



TAXES



KARUME FOR MORE USAGE OF EFD RECEIPTS PAGES

WATER



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Z'bar sets 50bn/- to irrigate rice farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Zanzibar government has allocated 50bn/- for irrigation infrastructure in rice cultivation, along with producing quality rice seeds.

Shamata Khamis (pictured), the Agriculture, Irrigation and Natural Resources minister for Zanzibar made this observation when visiting the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) Dakawa centre in Morogoro Region, undertaking rice research for farmers in both parts of the country.

She was leading the committee on Agriculture, Trade and Tourism of the Zanzibar House of Representatives in the tour, remarking that apart from growing rice, the government was building infrastructure for irrigation farming as part of the blue economy strategy.

Areas covered by the various irrigation schemes are soon going into production, with the committee members visiting TARI to obtain an overview of modern rice farming and the use of various technologies, she stated.



Uganda is the main rice importer from Tanzania at 136,377.9 tonnes average imports in the past three years, slightly over a half of the country's rice exports

"We saw the need to visit the research centre before engaging in production of the crop. We have gained skills that we are going to apply to ensure enhanced production," she elaborated.

The tour has enabled members to grasp issues on rice seeds available in Zanzibar, she said, noting that members will be in a better position to address the shortfalls noticed in rice farming, as they move forward.

There are challenges on inputs and subsidies since Zanzibar has no subsidies policy, she said, underlining that policy synchrony was in the offing so that the same arrangement is adopted in Zanzibar.

Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo, the director general, said the institute is ready to send its experts to Zanzibar to train officials on how to use modern technologies in rice farming, including producing seeds that are disease resistant.

TARI has 54 types of quality rice seeds doing well in most areas across the country, he said, citing statistics showing that Tanzania produced 2.6m tonnes of rice in 2020/2021 against the demand of nearly 1.1m tonnes, implying a 1.5m tonnes surplus.

Uganda is the main rice importer from Tanzania at 136,377.9 tonnes average imports in the past three years, slightly over a half of the country's rice exports, he added.

CP Diwani Athumani axed from latest post

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday revoked the appointment of former Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service (TISS) director general Diwani Athumani Msuya as permanent secretary in the President's Office.

A statement by the Directorate of Presidential Communications at the State House said the former spymaster has been replaced by Mululi Majula Mahendeka, a senior official in the same department.

The change comes on the third day since his January 3rd appointment, moved to replace Dr Moses Kusiluka who takes over as chief secretary, meanwhile as Said Masoro, erstwhile deputy director general, was appointed to head the spy agency.

Online details show that Commissioner of Police Athumani still has years remaining in the public service, as he has been in senior security positions for a total of 15 years now.

He rose to the rank of senior superintendent of police in 2008, becoming regional crimes officer for Mbeya after a stint as aide de camp to Inspector General Omar Mahita.

From then he rose fast in the ranks, to regional police commander, director of criminal investigations, becoming commissioner of police in 2015 when being appointed DCI.

He briefly went into civilian roles in 2016 when fifth phase President John Magufuli reassigned him as regional administrative secretary for Kagera, before restoring him to the security services as director general of PCCB, the anti-graft body and then taking over as TISS director general on September 12, 2019.

The former TISS top administrator was part of the team that closely consulted on the transition from the fifth phase to the sixth phase upon the death of President Magufuli.

Both top security officials he replaced were shifted to the diplomatic service, namely the then anti-graft agency head, Commissioner of Police Valentino Mlowola, and Dr Moses Kapilimba at TISS.

Erstwhile chief secretary Hussein Katanga reverted to the diplomatic service as head of mission to the United Nations headquarters and its affiliated agencies, as well as serving as ambassador to the United States.

Ambassador Katanga replaces Prof Kennedy Gastorn at the UN, where the president pointedly affirmed that there was mismanagement of funds in a key diplomatic station.



The casket of Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, who died in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican on Saturday aged 95, is carried into St Peter's Basilica yesterday ready for burial. Photo: Agencies

Minister depllores scores of levies on timber trade

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

Regional administrations across the country need to properly apply legislation governing the timber trade, the government has cautioned.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Investment, Trade and Investment minister, issued this appeal yesterday when gracing the seventh meeting of the regional business council here.

