmed.

Dr Samuel Selelu, the acting regional medical officer (RMO) told the regional consultative committee yesterday that access to health services has continued to improve as an infrastructure uplift was conducted.

He lauded health sector workers for their commitment, pointing out that the shortage of health personnel stands at 66 per cent of optimal placements, with 96 health centres are being run by nurses and health attendants.

Presenting an implementation report for the health sector to the committee he said that health facilities stood at 429 late 2021, climbing to 477 by December 2022.

Dr Selelu said the region has also managed to move the services closer to the people especially surgical services, which are being provided in 36 health centres and 11 hospitals.

Diagnosis services have also improved while availability of medicines has reached 90 percent during the outgoing year, he said, noting further that improvements resulted from scaling up health budget provision for medicines and medical supplies from 4.7bn/- in 2021/22 to 5.2bn/- in 2022/2023.

The region has been addressing the shortage of health workers by employing more staff whenever the budget situation allows, despite having a shortage of 6,060 staff placements.

Kongwa District faces the worst shortage of health personnel (1,428), Mpwapwa (1,130), Bahi (737), Kondo District (719), Chamwino (653), Chemba (522), Kondo town (324),

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, chancellor of the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) confers a doctor of philosophy in Kiswahili degree to Nunuu Abdalla Mohammed during the 18th graduation ceremony held at the campus yesterday. Photo: State House

# Sonjo woman prized for child marriage campaign

By Guardian Reporter

MESHA Pius Singolyo, a Master of Arts student from the Sonjo tribe in Arusha

region, has won the 2022 Champion of Change award from activist NGOs, Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF) and the Legal Services Facility (LSF).

LSF executive director Lulu Ngw'anakilala said in a statement yesterday, that the prize was given for

TURN TO PAGE 2

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

TALKS are being pursued between the Ministry of Energy and some major gas companies on repackaging and sale of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in smaller quantities.

Felicesmi Mramba, the permanent secretary, said yesterday that the goal is to enable users to purchase gas in like manner as electricity, so that more households can switch to gas from charcoal.

He made this observation when opening a training session on the safe use of LPG cylinders for local authority official in Kilimanjaro Region organized by Oryx Gas (T) Ltd.

The training was meant to enhance user ability with on safe use of LPG, pointing at its positive health features and protecting the environment.

The firm sought to conduct the training as part of environmental, social and governance engagement with communities, where it also handed over 700 Oryx gas starting kits to participants for use by residents in the region.

The ministry is liaising with innovators and major gas companies to see how the smaller units design can be implemented, he stated, noting that prepaid electricity purchasing services was a usable model for gas use under certain conditions.

People to be able to buy gas for 1,000/- or 10,000/- as they buy electricity, he said, underlining that reduced packages enables affordability, skipping over the issue of pricing of the gas as such.

His remarks as well as those of the gas marketing firm focused on healthy cooking fuel, which observers noted was not in dispute when President Samia Suluhu Hassan called for a ministerial consultative effort on gas pricing back in June.

In following up the president's directive, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa organized an experts meeting early this month,

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Zanzibar revenue board authority status adopted

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A DECISION to establish the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) has been accepted by the key committee of the Zanzibar legislature.

Sabiha Filfil Thani, the chairperson of the finance and economic development committee of the House of Representatives, hailed the decision in remarks during the ongoing session of the House of Representatives.

She made the remarks shortly after the House endorsed the bill for establishment of ZRA and dissolution of its predecessor,

the Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB), with the committee saying it will simplify identification of taxpayers by creating a viable database.

Zanzibar lacks statistics on the actual number of large and small taxpayers, which affects revenue collections, she asserted, demanding that the Zanzibar Treasury make sure eligible taxpayers pay government taxes, along with measures to control tax evasion.

Committee members were happy with upgrading the board in expectation of enhancing revenue collections, with new strategies to further boost government coffers, she said.

Some representatives suggested the need for a financial audit of the outgoing board and incoming body to see whether collected taxes are spent on budgeted purposes.

Mutwa Peya Yusuf (Bubwini) asked the government to ensure the new tax authorities are audited, stating that people wish to know actual expenditure as well as collections, thus enhancing financial transparency.

Ali Suleiman Ameir, President's Office deputy state minister for Finance and Planning, said tax collection bodies work

TURN TO PAGE 2



Oryx Gas (T) Ltd director Araman Benoit showing how to light a gas cylinder during training for Kilimanjaro Region wards officials in Moshi yesterday. The firm donated 700 gas cylinder for use in the region, handed to Special Seats MP Shally Raymond. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## Ministry wants LPG sold in smaller units

FROM PAGE 1

while the top ministerial executive focused on the impression that the monthly cost of using charcoal for cooking for a family of five member is higher than using gas, so the problem is packages units.

Araman Benoit, the firm's managing director, said that customers need to be educated about the benefits of LPG and how to use it safely, thus moving to launch safety training for gas users.

"Nothing is more important than our customers' safety. We will gradually conduct similar training to communities nationwide," he stated, also referring to engaging key stakeholders like the Fire Brigade, the Weight and Measures

Agency (WMA) and the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA).

They have tremendously helped in developing awareness of LPG safety use, he stated, making scant reference either to repackaging or to pricing.

Special Seats MP Shally Raymond directed her remarks to the safety aspect, underlining that LPG safety stickers are fixed on all Oryx gas cylinders to remind users on the basics of LPG safety.

With hundreds of millions of users worldwide, LPG is the fuel of choice for a better, safer, healthier and more environmentally friendly Africa and Tanzania, the MP declared.

## Sonjo woman prized for child marriage campaign

FROM PAGE 1

her painstaking efforts in fighting against child marriages within the pastoralist community.

The NGO executive said the lady is a brave woman combating child marriage within her Sonjo and Maasai communities, as a professional women organizer in the region.

She has witnessed many girls drop out of school, prompting her to establish a project named 'My Dream, My Life' to prevent teenager being made pregnant, working to prevent physical, sexual and emotional violence.

She has engaged girls into schools to increase their self-awareness on their physical development, given the fact that 64 percent of girls in Monduli, Longido and Ngorongoro districts drop out from school due to early marriage and pregnancies.

"This phenomenal woman uses her network of friends to help girls who have fallen into the early pregnancy trap by sending them to school after giving birth. She has brought back to school 32 victims of matrimonial slavery, with six of them being young mothers," the statement noted.

Young girls falling into pregnancy are more at risk of being married off and conceiving once again before the age of 18, the laureate had explained, elaborating that she helps them to gain access to education through private schools.

She works to enrol some of the toddlers to childcare centers to relieve the young mothers of parental responsibilities, to focus on their studies, guided by the conviction that education is the

silver bullet to protect young girls from involuntary marriage.

The statement noted that Singolyo has rescued 120 vulnerable girls from forced marriages in the three districts, a key part of her campaign against all forms of gender-based violence among the Maasai and Sonjo communities.

The Sonjo portion of the population within the Maasai community does not exceed 30,000 on the basis of results of the national census. Like the Hadzabe ethnic group, a surviving relic of the hunter-gatherers, the Sonjo community basically survives on what nature provides, particularly wild fruits, honey, wild meat and a little bit of crops.

Having been born and bred where oppression against women is a norm, Singolyo had to face enormous odds to study, making it to university level, holding a Bachelor of Arts in Education, majoring in political science and language studies, plus a Master of Arts in gender and development studies, from the University of Dar es Salaam. She has also pursued a Master of Arts in leadership and education management from the University of Arusha.

"I don't have much resources to provide for children in need of staying at school," she said, explaining that she sought out friends to raise a sum of money for educational materials and mattresses for the girls each year.

Singolyo has dedicated the award to community leaders, officials and friends supportive of her efforts to defend indigenous girls' rights to education, to realize their lifetime dreams.

## Zanzibar revenue board authority status adopted

FROM PAGE 1

in line with existing strategies to identify taxpayers in one database.

The new authority will have the mandate to make various tax adjustments in accordance with the laws, he said, noting that

this will increase efficiency in management along with discipline in administering public funds.

ZRA Commissioner Yusuf Mwenda expressed intent to observe the laws in seeking to increase efficiency in tax collections.

## Ghana bans New Year prophecies by faith leaders

ACCRA

GHANAIS are seemingly fed up with alarmist New Year predictions especially prophecies about the incoming new year.

Ghanaian government has issued a stern warning to religious leaders against making alarming New Year predictions that can cause anxiety, fear or death.

The Ghana police spokesperson Grace Ansh-Akrofi in a statement on Tuesday said those found culpable would be arrested. He recalled that police has banned what it describes misleading New Year prophecies that can cause jitters.

"A year ago today, December

27, 2021, the Ghana police service drew the attention of the general public, especially members of the religious community to the law regarding the communication of prophecies, and urged compliance to the law to ensure continuous security and law and order in the country," the Ghana police spokesperson Grace Ansh-Akrofi said in a statement Tuesday.

Just like in many countries in Africa, religious leaders are known for making spiritual prophecies especially before the year begins.

Ghanaian police reiterated that the move is not meant to prohibit rights to worship or speech but rather as a precaution.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks with Regina Lowassa, the wife of former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa (3rd L) and their son Fredrick Lowassa (R) when the PM went to visit Edward Ngoyai Lowassa who is receiving treatment in Johannesburg, South Africa yesterday. Left is government chief medical officer Prof Abel Makubi and Prime Minister's wife Mary Majaliwa. Photo: PMO

FROM PAGE 1

Dodoma city (360) and Dodoma regional referral hospital (187).

Immunisation services attained 115 per cent of the target for pentavalent vaccine, named so as it protects against five major diseases, that is diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis B and haemophilus influenza for children,

## Health access improve, with skeleton staffing

he said.

The region reached 109 per cent for measles and rubella (MR 1) and 99 percent for MR 2 for children

under five, he said.

During the Covid -19 vaccination drive the region received two million doses of vaccines and until

November 2022 upwards of 1.6m people, deemed to be 133 percent of the target had been vaccinated, he added.



Lake Manyara National Park chief conservationist, Assistant Commissioner Neema Mollel (R) speaks with journalists who visited the national park to see various tourist attractions including tree-climbing lions recently. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar

WITH the reopening of borders in April 2022, after two years of isolation from the rest of the world, tourism in Madagascar is slowly but surely regaining momentum.

Despite an undeniable attraction for Madagascar as a destination, renowned for its one of a kind biodiversity, heavenly beaches, and favorable weather, the island only welcomed 106 000 tourists between January and November 2022, three times less than pre pandemic.

Reasons for this slow revival can be explained by a lack of services and the soaring prices of plane tickets according to the Confederation of tourism of Madagascar.

Players in the sector hope that the slow resumption will encourage the State to make significant improvements in domestic transport. The lack of domestic

## Madagascar: Slow revival of tourism post COVID-19

flights and increasingly dilapidated roads make access to certain sites very difficult, this is particularly the case for Morondava and its majestic Baobab Alley, in the west of the country.

The Ministry of Tourism expects an arrival of 300,000 visitors in 2023.

Madagascar has been awarded the title of "Indian Ocean's Leading Green Destination 2022" by the World Travel Awards in its 29th edition.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hugely affected tourism in Madagascar.

In a few figures, the tourism sector is threatened: 44,000 direct

jobs and 300,000 indirect jobs according to a report from the Multisectoral Emergency Plan of Madagascar published by the primacy in July 2020.

To revive tourism, associations, travel agencies, parks, etc. are focusing on local tourism, putting ecotourism and community tourism at the heart of their initiatives.

Though community based tourism has been in vogue for quite some time on the island, it is now a crucial step towards the sector's revival.

As it is generally accepted that in order to be sustainable, tourism activities must contribute to the empowerment of local communities

through their active participation in decision-making and in the development process, this form of tourism aims to preserve natural, cultural and social heritage and to ensure the sustainability of biological diversity and not just as an ecological approach. It also implies the participation of tourists and visitors in educational actions to safeguard the island's unique biodiversity.

According to the community-based ecotourism site in Morondava, "Kivalo Soa Honko", in order for any recovery to be possible, material reinforcements such as water supply and public transportation are absolutely needed.



A cross-section of graduates taking the oath after being awarded medical degree by State University of Zanzibar Chancellor, President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday. Photo: State House

## Police in Manyara arrest four suspects for transporting khat

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

POLICE in Manyara region are holding four suspects over illegal transportation of 661 bundles of khat branches measuring 304.10 kilograms.

The illegal consignment was transported from Arusha region to Kondo district in Dodoma region, according to Manyara Regional Police Commander, George Katabazi.

Katabazi said the suspects were arrested during an operation to

arrest criminals that had been conducted by police since on December 23, this year.

He said on December 23, this year police seized 157.5 kilograms of narcotic drugs being carried in two separate vehicles. He said the incident happened at 10:45pm in the Minjingu road block in Nkaiti ward. "When our officers inspected the vehicles, they found the said narcotic drugs and arrested two suspects, both men," said Katabazi.

He said the vehicle belongs to Machimula's Express Company

with registration number T.550 DGK owned by Salumu Kanyinyi of Kondo. He said the vehicle makes its trips from Arusha to Kondo.

He also said that on December 25 at 2:30am at the Babati police station, police arrested two suspects with 320 bundles of khat weighing 147.5 kilograms.

He said the khat was loaded in the dashboard of a car with registration number T.225APF, owned by Elibariki Kileo, a resident of Arusha. He said drugs were transported from Arusha to Kondo District in

Dodoma.

"All the four suspects are being held by the police for interrogations. We have tightened security during this festive season and we have posted officers at all the roadblocks to ensure searches and patrols are conducted accordingly," he said.

The RPC warned residents from committing crimes noting all those who will be held will be arraigned.

Some interviewed residents commended the police force for tightening security during Christmas and New Year celebrations, suggesting that drivers whose vehicles carry narcotic drugs should be revoked.

A resident of Babati, Alphonse John said such kind of patrols should continue even after the end of year festive season.



Aerial picture of the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport bus stand which is under construction along Kawawa Road at Magomeni - Mikumi yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Mbeya police take breathalyzer test measures

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Police in Mbeya region have taken breath alcohol test measures the amount of alcohol in the blood by testing exhaled air. The test is performed by blowing into a breath machine 15 minutes after alcohol consumption. The test determines how much alcohol it takes to raise the blood-alcohol level to a dangerous level.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Benjamin Kuzaga made the statement yesterday when speaking

to this paper on the strategies the police is taking to reduce road crashes especially during this festive season.

He said that among the measures the force has started to take includes assigning traffic police officers at every road blocks whereas they will be conducting alcohol breath tests for drivers to know their level of consumption.

He said those who will be found consuming too much alcohol will be punished according to the laws.

"Some drivers drink too much

alcohol during holidays; this is dangerous for their safety and that of other people. Decisions to conduct alcohol breath tests will help to discipline drivers as our officers will be scattered all over the major roads. Drivers who will be confirmed to take too much alcohol will be arrested and their vehicles held," said Kuzaga.

He added that traffic police will manage all the crossing points along the Tanzania-Zambia-Highway (TANZAM) to make sure drivers stop to allow people to cross the road.

"We have placed our officers at all highway crossings, their role is to allow vehicles to pass as well as pedestrians to cross," he said.

Some interviewed pedestrians have hailed the move by the police insisting such kind of measures protects both drivers and other road users.

Betwel Asukukile, a resident of Esso in Mbeya said that posting traffic officers at highway crossings would greatly reduce accidents because pedestrians will cross comfortably.

## 'TFS owns 1.4 mil ha of catchment forest'

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism owns more than one hundred thousand hectares of tree plantations.

Of the hectares, the Wino forest reserve measures 39,718 hectares, Mpepo forest reserve has a size of 20,905 hectares and the new Tunduru forest reserve measuring 50,000 hectares.

Chief conservator, Wino forest reserve, Glory Kasimiri said the forest reserve is one of the 24 plantations managed by TFS. She said the forest reserve is divided in three sections—Wino (2,259 hectares), Ifinga (29,000 hectares) and Mkongotema (8459 hectares), all are in Madaba council, Songea District.

She said that TFS started to manage the Wino forest reserve in 2010 with an area covering 2259 hectares.

Kasimiri said that between 2014 and 2016, the reserve was expanded to cover Ifinga and Mkongotema villages, making a total of 5,495 hectares that have been planted with various types of trees.

"We collaborate with the communities surrounding Wino

forest reserve; TFS has funded a water project for the people of Ifinga village at a cost of 482m/-," said the Conservator.

Kasimiri said that through the farm, TFS has been able to provide temporary and permanent jobs to 4000 people.

She said presence of the farm has attracted investors including the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) which has been given 10,000 hectares of land in Ifinga village for establishment of a tree plantation.

She mentioned the Mpepo tree farm which was established in 2018 with 2,017 hectares has so far expanded to cover 3,905 hectares in Nyasa District.

Chief conservator at the Mpepo forest reserve, John Kimolo said the farm cuts across Nyasa, Songea and Namtumbo districts.

He mentioned some of the achievements recorded since establishment of the farm as increased revenue collections whereas the government benefits from various levies charged on forest products.

He said the farm has been providing 3000 temporary jobs to villagers each year, and that it provides raw materials to surrounding wood factories.

## Germany pledges to support 'climate' refugees in Tanzania

By Beatrice Philemon

GERMAN based organisation, Refugees for Future has agreed to support all refugees in Tanzania who will be affected by climate change in-terms of hunger or displaced by floods caused by rising sea levels.

Founder of Refugees for Future Tanzania, Saustine Lusanzu who attended the Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in November, this year said the conference was fruitful as Tanzania had secured development partners to raise the voices of refugees affected by climate change.

The main goal is to help them to be recognised and get their rights similarly to other people.

While in Egypt, he met with Refugees for Future's top management with whom they discussed the climate change issues and how they can work together to advocate for refugees rights, educate them on climate colonialism and other issues.

"As Tanzania we are glad for this achievement, so far I have been able to open an office here—the Refugees for Future Tanzania. This enables us to start implementing our programs," he said.

"To start with, in January next year, we will provide climate education awareness in schools, visit youth in areas where they are, local communities and train them on environmental issues, climate change and climate colonialism as well," he said.

Africa Youth Transformation (AYT) director, Justine Mponda noted: "Any effects of climate

change that occurred within our localities are also affecting youth," he said.

Speaking on behalf of youth, he said right now all activities that will be planned to combat the effects of climate change in- terms of climate change adaptation and mitigation should also involve youth to let their voices and ideas be heard.

Also include youth in the implementation and the development of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) reports on climate change.

He said there are needs to formulate a specific government body dealing with climate change finance together with international organisations which will ease up access to climate funds and proper implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures.

The body will enhance coordination and tracking of all funds flowing into the country to effectively address climate challenges.

Also information dissemination of climate funds to local actors such as youth groups, youth NGOs, CSOs and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and provide them with the capacity to access those funds particularly from international financing mechanisms.



**Any effects of climate change that occurred within our localities are also affecting youth**

## Cleric condemns same sex marriages

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Assemblies of God—'Jerusalem Temple' in Mbeya City has strongly condemned same-sex marriages asking the government to ban them as they are against God's wishes.

The Church's Bishop, Adson Mwajunga condemned such marriages when preaching at Christmas prayers, saying allowing same-sex marriage is a sin, noting even the Catholic and Islamic holy books do not allow same-sex marriages.

"May I ask the government and our leaders not to accept support

that comes with conditions to allow homosexuality; it is better to remain poor instead of allowing these kinds of marriages," said Mwajunga.

He said the holy books recognises marriages that involve two different sex—man and woman, noting same-sex marriages are a curse.

One of the church elders, Roman Kessy said anyone involved in homosexuality will not live longer because what they are doing is against the word of God.

"God does not allow same-sex marriages; all those involved will be punished by the Almighty God," he said.



State University of Zanzibar graduates in accounting with information technology moments after being conferred diplomas yesterday.



State University of Zanzibar Chancellor President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents a gift to Hisham Mdungu Makame the best student in computer science.



Graduates of Certificate in financial administration celebrating after being awarded certificates at the 18th SUZA graduation ceremony.



State University of Zanzibar Chancellor President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks at the graduation yesterday.

## Mwinyi pledges to transform SUZA to a centre of excellence

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has vowed to transform the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), to be a centre of excellence in everything.

Dr Mwinyi said this yesterday when speaking at the 18th SUZA graduation ceremony held at the university campus in Tunguu-Unguja South Region.

He wants SUZA to be the best varsity in preparing young people with competence and professional expertise and creativity to recognize opportunities and use them appropriately.

Dr Mwinyi said that the increase in the number of graduates who passed various subjects at the varsity was a step towards progress achieved by the college.

He said: "This year, the number of graduates has increased to 1,913 compared to 1,894 who graduated last year, a move that is recommendable."

"We need to recommend this higher learning for the success of producing academicians from various fields which are the key work force for Zanzibar socio-economic development."

Dr Mwinyi also praised the graduates for the progress they have made while reminding them to make good use of the education they got there for their benefit and the nation as a whole.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the educational success that our college continues to achieve."

On the issue of cooperation between SUZA and other local and foreign higher education

institutions, including the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training as well as other education stakeholders, Dr Mwinyi explained that the move will achieve the goal of reforming the education sector from primary education to higher education.

"Let's provide graduates with the ability to withstand the competition in the labor market by using the education they got," Dr Mwinyi said.

He also advised SUZA to provide quick solutions to the challenges that are facing surrounding communities in order to carry out its duties properly.

Dr Mwinyi however explained that the government continues to support the efforts undertaken by the university by providing better teaching and learning environment as resources become available.

"I emphasize the need to find alternative ways to get money, including taking loans and starting development projects that will bring benefits to the college," Dr Mwinyi added.

On the issue of human resources shortage, President Mwinyi

explained the need for the government to hire staff to increase the strength in higher education institutions including lecturers, librarians and laboratory experts and professional staff to meet the quality standards of higher education in the country along with strengthening the best working environment.

Lela Muhamed Mussa, Minister of Minister of Education and Vocational Training said that the Zanzibar government's efforts are to provide young scholars who will be able to be self-employed and run to opportunities to reduce the great stress on the government and parents.

She said the SUZA's effort is to produce scholars who will stimulate positive development in the country.