A number of business people raised concerns over government failure to find solutions to the various challenges they face, including arbitrary regulations and



Levies charged on timber have contributed to some traders abandoning the business

nuisance taxes.

"As I said, taxes are collected in accordance with the laws, you cannot change the tax laws overnight," she said, insisting that any such amendments have to undergo a thorough process.

Timber traders must pay the required three percent service levy and not be made to pay auxiliary taxes and levies, she said, expressing dismay over actions of regional secretariats and local governments to impose nuisance taxes outside actual legislation.

She explained to senior government

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Northern clerics hail rallies, constitution-remaking drive

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

RELIGIOUS leaders in Arusha Region have hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for lifting the ban on political rallies and embarking on reviewing laws and constitutional provisions to strengthen democracy.

Bishop Dr Stanley Hotay (pictured) of the Anglican Church Mount Kilimanjaro diocese, said when delivering a joint statement here yesterday that ending the ban and taking up the constitution making process is hugely important for



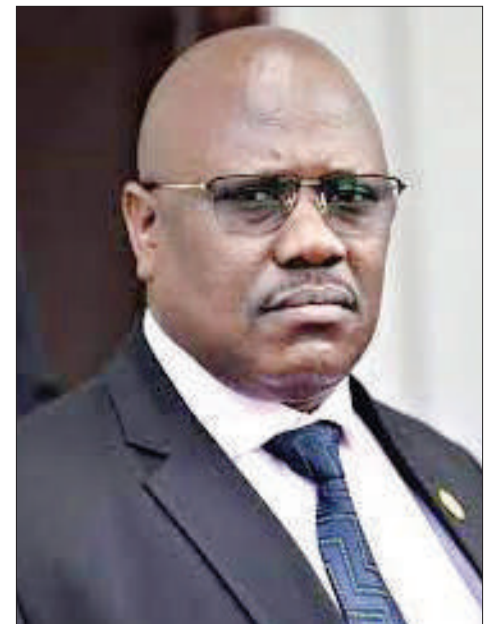
the country.

The cleric who also chairs that assembly, assured the president that religious leaders will support the review process for the benefit of current and future generations.

"We have been thrilled to hear this because we have been praying for the change," he stated, affirming that the country is now going to have a new constitution after halting for many years.

The clerics called on the government to ensure that the process engages the

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Diwani Athumani Msuya



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Northern clerics hail rallies, constitution-remaking drive

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breadth of society and stakeholders in all sectors.

"It is our appeal that this exercise commence soon to enable the country to have a new constitution and an independent national electoral commission," the bishop intoned.

Lauding the resumption of public meetings, they said that the ban ruined the political life of the country, affecting democracy and injuring political parties.

They also hailed the president for strengthening media freedom, affirming that it is an important

dimension of democracy, improving access to information and stimulating development initiatives.

"We have seen a fresh start in the New Year," the statement noted, asserting that President Samia has opened a new chapter and the move needs to be supported, while praying for her to get more blessings.

The clerics issued an appeal to political parties and the wider public to utilise the restored freedom well by adhering to the country's laws and traditions, so as to help the country achieve its development goals.

It will be a must for all to have a health insurance card, says NHIF

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THE National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) has said that it will be mandatory for everyone to have a health insurance card once the new bill to facilitate implementation of the universal health coverage (UHC) is passed into law.

Jackline Tarimo, member of UHC secretariat said this yesterday here when speaking at a health stakeholders meeting.

According to her, if the bill passes this year, then those who will not have the cards by 2026 will be barred from accessing some key services including driving licence.

"By 2026, it will be mandatory for every citizen to have health insurance, especially those who are in the informal sector will be required to show the insurance card when seeking for services in public institutions," she said.

She said that many people including drivers and university students will be required to have the card to access services such as licences as well as for joining college.

Tarimo said that health insurance will no longer remain a voluntary issue until 2026 if the bill is passed into a law this year.