Prof Moh'd Makame Haji, Vice Chancellor of SUZA said the university plans to build a marine science building with the intention of developing the concept of the Blue Economy in the country, which he explained that the funds have already been approved by the government.



**We need to recommend this higher learning for the success of producing academicians from various fields which are the key work force for Zanzibar socio-economic development**



Graduates listen to President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.



State University of Zanzibar Chancellor President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi confers Bachelor of Information Technology Application and Management. All Photos: State House

# Legal aid services bear fruit in Kilwa as GBV cases go down

By Beatrice Philemon

CULPRITS of gender-based violence (GBV) in Kilwa District, Lindi Region are now being reported to responsible authorities and others arraigned, thanks to the legal aid services offered by paralegals.

Kilwa Local Rights Programme (LRP) Project Coordinator, Steven Benard said more women have access to legal aid services and can report violence against women and girls to their platform— New Hope for Women in Kilwa (TUJIWAKI), police gender desk and social welfare officer.

In 2021, a total of 128 GBV cases were reported at the police gender desk and social welfare officers, among them, 56 cases went to court.

He said that 98 cases were reported to the police gender desk and 30 reported to TUJIWAKI. He said that 14 of the cases involved various types of violence against children.

Benard noted that in 2022, 136 cases of GBV against women and children were also reported to the institutions, among them, 22 cases went to court.

“It is not easy to reach where we are today; It took us some years to sensitise people on GBV related issues which mostly affect women and girls. We had to make sure they have access to legal aid services,” he said.

“Before paralegals started providing services in our district

and the interventions by ActionAid Kilwa, most of the cases were not reported,” said Benard.

ActionAid Tanzania through LRP has been able to train 14 paralegals to provide legal aid services to communities facing gender-based violence in 14 wards in Kilwa District. Among them, six are women and eight men who provide legal aid services through TUJIWAKI.

A 51 year-old, Pili Omari from Singino village in Kivinje ward is among the 22 people who have benefited from legal aid services offered by paralegals to communities facing GBV in Kilwa District Council, Lindi Region.

She said the knowledge and skills gained from paralegals has helped

her to get legal aid service, thus being able to regain her 10 acres of land which she is now using for farming activities.

She said: “If not the legal assistance from paralegals I could not manage to get my rights, including a land parcel which my husband grabbed after we divorced on August 17th this year.”

“Paralegals contacted her husband and discussed the matter where he agreed to provide 10 out of the 20 acres we previously owned together. I am thankful to LRP because more women are now aware of their rights and can demand them at court,” added Omari.

Asia Matulia, a mother of four living at Singino village, Kilwa Kivinje ward is another beneficiary of programmes implemented by LRP with support from ActionAid Kilwa, she commended paralegals for assisting women to understand their rights.

She lauded ActionAid Kilwa for training the paralegals whose work has greatly helped to reduce GBV cases. She said girls and women can now report violence incidents without fear because they are guaranteed legal aid services.

“More women and girls can now report GBV cases to police gender desks, social welfare officers or TUJIWAKI offices. Women feel safer with the paralegals behind them,” said Matulia, noting that incidences of violence are also decreasing in Kilwa Kivinje ward.



**It is not easy to reach where we are today; It took us some years to sensitise people on GBV related issues which mostly affect women and girls. We had to make sure they have access to legal aid services**



Pindoria Construction Ltd masons at the construction site of the second phase of Tabata Liwiti secondary school situated in Ilala district, Dar es Salaam region. About 20 class rooms are expected to be completed on time. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# US safety experts dispute parts of Ethiopia 737-MAX crash findings

NAIROBI

US air safety experts say Ethiopian inspectors investigating the cause of an Ethiopian Airlines' crash that killed nearly 160 people in 2019 did not pay enough attention to crew training and emergency procedures in their report.

The United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), in dissenting comments included in the Ethiopian report, disagreed with at least two key findings of the investigation into the crash of a Boeing 737-MAX flight.

The accident led to the grounding of similar jets. The NTSB is involved as Boeing is a US company.

Flight 302 crashed shortly after take-off from Addis Ababa in March 2019, killing all 157 people on board.

Ethiopia's Aircraft Investigation Bureau released its long-delayed report last Friday. It blamed the accident on “uncommanded” inputs from Boeing's Manoeuvring Characteristics Augmentation System, known as MCAS.

The inputs, which were caused by faulty data from an underlying sensor, sent the plane's nose down repeatedly, leading to loss of control as the pilots tried to deal with several warnings in the cabin, the report said.

But in its comments, the NTSB said it found the faulty sensor may have been damaged by a bird strike soon after take-off, an assertion that was ignored by the Ethiopian investigators.

The Ethiopians did not find any evidence that the sensor was damaged in flight due to lack of any physical clues like a dead bird in the vicinity of the flight's path, their report said.

The NTSB, however, said the sensor was never recovered at the crash site in spite of a partial search by both sides a week after the accident.

Boeing has previously said the MCAS was a safety feature and the issues identified after the crash of Flight 302, which followed one of a similar plane in Indonesia five months earlier, have been rectified.

The NTSB also accused their Ethiopian counterparts of focusing on the contributions of the design issues to the accident at the expense of the crew's own training and reaction to the emergency that arose.

“Discussion of crew resource management and performance were still not sufficiently developed in the draft final report,” the NTSB said.

The pilots were supposed to

manually reduce throttle after the erroneous feeds from the sensor interfered with the expected automatic sequence, it said.

In their report, the Ethiopian investigators found that the crew members were licensed and qualified for flight in accordance with the existing Ethiopian Civil Aviation Rules and Standards, but were startled by the unprecedented change of events and “confusing alerts”, and blamed it all on the plane's design.

“Flight crew situational awareness and ability to perceive each and every thing to the detail was greatly affected with the ever-changing flight scenario and unsettling warnings and flight deck effects,” the report said.

The investigation bureau referred Reuters to NTSB's statement when asked for further comments.

The accident involving Flight 302 followed another incident five months earlier, when the same model crashed in Indonesia, killing 189 people.

The accidents exposed a problem with a system on the plane, and the model was grounded worldwide, costing Boeing some \$20 billion and prompting court cases that exposed shortcomings with the certification process.

Operators have since resumed flying the 737-MAX after the plane's 20-month grounding. Ethiopia was among the last countries to return the 737 MAX to service.



D.LIGHT TANZANIA LIMITED

## REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

### d.light TANZANIA LIMITED PROVISION OF STOCK INSURANCE NO. 2022/12/01

#### 1.0 Introduction

All Bidders shall adhere to all the requirements of this RFQ, including any amendments made in writing by d.light.

All Bidders will be required to make a site visit to d.light Warehouse in Dar es Salaam to assess the products before making the overall quote as per the figures shown in the Annex below.

Any Bid submitted will be regarded as an offer by the Bidder and does not constitute or imply the acceptance of the Bid by d. light.

d.light is under no obligation to award a contract to any Bidder as a result of this RFQ.

D. Light reserves the right to cancel the procurement process at any stage without any liability of any kind for d. light, upon notice to the Bidders.

#### 2.0 Objective:

The stock Insurance Policy's overarching goal is to cover the costs of replacing d.light Tanzania Limited's business stock if any or all of it is lost, damaged, burned, or stolen. The policy should financially protect d.light Tanzania Limited by securing its stock and ensuring that d.Light Tanzania Limited continues to trade if some or all of its unsold solar products, portable lights, mobile phones, and so on are damaged.

#### 3.0 Scope of Work:

The primary responsibility is for the service provider to insure all d.light Tanzania Limited's stock at the warehouse (50%), Stock in transit (10-15%), and stock in trade (40-45%).

In trade, d.light's Route to Market (RTM) comprises regional distributors (6), experiential centers (300+) and solar energy promoters (10000+), all of which are solely owned by D. Light trading partners who are commissioned-based. Few out of many are in a position to recruit their own security guards.

While our employees are occasionally involved in the movement of stock from one stocking point to another, third-party logistics companies frequently serve as our couriers in the shipment of stock from the warehouse to trade.

As shown in the Annex below, our SKU's COGS is very minimal, we thus seek a cover with a threshold of not less than 100,000 TZS.

It is the service provider's responsibility to ensure that all d.light Tanzania Limited's stock whose total value is reflected in the Annex below, is insured, reducing d.light's burden of loss and exposure to perils as are likely to happen in undertaking the business operations.

#### 4.0 Duration of the Contract:

An agreement will be concluded with the qualified service provider for a period of one year.

#### 5.0 Payment Terms

Payment will be made within 30 days after the invoice submission.

The prices quoted will be negotiable.

#### 6.0 Quotation Submission

Quotations must be submitted by e-mail to tender-tz@dlight.com before 27th December 2022 at 17:00 Hours.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your quotation is submitted on or before the deadline. Quotations received after the submission deadline, for whatever reason, will not be considered for evaluation.

Bidders shall include the company profile, list of current clients and quotation.

#### 7.0 Cost of preparation of Quotation

d.light shall not be responsible for any costs associated with a service provider's preparation and submission of a quotation, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.

#### 8.0 Conflict of Interest

d.light requires every prospective service provider to avoid and prevent conflict of interest, by disclosing to d.light if you, or any of your affiliates or personnel, were involved in the preparation of the requirements, design, specifications, cost estimates, and other information used in this RFQ. Bidders shall strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. Bidders found to have a conflict of interests shall be disqualified.

#### 9.0 Currency of Quotation

Quotations shall be quoted in Tanzanian Shillings.

#### 10.0 Price variation

No price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates, or any other market factors shall be accepted at any time during the validity of the quotation after the quotation has been received.

#### ANNEX

SKU	D100	Infrair Smart 5	Nokia C10	Nokia C2	Nokia C21	Nokia C21 +	Nokia G10	Nokia Vision	SAMSUNG	V24SP	X.850Plus	SV22	Total Stock to be Insured
	17,057	410	5,786	611	3,061	4,689	2,229	550	62	529	311	419	
Cogs value:	87,407.19	229,322.01	155,531.91	104,811.65	189,109.40	231,551.29	289,890.00	294,040.00	226,166.88	280,931.56	320,289.73	332,052.62	
Total Amount	1,490,899,476.95	94,090,800.70	899,907,631.26	112,807,512.33	591,165,806.22	1,085,813,893.13	646,271,714.00	162,162,000.00	13,925,719.81	153,951,888.40	99,706,192.95	139,142,717.14	5,489,815,412.88

# Senegal man on mission to plant five million trees

By Jo Hollis

A MAN in southern Senegal has set himself the ambitious task of planting five million trees over the next five years.

This visionary project came to Adama Diémé when he returned home to the Casamance region in 2020 after a few years working in Europe.

The 48-year-old was shocked that in villages that were populated with hundreds of gigantic trees in his youth, only a handful, if any, now remained.

"In some villages, you can't find one tree. They cut them but they don't think about planting again," he said.

Across Africa desertification is one of the reasons blamed for deforestation but, in this area, along the sweeping expanse of the Casamance River, the trees are more likely to have been cut down for construction purposes like building houses, or to make charcoal.

Diémé, who now works as a project manager for a Spanish non-governmental organisation in Casamance and also volunteers as an agricultural trainer, is determined to change all that.

With no great reserves of wealth, he began to raise money to make his dream a reality - and has used \$5,000 (£4,100) from his own pocket to kick-start the initiative.

He has been working hard to engage with communities across the region and to reach out to women, who he knew would be able to rise to the challenge of organising the mass planting of seedlings.

The women who plant the trees are able to harvest fruits to sell.

"You go into a village and there are no women, it's a disaster," Diémé said.

"But if you go to a village with only women, it's paradise - they are hardworking and work all day every day.

"If you want to lead a good project start with women," Diémé added.

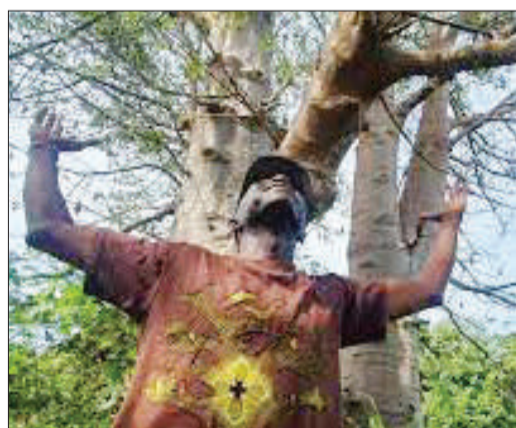
What he has done is to couple his passion to plant trees by helping women gain skills to become small-scale farmers and sell their produce at local markets.

"At first, we didn't know how to plant the seeds and what to do to grow the crops," one of the women, Safi Yetou, said.

"Now we have all sorts of fruits to sell at the market and we are not dependent on anyone. We all have an account in the bank now and no-one can tell me what I can and can't do. It's brilliant."

Diémé's project is known as Ununukolaal, which in the local language Jola means "Our Trees".

Up to 12 kinds are being planted,



from palms and tamarinds to kapoks and lemon trees - the varieties depend on the needs of the community and the terrain.

Over the last three years more than 142,000 seedlings have been tended and have taken root.

It means a staggering amount of planting still needs to be done if Diémé is to reach his goal within the next five years - but he and his partner Yolanda Pereñiguez are not daunted.

Pereñiguez works as a tailor and has been key in helping organise funds by designing a T-shirt that is mainly sold abroad for \$15 (£13).

Along with her colleague Raymonde Coly, they work in a tiny workshop with two sewing machines to make them from local cloth, with a distinctive baobab image stitched on. Each one sold can pay for 15 tree seedlings.

"I chose the baobab as it's the symbol of an African tree," said Periniguiz. "It's great to know that these T-shirts are going all over the world, to Europe and even Canada to help with the tree project."

As we ventured further into Casamance by dug-out canoe, itself built from a single piece of wood hewn from the roots of a kapok tree, the true value of the project was brought into focus.

On a small village island in the middle of the river, water encroached right up to the outlying buildings - and in some cases even underneath others perched on stilts.

Ten years ago, the water levels meant the water's edge was much further away and would hardly even reach the village, except at the height of the rainy season.

Now it is a desperate situation and if it gets worse it could mean leaving residents homeless. "We've lived on this island for hundreds of years - but if the water comes much further we will have to leave and be dispersed all over the place," said Conakry Bassene, one of the village leaders.

Baobab trees, which can live on land and in salty or fresh water, have now been planted along the shoreline as a barrier. The saplings flap in the breeze, with the promise, one day of fruits and even shade.

"The trees can save us," said Bassene. "The trees, they are our hope for life."



**I chose the baobab as it's the symbol of an African tree," said Periniguiz. "It's great to know that these T-shirts are going all over the world, to Europe and even Canada to help with the tree project"**



Members of Arusha Press Club (APC) at a meeting in Lake Manyara National Park, after a tour to promote tourist attractions recently. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilelezi

## TARI and ZARI collaborate to spur rice breeding programmes

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has conducted a special training on Mutation and Breeding (MB), with an eye to help speeding up rice breeding programmes in Tanzania.

The five-day training attracted at least 36 researchers and interns (about 14 females, 22 males) from TARI in Tanzania Mainland, as well as from the Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) in

Zanzibar Islands.

"This national training has been organised by both, TARI and ZARI in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the Technical Cooperation National Project URT 5037, titled 'Developing Rice Varieties with Resistance to Rice Blast and Salinity Tolerance,'" expressed the facilitator of the training, the Ex Plant Breeder and Geneticist at FAO/IAEA, Dr Abdelbagi Ghanim from Sudan.

The expert said that the training

was meant to incapacitate the research cadre on mutation induction techniques as technologies to fast track rice breeding programmes in Tanzania through which rice farmers would be able to get rice seeds with traits of their preference in shorter period of time and eventually boost rice productivity and production in the country.

"This training entails introduction to sources of irradiation, theory and practice of mutation induction, theory and practice of radio-sensitivity testing with emphasis

on rice, development and handling of mutant populations including screening and phenotyping protocols for salt tolerance in rice, and doubled haploid, rapid generation cycling and molecular markers as techniques to enhance efficiency of plant mutation breeding," he expressed.

Dr Ghanim said that in the course of the delivery of the training's topics, participants communicated interactively among themselves and between them and the facilitator through lectures and buzz group assignments.

"Either, the facilitator allowed for plenary discussions through which participants would query, ask clarifications and receive responses on matters pertaining to the training," he said.



Home Affairs permanent secretary, Kaspar Mmuya, receives a bouquet of flowers from the ministry's employee Aisha Juma when he arrived in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: MoHA

KIGALI

LEGISLATORS from eastern African parliaments have called on regional governments to allocate more funding to agriculture and livestock farming in order to address food insecurity.

Members of the Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA) made the call recently at the opening of their three-day meeting, which officially opened on Thursday in the Rwandan capital of Kigali.

Lawmakers from nine countries are discussing the role of legislators in greater investments in family

## EA MPs challenge govt's to increase agriculture budget to combat hunger

farming for better food and nutrition resilience in eastern Africa.

Lawmakers can play a critical role in creating the necessary changes to ensure food security on the African continent, said Abdi Ali Hassan, chairperson of the EAPA.

All lawmakers should use their powers to empower citizens to realize food security and overcome

poor nutrition by allocating resources through relevant ministries of agriculture and other agricultural service providers, he said.

"Challenges related to agriculture, food security, and nutrition have no borders; no country has a monopoly of knowledge or solutions to address them alone. Therefore, working

together allows us to learn from each other and share experiences," Donatille Mukabalisa, speaker of the Rwandan Parliament, said during the opening ceremony.

Parliamentary networks and forums should be able to play the role of think tanks, catalyzers, and mobilizers in different areas of national or global interests, she

added.

Jean-Leonard Touadi, an official from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), said with current global economic shocks, the role of different players is needed to address the causes of food insecurity because it affects the welfare and national development.

"We need to come up with innovations starting from parliament's legislation," said he, adding that the FAO believes the role of parliaments is pivotal during agriculture budget allocations.

The lawmakers will assess the implementation of commitments made by African governments to allocate 10 percent of the national budget to agriculture.

Last month, the World Food Programme (WFP) said in its latest drought response situation report that some 22 million people are food insecure due to drought across Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

## Chinese-funded Africa CDC HQ project approaches completion

ADDIS ABABA

In the southern suburb of Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, the mid-December scorching sun did not affect the highly driven Chinese and African engineers who were battling against clock toward the timely completion of the China-aided future headquarters of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

As the much-anticipated state-of-the-art facility takes shape and fast approaches completion, the project's swift progress has won acclaim while igniting hopes of transforming public health in Africa.

Saizana Solomon, a young civil engineer, is one of some 1,000 personnel working at the bustling site around-the-clock to brace themselves to hit the construction schedule.

"We, local workers, and our Chinese colleagues are working in tandem day and night to successfully bring this project to an end within its stated timeframe. No matter how challenging it has been, we are very determined as we are getting closer to our goal," Solomon said, citing challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bethlehem Molla, safety officer at the Africa CDC project who has been working at the site for more than a year-and-a-half, said that the project construction is meeting expectations in terms of time efficiency, high construction standards, safety assurances as well as experience-sharing mechanisms.

"Before I joined here, I worked as an engineer with different local construction companies. One thing that fascinates me more here is the lofty construction standard. Every move and every detail really matters a lot here," she said.

"To be able to achieve this progress within this short period while applying high construction standards is really a work of miracle to me," Molla added.

Bao Dongdong, a Chinese engineer from the safety supervision department at the project, said his work here will be a valuable life experience. "Compared to what it was a year and a half ago, it (the site of the project) turns from a wasteland to several buildings, for which I feel proud from my heart."

Monique Nsanabaganwa, deputy chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, told Xinhua recently that the project, upon completion, will enable the AU's specialized healthcare agency to better play its role of coordination, mobilization, and emergency management in public health. "We know that it is a very huge project, which is really commendable of China to support our agency in that manner."

According to Nsanabaganwa, the China-aided Africa CDC headquarters project has been part of China's continued efforts in support of institutional strengthening of the Africa CDC.

Her comments were echoed by Teruneh Zenna, Ethiopia's former ambassador to the United Nations, as he argued that Africa lacks preparedness and medical institutions to cope with disease outbreaks such as Ebola and AIDS that have resulted in the deaths of countless people across the continent. He said having such a facility on African soil is praiseworthy.

"The Chinese are showing Africans that they are always at their side. Look at the AU headquarters they provided us with. Now, they are giving us the Africa CDC project with a modern laboratory, training, conference, and data centers," Zenna said.

China has not only funded but is also building the future Africa CDC headquarters, which would accommodate all facilities in one place to scale up the African health system in a tremendous way, Zenna said.

Construction work for the project started in December 2020. The landmark project, featuring modern offices, high-end laboratories and accessories, covers an area of 90,000 square meters and was expected to be completed in 25 months. Construction of the project

is progressing smoothly despite the challenges caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, according to project contractors.

As the COVID-19 pandemic showcased Africa CDC's indisputable role in leading continental anti-pandemic efforts, experts believe the facility will further augment Africa CDC's institutional capabilities.

Costantino Bt. Costantinos, a professor of public policy at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia said recently that Africa has serious problems within the health sector with widening gaps in addressing various healthcare challenges. "Now, we have the Africa CDC, which is going to be a pivotal point for healthcare management in Africa. This will also strengthen the relationship between China and Africa."

Ahmed Ogwel, acting director of the Africa CDC said that despite being a young organization officially launched in January 2017, the Africa CDC has been able to respond effectively to various outbreaks, including recurrent Ebola outbreaks and the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said during the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa and China have worked quite well in ensuring that information is flowing well between the two sides. "We have worked very well securing, particularly, test kits at the beginning of the pandemic, and as we built our own capacity locally, Chinese counterparts were very supportive when things were very difficult in starting our pandemic response on the continent."

Last month, the Africa CDC chief also commended China for partnering with African countries in the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines on the continent.

China's anti-pandemic support to African countries has widely won acclaim among individual African countries and pan-African institutions. Ethiopia, as one of the beneficiaries of China's global anti-pandemic cooperation, has received several batches of COVID-19 vaccine donations, including an additional 10 million Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine doses that were handed over back in June.

The different batches of China's vaccine donations to African countries and institutions demonstrated that China turns its commitments into tangible outcomes by putting people's lives first and working in solidarity with Africa.

According to Costantinos, China's support in terms of enabling healthcare institutions in Africa is "necessary for our physicians, nurses and other medical workers to be able to contain the current and future pandemics."



**We, local workers, and our Chinese colleagues are working in tandem day and night to successfully bring this project to an end within its stated timeframe. No matter how challenging it has been, we are very determined as we are getting closer to our goal**



Dodoma residents buy various items at the exhibition organised by Kelaf group based in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## MP distributes gas cylinders to save environment

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Special Seats MP, Eng Maryprisca Mahundi has distributed gas cylinders to some women in Mbeya Region so that they can use clean energy for cooking to save environment.

Gas cylinders were distributed at the just-concluded CCM's women wing UWT annual general meeting in Mbeya region.

Eng Mahundi who is the deputy minister for Water said the use of the clean energy will help preserve forests and water sources, describing

liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as environmentally friendly, unlike the use of wood and charcoal that encourage deforestation.

She said that she will be doing the campaign every year by distributing free gas cylinders to women and that she started distributing them last year by distributing more than 500 cylinders to members of the UWT general assembly as part of the experiment.

CCM women wing regional chairperson, Edna Mwaigomole congratulated Mahundi for thinking of the group which she said is the most affected by the use of wood

and charcoal fuels.

She asked him to continue helping the group to save their health as well as to help protect the environment which has been constantly being destroyed.

Mwaigomole who is also the Board of Directors of the Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya-WSSA) chairperson said the use of wood is one of the activities that contribute to the destruction of water sources.

"We thank you very much for seeing this and I ask my fellow women to use this energy well, if water sources are destroyed,

we are the biggest victims," said Mwaigomole.

Some of the beneficiaries of the gas cylinders thanked Mahundi for helping them while promising to use it properly to take care of the environment and their health.

Sophia Mwanahuta from Chunya District said her district is one of the areas that are facing severe environmental damage.

She said that there are various activities that stimulate the cutting of trees and thus the act of distributing the jars helps to reduce one of those activities.



Motorbike riders (bodaboda) queue for petrol in Muheza district, Tanga region after the fuel had run out yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Villagers along Lake Tanganyika shores suggest need to beef up area's security

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Rukwa

VILLAGERS along the Lake Tanganyika shores have suggested the need for security in the area to be revamped due to the increasing number of crime incidents.

They made the request recently when Rukwa Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga visited the Kizumbi ward in Nkasi District. The RC met with villagers during a public meeting aimed at listening to peoples' grievances.

During the meeting, villagers

informed the RC that there have been a series of robberies using traditional weapons.

They attributed poor communication network with the challenge, saying it makes security in the area a nightmare.

Villagers asked RC Sendiga to organise with government security agencies to strengthen defense and security in the area, which is bordering other neighboring countries.

Lake Tanganyika is one of the largest lakes in Central Africa, bordering Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and

Zambia.

RC Sendiga assured the safety of villagers on Lake Tanganyika shores.

"There has been a habit of some people every time of the holidays to steal and take away property and other fishing equipment from the people living on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, we will take strict legal action against all those who cooperate or harbor those criminals," said RC Sendiga.

She warned all the people involved in the chain of harboring bandits to stop immediately and added that the government will

deal with them. "Therefore, I call upon the community to continue to cooperate in exposing criminals in our areas," she emphasized.

RC Sendiga also asked the immigration department in Nkasi district to be responsible with people at the border by ensuring that people entering the country have permits to enter the country.

She also asked Nkasi District Commissioner to deal with the issue of guest houses to see if they exist legally, not to be an 'illegal guesthouse' for the government to get its revenue.

"I request that all guests' houses be checked to see if they are legal and have books to register all guests who sleep in those houses to reduce robbery incidents," RC Sendiga directed Nkasi District Commissioner.

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## Samia is right, Rufiji Delta has to be put to helpful use

ECONOMIC potential of the Rufiji Delta has been a decades-long debate between modernisation and conservatives, where modernisation wishes to use ecological potential like being awash in water and meeting the sea upfront as an economic opportunity.

Conservatism hears only the sirens of conservation of the dense forests and winding deltas to prevent its being encroached by human activities. Now the president has taken sides in the debate and wants the area conserved, but aspects of what the Zanzibar leadership calls the blue economy be rapidly initiated.

Inaugurating the closure of the diversion channel to formally allow Rufiji River water to flow on its original route and fill the reservoir for the Julius Nyerere hydropower plant on Coast region and Morogoro region border zone, President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed five ministries to oversee the proper utilisation of the Rufiji River basin and delta.

She detailed specific projects like irrigation farming, fish dams as well as a tarmac road to link the zone with the southern regions as well as with Dar es Salaam and Dodoma. The economic view is clear.

In explaining those initiatives, the president tasked authorities at the Agriculture ministry to make full utilisation of the Rufiji delta covering 400,000 acres by dividing it into blocs for large-scale irrigation farming projects. Rice is likely to be the major specialty but there are other crops, given that

climate change is making agro-sector exports a viable occupation for large numbers of people, not just a few in horticulture, etc. Livestock and Fisheries authorities were tasked to come up with a modern fish cage project along the river, while Works and Transport departments are mobilise resources for the Chalinze-Utete road network at tarmac level, which global maps show to be stretching for over 300 kilometers. Big plans.

Contrary to what large numbers of conservation professionals would say, this road passes through what they see as a nature reserve that must be left pristine, but the president knows the country needs everything it has to heave itself out of poverty and unemployment. So the conservation task is clear but at the delta itself the water isn't just left to drain to the sea but can be profitably harnessed.

The road passes through the Julius Nyerere national park and the power station, with current global positioning maps showing the road connection in the Utete-Rufiji stretch within the project area stretches to 136 km. The road must be modernised to spur investments.

The president's position is a recognition of the dream that the power project zone and the national park facility become a centre for economic links between Coast, Morogoro regions with Lindi and Mtwara to the south, and by extension, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam. She pointed out that people from Lindi and Mtwara regions shouldn't go through Dar es Salaam when traveling to Dodoma or Morogoro.

## Violence against children is rising across African states

STARTLING new evidence shows that violence against children is increasing throughout Africa. From Sierra Leone to South Africa, the African Partnership to End Violence against Children (APEVAC) found that rates of physical, sexual and psychological violence has grown, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing humanitarian emergencies.

Child abuse also called child endangerment or child maltreatment is physical, sexual, and/or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or a caregiver. Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or a caregiver that results in actual or potential harm to a child and can occur in a child's home, or in the organizations, schools, or communities the child interacts with.

The terms child abuse and child maltreatment are often used interchangeably, although some researchers make a distinction between them, treating child maltreatment as an umbrella term to cover neglect, exploitation, and trafficking.

Different jurisdictions have different requirements for mandatory reporting and have developed different definitions of what constitutes child abuse, and therefore have different criteria to remove children from their families or to prosecute a criminal charge.

Violence against children under the age of 18 such as individual cases of murder, kidnapping or sexual abuse and broader coverage of violent behaviour towards children, many topics within this remit are best suited to the more specific sub categories for boys or girls.

Articles included directly in this category should focus on mixed gender groups or any other cases where the previous two categories

are inappropriate.

A new drive to curb the rising levels of violence against children in Africa has been launched. This is after a recent research indicated that African children continue to suffer widespread physical, psychological and sexual violence.

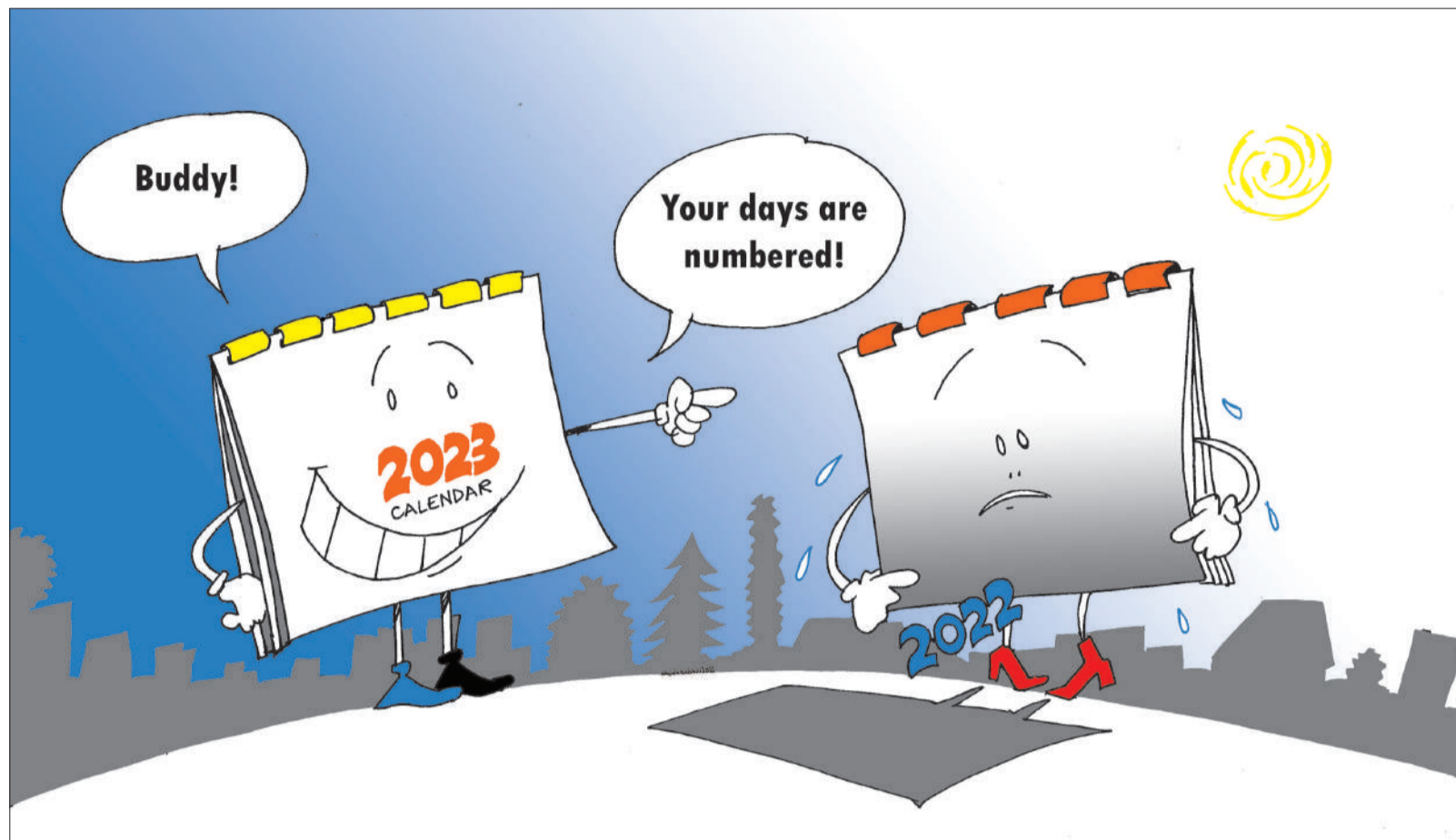
Data released by the African Partnership to End Violence against Children (APEVAC) revealed an unacceptable scale of violence against children (VAC). The studies show that more than half of all children experience physical abuse, while in some parts of Africa; four in ten girls suffer sexual violence before the age of 15.

Speaking at the launch of the drive, Dr. Joan Nyanyuki, ACPF executive director said, "Vigorous action must be taken to tackle the unacceptable scourge of VAC in Africa. Thirty years after the African Children's Charter was adopted, African governments are still failing to protect children from violence."

"Of all the unspeakable damages suffered by our children, violence is surely the worst, simply because it is entirely avoidable, yet leaves lasting scars. We cannot accept such suffering at any level of African society, as its devastating impacts on our children's dignity, physical and mental wellbeing continue to rob them of their future," said Mrs. Graça Machel, Chair of the ACPF International Board of Trustees.

ACPF's three new studies provide powerful evidence of the rise in VAC in Africa. The studies found that children caught up in conflict or humanitarian disasters, those with disabilities, engaged in child labour, living or working on the streets, and those in residential care, are most vulnerable.

Digital technology is driving new forms of VAC, with children now facing increased risks of online sexual abuse. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a spike in reports of VAC.



By Uche Igwe

WITH many issues unresolved, it is safe to say that the political fate of Africa's most populous country and the largest economy continues to hang in the balance.

... the surging interest among young people in participating in the election is another important factor that will be difficult to ignore. In the recently concluded voters registration exercise, 9,518,188 new voters were registered. In terms of demographic distribution, this comprises 7.2 million new voters, 76.5 per cent of who are young people between the ages of 18 and 34 years, according to figures from INEC. 40 per cent of this number are said to be students. The implication of improved turnout and the combined force of youthful newly registered voters may be the game changer in the forthcoming elections.

Less than sixty days to the forthcoming elections, a climate of uncertainty seems to be hanging over Nigeria, Africa's most populous black country. The political arithmetic remains complex, as the three major political parties engage in the final days of the campaign and supremacy battle. Pollsters and pundits are divided on what the likely outcome of the presidential election will be. Nigeria's ruling party remains unpopular after many years of decay and misrule under President Muhammadu Buhari. The country's economy is in tatters; citizens live in constant fear due to rising terrorism and insecurity. Unemployment and poverty figures are soaring daily, while the exchange rate remains unstable, leading to ballooning fuel and food inflation. A few infrastructural projects that were commenced are yet to be completed. The polity remains sharply divided along ethnic and religious lines.

The political elite remains fragmented about the right way forward for the country as its members coalesce around different political parties. The current leadership appears helpless amidst rising citizen discontent due to a myriad of failed promises. President Buhari seems overwhelmed and tired after he could not precisely pull off his much-touted succession plan. At the thick of the battle for nominations for his party's presidential flag bearer, the President's indecisiveness might have contributed to the mismanagement of the endeavour. He could not publicly name a successor, which paved the way for influential elements within the party to hijack the machinery and impose Bola Ahmed Tinubu through a heavily monetised and dollar-denominated convention. Neither President Buhari nor the party Chairman, Abdullahi Adamu, hid the fact that they preferred other candidates. The President

## Multiple factors could shape outcome of the Nigeria's next year elections

and his ministers hardly follow their party's candidate on campaigns across the country. Also, many of the President's supporters in his home state, Katsina, including his former appointees, are leaving the party in droves to support Atiku Abubakar, the leading opposition candidate who, like Buhari, is from the Fulani ethnic group.

Some of the governors, especially from the North, remain visible in the presidential campaigns of the All Progressives Congress candidate Tinubu, suggesting their support for him. However, many remain disappointed that they were not chosen as his running mate, despite their support for his emergence. Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State and Badaru Abubakar of Jigawa State were some of those who mobilised support for Bola Tinubu to emerge as the presidential candidate of their party, while lobbying to be named as his running mate. However, after a lot of intrigues and horse trading, Tinubu named a relatively unpopular but longstanding friend and loyalist, Kashim Shetima. Despite their misgivings and threats to sabotage him, the APC governors however prefer to support their presidential candidate as their own way of maintaining support in their various states and delivering their nominees contesting for various positions under the party.

The APC candidate appears to be carrying so much baggage. His health remains frail, his history is said to be contentious, and there are allegations that he might have been indicted for a drug trafficking offence back in the day in the United States of America. Despite being the governor and later godfather of Lagos politics, he does not appear to enjoy widespread support within his zone. Prominent and well-respected social-cultural groups have dissociated themselves from him and endorsed one of the leaders of the opposition and the former Governor Peter Obi. The lukewarm nature of Buhari's support and the fact that he is not on the ballot have been unhelpful to the APC. To shore up his support in the northern part of the country, the APC presidential candidate chose a Muslim running mate. In a country where religion remains a very contentious issue, that choice pitched him against Christians across the country, further eroding his popularity. Despite this choice, there are indications that what he expected to gain through leveraging his religious affiliation may be complicated because one of his major opponents in the contest is Abubakar Atiku, a Northern Muslim. The North remains the most significant support base of the ruling APC. However, the emergence of Atiku would likely

alter the permutations, as he is likely to benefit substantially from those votes.

Unsurprisingly, repeated polls about voters' preference indicate that if a free and fair election is conducted, Tinubu will be defeated across the country. The details reveal that he may not be able to inherit the support base of President Buhari across the North. Furthermore, it is evident that many young people across the country appear tired of older politicians and are determined to break the historical barriers and cut through the traditional voting patterns. They have expressed their willingness to come out massively to vote in the next elections, and most have indicated that they will vote against the ruling party. Whether they will be able to walk the talk remains a conjecture. However, many people remain undecided, and the numbers are large enough to constitute a last-minute swing. NOI Polls has conducted such polling on presidential elections since 2011 with reasonable accuracy, although questions have arisen about improving the methodology. Some suggest that the polling mainly targets urban-based voters with social media capabilities, and may not reflect voters' preferences in rural communities.

Nevertheless, politicians within the ruling party remain both confident and adamant. They dismiss the polling results as mere stunts of the opposition and point to how the power of incumbency can be used to alter electoral outcomes. Speculations are rife that the ruling party may be prepared to compromise the electoral process in its favour through massive vote buying. As the party controlling the central government, the security apparatuses remain firmly in its hands and they will likely do its bidding. This is despite the assurances from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that it has installed a secure infrastructure that will disrupt rigging, known as the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BIVAS).

Currently, Nigeria ranks 143 out of 163 on the Global Terrorism Index, slightly above Ethiopia and Pakistan. Many local government areas across Niger, Kaduna, Bornu, Katsina, Yobe and Zamfara States remain under the control of terrorists and bandits. These areas hold an estimated five million votes in total. It remains unclear how the elections will be conducted and whether ballots will be returned from these contested areas.

Improved Turnout and A Surge In New Young Voters May Be the Game Changer

The average turnout of voters hovers between 30 to 35 per

cent in the last two electoral cycles, according to data from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). This means that between 65 to 70 per cent of registered voters would not end up voting. Many develop apathy because of the fear that their votes may not count due to rigging and manipulation. With the introduction of BIVAS, the general public confidence in the electoral process is expected to improve. This will likely increase the turnout. As mentioned, the surging interest among young people in participating in the election is another important factor that will be difficult to ignore. In the recently concluded voters registration exercise, 9,518,188 new voters were registered. In terms of demographic distribution, this comprises 7.2 million new voters, 76.5 per cent of who are young people between the ages of 18 and 34 years, according to figures from INEC. 40 per cent of this number are said to be students. The implication of improved turnout and the combined force of youthful newly registered voters may be the game changer in the forthcoming elections.

The spread of conflict across the country through terrorism, kidnapping and banditry, as perpetrated by extremist groups and the unknown gunmen phenomenon, continues to deepen fears that the forthcoming elections will neither be free nor fair. Currently, Nigeria ranks 143 out of 163 on the Global Terrorism Index, slightly above Ethiopia and Pakistan. Many local government areas across Niger, Kaduna, Bornu, Katsina, Yobe and Zamfara States remain under the control of terrorists and bandits. These areas hold an estimated five million votes in total. It remains unclear how the elections will be conducted and whether ballots will be returned from these contested areas. Many analysts have raised concerns about the likelihood that these areas could be used by the ruling party to produce concocted figures from non-existent voters. Furthermore, there are mounting concerns about turnout in other places in the South-East, where separatist organisations violently enforce sit-at-home actions, which have spread fear among citizens. In the course of these, many offices belonging to INEC have been violently attacked, leading to the loss of lives and properties. With many issues unresolved, it is safe to say that the political fate of Africa's most populous country and the largest economy continues to hang in the balance.

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By Peter Fabricius

# Joe Biden's US-Africa summit should be assessed on its merits - not on ideology

THE US-Africa summit which President Joe Biden hosted in Washington this month was a "jamboree", as one US official put it - a huge variety of meetings, initiatives, deals, projects and programmes over three days, designed by the US to reset relations with the continent. Forty-nine African states were represented, 45 of them at head-of-state or government level, as well as the chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat.

Everyone was there except the governments of Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Sudan, which were not invited because they have been suspended from the AU for seizing power undemocratically through military coups. Eritrea and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (aka Western Sahara) did not receive invitations because the US does not have diplomatic relations with them.

The many events included a leaders' meeting with Biden, a security forum with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and US AID executive director Samantha Power, a business forum with leaders of about 300 African and US corporations, and countless more meetings of civil society including engagements with the African diaspora, young people, women and other groups.

The summit did appear to revive and reinvigorate US-Africa relations which had flagged during the Trump era.