"This means that after the law is enacted, it will be voluntary for some years before 2026 when the mandatory condition will start applying," she explained.

The UHC bill was read in the National Assembly for the first time in September, last year and later left after rising hot discussion among stakeholders.

Meanwhile, the Permanent Secretary, ministry of health, Prof Abel Makubi has warned health centres which have been providing defective health expenses reports so as to draw funds illegally from NHIF.

Addressing health stakeholders including regional and district medical officers and nurses, Prof Makubi said the government would not hesitate to ban operations of the centres that will be found playing such 'dirty' games.

He wanted all centres that have entered into agreement with NHIF to fulfil their obligations as per the contract.



This means that after the law is enacted, it will be voluntary for some years before 2026 when the mandatory condition will start applying

USAID advances women's economic security strategy through gender equity and equality action fund

By Special Correspondent

ADMINISTRATOR Samantha Power on Wednesday announced the roll out of the Gender Equity and Equality Action (GEEA) Fund during the launch of the US Strategy on Global Women's Economic Security.

As USAID advances the US Strategy on Global Women's Economic Security, the Agency will strive to increase incomes and opportunities for women, recognizing that this benefits entire communities, economies, and countries.

By doubling its investments in gender equality in FY 2023, USAID will expand its programming on women's economic security - from increasing their access to well-paying, quality jobs to strengthening the care economy and promoting entrepreneurship.

This commitment includes the GEEA Fund, which is starting its activities with \$300 million, including \$100 million per year in direct FY 2021 and FY 2022 appropriations and an additional \$100 million in FY 2022 appropriations attributed to the Fund.

The GEEA Fund advances economic security for women and girls by increasing their access to resources, services, and leadership opportunities and by addressing the barriers that limit their ability to participate fully in the economy. The Fund invests in partners around the world, prioritizing programs that address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19, climate change, conflict, and crisis on women and girls. The GEEA Fund is managed by USAID's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub and implemented by USAID and the State Department.

USAID's GEEA activities include the Invest in Childcare public-private partnership to support childcare in low-and middle-income countries; the Climate Gender Equity Fund to increase the availability of climate finance for women-led climate organizations and businesses; and the African Women's Trade and Investment Project to increase women's participation in leadership and management positions in trade-related industries and sectors across Africa.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (4th-L), who doubles as Mbeya Urban legislator, pictured yesterday inaugurating an electrification project the Rural Energy Agency is implementing at Makuja and Iganjo in Mbeya Region. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Minister deplores scores of levies on timber trade

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officials and the business community that President Samia Suluhu Hassan is pursuing a business and investment environment improvement policy to boost private sector performance.

"There is no economy without the private sector, you should be careful with the taxes you introduce so that you do not frustrate the private sector. We must obey the laws that govern operations in our municipalities," she explained.

Government officials and other leaders need to make sure the private sector operates comfortably for the country's economic growth, she insisted.

"When you come up with by-

laws and charges you must set it out clearly for businessmen and investors. Although no nation operates without tax collections, there should be legally set levies, she stated.

She castigated officials for ignorance of policy measures, citing cases when "a person from the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) comes around and people do not know that 13 OSHA charges have been removed."

A member of the business community was surprised that businessmen did not know that OSHA charges were removed, as when the measure was taken no public information campaign or direct information was given to

private sector operators.

This way there are loopholes of unscrupulous employees moving around to collect levies that have been eliminated in the new regulatory measures, he said.

The minister expressed surprise that the government had scrapped a number of taxes but some traders are not aware of the move, asking tax collection officers to work diligently and avoid extorting bribes, thus reducing trader complaints.

Regional Commissioner Antony Mtaka warned civil servants using the president's name to threaten people when carrying out their duties, intoning that such behaviour should stop immediately.

Edward Kazimoto, a businessman, said there were still oppressive

tax laws and poor tax assessment as at times tax collectors resort to threats in demanding tax dues from traders.

"Tax assessment is conducted in an unfriendly manner; estimations are hiked each year despite that the business is now growing compared to previous year," he said.