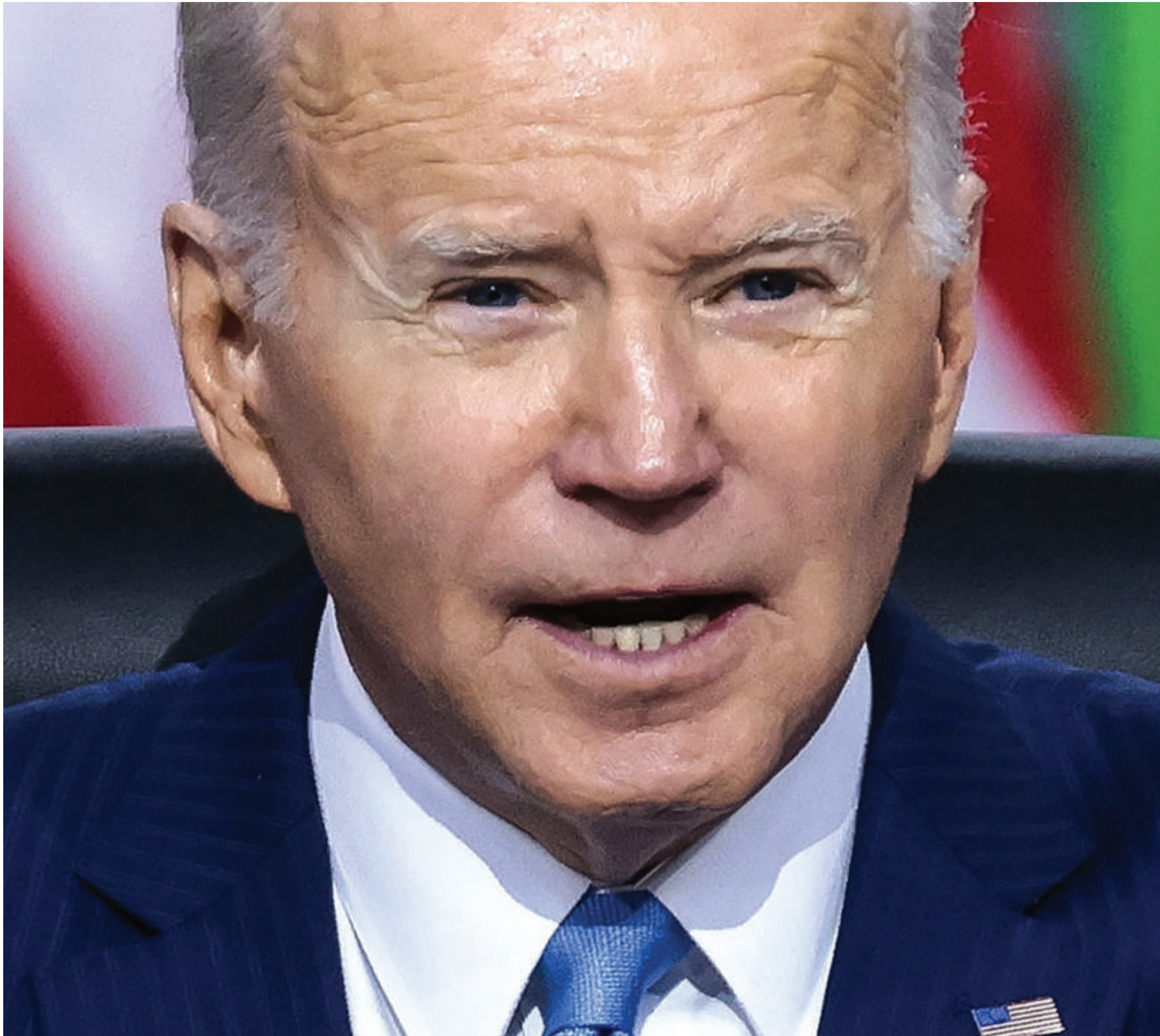
## Investment plans

Biden summed up the summit by saying his administration was planning to invest at least \$55-billion in Africa over the next three years. This included loans of up to \$21-billion through the IMF to support the recovery and resilience efforts of low- and middle-income countries, and a \$504-million compact signed by America's Millennium Challenge Corporation with Benin and Niger to help finance regional economic integration and trade and cross-border collaboration.

It also included a new initiative called Digital Transformation with Africa, through which the Biden administration aims to invest more than \$350-million and mobilise more than \$450-million in private capital to boost digital access and literacy across Africa; \$369-million in new investments by the US international Development Finance Corporation in food security, renewable energy infrastructure and health; and about \$1.3-billion in MOUs signed by the US EXIM Bank to facilitate US exports to and investments in Africa.

The US government programme Power Africa, which is bringing electricity to many Africans, launched a new Clean Tech Energy Network, a collaboration with US clean-tech energy companies and African energy stakeholders that aims to mobilise \$350-million in deals. Power Africa also announced a public-private partnership worth \$150-million to electrify 10,000 health facilities in Africa.

The US government programme Prosper Af-



US President Joe Biden speaks at the US-Africa summit in Washington, DC, on 15 December 2022. (Photo: Oliver Contreras / Sipa / Bloomberg via Getty Images)

rica, which links US and African businesses with US government services, said it would invest at least \$170-million to increase two-way trade and investment between the US and Africa. It also committed to catalyse \$1-billion in exports to the US and an additional \$1-billion in US investments in Africa. And so on.

Keeping tabs on this sprawling agenda will not be easy, but Biden also announced he would be appointing former US assistant secretary of state Johnnie Carson - the veteran diplomat who has also been ambassador to Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda - as his special representative to ensure all the US-Africa summit commitments were implemented.

## Persistent scepticism

Inevitably, though, not everyone on this continent was favourably impressed by such deepening relations with the US.

In Africa more widely and perhaps particularly in South Africa there remains a persistent strand of scepticism about anything the US does here. Such sceptics saw the summit as essentially just an effort by America to play catch-up and try to edge ahead of its global rivals in a "new scramble for Africa", as South Africa's deputy foreign minister Alvin Botes put it in a webinar on the summit held by the University of Johannesburg, titled "Washington woos Africa: for better or worse".

To get some sense of the logic which he brought to the debate, though, one should also note that Botes decried the fact that with only 44 UN members, Europe had 13 nations represented in this year's soccer World Cup, while Africa, with 54 UN members, was represented by only five nations. This Botes saw as "an indication of the uneven balance of power that finds expression, even though the issue of sports diplomacy".

To see the World Cup as a representative international body, like the UN itself or the IMF or World Bank, is patently absurd. The next step in this train of thought would be to argue that Africa has never won the World Cup and so should have been simply gifted the trophy this year.

This was a caricature of the sort of un-analytical thinking which too often bedevils debate about Africa's relations with the world.

Nontobeko Hlela, a researcher for the South African office of the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research, a Global South think-tank, detailed in the same webinar, what she saw as evidence of this new scramble for Africa. This purported evidence included "the biggest embassy building boom anywhere in the world". Between 2010 and 2016 more than 320 new foreign embassies had been opened in Africa, Hlela said. Turkey alone had opened 26.

On international military interest in the continent, she said that China had become the biggest arms seller to Africa, signing defence technology agreements with 45 countries; Russia had concluded military deals with 19 African countries since 2014; all the rich Gulf states were building military bases in the Horn of Africa and hiring African mercenaries; the US has 29 "known" military facilities in 15 African countries; France had military bases in 10 countries on the continent and Turkey had built its largest foreign military base, in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 2017.

Hlela also mentioned the American and French military interventions in Libya in 2011 and the French intervention in Mali in 2013. She also cited France's establishment of the G5 Sahel group with Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger in 2014, which other European powers were supporting as well as increasing their presence in the Sahel more generally, to counter Islamist terrorists and try to staunch the flow of migrants into Europe. The US had built an "enormous" military base near Akadez, Niger, from which she said it was conducting drone strikes and aerial surveillance missions across the Sahel and the Sahara Desert.

Hlela cited other examples of what she regarded as the new scramble for Africa, including China's establishment of a military base at Djibouti and Beijing's extension of its military influence well beyond this base, into Africa. She said the People's Liberation Army had conducted exercises in Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana and Nigeria. In turn

this growing footprint had alarmed other Asian powers so Japan had enlarged its military base in Djibouti, while India had been building a network of radar and listening posts around the Indian Ocean.

Russia too was extending its military influence across the continent, beyond the Central African Republic where its presence was most conspicuous.

## Lacking nuance

This growing diplomatic and military presence of global powers in Africa is certainly noteworthy and should be assessed. But how one does so is important.

It is not enough, as Hlela did, to simply dismiss it, without analysis, as an unseemly gold rush by all these powers to seize Africa's material resources and to abuse the continent as a random battleground for its own war on terror.

Greater nuance than that is required in interpreting these events. For one thing, one can hardly equate the opening of embassies with the building of military bases. Would Africa like foreign governments to shut down all their embassies in a reverse scramble out of Africa?

And more nuance is also required in interpreting the growing military presence, worrying as it might be. The proliferation of foreign military bases in Djibouti, for example, began as an effort to counter Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden. And the efforts since then have been largely directed against violent Islamist extremists, surely an enemy to all civilised people.

Hlela also had a problem with the correct sequencing of cause and effect. She noted, for example, that the more the US has tried to stabilise the continent, mainly through training of African government militaries, the more militancy has spread, and the more insurgencies have proliferated, the more terrorism has spread, the African states have failed and the more unsettled the continent has become.

It is one thing to suggest that the counterterrorism efforts by the US and other foreign powers have failed to contain or to eradicate Islamist terrorism and other destabi-

lising forces. That may or may not be true. But it is quite another thing to suggest, as Hlela clearly does, that the US and other counterterrorist operations have been the cause of the rise of violent jihadism and other ills in West Africa and the Sahel as well as elsewhere on the continent.

Perhaps some jihadists have been inspired to take up arms to expel the foreign forces. But there is a host of more fundamental reasons that Islamist extremism is spreading in this region and further afield on the continent. Most of those have to do with very poor governance and mis-handling of Islamic fundamentalism by African governments themselves. To suggest that a growing foreign military presence has led to growing extremism is a bit like saying the large number of sick people at hospitals is a result of the presence there of many doctors. The causality is inverted.

Hlela concluded, sweepingly, that through this "neocolonialism" of proliferating military bases and embassies, foreign powers were seeking to fragment Africa and to undermine the essential principles of pan-Africanism - political unity and territorial sovereignty. "We cannot sit by and watch this new scramble happen to us as if we have no say," she said, proposing that Africa should negotiate with the world with one voice.

## Critical global challenges

It is true, of course, that Africa has a voice, it has power and it should use it more. But how it exercises it is what counts. Most of the continent's ills derive not from Africa failing to speak with one voice, but from the way individual African governments treat their own people - including the often corrupt deals with foreign corporations for the extraction of resources in which African governments are often complicit.

Nevertheless, critics like Hlela ignore the fact that a key part of the new Africa strategy announced by Blinken in South Africa in August was precisely to amplify Africa's unified voice in addressing critical global challenges such as climate change, pandemics and terrorism. This was why Biden announced at the UN General Assembly this year

that the US believed Africa should have a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, and why he later said the AU should become a permanent member of the G20. This was not consistent with Hlela's contention that global powers are determined to fragment Africa.

Though it is notable that neither Russia nor China - which like to present themselves as Africa's true friends - have supported those initiatives.

Africans are fond of reminding others that Africa is not a country. But they also have to acknowledge that foreign powers are not homogenous either. Different powers also have different interests. Many are certainly trying to tackle jihadism at source to prevent it from spreading - especially into Europe. But it is obviously also in Africa's interest for jihadism to be contained and hopefully defeated. Russia's military and in particular its private military company Wagner seem to have other interests, at least in addition to those, such as frustrating Western governments - particularly France - in Africa and directly earning natural resources in exchange for propping up undemocratic African governments. No doubt Western governments are also now competing more aggressively with China and Russia and others for rare minerals like lithium and coltan, which are growing increasingly important for building modern technologies such as cellphones, electric vehicles, renewable energy generation and sophisticated weapons.

But it is not whether these minerals are extracted that is important. Bartering them for unaffordable loans or in exchange for opaque military support to prop up autocrats, is not a good idea. Transparent partnerships with public terms that benefit host populations is obviously the better way.

Hlela's plea for a kind of pan-African autarky was also outdated.

As David Monyae, director of the Centre for Africa China Studies at the University of Johannesburg, pointed out in the same UJ webinar, the Organisation of African Unity's (OAU's) Lagos Plan of Action for the economic development of Africa decided back in 1980 to increase Africa's self-sufficiency and to minimise its links with Western countries by maximising the continent's own resources.

But Monyae also noted that when the AU superseded the OAU in 2002, it took a fundamentally different approach, realising that Africa could not develop on its own and that it could only do so in partnership with the rest of the world.

The implication is that Africa must become more skillful at managing its relations with the foreign powers that are growing more interested in the continent. That might sometimes happen at the continental, AU level. But more consequently it will happen country-to-country.

And where those individual African countries are well-run, open democracies, serving their people, their relationships with foreign powers will also be much more likely to serve the interests of their people.

(DM)

# Zelensky, the Jewish lawyer-turned-comic-turned-actual president who pulled off a military miracle

By J Brooks Spector

**E**XTRAORDINARY times in Eastern Europe deliver both the good guy and the villain of a dramatic year. Volodymyr Zelensky emerged clearly as the claimant of international hero status.

Not so long ago, Zelensky was just one more leader of a struggling, often chaotic, squabbling, former Soviet republic. True, his nation was trying hard to shuck off any remnants of old-style Soviet economic policy, even as crony capitalism had taken hold in many sectors.

Nevertheless, the contrast with the successes of the Baltic states or in many of the former satellites in Eastern Europe remained palpable, although the country had become one of the world's great grain exporters - helping to feed much of the population in Asia and Africa. Still, Ukraine had a long way to go before the toxic legacies from its past were finally expunged.

Politically, Zelensky had come into office through an election that was largely free and fair, even as the politics of his country remained significantly tainted by the behaviour of earlier presidencies, especially Viktor Yanukovich, the president prior to Zelensky's immediate predecessor.

Yanukovich's corruption, avarice and cravenness towards Russia had brought on a revolution that, at its peak, drew perhaps a million people into Maidan Square in Kyiv to protest against his rule until he fled the country in 2014.

In 2019, Zelensky decided to make a run for president as a kind of an insider life-imitates-art joke. But the man was, and is, obviously a patriot who felt strongly about the difficult circumstances of his nation and thought he could do something about them.

A lawyer by training, he had become a comedic hit with his TV series about a high school history teacher who, angry about corruption in high places, runs for president - and wins. Inspired by this fictional, Walter Mitty-esque life, Zelensky seems to have decided that if his fictional self could do it, why not his real one as well?

He did run, and won convincingly. Immediately, Zelensky was confronted by the challenges of coping with a nation still divided by the legacies of its complex history - as well as the Russian annexation of the Crimean peninsula and its surreptitious support for a separatist movement in the country's easternmost provinces.

The westernmost part of Ukraine, the region most influenced by and attracted to Western ideas a century earlier, had been the Habsburg Empire's most distant province. The remainder of Ukraine had had a more distant history of being a Cossack realm and then living under Polish overlordship. But more recently, it had become a part of Czarist Russia from the end of the 18th century onwards.

In Ukraine's easternmost regions, people often said they felt more Russian than Ukrainian,



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is Daily Maverick's International Person of the Year, 2022. EPA-EFE/Sergey Doizhenko

and those were territories that had become significantly industrialised in the early part of the 20th century.

Meanwhile, in Crimea in the south, there had been, until the end of World War 2, a large population of Crimean Tatars. Odesa was a cosmopolitan port city in the southwest that continued to host a more polyglot population than most of the rest of the nation.

Throughout the country, even after the genocide of World War 2, there remained a significant, albeit relatively small, population of Ukrainian Jews, including Zelensky.

His first big challenges included continuing governmental and economic reform policies to further free up the economy, even as he needed to move aggressively against rampant corruption. Behind those challenges was a hope of being able to bring Ukraine into the sphere of Western European institutions, pre-eminently the European Union and then, more distantly, Nato.

This desire, not even a formally articulated government policy initiative, was used as the pretext for the Russians to make their military move that would, in turn, transform Zelensky into a compelling global figure and not just a hopeful reformer confronting Sisyphean tasks.

Sheer grit and imagination

On 24 February 2022, a Russian military juggernaut rolled into Ukraine's northern reaches, en route to its goal of capturing the capital, Kyiv. They planned to rout a weak military, seize governmental infrastructure and then, presumably, remove Zelensky and his government.

But in a military miracle, through sheer grit, imaginative tactics and a resolute defence by an army whose capabilities had been denigrated by the invaders, Ukrainian defences largely held. Then, slowly and painfully, they repelled the invaders from their movement towards the capital.

Thereafter, each Russian advance has eventually been stalled and

slowly reversed - in part through a combination of Ukrainian military adeptness and a growing flood of hi-tech Western weapons.

But the crucial catalysing element for all of this turns out to have been a Jewish lawyer-turned-comic-turned-actual president. Right from the beginning of the crisis, he refused to leave the country despite offers from various nations to take him and his family in as special refugees.

He spoke to his nation, and the rest of the world, in speech after speech, stiffening national resistance to the invaders. He could be found walking the streets of his capital city and in territories reclaimed from the Russians, offering reassurance and hope.

Inevitably, there was Zelensky, eschewing the trappings of high office, and wearing a simple military-style T-shirt and jacket - and often unshaven. More than any other factor, it was his insistence on preserving his nation's freedom that helped stiffen resistance by his countrymen and women.

His speeches have also helped provide the crucial stiffening for Western nations to provide military and economic assistance as well as moral support. Along the way, Zelensky has forged connections to the feelings of foreign presidents, prime ministers, legislators and ordinary civilians about how they must commit themselves to helping Ukraine roll back the invader in preserving his beleaguered nation's independence.

A few years ago, who would have guessed this would become his greatest acting role. But, for defending both his nation and the rest of us, he is our International Person of the Year. DMI68

How we chose the People of the Year winners

In the past, Daily Maverick journalists decided who they thought warranted the title of Person of the Year, but for the second year running we have asked readers to vote for their preferred choice, with the proviso that we still have the final say. Choosing the annual winners is a labour of love because that's what it takes to get a bunch of DM editors to decide whether they agree or disagree with the choices of 13,000 readers. Over the next few days we will republish online all the results in various categories.

(DM)

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Zero-deforestation commitments can push agriculture to other rich biomes, says study

By Mauricio Brum and Sílvia Lisboa

**C**URRENT zero-deforestation commitments (ZDCs) may have the unintended consequence of pushing agriculture to other biodiversity-rich biomes, a new study led by the University of York shows. Published in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* in late November, the research funded by Unilever demonstrates how habitats in tropical grassy and dry forests remain open for expanding agricultural production, threatening ecosystems often overlooked in Latin America and Africa.

“Zero-deforestation commitments have been designed to do exactly what they say: to protect tropical rainforest from being destroyed for agriculture or other intensive land-uses. This is a reasonable concern – tropical rainforests are generally extremely biodiverse and are crucial for mitigating climate change, by storing and sequestering carbon,” says Susannah Fleiss, the lead author of the study. “However, other habitats support unique biodiversity, and this shouldn’t be destroyed in an effort to protect rainforest.”

The rainforest at the edge of a village in western Cameroon.

The research focuses on palm oil production, although the criteria for defining ZDCs are consistent across different crops. According to the study’s estimations, globally there are 1.2 billion hectares (2.9 billion acres) of no cultivated land with a suitable climate for rain fed oil palm expansion, an area about the size of Brazil and Argentina combined. Currently, only about 27% of oil palm crops in Latin America, and just 9% in Africa, are certified for meeting the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil’s (RSPO) definition of “zero deforestation,” according to the organization’s 2022 Impact Report. Even if future expansion were to fully meet that definition, there would be around 167 million hectares (412.7 million acres) still suitable for production, an area nearly twice the size of Venezuela – around 57% of which is made up by grasslands and dry forests in both Latin America and Africa. Despite a potentially lower crop yield in these areas, irrigation could be used to make them more economically attractive for eventual expansion.

Many palm oil companies have joined the RSPO commitments since 2018, after years of public pressure regarding the impact of the industry over rainforests and their biodiversity. It is now clear that this supposedly “sustainable” development is starting to affect other areas, the researchers argue. “The first RSPO certified plantation in Africa was in [the] savanna in Gabon,” reminds Fleiss, adding that there is more potential for “zero-deforestation” expansion in Latin American biomes than in African ones. Latin America has around 60 million hectares (148 million acres) of grasslands and dry forests at risk.

A typical view of the savannah landscape. Image by Flávia Milhorance.

“Both continents will face a number

of specific challenges: using knowledge of local habitats to identify areas of high biodiversity, working with oil palm growers to avoid destroying biodiversity and ensuring that all habitats are protected by local and national governance,” Fleiss tells Mongabay. Currently, it is not clear to the researchers where plantations are most likely to expand: The lack of protective legislation could make some countries more interesting to the industry than others, even if some areas seem, at first, naturally more attractive for oil palm crops due to the landscape and water availability.

The eventual expansion in currently unprotected biomes could affect a third of the vertebrates on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The savannas in Congo are home to the giant ground pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*), while the Colombian Llanos host Hellmich’s Rocket Frog (*Hyloxalus vergeli*), only a couple of the species on the list.

“These biomes are also important for carbon sequestration, as they can have high below-ground carbon stocks, in plant roots and soil, but this is also often overlooked,” says Fleiss. Even though the implications for greenhouse gas emissions seem evident, the researchers point out that it remains difficult to quantify the real impact of clearing these areas, as the existing data suggest that below-ground carbon stocks are “highly variable” – but could, in some cases, “exceed those of moist forest,” the paper highlights.

## Understanding grassy ecosystems

While the research focuses mainly on the commitments made by the palm oil industry and its shortcomings, the focus on preserving solely rainforests is widespread among food firms. One of the reasons is the common misconception that ancient grassy habitats are actually “degraded” areas of rainforest. “When tropical rainforest is cleared, the habitat that reforms is usually grassy, with some shrubs. This is very low in biodiversity, but superficially appears similar to ancient, biodiverse grassland and savanna habitats, such as the Cerrado in Brazil or Congolian savannas in West Africa,” Fleiss says.

The Cerrado is a network of ecosystems made up of forests, savannas and grassland vegetation. Known as the “cradle of waters,” it’s where many of Brazil’s most important river systems get their start. Image © Marizilda Cruppe/Greenpeace.

The Brazilian Cerrado has become the go-to example of a biodiversity hotspot that remains largely unprotected by current ZDCs and other agricultural commitments, with a strong lobby by the industry – in this case, mostly connected to soy, corn and cattle production – to maintain the status quo. During the Climate Change Conference in Egypt (COP27), in November, the main argument to avoid further regulation was economic. Wei Peng, the global head of sustainability for grains and oilseeds at the Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC), urged against the adoption of new directives to protect other bi-

omes, pointing to “potential disruption of supply chains after the implementation of the law.”

WWF criticizes the “roadmap” agreed to by major agricultural companies at COP27, precisely for ignoring large biomes that do not fit the current definitions for preservation. “This roadmap so narrowly defines what types of places will be protected that 74 percent of Brazil’s Cerrado – the world’s most biodiverse savanna that stores almost 14 billion metric tons of carbon – is excluded and therefore vulnerable to irreversible destruction,” WWF says in a statement.

A soy plantation under irrigation in the Cerrado. The savanna’s native vegetation is rapidly being sacrificed to soy production. Image by Alicia Prager / Mongabay.