Sebastian Msigwa, another trader, said timber taxation is a major challenge facing traders, as administrators add other charges on up of the legally imposed three percent service levy

"Officials do not provide clear answers on the reasons," he said. Levies charged on timber have contributed to some traders abandoning the business, he added.



Water ministry permanent secretary Anthony Sanga descends a staircase yesterday after inspecting the implementation of a project meant to pump water from Lake Victoria to Tinde in Shinyanga Region and Shelui in Singida Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PRETORIA

THE South African National Defense Force (SANDF) has confirmed its participation in a trilateral maritime exercise with China and Russia.

Citing a South African online news portal 'Defense Web', the Russian News Agency TASS report said that the three navies will undertake a series of joint naval drills.

The exercise is scheduled to be held between 17 and 24 February 2023.

The eight-day long exercise will be carried out off the South African coastal province KwaZulu-Natal in the Indian Ocean.

SA, China, Russia to hold joint naval drills in KwaZulu-Natal

Encompassing from Durban to

Richard's Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, the latest iteration of exercise between the SANDF, China's People's Liberation Army - Navy (PLAN) and the Russian Navy is expected to cover nearly 160km of area.

Around two Russian Navy warships are expected to take part in the exercise.

The activities will majorly comprise gunnery training, force protection drills as well as other air

defence exercises.

The report claimed that the latest exercise has the same name, 'Mosi' or smoke, as that of the first naval exercise conducted by the three countries in the South African territorial waters.

It was held in November 2019, off the coast of Cape of Good Hope in the Atlantic Ocean, near Cape Town.

The new trilateral exercise announcement comes a few days after China and Russia concluded a

week-long joint exercise in the East China Sea.

Held between 21 and 27 December, the bilateral exercise aimed at showcasing the joint capabilities of both the nations to counter maritime security threats, while maintaining international and regional peace and stability.

In 2016, Russia and China conducted a joint naval exercise with India, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Egypt.



Morogoro Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority director Tamimu Katakweba (L) briefs Water minister Juma Aweso (R, foreground) on progress in the construction of water pumping plants in Morogoro municipality's Kiegea A and B suburbs yesterday. Looking on (C) is Morogoro legislator Abdulaziz Mohamed Abood. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

Government receives accolades on ministerial public-private dialogue

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

PLAYERS in the Forestry sector have heaped praise from the government for hosting the periodic Ministerial Public-Private Dialogue.

In their own admission, the stakeholders said the platform was the bent on improving the lucrative sector to the country's economy.

An official with the Confederation of Tanzania Forest Industries Association, Ben Mfungo Sulus said the meeting had greatly helped in addressing hiccups that had once marred harvesting of forest resources in Tanzania.

Through the platform, a total of 26 obstacles have been resolved, with many more in the pipeline, according to Sulus.

"It is worth noting that such meetings have addressed our problems and the government is even keener on resolving more," he said.

Sulus further commended the Public Sector through the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) for hosting such dialogues that he said were geared towards catapulting to the sector to greater heights.

TNBC Executive Secretary, Dr Godwill Wanga in his rejoinder, assured players in the Forestry

sector of a continued support from the government in the good name of improving the otherwise lucrative sector.

"Mindful of the importance the industry plays in the country's economy, the public sector will continuously be in touch with the private sector as we strive to iron out some of the issues that once curtailed the industry's growth," he said.

Earlier on, Tourism and Natural Resources Minister Pindi Chana informed the stakeholders that the government was aware of the ecological importance forests play, urging other agencies to support its initiative.

"The importance of forests cannot be underestimated, from conserving water to modifying local climate, the onus is therefore on us all to protect them," she appealed.

She equally reminded the players that Tanzania was now registering an increase in timber factories since it imposed a ban on export of forest products.

"It is worth noting that such meetings have addressed our problems and the government is even keener on resolving more"

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

BENEFICIARIES of the Education Fund projects in Arusha and Manyara regions have commended the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) for improving the education infrastructure in their areas.

They said the Fund had helped the improvement of the learning and teaching environment in the areas.