“If they don’t include every ecosystem, these commitments will not work out. Not only does the legislation become more limited, but one can even see things going in the opposite direction than intended. It’s almost like there is an incentive for destruction, an encouragement to take over those biomes,” argues Frederico Machado, a public policies specialist at WWF-Brazil. “We needed a more ambitious commitment to eliminate from the agricultural supply chains all forms of conversion of natural habitats. We had high expectations, but the roadmap still contains huge gaps and has a chance to become a new form of green washing for the industry.”

In Africa, the level of protection of different habitats varies largely from country to country. Oil palm plantations, for instance, have driven much less deforestation there than in Southeast Asia, Fleiss says. She argues, however, that with current ZDCs there could be a “high risk” from new plantations. While not causing the same deforestation traditionally seen before the commitments, future expansion could do similar damage in grasslands and other biomes usually ignored by the industry in protection talks.

Ahead of the last Conference on Biological Diversity (COP15), which happened in Montreal in the first half of December, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) issued a statement asking for the adoption of strong requirements for “governments to develop regulatory frameworks and guidelines for businesses to report on their impact on biodiversity and minimize any adverse impacts of their activities.” According to the AWF, keeping business accountable should go hand in hand with protecting the right to sustainably use natural resources within the continent, since “many African communities rely directly on natural resources for food, medicine, economic activities, and other immediate needs.”

## African oil palms.

*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq. (African oil palm) trees from Cameroon. In the specific case of grasslands, some specialists make the case that full conservation efforts need to get even more attention, for restoration is not as effective for recovering the original biodiversity. “We advocate

conserving intact grassland ecosystems as the key strategy for protecting grassland biodiversity, including small patches with disproportionately high biodiversity conservation value,” says Clinton Carbutt, a plant scientist at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, in a recent interview with the local agricultural news website Food for Mzansi. In South Africa, where pressures on the biome come mainly from livestock grazing, estimations say that only 2% of grasslands are currently protected.

## New EU legislation falls short of protecting other biomes

Recently, there was also hope that new European Union legislation aiming to ban the import of commodities connected to deforestation could also include other wooded lands, a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) definition that includes most areas of savannas and dry forests. The text approved by the EU on Dec. 6, however, keeps the focus just on rainforests. The proposal still needs to be ratified by all 27 countries of the bloc. If approved, food firms that export beef, wood, palm oil, soybeans, coffee and cocoa will have to prove, through remote tracking and geolocation, that the commodities do not come from deforested areas. The EU signals that the noninclusion of other biomes can be reviewed within a year of the law’s adoption.

Coffee is among the no-deforestation commodities targeted by the EU in its new legislation. Image courtesy of JoAnne McArthur.

While unable to meet expectations, the EU proposal is already seen as a historic victory for the preservation of forests, says the NGO Observatório do Clima, the main Brazilian civil society network on the climate agenda, with 77 member organizations. The noninclusion of other wooded lands, however, could make the European bloc buy commodities produced in grassy areas that remain unprotected, notices Machado. “Europe will be buying soybeans from the biggest contributor of greenhouse emissions in Brazilian agriculture,” warns the WWF-Brazil specialist.

Presently, to comply with zero-deforestation commitments in the palm oil industry and also for other commodities, one must usually go through the so-called High Conservation Value-High Carbon Stock Approach (HCV-HCSA), which helps to decide where plantations can be created and where forests should be conserved. “Currently, however, this framework has very little detail on grassy biomes, and doesn’t include dry forests,” says Fleiss.

To change that, the study urges, there need to be new comprehensive definitions of other habitats that remain unprotected, with a set of indicators decided by a panel of experts. “This would require expertise on different ecosystems across the tropics, so it would be a large effort to coordinate, but that expertise does exist in most cases, so it should be possible,” says Fleiss.

“These biomes are also important for carbon sequestration, as they can have high below-ground carbon stocks, in plant roots and soil, but this is also often overlooked,” says Fleiss. Even though the implications for greenhouse gas emissions seem evident, the researchers point out that it remains difficult to quantify the real impact of clearing these areas, as the existing data suggest that below-ground carbon stocks are “highly variable” – but could, in some cases, “exceed those of moist forest.”

# ANC's electoral committee to probe complaint that its national conference was marred by vote-buying

BY NONKULELEKO NJILO

THE ANC's electoral committee, chaired by former president Kgalema Motlanthe, is set to investigate allegations of vote-buying by party president Cyril Ramaphosa and national chairperson Gwede Mantashe, among others, at the ANC's 55th national conference at Nasrec just over a week ago.

The latest drama to rock the governing party comes after a KwaZulu-Natal delegate wrote to the electoral committee requesting that it probe "the alleged infringement of the buying of votes and/or the offering of rewards for votes during the 55th ANC elective conference".

The delegate, Thabang Mdletshe, is a member of a branch in eThekweni. Once investigations have been concluded, he wants the committee to report the matter to the Hawks.

Mdletshe claims Ramaphosa, Mantashe and Bejani Chauke - who failed in his bid to become the party's treasurer-general - used cash to influence how delegates voted.

In an interview with eNCA (ANC National Conference | In conversation with Gwede Mantashe), Mantashe admitted that the use of money by candidates seeking to climb the leadership ladder was a serious matter.

"Can I tell you, if there is one battle that we almost lost, it's the battle and fight against money ... In the past, we had this thing that money is used and so forth. This time around, you find people at



Gwede Mantashe with Former President Kgalema Motlanthe at the ANC's 55th General Conference held at Nasrec Expo. Photo: Felix Dlangamandla/Daily Maverick

branch level, at regional level, phoning you ... I have this number of delegates, please give me so much money," said Mantashe in the televised interview.

Asked for an estimate of the amount of money involved, he responded: "It depends. One person phoned me and said: 'I have 140 delegates, give me

R100,000.' "And I tell him, 'you see, if I had R100,000 I would go to an auction and buy sheep or cattle. I wouldn't give it to you.'"

Mantashe was also asked about Ramaphosa's alleged involvement in cash-for-votes during his 2017 election campaign, and how the

party would deal with this situation when the president himself had faced similar allegations.

"I'm not sure ... I think he scaled down this year. Last time he was in trouble about that. But today it was more complex because it was widespread. For example, there was a man that was campaigning for treasurer-general.

"He worked in the Office of the President. We raised our concern, saying this person is in your office ... he is going around buying votes. Please deal with that issue.

"Fortunately or unfortunately, he was not elected treasurer-general of the ANC. But if you go around displaying money, it's the worst way of dealing with things. Then you spoil these delegates - when they talk to you and you don't give them money, they think that you are sick," said Mantashe.

Ramaphosa has consistently denied buying votes during his 2017 campaign for ANC president.

Secretary for the electoral committee Livhuwani Matsila confirmed receipt of Mdletshe's complaint and said the committee would look into it once it returns from recess on 5 January.

Responding to the complaint in a letter, Matsila said, "... the electoral committee shall ensure that your complaint is thoroughly dealt with, and you shall be kept informed".

"In the meantime, we humbly request that you furnish the electoral committee with any available evidence at your disposal, in addition to the televised interview, to support these allegations."

Matsila said the electoral committee would afford all those mentioned in the complaint a fair opportunity to respond to the allegations.

Matsila told Daily Maverick that in the absence of evidence, the committee could possibly summon Gwede Mantashe, or ask him to furnish it with evidence of vote-buying that he mentioned on national television.

Political analyst Sandile Swana said that as damning as the allegations were, it was unlikely that drastic steps would be taken because, if there

was a willingness to tackle the matter head-on, the ANC would have done so in 2017 when Ramaphosa was first accused of buying votes.

"I do not expect the people ... now in charge of the elections process to take any serious steps, more especially that the candidate [Ramaphosa] that they wanted to win has won the elections ... by honest or dishonest means."

If the allegations are verified, Swana said it meant "the outcome of the election was not clean and the legitimacy of the winner is in question".

The Sunday Times reported on how delegates from certain branches were "offered money" to vote in favour of certain candidates.

Speaking to reporters at the elective conference, ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe said: "We've urged the media that, where they have gotten information about cadres who are doing such activities, they must immediately report such to the relevant steering committee of the conference, and that committee will take the necessary steps."

Several leaders had previously raised concerns over vote-buying at the party's conferences. Weeks before the 55th conference, former president Jacob Zuma said: "The organisation, its policies and politics have been consumed by a patronage network which is characterised by corrupt hands exchanging money."

"These corrupt hands are making comrades buy votes for positions instead of being elected fairly and correctly. This leads to leaders being elected for the wrong reasons ... They are, therefore, at the core of corruption in the ANC." Former health minister Dr Zweli Mkhize, who lost his bid to become party president, had also warned of vote-buying, saying it undermined the will of ANC branches.

"The ANC is not for sale. It does not belong to those who abuse their position for self-enrichment ... We need to end all gatekeeping and the use of money," said Mkhize.

(DM)

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 404 00--

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

3 Letters: ASS,  
4. Letters: YULE, MASS, OMEN, WASH, PASS, SPAN, REEF, HEED, TRAP,  
5 Letters: MONEY, SKILL, DAILY, MAYOR, HAMAS, WATER, SHADE  
6 Letters: MOSCOW, NOISES, UGANDA, SHARES, ASMARA, CAREER, REMAIN  
7 Letters: SANGOMA, ENGLISH,

CLUES: Across  
1. Tanzania's Capital  
6. Nation created in 1948  
7. Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Christ  
9. turn away  
10. Second largest city in Tanzania  
11. step in a process  
13. mischievous person  
16. skilful  
17. large round citrus fruit  
19. sell goods by going from place to place  
20. utter words

Down:  
1. images seen while you sleep  
2. a place far away  
3. the mixture of gases surrounding the earth  
4. personal, secret  
5. beloved  
8. consisting protein that is produced by a living organism  
12. an off break bowled with an apparent leg-break action  
13. a surface which is higher on one side than the other  
14. keep away from someone  
15. demonstrate by evidence  
18. a donkey

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS: R E A D Y, S C O P E, E T L A, S A H A R A, A M E, I E A Y A H P, S N A K E, I R A Q, M A S T E R, E A S T, G I T, A R K, I, T A N A P A, I P, I C F R O S T, M A S H E R, H A Y, E, O W L, N

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: F A R M E R, R A, R A, L E A S E, I S L A N D, P A K, D L O I L E R, A N Y O N E, A M, Y, M E D D L E, C L A N E, S, P L A N T A T I O N S, O E R I E T A A, L A G T A C E T G, O N E Y T S U E

# RADIO One

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI

### JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Thursday 29 December 2022

## TBA appoints NBC Bank's managing director Sabi as the new chairman

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) members have elected NBC Bank Managing Director Theobald Sabi (pictured), as new chairman for two years of tenure, renewable, effective January 2023.

Sabi, a seasonal banker, was elected by TBA members at their 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Dar es Salaam on 19th December 2022.

He is succeeding Abdulmajid Nsekela, CEO - CRDB Bank, who has completed his two terms this December.

Geoffrey Mchangila, Managing Director of Citibank Tanzania, was elected as the Vice Chairman of the Association.

Commenting about the appointment, Sabi said: "I feel privileged to chair this important association. Banks have a special role in the inclusive economic development of our country. I look forward to working with all members to create meaningful value for all stakeholders."



The Tanzania Bankers Association was established in 1995 as an association before being incorporated as a company limited by members' guarantee in 2012.

It is the main policy advocacy body for members of the banking fraternity seeking to create a common voice and a conducive environment for economic development and promoting financial

literacy and inclusion. At the moment, TBA has a total of 42 active members.

The 10th TBA-AGM also approved the new five-year (2023-2028) strategy that sets out the Vision, Mission, and strategic choices focusing on Advocacy, Research & Analytics, Communication & engagement with strategic partners, as well as promotion of competence and professionalism in a bid to contribute to the growth of the Banking Sector and spearhead social and economic prosperity.

Apart from the top leadership of TBA, the AGM also elected nine new members of the Governing Council, who will be responsible for oversight and policy decisions on TBA's activities and direction. The elected Council Members are Ruth Zaipuna, CEO- NMB Bank Plc; Dr. Salim Muhsin, MD- PBZ Bank; Isabela Maganga, MD-Equity Bank(T); Jaffari Matundu, CEO- EXIM Bank; Abdulmajid Nsekela, CEO and MD - CRDB Bank Plc; Kevin Wingfield, CEO- Stanbic Bank; Abdi Mohamed, CEO and MD-Absa Bank(T); Herman Kasekende, CEO and MD - Standard Chartered; and Edward Talawa, CEO - FINCA Tanzania.

TBA is a member-based advocacy body for the banking sector that endeavors to bring members through cooperation and collaboration in common interests.

It is the voice of the nation's 46.9 trn/- worth banking industry composed of small, regional, and large banks; the sector directly employs around 17,000 people and more than 2 million people indirectly, through financing their various economic activities, including business; safeguards at least 29.4 trn/- as deposits, and extends more than 27.2 trn/- in loans.

## BoA acquires 43.65-pct additional shares in BTI Islamic Banking Group

RABAT

BAHRAINI investment firm Al Baraka Group (ABG) is leaving Morocco's capital market. The firm is selling its stakes in the Moroccan Islamic banking group Bank Al-Tamweel Wa Al-Inma S.A (BTI).

According to news reports, Al Baraka Group has locked regulatory approval from the Central Bank of Bahrain to sell 43.65% shares in BTI to the Moroccan banking group Bank of Africa (BoA).

BTI Bank was a joint venture between BMCE - which would later change its name to BoA - and the Al Baraka Group. BoA was already the majority shareholder of BTI Bank when it was first created in 2017, with 51% of shares.

The transaction still hinges on regulatory approval from Morocco's capital market authorities, reports indicate.

In addition to pulling out of the Moroccan market, the investing group also liquidated its 83.07% shares in Saudi-based Itqan Capital to a Saudi private investor. The deal already gained approval from the Saudi central bank.

Commenting on the news, ABG's Chief Executive Houssein Ben Haj Amor said: "The exits reflect ABG's strategy to consolidate our resources in order to enhance efficiency and results."

He continued: "By refocusing on core business lines, we look to further strengthen performance and returns for our shareholders."

The creation of BTI Bank in 2017 coincided with the emergence of Islamic or participative banking in Morocco. In January of the same year, Morocco's central bank, Bank Al-Maghrib, approved the creation of Islamic banking groups.

Since its creation in Morocco, Islamic banking has been the fastest-growing sub-banking sector. Between 2019 and 2020, the sector grew a staggering 75% and attracted the attention of regional investors.

Islamic financing promises to increase Morocco's financial inclusion track as it mainly targets the unbanked and underbanked populations who refrain from resorting to conventional banking services because of their non-compliance with the Sharia law.

However, despite its impressive growth rate, Morocco's Islamic financing sector remains in its infancy and lags behind regional peers.



## AfDB signs \$40m deal with Bank One of Mauritius

By Kehinde Giwa

BANK One Limited of Mauritius has been given a \$40 million trade finance package by the African Development Bank. A \$15 million Transaction Guarantee and a \$25 million Risk Participation Agreement are included in the package.

With the use of the transaction guarantee facility, the African Bank will be able to guarantee up to 100% of the non-payment risk associated with the confirmation of Bank One trade finance instruments to the confirming banks.

Contrarily, the risk participation agreement will offer a guarantee cover of up to 50% to support trade finance transactions that are the result of issuing banks in regional member nations.

The package is anticipated to assist Bank One in expanding its ability to meet the demands of local corpo-

rates and Small-and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Mauritius and beyond the continent for trade financing.

"Given the cross-sectoral nature of trade, the proposed facility, while leveraging Bank One's footprint, is expected to enhance the African Development Bank's efforts to integrate Africa and improve the quality of life for the African people," said Lamin Drammeh, the Bank's Head of Trade Finance, on the approval.

The African Development Bank's Deputy Director General for Southern Africa, Kennedy Mbekeani, whose responsibilities also cover Mauritius, added, "This approval affirms the Bank's support for financial integration as a cornerstone for the development of the private sector across the continent."

The yearly trade finance deficit in Africa is estimated by the African Development Bank to be around \$81

billion. SMEs and other domestic companies have more difficulties obtaining trade finance compared to multinational corporations and significant local corporations.

The African Development Bank is using a number of strategic measures to close the trade finance gap across the continent, including the transaction guarantee and risk participation agreement.

the NGO Amnesty International described it as "one of the deadliest in the world."

The war has also displaced more than two million Ethiopians and plunged hundreds of thousands of people into near-starvation conditions, according to the UN.

On the humanitarian front, operations have increased in northern Ethiopia since the Pretoria agreement, but the aid delivered remains far below what is needed.



# Hopes for poultry sector growth, despite challenges

By Susan Marais

THE South African Poultry Association (SAPA) plans to expand the sector over the next two years through investments totalling R900 million, according to Izaak Breitenbach, general manager of SAPA's Broiler Organisation.

This was despite failing infrastructure around the country, threats of disease outbreaks, and the ongoing 'dumping' of imported poultry products on the domestic market, as well as South Africa's poor economic situation.

Breitenbach added that this funding was part of the R2.4 billion investment that the local poultry sector had vowed to make in accordance with the Poultry Master Plan.

"Since the signing of the master plan in 2019, the private sector has already invested R1.5 billion [in the poultry sector]," he told Farmer's Weekly.

He added that this investment had resulted in a 10% increase in production capacity and the creation of 2 600 direct and indirect jobs since 2019.

"This is a material acceleration of the industry's transformation, and we believe the broiler crop will continue to grow as a result of the increase in production capacity," he said.

## Challenges

Last year, the broiler sector, with an annual turnover of nearly R51 billion, was South Africa's largest animal production sector, while the egg sector, with an annual turnover of more than R11 billion at primary production level, was the fourth-largest, Breitenbach said.

While egg and broiler producers faced threats and opportunities unique to them, he added that they also had some common challenges: there were concerns about high feed prices, failing infrastructure around the country, and the continued threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks.

Dr Abongile Balarane, general manager of SAPA's Egg Organisation, said HPAI was



The ongoing threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza will continue to place pressure on the local poultry industry, according to experts.

directly responsible for the significant reduction in South Africa's layer flock over the past few years.

In January 2021, the country's national layer flock was estimated at 28 million birds. In April of the same year, an outbreak of HPAI resulted in a loss of about 2.8 million layer hens.

Since January 2022, however, the national flock had rebounded to around 27 million birds, and industry experts forecast that the flock would once again increase to 28 million birds by the 2023 summer season.

Despite this recovery, Balarane said farmers needed to remain vigilant in the fight against HPAI, as experts now regarded the dis-

ease as endemic to South Africa.

SAPA encouraged producers to explore the possibility of vaccinating their birds against the disease in an attempt to mitigate the financial losses, as well as the negative impact that the culling of birds had on the environment.

South Africa could see a new wave of HPAI outbreaks in 2023, as the disease was spread by wild birds, which meant that HPAI could remain a serious threat during winter, Balarane said.

When it came to the poultry sector's profitability, Breitenbach said the current extremely high production costs were having a severely negative impact on produc-

ers' income.

"The primary driver of chicken and egg prices is feed costs. At present, there doesn't seem to be any relief on the horizon in terms of [production costs], and that will keep the pressure on price."

If feed prices did not decrease in 2023, poultry product prices would remain relatively high, he said.

"Currently, local producers are 'subsidising' the very high [input] costs [to protect] consumers," Breitenbach said, adding that chicken products and eggs would remain some of the most cost-effective and versatile sources of animal protein for South Africans, despite the increasing prices.

"This year, the broiler sector will focus on tariffs and do everything in its power to have the suspended anti-dumping duties against the countries involved reinstated," Breitenbach said.

In August 2022, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel announced a decision to postpone the implementation of import duties against Brazil and four European countries until August 2023.

This was despite a report by the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa, which showed that the importation of cheap chicken portions from these countries was negatively affecting South African farmers.

## Mauritius' renminbi clearing center to facilitate Africa-China trade

PORT LOUIS

MAURITIUS now has the third clearing center for the Chinese currency renminbi (RMB), or the yuan, in Africa, after South Africa and Zambia. Officially launched on Dec. 16, the center tends to facilitate trade with China, not only for Mauritius but also for the African region, say several financial experts.

The presence of an RMB hub in Mauritius is of "considerable interest," not only for the Mauritian domestic market but also for the global business, notably "cross-border flows going through Mauritius," said Daniel Essoo, the chief executive officer of the Mauritius Banks Association, during a recent Mauritius-China economic cooperation forum.

Official statistics show that China is Mauritius' largest source of imports. Nearly 18 percent of the imports of Mauritius originated from China in 2021.

"The launch of the RMB clearing center is timely so that local Mauritian importers can request Chinese suppliers to invoice them in RMB, and the Mauritian banks can make use of the local RMB center for their international settlements," explained Li Lianhong, the chief executive officer of Bank of China in Mauritius.

As a large proportion of imports in Mauritius come from China, "having this facility [RMB clearing center] here means that actually it will be much easier and hopefully much cheaper, for importers, to start using the center and reduce the FX [foreign exchange] cost," echoed Essoo. "They may be able to keep balances in RMB, and they may start trading directly in RMB."

Essoo, however, considered the RMB clearing center in Mauritius to be "even more interesting" from a regional and global connectivity perspective.

"Mauritius is already and has always been part of (African) regional initiatives, and this idea is to link up different payment systems with different financial systems so that Mauritius is really at the heart of this web of payment systems," Essoo noted.

"With the introduction of the RMB clearing center, Mauritius can become a bridge and hub that can link China with Africa," Li suggested.

Li said China has been Africa's largest trading partner for more than 10 years, with bilateral trade rising to a record high of 254 billion U.S. dollars last year. "Mauritius has the potential and the ability to become a bridge for economic and trade cooperation between Africa and China, and even between Africa and Asia," he reiterated.

According to the Bank of International Settlement, international payments in RMB accounted for 2.7 percent of all currency in 2021, and the share of RMB payments has continuously increased since then. Meanwhile, the RMB quota in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the International Monetary Fund rose to about 14 percent in 2022.

"RMB is the most important currency for emerging markets," said Mardayah Kona Yerukondu, first deputy governor of the Bank of Mauritius, convincing that "RMB is poised to become a very important currency in the world in the days to come."

BANKING & FINANCE

# DRC to formalise gold trade, change tax and agriculture laws

By Michael Kavanagh

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo will implement several initiatives to increase revenue and improve financial transparency in the new year, including a plan to formalize the artisanal gold trade and amend an agriculture law to encourage foreign investment, government officials said.

The copper and cobalt producer is looking to diversify its sources of income after a bumper year in mining that will result in nearly 7% economic growth. The government also plans to expand income taxes and offer tax exemptions in special economic zones, the officials said.

"The goal is to become a processing country, not just a production country," Finance Minister Nicolas Kazadi said last week on the sidelines of a US-Africa Summit.

Congo is one of the world's richest countries in terms of natural resources but has long been seen as a difficult place to do business due to corruption, conflict and limited infrastructure. Millions are currently displaced in the east of the country due to fighting fueled in part by the illicit trade in minerals like tantalum and gold.

The government is hoping to break that link after signing a deal with the United Arab Emirates "that will allow us to buy all the gold produced by the artisanal sector," Kazadi said.

Most of Congo's smuggled gold transits through Rwanda and Uganda and



ends up in Dubai, he said. The UAE and Congo are putting infrastructure in place to formalize the market, he said, without giving more details.

Congo will launch its first gold refinery in the city of Bukavu sometime in 2023, Minister of Industry Julien Paluku said in an interview

in Washington. The country is also creating special economic zones that benefit from 10 to 20 years of tax exemptions, Paluku said.

A Chinese tile company, Saphir Ceramics, will launch production in the first quarter of 2023 in the country's first zone on the outskirts of Kinshasa. India's Varun Bev-

erages, a Pepsi bottler, and a pharmaceutical manufacturer are also expected to join them, he said.

Congo imports \$460 million in pharmaceutical products each year, Paluku said.

The government is amending its agriculture law, which currently requires farming projects to be controlled

by Congolese nationals, Anthony Nkinzo, the head of Congo's National Investment Promotion Agency said in an interview.

The law will be amended in the coming year "so foreigners can be majority shareholders in terms of finance, under certain conditions," Nkinzo said.

# Small African economies industrialising fastest

By Conrad Onyango

SMALLER African countries are punching beyond their weight to diversify their economies from agricultural dependence, a new report shows.

A new report shows that value-add factories and public-private partnership are helping small African countries industrialize much faster than their larger peers.

The recently released Africa Industrialization Index report by the Africa Development Bank found that these small countries have significantly increased

manufacturing activities over the last decade to diversify their economies from agricultural dependence.

In addition to assessing economic performance, the index evaluated direct determinants like labour and capital and indirect determinants like macroeconomic stability and existing infrastructure, across 52 African countries.

Ten countries were listed in the index as having improved their ranking by five or more places since 2010.

"Countries in the bottom quintile recorded the highest improvement over the coverage period, with 9.7 per cent gains,

followed by the lower-middle quintile (9.5 per cent)," according to the report.

Six of the ten top performers were small economies, including Djibouti, which made the biggest jump - by 17 places to position 33 - followed by Benin, which moved 14 places to settle at the 18th position owing to strong capital investment and sound policies.

Mozambique moved up seven places to position 30; Guinea moved up six places to position 40; Rwanda and Uganda both moved up five places to positions 35 and 20, respectively.

The biggest performance driver for small countries was their capacity to produce

and export goods and services, which grew by 16.4 per cent, followed by middle-ranked countries (10 per cent).

Comparatively, while bigger economies also made some progress in industrialising their economies, they performed poorly on all indicators, meaning new, existing industries and businesses could not attract more capital and labour to support their growth.

"The top quintile is the only one reporting a decrease in its score (-0.9%), owing to a serious deterioration in the direct determinant component (capital and labour)," said the AfDB

In overall performance, South Africa maintained the highest ranking throughout the 2010-2021 period, followed closely by Morocco, which held second place. Rounding out the top six were Egypt, Tunisia, Mauritius, and Eswatini.

Other bigger economies like Kenya improved ranks by two places to the 9th position while Ghana moved five places to the 19th position.

Over the coverage period, 37 of 52 countries improved their scores as many of these economies tapped into private-sector collaborations and bolstered their foreign direct investments.

# World Bank Group financing West Africa power project

By Darrell Proctor

**A**N agency associated with the World Bank will finance installation of solar and hydropower systems, and support related transmission and distribution infrastructure, to provide more electricity to areas of West Africa.

The World Bank Group's International Development Association (IDA) is investing \$311 million into the Regional Emergency Solar Power Intervention Project (RESPITE), an initiative designed to benefit new and existing electricity customers across West Africa. The project's focus is to improve the pace of grid connections for renewable energy, and strengthen the regional power grid.

The World Bank in a late December report said the West African region has one of the lowest rates of electricity access, and some of the highest electricity costs, on the African continent. Higher oil prices have contributed to financial problems for West African power companies, with oil used as a main fuel to produce power. The World Bank said the RESPITE program is the group's response to the ongoing power crisis in West Africa, and will support the deployment of renewable energy installations.

Grant for Regional Power Trading  
The RESPITE program includes a \$20 million grant to support future regional power trading, along with improving the institutional and technical systems of the West African Power Pool (WAPP).

IDA as part of the initiative will finance the installation of 106 MW of photovoltaic solar power with energy storage. It also will support another 41 MW of hydropower generation capacity. The nations of Togo, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Chad also will benefit from upgrades to the regional electricity transmission and distribution grid.



Rhonda Jordan-Antoine, leader of the RESPITE program for the World Bank, said the program will bring "substantial benefits" for the region, and support new energy solutions.

"Solutions supported by the new project are manifold and have substantial benefits for the countries and the region. Among others, it will provide fiscal space for countries to address food crisis resulting from the war in Ukraine, initiate development of competitively tendered grid-connected clean energy to alleviate current power supply crisis, positively address climate change by help-

ing countries to move away from expensive and polluting fuels, and help synchronize the WAPP network to enhance regional integration in the energy sector," said Jordan-Antoine.

#### Regional Integration Efforts

Boutheina Guermazi, World Bank Director for Regional Integration for Sub-Saharan Africa, said that in addition to improving the reliability of electricity supply in those four countries, the project's regional approach will enhance the potential of power trading in West Africa.

"RESPITE provides benefits that spill over country boundaries and complements existing regional integration efforts in the energy sector involving all member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)", said Guermazi. "It provides economies of scale, increases potential for regional trade through investments in transmission and generation infrastructure to integrate the markets physically, and develops regional public good by facilitating knowledge sharing and capacity building."

The IDA is the World Bank's fund to support the world's poorest nations. The pro-

gram, established in 1960, provides grants and low- to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve the quality of life in those countries. The association is among the largest sources of assistance for the world's 76 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa, according to the World Bank, which said that since its inception the IDA has supported development work in 113 countries.

—Darrell Proctor is a senior associate editor for POWER

## Somalia needs macro-economic stability

THE World Bank country representative for Somalia Kristina Svensson spoke to James Anyanzwa about the bank's commitment to supporting Somalia's social-economic and political reform programmes.

**Question:** What is the World Bank's assessment of the socioeconomic reforms in Somalia so far?

**Answer:** Somalia has come very far in the last two years and they have done that through a lot of hard work from the Somali side and a lot of support from ourselves and international partners.

They have prepared the ninth development plan (NDP 9), which covers the period 2020 to 2024, and implementing this plan for at least one year is one of the requirements for Somalia to be eligible for full and irrevocable debt relief, which they will be reaching out

for when they reach the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) completion point.

Unfortunately, just as the NDP 9 was approved in March 2020 Covid-19 started and the country was also hit by floods and locust infestation. At that point, the economy contracted by 0.3 per cent against a projected growth of 3.5 per cent.

These triple crises reduced demand for Somali exports - dominated by livestock, - caused damage to infrastructure and a decline in agricultural production. This has continued even after 2020 and has been compounded by the war in Ukraine.

Somalia is dependent on imports and the high prices of grain and oil directly affect Somali consumers and particularly the poor, who spend more than 70 per cent of their consumption on food.

Now we are in the middle of one of the worst droughts that Somalia has seen in 40 years and this again means a limited possibility for domestic production.

The conditions in Somalia have been tough and economic resilience needs to be strengthened.



People walk in a street in Mogadishu, Somalia on December 22, 2020. The conditions in Somalia have been tough and economic resilience needs to be strengthened.

**Q:** How soon will the country be fully eligible to borrow?

**A:** Somalia could reach the HIPC completion point at the end of 2023. But to do that the authorities need to maintain macroeconomic stability, which is not easy with all these shocks hitting the economy.

They need to maintain satisfactory progress under the IMF Extended Credit Facility and to complete structural reforms, which are the HIPC completion point triggers in health, education and social protection.

Somalia also needs to complete negotiations with all the remaining creditors.

**Q:** How is the Bank helping plug the gaps left by insecurity and conflict?

**A:** Our programme is focused on three main areas: First is support to building systems and institutions and improving governance and service delivery. We support the continued strengthening of government systems and public financial management systems and audit their intergovernmental fiscal transfers.

The second component of our support is towards the creation of an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive.

The third area, which we have

stepped up is the focus on resilience. We have a social safety net programme that provides cash transfers through the leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. We also have an emergency window called the shock response window that is benefiting over two million individuals. The second programme is a water and agriculture project that supports the strengthening of the resilience of rural communities.

One of Somalia's problems is the lack of data on key sectors of the economy. How does the Bank support Somalia to address this?

One of the first projects we approved was the Somali Integrated Statistics and Economic Planning Capacity Building project, which has been implemented since September 2020. We also financed the Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey, which would be the basis for measuring development and progress in reducing poverty and also providing new sustainable development goals indicators including general equality and access to finance and land ownership.

But of course, the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics needs continuous support to start estimating GDP from the production approach and harmonised consumer price index.

**Q:** How does the Bank ensure accountability for what it gives?

**A:** We are continuously working with the Somalis to strengthen their systems and their own accountability.

We also follow the World Bank controls. Somalia is high risk and we apply the highest mitigating measures that the World Bank does in any country, including 100 per cent prior review for procurement.

We also use third-party monitoring agents that we can deploy to certain projects to provide valuable information about cases.

Finally, we are also using a lot of innovative tools, for instance, dashboards, to see the progress of certain infrastructure projects in real-time.

**Q:** How much funding is in the pipeline from the Bank toward Somalia?

**A:** We have a three-year IDA cycle for all countries that started in July. Under that Somalia has been allocated an envelope based on population and needs.

Because Somalia is a fragile post-conflict country, it gets additional financing. So, it is about \$800 million for the three years. So far, we have approved close to \$350 million.

Since the HIPC decision point in March 2020, we have built up a portfolio of close to \$2 billion of committed funds.

## WORLD

## Former pope Benedict is 'very sick', Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY

FORMER pope Benedict, 95, who in 2013 became the first pontiff in 600 years to step down, is "very sick," his successor Pope Francis said yesterday.

"I would like to ask all of you for a special prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict, who, in silence, is sustaining the Church," Francis said in a surprise announcement in Italian at the end of his weekly general audience.

"Let us remember him. He is very sick, asking the Lord to console and sustain him in this witness of love for the Church, until the end," Francis said, speaking in Italian.

There was no immediate comment from the Vatican on the state of Benedict's health. Phone calls to the former pope's residence in the Vatican were not answered.

Until a few weeks ago, those who had seen

Benedict said his body was very frail but his mind was still sharp.

One of the latest known photographs of Benedict was taken on Dec 1, when he met the winners of a prize for theologians named after him. He was seated and looked exceptionally weak.

Since his resignation Benedict has been living in a former convent inside the Vatican gardens, with his secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein, and a few other aides and medical staff.

Benedict announced his intention to resign on Feb 11, 2013, shocking a meeting of cardinals. He said he no longer had the physical and mental strength to run the Church.

He formally stepped down on Feb. 28 that year, moving temporarily to the papal summer residence south of Rome while cardinals from around the world came to Rome to



This photo taken and handout on August 27, 2022 by The Vatican Media shows Pope Francis (right) salute Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (left) as Benedict XVI's aide Georg Ganswein looks on, as they prepare to meet with new Cardinals following a consistory to create 20 new cardinals in the Vatican. AFP

choose his successor.

Francis, the first pope from Latin America, was elected to succeed him on March 13, 2013.

While Francis has often praised the former pope, saying it was like having a grandfather in a home, the presence of two men dressed in white in the Vatican was at times troublesome.

Conservatives looked to the former pope as their standard bearer and some ultra-traditionalists even refused to acknowledge Francis as a legitimate pontiff.

Benedict, the first German pope in 1,000 years, was elected on April 19, 2005 to succeed the widely popular Pope John Paul II, who reigned for 27 years.

Cardinals chose him from among their number seeking continuity and what one called "a safe pair of hands".

For nearly 25 years, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he was the powerful head of the Vatican's doctrinal office, then known as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).

Agencies

## Israel's Netanyahu seals coalition deals with rightist, religious allies

JERUSALEM

PRIME Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu finalized coalition deals with allied parties, their spokespeople said yesterday, in final steps toward his political comeback at the head of one of the most right-wing governments in Israel's history.

Netanyahu (pictured), whose bloc of nationalist and religious parties won a clear election victory last month, is expected to swear his new government in today after his Likud party finalizes two remaining deals.

But even before starting his record sixth term in office, Netanyahu has sought to quell fears at home and abroad his emerging government will endanger minority rights, harm the judiciary and exacerbate the conflict with the Palestinians.

The coalition deals with pro-settler Religious Zionism and ultra-Orthodox UTJ have yet to be formally published, but leaked clauses, recent legislation and statements by future coalition members over the past few weeks have drawn wide criticism.

Legislation ratified on Tuesday will ultimately enable the pro-settler Religious Zionism party to take up a post of second minister within the Defence Ministry, granting it broad authority over expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank - land Palestinians seek for a state.

US-brokered Israeli-Palestinian peace talks collapsed in 2014 and their revival appears unlikely, with some members of Religious Zionism advocating for the annexation of the West Bank, to which Israel cites Biblical and historical ties.

Further legislation to be brought to a vote on Wednesday, will grant new powers over police for Itamar Ben-Gvir, head of the far-right Jewish Power party, as national security minister.

Prospective coalition members' pledges to curb Supreme Court powers, anti-gay statements and calls to allow a business to refuse services to people based on religious grounds, have alarmed liberal Israelis as well as Western allies.

In statements and interviews abroad, Netanyahu has repeatedly said that he will safeguard civil rights, will not allow any harm to the country's Arab minority or to the LGBTQ community and pursue peace.

Agencies



## Envoy explains how China sees the world

WASHINGTON

LOOKING at the world as a community with a shared future naturally leads to a path of reform, opening-up and win-win cooperation, as well as peaceful development, Beijing's top envoy in Washington wrote in an op-ed published on Monday.

As reaffirmed at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in October, China is committed to its foreign policy goals of upholding world peace and promoting common development, and it remains dedicated to building a community with a shared future for mankind, Ambassador Qin Gang wrote in "How China Sees the World".

"Such an official, open declaration of the CPC's world-view sheds light on the way it engages with the world," wrote Qin in the article published on The National Interest.

Qin listed a series of reform and opening-up accomplishments that China has achieved over the past decade.

China has set up 21 pilot free trade zones and increased the free trade agreements it has signed from 10 to 19, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic

Partnership, the biggest FTA in the world.

In addition, preestablishment national treatment has been given to foreign investors across the board, and items on the negative list for investment have been reduced to 31 from the original 93.

Moreover, China's market entities have soared to exceed 160 million. According to the World Bank, China ranks 31st globally in the Ease of Doing Business, up 65 spots in 10 years. "Given this record, people should think twice about the veracity and true intentions when they hear grumbings about China 'moving backward' in reform and opening-up, or 'having lost America,'" Qin wrote.

To explain why looking at the world as a community with a shared future naturally leads to the path of peaceful development, the ambassador noted that China's development means a stronger force for peace, not a growing power poised to "break the status quo", as some call it.

## Taiwan question

He wrote that tension across the Taiwan Straits was not created by the Chinese mainland breaking the status quo, but by "Taiwan independence" separatists and



Chinese Ambassador to the US Qin Gang delivers a keynote speech at the US-China Business Council (USCBC) 2022 Gala on Dec 6, 2022, in Washington. (ZHAO HUANXIN / CHINA DAILY)

external forces continually challenging the status quo of "one China".

In the case of the East China Sea, it was Japan that attempted to "nationalize" Diaoyu Islands 10 years ago, altering the status quo between China and Japan of agreeing to put aside differences.

In the South China Sea, the status quo is that regional countries are consulting on a code of conduct that will lead to meaningful and effective rules for the region. As to the border issues between China and India, the status quo is that both sides are willing to ease the situation and jointly protect peace along their borders, he wrote.

The ambassador noted that mankind has come to the first crossroads of the 21st century after going through multiple

crossroads in the previous 100 years. The COVID-19 pandemic has not ended after three years; global economic, financial and energy crises emerge one after another; an economic recession is looming large; and more conflicts seem impending.

"At such a juncture, will the world continue to embrace a brave new century, or will it succumb to the beaten path of the last century? This depends on the choice of people of all countries, including the American people," he wrote.

If people choose to see the world from a "democracy vs. authoritarianism" perspective, it will very likely usher in a world of division, competition, and conflict. But if they view the world as a community with a shared future, then openness, cooperation

and win-win outcomes will be the fruits of their choice, he continued.

Qin recalled that during Chinese President Xi Jinping's meeting with US President Joe Biden in Bali, Indonesia, last month, Xi said the world is big enough for the two countries to develop themselves and prosper together.

The Chinese president also said China-US relations should not be a zero-sum game where one side outcompetes the other or thrives at the expense of the other, and that the two countries now share more common interests, not less.

"This is how the notion of a community with a shared future for mankind mirrors in China-US relations," Qin wrote.

He pointed out that the differences between China and the United States in terms of history, culture, social system and development path will most probably remain for 100 years.

"But as residents of the same world, we should and can listen to each other, narrow our gap in perceptions of the world, and explore a way to get along based on mutual respect, peaceful co-existence, and win-win cooperation," he wrote. *Xinhua*

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL on Tuesday launched a first-of-its-kind project to flow desalinated water from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee in the northeast of the country.

With a cost of about 1 billion

## Israel launches project to keep water level of Sea of Galilee

shekels (284 million U.S. dollars), it is one of the largest water projects in Israel, said a statement issued by the Israel Water Authority.

The project, initiated by the

authority and Mekorot, the national water company, will help keep the water level of the Sea of Galilee, a natural water source and national emergency reservoir in dry years, it added. Fol-

lowing droughts between 2013 and 2018, which caused the suspension of water pumping from the Sea of Galilee, the idea to flow desalinated seawater to the lake emerged.

The project will allow water supply throughout the year for the needs of the Israeli economy, including agriculture, alongside regular water supply to Jordan in accordance with the peace agreements between the two countries.

## Intelligent logistics gives a boost to China's development

DRIVEN by the development of a new generation of information technology, intelligent logistics is speeding up in China, giving a leg up to the country's development.

According to statistics, the overall market size of China's intelligent logistics stood at 35.67 billion yuan (\$5.11 billion) in 2020, and the figure surged to 128.05 billion yuan as of October this year, with an average annual compound growth of over 70 percent.

With digitalization, modern warehouses are no longer merely "transfer stations," but key nodes that offer targeted services. Intelligent warehousing systems now play a crucial role in the logistics sector.

In smart warehouses, cargos are sorted and moved by logistics robots, and real-time information about cargo vehicles is shown on big screens. What's more, the "last kilometer" problem is now solved by unmanned delivery vehicles that are able to carry all types of parcels.

In the warehouse of an industrial park owned by Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com in Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang prov-



A woman fetches express delivery parcels from an intelligent delivery vehicle in a national e-commerce demonstration base in Suyu district, Sugian, east China's Jiangsu province, January 2022. (Photo by Sun Dongcheng/People's Daily Online)

ince, over 100 automated guided vehicles are employed. Guided by QR codes and an inertial navigation system, these vehicles are able to precisely deliver cargos to staff

members of the warehouse.

"Warehousing is becoming smarter and smarter, turning from person-to-goods to goods-to-person," said Weng Bo, who's in charge of the warehouse.

Weng told People's Daily that the warehouse is able to handle 1,500 orders per hour, which is three times more efficient than traditional models, and the whole industrial park can process as many as 70,000 orders on a daily basis.

Resources are integrated for cargo transport, too. For instance, Wellong Etown, a logistics company based in Zhenjiang, east China's Jiangsu province, has established a smart online cargo dispatching platform that enables shippers and truck drivers to receive freight forwarding solutions on their mobile phones. With a satellite positioning system developed by the company, the departure time, locations, and destinations of delivery vehicles can all be traced.

Automated and intelligent devices are gradually being employed at the delivery

end, with contactless delivery becoming "standard configuration."

In October this year, six smart delivery vehicles of JD Logistics, a supply chain solutions and logistics services provider of JD.com, were put into trial operation in a testing base for autopilot vehicles in Shunyi district, Beijing.

These vehicles, which can recognize traffic lights, detect pedestrians and keep staying in the right lane, have a maximum capacity of 200 kilograms and a range of 100 kilometers. They are able to complete over 200 deliveries per day.

These vehicles can send parcels to service areas that are far from distribution centers and then hand them to couriers for final deliveries.

He Tian, vice president of JD.com and head of JD Logistics AI and Data Science, told People's Daily that intelligent logistics would enter a new era by 2025, in which artificial intelligence would contribute to the efficient automated development of all logistics links.

People's Daily



## Partisan politics in US leads to cruel treatment of migrants on freezing Christmas Eve

WASHINGTON/HOUSTON

ON the coldest Christmas Eve ever recorded in Washington, D.C., roughly 140 migrants were dropped off outside the residence of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

The migrants, including women and children, reportedly arrived in three buses at the Naval Observatory, where Harris lives in the U.S. capital, on Saturday night.