The salutations were given to TEA during the working visit of the TEA director general, Bahati Geuzye to the projects sponsored by the

Education Fund beneficiaries hail TEA for improving infrastructure

Education Fund in Arusha and Manyara regions where he visited the construction projects of three classrooms in Sokoni II secondary school and three other classrooms in Kaloleni primary school in Arusha city.

Other projects visited during the three-day visit recently are projects

for the construction of 24 pit toilets in Kaloleni primary school in Arusha, Gidewari primary school and Dareda secondary school located in Babati district council in Manyara region.

Also the director general also visited the construction of a science laboratory at Maganjwa Babati

secondary school in Manyara region and a funding project for students studying tourism and hospitality at the VETA-Arusha College sponsored by the Asilia Giving Institute through the Education Fund.

The executive director of Babati district council, Anna Mbogo said the science laboratory project at

Maganjwa secondary school in Babati district will boost science studies in the school as it will enable students to do practical training.

For his part, the executive director of the Arusha District Council, Seleman Msumi said, the Education Fund has enabled his council to build three modern classrooms

as well as to buy furniture such as chairs and tables which helped to reduce the overcrowded classrooms at the school.

Speaking during the visit, the director general of TEA emphasised the importance of the schools that benefited from the Education Fund to take good care of the infrastructure so that the last longer and benefits more students.

The TEA DG also visited a total of six educational infrastructure construction projects worth 360 million/- which have been provided by the National Education Fund.

Ex Z'bar president calls upon businesspeople to develop habit of claiming electronic receipts when buying, selling

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

FORMER Zanzibar president Amani Abeid Karume has called upon business people to develop a tendency of claiming electronic receipts when buying and selling goods to go in line with technological development.

Dr Karume made the call at Maisara grounds when he opened a business symposium which is part of celebration to mark 59 years of independence.

He said receipts were an important tool in keeping records together with helping the owner to keep track of records.

He said availability of such symposiums will help increase opportunities and empower business people hence contribute to national development.

The former president called upon traders to stop the tendency of issuing false records through weight and measures to gain more saying this was against the law.

He called upon the ministry of trade and industries to investigate and address challenges which emerged during the symposium.

Dr Omar Said Shaban, Minister of Trade and Industrial Development (Zanzibar) said the symposium was part of the efforts by the

government to grow the space of doing business.

He said the government launched the symposium to ensure business grows in Zanzibar and increase the national economy in the long run.

He said the government will continue to facilitate expanding room for ease of doing business by setting aside a special site for business people to meet and discuss issues.

He hailed the government and other institutions and other sponsors who worked to ensure the symposium was

held successfully.

Earlier, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry Ali Khamis said the symposium was aimed at helping business people to discuss how to produce quality products.

"The symposium cost about 277m/- which came from sponsors saying the government was working on ensuring the symposium is held every year.

The symposium brought together people from the business community both local and foreign who also took part in an exhibition.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 2002 COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

SHELL TANZANIA LIMITED (In Liquidation: Company Number 16839)

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all the interested parties and the general public that a GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held 19 January 2023 at the registered office of the liquidator, at 10:00EAT, at which the liquidator will lay an account of the winding up of the Company and provide any explanation thereof.

Liquidator (s) **JOSEPH LYIMO**
Liquidator's address **PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited, Pemba House, 369 Toure Drive Oyster Bay, P. O. Box 45, Dar es Salaam Tanzania**

Date of appointment **1 NOVEMBER 2021**
By whom appointed **MEMBERS**

Signed..... **[Signature]** Date: **27/12/2022**

Name In Block Letters: **JOSEPH LYIMO**



217216102

FARM AFRICA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Farm Africa Tanzania has been working in Tanzania since 1990 as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under the NGO Act with Certificate of Registration No. I-NGO/0008750. Its long-term objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by developing replicable community based approaches for improving agricultural productivity and sustainable land use in Tanzania.

Farm Africa is an innovative international NGO that reduces poverty in rural eastern Africa by helping farmers grow more, sell more and sell for more. We help farmers to not only boost yields, but also gain access to markets, and add value to their produce. We place a high priority on environmental sustainability and develop approaches that help farmers to improve their yields and incomes without degrading their natural resources.