### MIGRANTS FREEZING IN WINTER

The arrivals included asylum seekers from a number of Central American and Caribbean countries. Some of them were not wearing adequate winter clothes while Washington, D.C. was witnessing the coldest Christmas in more than two decades. According to videos circulated on social media, the migrants – allegedly sent from the U.S. state of Texas – were given white blankets to keep themselves warm while waiting to be transferred to a local church.

Washington, D.C. had a cold weather emergency alert in place throughout the Christmas weekend due to a historic winter storm, with government officials asking residents to limit their time outdoors and dress warmly. Amy Fischer, the organizer of a U.S. migrant aid network, said that the migrants “don’t have coats” and that “they don’t have clothes for this kind of weather, and they’re freezing.”

### TEXAS GOVERNOR BEHIND RUTHLESS MOVE

Fischer’s network tweeted on Sunday that it was Texas Governor Greg Abbott who used the shelter-



Migrants seeking asylum line up at a checkpoint in Eagle Pass, Texas, the United States, on Oct. 9, 2022. File photo

seekers outside the official residence of Harris in the freezing cold.

Abbott is among at least three Republican governors who have transferred migrants from their states to cities led by Democrats this year to protest U.S. President Joe Biden’s immigration policies and what they called federal inaction to secure America’s southern border.

His office said last month that the Texas state government is “taking aggressive action to aid border communities,” including busing thousands of migrants to Washington, D.C., New York City, Chicago, and Philadelphia. White House spokesperson Abdullah Hasan pointed a finger at the Abbott administration, calling the busing of migrants “a cruel, dangerous, and shameful stunt.” “Governor Abbott abandoned children on the side of the road in below-freezing temperatures on Christmas Eve without coordinating with any federal or local authorities,” Hasan said.

### VICTIMS OF U.S. PARTISAN POLITICS

While the White House spokesperson claimed

that the federal government has done what needed to tackle the immigrant issue, state governments like Abbott’s continue complaining about the administration’s failure on the problem.

“We are willing to work with anyone – Republican or Democrat alike – on real solutions, like the comprehensive immigration reform and border security measures President Biden sent to Congress on his first day in office,” Hasan said.

“But these political games accomplish nothing and only put lives in danger,” Abbott’s spokesperson, Renae Eze, responded in a statement on Monday that “the White House is full of a bunch of hypocrites led by the Hypocrite-in-Chief who has been flying plane loads of migrants across the country and oftentimes in the cover of night.”

Eze stated: “These migrants willingly chose to go to Washington, D.C., having signed a voluntary consent waiver available in multiple languages upon boarding that they agreed on the destination.”

Abbott penned a letter to Biden last week, demanding that his administration “immediately

deploy federal assets to address the dire border crisis,” particularly in El Paso, a border city with Mexico.

“These communities and the state are ill-equipped to do the job assigned to the federal government – house the thousands of migrants flooding into the country every day,” the letter read. “The need to address this crisis is not the job of border states like Texas,” Abbott wrote, urging the U.S. president to defend the borders and regulate the nation’s immigration.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which is tasked with protecting the country’s borders, said in a statement on Saturday: “Individuals and families attempting to enter without authorization are being expelled, as required by court order under the Title 42 public health authority, or placed into removal proceedings.”

The DHS referred to a policy that allows U.S. border officials to swiftly expel migrants and asylum-seekers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily halted the expiration of Title 42. Abbott’s office said thousands of individuals illegally cross into Texas every day and those numbers are expected to increase if Title 42 expulsions end. “Texas is left to pick up the pieces of the border disaster caused by the Biden administration,” Abbott said in an interview with Fox News.

Biden previously accused Abbott and other Republican state officials of “playing politics with human beings.” “What they’re doing is simply wrong,” he said during an event in September.

“It’s reckless and we have a process in place to manage migrants at the border.” According to Alejandro Portes, a University of Miami law professor, there are 12 million undocumented immigrants already in the U.S. and every attempt to bring about some process of regularization has been blocked in Congress by the far-right wing of the Republican Party over the past several administrations.

Xinhua

## Ukraine ‘peace plan’ must factor in Russia’s four new regions, Kremlin emphasises

MOSCOW

NO “peace plan” on Ukraine is possible if it does not account for four new regions joining Russia, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday.

“To begin with, so far, there is no Ukrainian ‘peace plan’ of any kind,” the Kremlin official said replying to a request to comment on Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky’s initiative to come up with a “peace plan” by February when he would like to hold a “peace summit” at the UN.

“And again, no Ukrainian ‘peace plan’ is possible if it does not take into account the modern reality – with Russia’s territory, with four new regions joining Russia,” Putin’s press secretary stressed. “Any plan that does not take into account these circumstances cannot claim to be a peace plan,” he added.

Earlier, the Ukrainian leader told a joint meeting of Congress following his talks with US President Joe Biden that the two had discussed Kiev’s proposals to settle the Ukrainian conflict. According to Zelensky, Biden supported Ukraine’s initiative to hold a global peace summit to discuss these proposals. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba said that Kiev intended to hold a “peace summit” at the UN by the end of February and suggested that the organization’s Secretary General Antonio Guterres serve as a mediator with Guterres expressing readiness to do so.

From September 23 to September 27, the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) and the Lugansk People’s Republic (LPR) as well as the Kherson Region and the Zaporozhye Region held a referendum where the majority of voters opted to join Russia.

Agencies

## China trains young Ugandans to take charge of budding oil industry

KAMPALA

UGANDA has a budding oil industry that experts project will fast-track the country’s economic development once commercial production starts. Back in 2014, Lamech Mbangaye dropped his studies in insurance and followed the oil dream. Mbangaye wants to be part of this oil journey.

His family was full of excitement when he got a scholarship sponsored by China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) to go and study in China.

Mbangaye was uncertain of what would happen at his university, China University of Petroleum in Shandong Province, with a new community and culture, far from home.

He told Xinhua in a recent interview that he took his mother’s advice to go with respect and humbleness as he pursued his studies. Mbangaye did not disappoint, he qualified as a petroleum engineer, and his sponsor offered him a job in 2018.

“I came in as a trainee at the lowest level, and I started dealing with these very experienced professionals who are teaching me about drilling engineering,” Mbangaye said.

“Oil and gas is something new in Uganda, something with which we did not have a lot of

experience. Over these four years, I have been interfacing with so many different aspects of engineering.” Mbangaye is among thousands of young Ugandans gaining knowledge and skills from China to prepare them to take on the country’s oil sector.

CNOOC provides scholarships to best-performing yet underprivileged students, as part of the company’s Corporate Social Responsibility works.

The Chinese oil giant is one of the largest oil and gas companies in Uganda’s energy sector and owns one-third of its interests in the country’s oil sector. Ritah Nasaazi, also a petroleum engineer, is another beneficiary of CNOOC’s scholarship program.

Nasaazi, a fishmonger’s daughter in the remote Kikuube district, on the shores of Lake Albert, shared by Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, defied all odds and won a scholarship to study in China; and in return, CNOOC offered her a job.

“I was driven by the fact that it is a new industry in the country, so basically I really wanted to get involved as a woman with my background so that a woman can join an engineering sector and be part of a growing sector,” Nasaazi told Xinhua in an interview in October.

Away from the high skills, Chinese engineers and technicians in different companies are passing on skills to Ugandan youth.

Building, welding and road construction are all critical skills that are needed in the oil and gas sector, according to Uganda’s Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).

Mbangaye is optimistic that as he continues to acquire more knowledge and skills from his Chinese counterparts, he will pass on the skills to Ugandans. CNOOC and France’s TotalEnergies in February announced the Final Investment Decision (FID) to start commercial production in Uganda. FID is the detailed plan that an oil company will follow to develop an oil field.

The 10-billion-U.S.-dollar project, according to the MEMD, includes the development of the oil wells and the construction of a crude oil pipeline that will transport the oil from the wells in the Albertine Graben in western Uganda to the Tanzanian seaport of Tanga.

The 1,445-km pipeline, estimated to cost 3.55 billion dollars, will be the world’s longest-heated pipeline. The first oil is expected in 2025 after completion of construction in the next four years, according to the energy ministry.

The project will generate about 160,000 jobs besides provisions of goods and services. Uganda in 2006 discovered 6.5 billion barrels of oil, of which 1.4 billion barrels are commercially viable, according to the MEMD. Xinhua



**I was driven by the fact that it is a new industry in the country, so basically I really wanted to get involved as a woman with my background so that a woman can join**

## US university discloses unethical experiments on prisoners

SAN FRANCISCO

THE University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), has unveiled an internal investigation about unethical medical experiments on at least 2,600 incarcerated men in the 1960s and 1970s.

The experiments included putting “pesticides and herbicides” on the men’s skin and injecting them into their veins. In one experiment, “small cages with mosquitos” were placed close to the participants’ arms or directly on their skin to observe “host attractiveness of humans to mosquitos,” the investigation showed.

The men were paid for participating, but the investigation raised ethical concerns over how the research was conducted. In many cases there was no record of informed consent.

“Only one of the remaining 13 publications indicated that informed consent was obtained from its seven human subjects and that the study had been approved by UCSF’s Committee for Human Research,” the UCSF said in a report.

Two UCSF dermatologists – Howard Maibach and William Epstein – had conducted the experiments at the California Medical Facility, a prison hospital in Vacaville, the report said.

Maibach and Epstein were trained at the University of Pennsylvania by Albert Kligman, a dermatologist who was found to have conducted the unethical research on prisoners, most of whom were Black men, at Holmesburg Prison in Philadelphia from the 1950s to the 1970s, the report said.

Both Kligman and Epstein died, while “Maibach is currently still an active member of the UCSF faculty,” the university said.

Arthur Caplan, professor of bioethics at New York University’s Grossman School of

Medicine, said informed consent is the core protection against involuntary experimentation.

“Consent shows basic respect for dignity and autonomy of the person,” Caplan was quoted by The San Francisco Chronicle as saying.

The Nuremberg Code of the late 1940s established that “the voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential,” Caplan said.

UCSF Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Dan Lowenstein apologized in a statement for the university’s role in the harm caused to the subjects.

“UCSF apologizes for its explicit role in the harm caused to the subjects, their families and our community by facilitating this research, and acknowledges the institution’s implicit role in perpetuating unethical treatment of vulnerable and underserved populations – regardless of the legal or perceptual standards of the time,” Lowenstein said.

The public, shocked by the news, expressed their concerns and said the university should do more.

“An apology isn’t enough. Conducting harmful medical experiments on a population of incarcerated, vulnerable men is disgusting. It is inhumane, it is criminal. One of the researchers is still at the university. He should be fired immediately,” said Dyjuan Tatro, a resident in New York.

Violating the Nuremberg Code “doesn’t need an apology. It needs justice,” said Rupa Marya, a doctor of medicine.

“The University of California system, not just UCSF, must thoroughly review its involvement in medical and psychiatric research involving incarcerated people. The same goes for all other universities,” said Ray Phillips, a retired college administrator.

In September 2021, Chinese researchers collected the seeds of *Desideria himalayensis* at an altitude of 6,212 meters at the East Rongbuk Glacier on Mount Qomolangma, setting a new record for plant seed collection at the highest altitude in China.

In July this year, seeds of five species of plants collected during the seed-collection mission on Mount Qomolangma successfully germinated after being preserved in cold storage at minus 20 degrees Celsius for nearly a year.

The success of the germination experiment means that China has collected and preserved the seeds of a plant found at the highest altitude globally so far and laid a foundation for relevant research into germplasm resources in the future.

On Sept. 24, 2021, Guo Yongjie, Zhao Yanhui, and the other six members of the team tasked with the seed-collection mission climbed Mount Qomolangma for the second time, following their first trip in August.

## Story behind re-germination of seeds collected on Mount Qomolangma

Prior to that, only 15 species of plants were publicly known to have been collected at a height of over 6,100 meters.

In the area referred to as the “forbidden zone of life”, where it is windy, extremely cold, and lacks oxygen, researchers must be very careful with every step they take on their way up the mountain.

The team set off from the transition camp at an altitude of 5,800 meters, and reached a height of around 6,200 meters several hours later.

“*Desideria himalayensis*,” Guo cried at the sight of the plant that wears camouflage colors. After recognizing the plant growing in a crevice, Guo immediately laid on his stomach to take pictures

of it from all angles and recorded the altitude and other information about the spot where the plant was found.

The plant that grew at an altitude of 6,212 meters was the first plant they found at altitudes above 6,000 meters. What made Guo more excited was that some of the siliques of the *Desideria himalayensis* had split, which meant the team had a chance to collect the seeds of the plant.

Just after Guo collected the *Desideria himalayensis*, Mount Qomolangma in the distance revealed itself. Seeing the tiny, fragile branches of the plant sway in the wind in stark contrast to the snow-capped mountains in the distance, Guo thought to himself, Mount Qomolangma is awe-

inspiring, but the tenacity of life is by no means inferior to it.

The seeds collected from Mount Qomolangma were quickly sent to the institute which launched the seed-collection mission – the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species in the Kunming Institute of Botany under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Kunming, the capital of southwest China’s Yunnan province.

“Information about the seeds, such as the time when they were collected, the longitude, latitude, and altitude of the spots where they were collected, as well as the species, the initial quality and quantity of the seeds, must all be put into the database in a timely manner, so that it can be useful for future research and ecologi-

cal restoration efforts,” said Qin Shaofa, head of the seed management team at the seed storage center of the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species.

According to the standards set by the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species, a complete seed sample needs to have at least 2,500 seeds, with around 10,000 seeds being the best case. However, since seeds are scarce at high altitudes of Mount Qomolangma, it is hardly possible to collect 2,500 seeds, so researchers can only try to collect and preserve as many seeds as possible first.

Qin and his team members put the seeds of plants including *Desideria himalayensis* and *Saussurea gnaphalodes* in the main drying room after counting and

weighing them. After being kept in an environment with a temperature of 15 degrees Celsius and an air humidity of 15 percent for a month, the water content of the seeds were reduced to around 5 percent.

The precious seeds of plants such as *Desideria himalayensis* and *Saussurea gnaphalodes* entered a “dormant period” in a low-temperature and dry environment, and were then sealed up and put in cold storage for long-term preservation.

“It’s possible that these seeds will live several decades and even more than a thousand years in an environment with a constant temperature of minus 20 degrees Celsius,” Qin said.

In July this year, the seeds of five species of wild plants collected on Mount Qomolangma, namely *Desideria himalayensis*, *Saussurea gnaphalodes*, *Pedicularis cheilanthifolia*, *Oxytropis microphylla*, and *Hippophae tibetana*, were taken out of the cold storage by Yang Juan after being kept there for nearly 10 months. **People’s Daily**



Silent Ocean marketing manager Mohamed Kamelanga (L) speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he officially announced a motivation of Tsh. 30m to Tanzania Prisons players if they will defeat Simba Sports Club in their Premier League match to be held at the Benjamin Stadium tomorrow. From right are Tanzania Prisons captain Benjamin Asokile, the team's information officer, Jackson Mwafulungo, and Ajabu Kifukwe, the team's secretary general. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Feisal Salum tug-of-war a rewinding of George Mpole, reveals club weaknesses

By Correspondent John Kimbute

**P**REMIER League leaders Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, are engaged in an earnest war of words with their erstwhile top midfielder Feisal Salum, otherwise known as 'Fei Toto', for a seemingly daring move to shift his loyalties to across the city rivals Azam FC.

It is likely to be the first time a high level player contention is occurring between one of the traditional rivals and another side rather than between the two sides, as was the case with Emmanuel Okwi, Bernard Morrison, and even Senzo Mbatha Masingiza at management level. This shows the contention is now triple.

Contending for the loyalty of a player is a barometric illustration of where two clubs stand in terms of ability, where the Azam FC raid in the Yanga camp is a reminder of the past raid in the Simba SC camp by Egyptian giants Al Ahly and Morocco's RS Berkane.

Al Ahly took hold of Simba's midfielder Luis Miquissone, whereas RS Berkane roped in Simba's other midfielder Clatous Chama.

RS Berkane eventually dropped Chama who has remained as high flier at Simba as he was earlier, despite several new signings.

Opting for a particular player to break the bank shows both the strength

of the rival club, ability to disrupt the contract or its weakness, its limits.

When a club sells a player there is an indication both of strength and weakness, namely that they make a commercial gain and could obtain a comparable player even at lower the sum.

The difference in this case is that Feisal Salum is now being treated in like manner as the professionals they recruit from outside, in which case Yanga are trying to stick to their advantage of using the player at a fraction of the proper market value.

It is realized when someone comes up and floats that price.

A range of commentators and especially in the fan base rather than pundits as such are trying to focus on terms and conditions of Yanga's contract with the player, in ways that quite a few of us find to be unrealistic and mixed up.

They agree there is a contract purchase or disruption clause in the player's contract, and then quickly affirm that it can be used only if there are conditions for it to be invoked, including unmet complaints on the player's part. It doesn't sound logical as an affirmation.

The contract breaching clause involves a situation where the player simply wants to leave, where it is the price that is stated, whereas conditionality is applicable in case the player wishes to break free of the club



Feisal Salum

on account of dissatisfaction.

Pro-club analysts are trying to make it out that it is due to these prior complaints that the player wishes to leave, that he accepted that approach from the rival club due to complaints.

The point is that when a player is prepared to purchase the contract or rather pay for its breaching, the reasons (complaints, hence) are evidently negated.

Were it that the player wants to leave for free while under contract, complaints would need to be sorted out as even then the player would still have a right to leave, but if it is totally non-procedural, he can be banned from the game for a certain period.

Refusal of contract cessation cheque amounts

to trying to hold the player by compulsion, annul that clause and simply elevate the expiry of contract element, which is unworkable.

Geita Gold FC has seen the light, to allow attacker George Mpole to move to greener pastures in DR Congo, 'Fei Toto' will torment Yanga right here.

There are at times clauses in player contracts to bar them being purchased by other league rivals, but no one has suggested that any such clause exists in this case.

In that case, the player ought to move the way others moved earlier, especially that there is now an atmosphere of acrimony surrounding the player, which inhibits his being included in the team.

It thus implies that

Yanga can only feign refusal of the statutory sum at their own peril, as eventually he will be a free player on account of unbridgeable discord with club leadership, or a veneer of contempt for its coaches.

It is unclear whether the Yanga leadership posture in the matter is designed to make it hard for the player to feature for Azam FC at least in this season, or it is supposed to be a principled position on his departure.

Prolonging the contention such that the player is not approved by the soccer federation and the Tanzania Premier League Board to appear for Azam FC is plausible, but it then leads to the second scenario.

At the end of the season the player will leave as a free agent, for discord.

The Yanga leadership position reminds one of a joke cracked by the late Augustine Mrema, when he was Home Affairs minister in the 1990s, saying that his next door tribal neighbours in Kilimanjaro 'sell a cow to win a case involving a hen.'

Yanga leaders appear bent to win the war of words with 'Fei Toto' rather than take the statutory sum, 100m/- or thereabouts, and risk losing both the player and the sum at the end of the season.

They want a one sided contract where the club decides.

## The Year of the Slap: Pop culture moments in 2022

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Taylor Swift was up. Elon Musk was in, out, in and maybe out again. Tom Cruise was back. BTS stepped aside, and so did Serena Williams, and Tom Brady too – oops, scratch that.

But the slap? The slap was everywhere.

Ok, so maybe it wasn't on the level of a moon landing, or selection of a pope. But henceforth all you need say is "the slap" and people will know what you mean – that moment Will Smith smacked Chris Rock at the Oscars and a global audience said, "Wait, did that happen?" Even in the room itself – maybe especially in the room itself – there was a sense everyone had imagined it, which helps explain why things went on as normal, for a bit.

The pandemic was over, phew! Well, of course it wasn't. But live entertainment pushed forward in 2022, with mask mandates dropping and people rushing to buy things like, oh, Taylor Swift tickets!

We'll take any segue to mention Swift, who already had a big year in 2021, but just got bigger – heck, she broke Billboard records and then she broke Ticketmaster. (No word if she got her scarf back).

It was a year of celebrity #MeToo cases like Harvey Weinstein (again), R. Kelly (again), Kevin Spacey, Paul Haggis, Danny Masterson. And the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard defamation trial, its every excruciating turn captured on TV.

On the big screen, there were big comebacks. Mourning its dearly missed star, Chadwick Boseman, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" was a box office triumph. James Cameron's "Avatar" made a splashy December return.

Then there was Cruise, turning 60 in '22 just like the Rolling Stones, swooping into Cannes with his most successful movie and showing, like those still-touring rockers, that when they tell you "The end is inevitable," as they do in "Top Gun: Maverick," you can always reply: "Maybe so, sir, but not today."

Will audiences one day find Cruise – or the Stones, for that matter – too wrinkled and past the sell-by date? Maybe so, but not this year.

Our annual, totally selective journey through a year in pop culture:

### JANUARY

It's GOLDEN GLOBES time. But is a Globes with no telecast, boozy celebs or red carpet a Globes at all? The embattled Hollywood Foreign Press Association, reeling from stunning failures over diversity, holds a private event and plans a comeback next year. Hey, remember the original wardrobe malfunction? Well, JANET JACKSON says she and JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE have moved on, and so should we. The New York

Times buys Wordle, and we're all thinking in five-letter words (though W-O-R-D-L-E is six, just saying.) Meanwhile, it's a month of loss, heading off a year of loss: pioneering Black actor, director and activist SIDNEY POITIER dies at 94.

### FEBRUARY

What would a year in pop culture be without BRITNEY? Just months after her liberation from her restrictive conservatorship, Spears is reported to have signed a mammoth book deal, but at year's end we're still waiting for news. RIHANNA is pregnant! TOM BRADY retires! (Stay tuned, on that one.) TAYLOR watch: JAKE GYLLENHAAL speaks out, saying he really has nothing to do with that song.

### MARCH

Quick, who wins Oscars this month? Well, "CODA" does, a feel-good drama with a largely deaf cast, and TROY KOTSUR becomes the first deaf actor to win an acting Oscar. Alas, all anyone can talk about is – you know. SMITH, who wins the best actor award not long after slapping Rock over a joke about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, won't truly address the issue until the end of the year, so keep reading. KARDASHIAN watch: Kim K is declared legally single again in her ongoing divorce with YE, the rapper formerly known as KANYE WEST. And BRADY, retired for 40 days, says, "Never mind!"

### APRIL

It's GRAMMY time, and JON BATTISTE wins big, taking five statuettes. The musician's huge year will later include performing at the first state dinner of the Biden administration, for French President Emmanuel Macron. The next day Macron will meet with MUSK (thanks for the segue, Monsieur le President) who begins his acquisition of TWITTER this month, leading to untold – and still unfolding – changes at the social media giant.

### MAY

So imagine you're sipping cocktails at the MET GALA and a musician comes sauntering through, playing the melodia – of course it's BATISTE, because the Met Gala's that kind of crazy party. The biggest splash of the night, though, is KARDASHIAN, on the arm of boyfriend PETE DAVIDSON, wearing the same sequined, skin tight gown MARILYN MONROE wore to sing "Happy Birthday" to JFK in 1962. In movies, "Top Gun: Maverick" opens, the highest-grossing domestic debut in CRUISE'S career, and his first to surpass \$100 million on opening weekend. HARRY STYLES fans rejoice! His album, "Harry's House," is here.

### JUNE

Stunning news for the global fanbase of BTS as the K-pop supergroup announces it's taking a break to focus on members' solo projects. On



Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock on stage while presenting the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

the legal front, a Virginia jury hands DEPP a victory in his very messy libel case over allegations of domestic abuse, finding that former wife HEARD defamed him in a 2018 op-ed. On a happier note, Britney gets married...

### JULY

Only one wedding, Britney? BENNIFER has two! Maybe what happens in Vegas usually stays in Vegas, but not when you have 227 million followers on Instagram. With a winking reference to being a "Sadie" (married lady) JENNIFER LOPEZ directs fans to her newsletter where she shares pics of her quickie wedding to BEN AFFLECK. "Love is beautiful," she writes. "And it turns out love is patient." Speaking of patience, fans of BEYONCÉ are rewarded for theirs with the release of her long-awaited "Renaissance," her first solo album in six years.

### AUGUST

So, we were saying ... Ben-

nifer's second wedding, on Af-fleck's compound in Georgia, is bigger and fancier. One wedding, one split: KARDASHIAN and DAVIDSON are no longer. In other summer news, the world remembers PRINCESS DIANA, whose shocking death happened 25 years ago, and whose life is being rehashed for a new generation in the current season of "The Crown." Only days after the anniversary, that same Netflix series will pause production as a mark of respect for QUEEN ELIZABETH II as Britain – and the world – mourn the beloved monarch, who dies at age 96 after more than 70 years on the throne.

### SEPTEMBER

Mounting political intrigue in Europe, and by that we mean, did spit fly at the Venice premiere of "Don't Worry Darling"? Either way the movie, directed by OLIVIA WILDE and starring her boyfriend (alleged spitter STYLES), is saddled – or blessed? – with more than its share of extracurricular drama. At the EMMYS, behold SHERYL

LEE RALPH, who wins for "Abbott Elementary" and schools the crowd on the power of dreams and self-belief. "This is what believing looks like," she says. You know what else believing looks like? Rachel Berry from "Glee" – aka LEAMICHELE – at last getting to play Fanny Brice in "Funny Girl" on Broadway. In sports, with four rueful words that resonate with working moms everywhere, SERENA WILLIAMS says she's stepping aside from tennis, because "something's got to give."

### OCTOBER

The second HARVEY WEINSTEIN trial opens in Los Angeles. ADIDAS drops YE, part of a cascade of companies that will sever ties with the rapper over his antisemitic and other troubling comments. The MUSK era begins at TWITTER as the world's richest man carries a sink into the office, to "let that sink in." HEIDI KLUM's Halloween costume is a slimy, glistening rain worm. But before the month worms away

from us, let's cede it to SWIFT for dropping her new album, "Midnights" (Spotify's most-streamed album in a single day), then adding seven bonus tracks, then becoming the first artist to occupy all top 10 slots on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Let THAT sink in! P.S. Celebrity divorce watch: BRADY and ) GISELE BUNDCHEN split.

### NOVEMBER

Did we say LAST month was Taylor Swift month? Well now, millions of eager fans crowd a presale for her much-awaited Eras Tour, resulting in crashes and endless waits. Ticketmaster cancels the general sale, citing insufficient stock. Multiple state attorneys general announce investigations. Takeaway: People want Taylor Swift tickets. At the multiplex, they also want their Wakanda. "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" meets the double challenge of following up one of the biggest blockbusters in history and losing its biggest star.

### DECEMBER

Love 'em or hate 'em, here come HARRY and MEGHAN again, with a Netflix documentary watched very closely by royalty across the pond. Over at Twitter, MUSK says he'll step down as CEO – after polling users – once he finds someone "foolish" enough to replace him. Cameron's "AVATAR" sequel finally appears, 13 years after the original broke records, and yes, moviegoers flock to Pandora once again. And bringing the year full circle, SMITH emerges to promote his new film, "EMANCIPATION," hoping people will forget about ... what was it? ... at least enough to check out the movie.

In this year of comebacks, will Smith's be the biggest?

Check back with us in 2023.

AP

## Chelsea back to winning ways against Bournemouth

LONDON

CHELSEA manager Graham Potter praised the Blues' reaction to a poor run prior to the World Cup as they eased past Bournemouth 2-0 on Tuesday to end a five-game winless streak in the Premier League.

Kai Havertz and Mason Mount struck inside the first 24 minutes to get Chelsea back in the hunt for a place in next season's Champions League.

Victory took Chelsea up to eighth and within six points of the top four.

"You have to use breaks as best you can," Potter told Amazon Prime. "Evaluate and reassess and get injured players back. We used it as best we could even with players coming back at different times."

However, victory came at a cost as defender Reece James limped off on his return from the knee injury which kept him out of England's World Cup campaign.

James cruised through the first half but called for a substitution early in the second and looked disconsolate as he pointed to his knee before going to ground.

"You can see his quality. It's a blow for us," added Potter. "I'm not sure on the state of the injury. It's too early to say."

Potter, aiming to avoid overseeing a fourth consecutive Chelsea league defeat for the first time since 1998, handed Denis Zakaria his Premier League debut.

The Swiss midfielder broke forward well to drive Chelsea up the pitch in the first half, while the effervescent attacking duo of Raheem Sterling and Christian Pulisic led the Bournemouth defence on a merry dance.

Sterling provided the opener with an incisive low cross to the back post where Havertz slid in to convert in the 16th minute.

Mount doubled the lead with a well-taken drive from the edge of the box as Chelsea stepped up another gear before Pulisic had another goal disallowed for a foul by Havertz in the build-up.

After three games in all competitions without scoring a goal, the Blues were determined to end their disappointing streak and get their season back on track.

Bournemouth goalkeeper Mark Travers did well to deny James after a dynamic burst forward, then made an even better save to foil Sterling before the break to keep his team in the game.

Havertz fired wide and Mount forced Travers into a smart low stop as Chelsea tried to put the game out of sight.

AFP

## PSV announces deal with Liverpool for WCup star Cody Gakpo

MANCHESTER, England

HE WAS one of the standout performers at the World Cup and now PSV Eindhoven forward Cody Gakpo appears set to kick off the January transfer window with a move to Liverpool.

PSV announced on Monday that it had agreed an undisclosed fee for the Netherlands international.

"The 23-year-old attacker will leave for England imminently where he will be subjected to the necessary formalities ahead of the completion of the transfer," it said in a statement.

Marcel Brands, PSV's general manager, described the deal as a "record transfer" for the club.

Liverpool has yet to confirm the deal.

The window does not officially open until Jan. 1 and confirmation of the proposed transfer came as a surprise given that Manchester United was most recently linked with a move for Gakpo.

United manager Erik ten Hag has spoken of his desire to sign a forward next month after Cristiano Ronaldo's contract was terminated in November.

"We need to get a striker in, but it has to be the right one who brings quality into the team, not just adding to the squad - that only causes problems," he said. "The criteria is high here at Manchester United."

Gakpo scored three goals in the Netherlands' run to the quarterfinals of the World Cup.

"Things can change, but Cody has everything it takes to become a star," said Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal. "He has a wonderful personality to become a star player because he is open-minded to anything and everything."

Liverpool was expected to focus on strengthening midfield and manager Jurgen Klopp has been open about his admiration for England star Jude Bellingham. However, injuries to Luis Diaz and Diogo Jota convinced Liverpool to move quickly for Gakpo.

It can be difficult to conclude major transfers during the January window because of inflated prices midway through the season. But United's determination to add to its attack could see the club become one of the biggest movers in the market before the window closes at the end of next month.

AFP

# Pressure rising as Barca must cope without Lewandowski in derby

BARCELONA

ROBERT Lewandowski has taken La Liga by storm but Barcelona coach Xavi must cope without him during a busy January period, starting with a Catalan derby against Espanyol on Saturday.

The Polish striker is the division's top scorer but is suspended for three league games after being sent off in Barcelona's final match before the World Cup.

Despite being reduced to 10 men, Barcelona came from behind to beat Osasuna and move two points clear of champions Real Madrid, who are second after 14 games each.

Xavi has three options to pick from up front, with Ferran Torres, Ansu Fati and Memphis Depay vying for a start, although none of the three are natural centre forwards.

Meanwhile winger Ousmane Dembele, World Cup runner up

with France, returned to training with Barcelona on Monday and could be involved against Espanyol.

After Barca's disappointing Champions League group stage elimination, moving top ahead of the World Cup was an important morale boost for the Catalans.

The coach is under pressure to win trophies in his second season at the helm after finishing the previous campaign trophyless.

Barcelona spent big in the summer, signing Lewandowski, Brazil winger Raphinha, France defender Jules Kounde and other players, making controversial financial sacrifices to do so.

Lewandowski's arrival seemed to be paying instant dividends but after Barcelona were beaten twice by his former side Bayern Munich in Europe, pressure on them has risen.

"I am aware that we need to win titles this season," Xavi told Barca TV last week.



:Xavi

"The pressure is mainly on me. And I accept it. I thrive on challenge and one needs to be brave."

Barcelona's first chance to lift silverware this season comes in mid-January with the Spanish Super Cup.

However they must face Espanyol and Atletico Madrid in La Liga before that, along with Intercity in the Copa del Rey.

Crosstown rivals Espanyol are fighting for survival at the other end of

the table, 16th and only one point clear of the drop zone.

Coach Pablo Machin is likely to select Martin Braithwaite in attack against his former side, after a sour parting of ways last summer.

The Danish forward said he thought Xavi did not believe in him and has a chance to prove his point on Saturday.

Xavi preferred to rely on Torres, Fati and Depay as back-ups for Lewandowski instead of Braithwaite -- so further scrutiny will fall on his derby line-up selection.

Player to watch: Borja Iglesias

Real Betis striker Borja Iglesias will be out to make his mark when his team host Athletic Bilbao on Thursday.

The Spaniard is on eight goals, tied with Real Mallorca's Vedat Muriqi as the second top goalscorer in La Liga, and he can try and cut the distance on leader Lewandowski, who has 13. Furthermore, it is Iglesias's first opportunity to impress new Spain

coach Luis de la Fuente, after predecessor Luis Enrique did not take him to the World Cup.

Key stats  
2 - Barcelona hold a slim two point lead on champions Real Madrid as the season restarts

6 - Real Sociedad's Mikel Merino leads the assist charts on six goals provided for his teammates

10 - From Argentina's 26 man squad, 10 players will return to La Liga football as world champions

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today  
Girona v Rayo Vallecano (1600), Real Betis v Athletic Bilbao (1815), Atletico Madrid v Elche (2030)

Tomorrow  
Getafe v Real Mallorca (1600), Celta Vigo v Sevilla (1815), Cadiz v Almeria (1815), Real Valladolid v Real Madrid (2030)

Saturday  
Barcelona v Espanyol (1300), Real Sociedad v Osasuna (1515), Villarreal v Valencia (1515)

AFP

## Man U beats Forest 3-0, but Ten Hag wants a new striker

MANCHESTER, England

AS Erik ten Hag confirmed Manchester United's ongoing search for a new striker, his existing ones made up for Cristiano Ronaldo's departure in a 3-0 win against Nottingham Forest on Tuesday.

Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial struck first-half goals in the game at Old Trafford as United moved to within a point of fourth-place Tottenham.

However, if United's manager is to guide his team to a top-four finish in his first season at the club, he is likely to need more firepower to cover the exit of Ronaldo, who had his contract terminated last month.

Substitute Fred completed the scoring in the 87th minute - but Ten Hag was frustrated by a host of missed opportunities.

"We have to score more goals," he said. "We created so many chances and it takes us just before the end to score the third goal. We need to take this moment earlier."

Rashford struck his 10th goal of the season and Martial scored his fifth in only five starts to highlight their potential as a partnership.

But Ronaldo's exit following his explosive interview with Piers Morgan has left Ten Hag with limited options in attack.

United was linked with a move for Netherlands international Cody Gakpo, who was one of the standout performers at the World Cup. However, PSV Eindhoven announced it had agreed to sell the forward to United's top-four rival Liverpool.

"I don't talk about individual cases. We are looking for offensive players, we are looking for a striker," Ten Hag said. "It would be good because of all the games



Nottingham Forest's goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey makes a save in front of Manchester United's Antony during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022. (AP Photo)

coming, we are playing every third day and it is tough. I think we are always in the market, but it has to match the sporting criteria, but also the financial criteria.

"We do what we can to bring in any player we can."

United's attempts to bring in a top quality forward in January could be hindered by the potential sale of the club after owners, the Glazers, confirmed their willingness to consider giving up control.

It is possible Ten Hag could have to explore a loan move to help bolster his forward line.

"For the progress of the team we need to be more clinical, our players can score, you can see that," he said. "Martial is a goalscorer, Rashford is a goalscorer, Bruno (Fernandes) will score goals. We have a lot of players who can score goals but we have got to be ruthless."

Rashford's form is one source of encouragement. He has now doubled his total of five goals from last season.

His most prolific campaign came in 2019-20

when he hit 22 goals for United.

Martial has failed to live up to the expectations he arrived with since signing from Monaco in 2015, with fitness issues hampering his progress.

Ten Hag will have to hope both players can maintain their fitness and form in the second half of the campaign if United is to secure a Champions League finish.

Chelsea is also hoping to break into the top four and ended a three-game losing streak by beating Bournemouth 2-0 on Tuesday.

Chelsea had lost four of its previous five games in all competitions before the World Cup and had been winless in its previous five Premier League games.

Kai Havertz and Mason Mount

struck in the first half, but an injury to Reece James just after halftime marred the win.

The England right back, who missed the World Cup because of a knee injury, sparked fears of a recurrence of the problem.

"It's really too soon, but it's the same area so we are concerned and we'll have to see over the next 24-48 hours," Chelsea manager Graham Potter said. "He felt something there and we will have to find out the extent of it and keep our fingers crossed."

"He's been really disappointed to miss the World Cup, of course. It was a huge blow to him. You could see today his quality and what he brings to the team."

## Now show us the money, says Arnold as gutsy Australia exit World Cup

SYDNEY

COACH Graham Arnold made an impassioned plea to the Australian government for money and "a home" after his Socceroos exited the World Cup with a fighting 2-1 loss to Argentina in the last 16 on Saturday.

The Australians defied low expectations at home to reach the knockout rounds in Qatar for only the second time in their history.

They came up narrowly short against a Lionel Messi-inspired Argentina, but Arnold's side gave one of the pre-tournament favourites several real fights in the closing moments.

The 59-year-old Arnold hopes this Australian team will inspire a future generation.

But he also said the government needs to do more if the Socceroos are to perform well again at future World Cups, starting with investment.

"There's an expectation that it should just happen every time," he said, adding: "We've got to look at Australian football."

"We need to spend money and get help from the government to put money into the game and help develop kids."

Arnold also wants somewhere that can be a centre for Australian football.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Pressure rising as Barca must cope without Lewandowski in derby

PAGE 19

**5** NIRVANA  
EATV THURSDAY  
11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 WEEKEND MOVIE (r)  
13:30 Kali za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
14:30 Ujenzi (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Bongo Hits  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 NIRVANA  
21:30 TOP 10  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa (r)  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

NIRVANA is hip and edgy. It explores the latest trends in fashion, art, style and recreational activities. NIRVANA speaks to the trend makers, shapers and observers. Its a one stop shop for everything trendy.

**eastafrica RADIO**  
06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## 'Chama has a long term contract with Simba'

By Correspondents Nassir Nchimbi and Ismail Tano

THE leadership of Simba SC has cleared talks circulating on the departure and contract of Zambian midfielder Clatous Chama to the fans and members of the Msimbazi Street club.

Chama, the NBC Premier League assist leader with 10 so far, has been mentioned a lot by some fans and members as it is alleged that he may leave at the end of this season, and the leadership has been silent in the matter of signing a new contract.

Simba, through their information and communication manager Ahmed Ally, has said that Chama will not leave the club this season because he still has a long contract with the club.

"Chama signed a two-and-a-half-year contract and he has already served half of it last season and now he has already served the other half which means his contract expires in 2024.

"Nowadays, teams are not kidding when it comes to professionalism during the transfer windows. They are not doing mistakes when they want to sign your star players. So your important stars must be tied to long contracts so that they can work calmly," said Ally.

Rumors about the departure of Chama emerged after Young Africans (Yanga) found themselves fighting to keep their midfielder Feisal Salum, who is said to be targeted by Azam FC.

At the same time, Simba squad yesterday returned to the camp to prepare for the 19th round of the NBC Mainland Premier League game against Tanzania Prisons.

The players were given a break after the team returned on Tuesday to Dar es Salaam from Mwanza where they played their Premier League match against KMC FC on Monday.

Simba defeated KMC 3-1.

Simba SC will play against Tanzania Prisons tomorrow at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

## Tanzania' women cricket squad finishes third in 2022 Kenya Quadrangular Women's Series



Tanzania's national women's cricket team poses for a picture ahead of its participation in the 2022 Kwibuka Women's T20 Tournament that took place in Rwanda. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's national women's cricket side has settled for the third place in the 2022 Kenya Quadrangular Women's Series that came to a close in Nairobi last week.

Four countries namely Tanzania, Uganda, Qatar, and hosts Kenya featured in the week-long T20-formatted showdown to promote cricket among women in the region.

Perice Zakayo put scintillating all-round displays as Tanzania defeated Qatar by 28 runs in the tournament's third-place playoff played at Gymkhana Club ground in the closing day.

The encounter saw Tanzania race to 129/8 in 20 overs, having garnered chance to bat first.

Experienced performer Fatuma Omary led the batting squad's quest for an imposing total as she notched 30 runs which included three boundaries.

The opener's solid performance helped to make up for less convincing showing that fellow opener Saum Godfrey had put.

Saum was a victim of an early exit, making her way back to the pavilion with six runs.

The youthful opener's exit was however hardly a setback given fellow performers stepped up and had the squad taking control.

There were significant displays by Linda Massawe and Perice in the latter stages of the innings, in which Linda scored 26 runs not out, Perice notched 22 runs.

Hudaa Omary, slotted in as a top-order performer, chipped in with 12 runs,

clearing the boundary once.

Qatar's Aysha orchestrated the squad's efforts to keep Tanzania's batting unit in check, ending with three wickets in four overs.

Fellow bowler Rochelle Quyn chipped in with two wickets in four overs.

Qatar cricketers, in response, did all they could to mount a successful chase, only to lose steam and eventually being bowled out for 101 runs in 19.5 overs.

Perice was voted as the best player of the match, having scored 22 runs and

notched one wicket whilst giving away 18 runs.

Uganda won the Quadrangular Women's Series top honour following the squad's six-wicket victory over Kenya in the final.

Kenya's cricketers were bowled out for 80 runs in 18.2 overs when they went in to bat first.

Needing 81 runs to come out victorious, Uganda's batting unit hardly wasted time given the squad reached the target whilst dropping four wickets in 11.3 overs.

Uganda, the Quadrangu-

lar Women's Series winners, ended with victory in five ties and one loss, earning them a 1.579 net run rate.

Second-placed Kenya came out victorious in four duels and suffered loss in two ties, ending with 1.522 net run rate.

Tanzania ended third having won three duels and suffered defeat in three matches to post a 1.086 net run rate.

Bottom-placed Qatar ended without a win in six clashes they took part in and posted a -4.389 net run rate.

## We expected Azam to beat Yanga to slow them down - Ally

By Correspondents Nassir Nchimbi and Ismail Tano



Ahmed Ally

SIMBA SC information and communication manager Ahmed Ally has said that Azam FC's loss against Young Africans (Yanga) has increased agitation in competing for the Premier League title this season.

Young Africans defeated Azam FC 3-2 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, making the Premier League continue to have strong opposition in the championship race with the Jangwani Street side now being given the most chance to defend the title.

Ally said they believed Azam FC could stop Young Africans in that game to reduce their intensity of chasing the title, but it has been different and now they have to make sure they win their remaining games.

"If we say it doesn't frighten us, we will be hypocrites. The truth is, it scares us. The fear has increased after our opponents won against Azam FC.

"We considered Azam FC as a team fighting for the title this season, so we expected that they would probably be able to slow Yanga down. But it didn't happen that way and it becomes difficult now in the title race.

"Azam's defeat has given Young Africans an advantage against them (Azam) who are on third place, and now they keep thriving in the championship race. It has shocked us and now we have to be more careful knowing that more work has to be done.

"The task we have now is not only to win our matches but also to pray our opponents to lose so

that we can reduce the gap.

"The gap is shocking but it should not take away our attention. We will continue to fight for three points," said Ally.

Yanga lead the Premier League standings with 47 points, surpassing Simba SC by a difference of 6 points, after the Msimbazi team beat KMC FC at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on Monday.

Azam FC remain in third place by reaching 37 points, after playing 18 games each.

Simba will have a tough mountain to climb when they face Tanzania Prisons at the Benjamin Mkapa tomorrow.

The Tanzania Prisons leadership has been promised a motivation of Tsh 30m by their sponsor, Silent Ocean, if they will defeat Simba in the match.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