Farm Africa operates under its global Strategy for the period 2021-2025 with a mission to promote sustainable agricultural practices, strengthen markets and protect the environment in rural Africa.

On 30th December 2022, Farm Africa signed a grant agreement with the World Food Program (WFP) worth TZS 4,570,092,637/= to implement a three (3) year project which will focus on increasing incomes, food resilient and jobs creations for women and youth. This will be achieved through facilitating interventions that contribute to increased food productivity, reduced post-harvest losses and building a well-functioning, higher-value market system.

The project will be implemented in Bahi, Chamwino, Chemba, Kondoa, Kongwa and Mwapwa Districts in Dodoma region, and Ikungi, Iramba, Manyoni, Mkalama and Singida Rural Districts in Singida region. This notice is in compliance with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 GN609 of 19th October 2018.

In case of further information please email: infotanzania@farmafrica.org

217216101

Women employees in Chamwino concerned over GBV challenges

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Chamwino

WOMEN employees in Chamwino District have expressed grave concerns over gender-based violence challenges at workplaces, including unfriendly working environment and infrastructures.

They claimed that the situation affects their working morale, urging the government to enhance supervision of labour laws, regulations and policies, as well as creating a friendly and enabling environment for women workers throughout the country.

They also urged the government to start setting a gender-friendly budget for female workers across the country and make sure they get their statutory rights at workplaces.

Janeth Wilson, Chairperson for the Union of Women Employees in Chamwino District called upon the government to formulate laws in accordance with the set International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s Convention 19, which states on global standards aimed at ending violence at the world of work.

She was speaking at an event organised by ActionAid Tanzania to help fight incidences of gender-based violence against women and girls within the fast-growing district of Chamwino.

"We are humbly appealing to the lawmakers to formulate regulations that adhere to ILO Convention 19, the first international treaty to

recognise the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment," she expressed.

She added: "In terms of policy, women workers are suggesting the existence of gender guidelines and policies that can be practically implemented at workplaces, protecting female workers against gender violence in the public and private sector, such as institutions and companies."

She suggested that education and awareness campaign on acts of sexual violence and its indicators must be improved across working communities through workshops, seminars, meetings, media, brochures and conferences.

Convention 19 was adopted in June 2019, by the (ILO) and came into force on June 25th, 2021.

Governments that ratify C190 are required to put in place the necessary laws and policy measures to prevent and address violence and harassment in the world of work. The Convention represents an historic opportunity to shape a future of work based on dignity and respect for all.

The ILO is now embarking on a global campaign to build support for C190, and invites constituents, stakeholders and civil society actors to get involved. The end goal is for the Convention to be ratified and implemented by national governments and legislative assemblies around the world.

Lubungo residents urge the government to hold back elephants terrorising them

By Guardian Correspondent, Mvomero

RESIDENTS at Lubungo village in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region have called upon the government to remove elephants that are roaming in the area, destroying crops and threatening their lives.

The residents however commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for sending a water project worth 400m/- something which will address acute water shortage facing them for many years but a huge threat remains to the increasing elephants.

Kasoko Tokoyeti, one of the residents said the area is facing acute shortage of water, something which forces them to travel long distances to get it.

"But due to economic challenges as well as invasion of elephants in the main water source we are sometimes forced to use water in dips during rainy season which are not safe because livestock and other animals use the same,

"So we are very happy to receive this good news on the new water projects, if you could have found us struggling with water challenges especially during dry season, you will feel pity for us, it was hard for us to engage fully in economic activities, we are fighting with elephants who come to our settlements and farms, they have eaten my mangoes and all crops," he explained.

Tokoyeti said apart from pastoralism, residents in the area engage in crop production such as maize, cassava, sugarcane and bananas, something giving them enough food but in the past three years, elephant invasion has increased thus affecting their activities.

"We haven't planted anything in our farms for three years, things have changed and previously we were producing a lot for food and commercial purposes, but since elephants started roaming in our areas," he said.

Mvomero MP, Jonas Van-Zeeland said he presented the challenge to the minister responsible for Policy and Parliamentary Coordination but there is nothing which has been done with the residents starving with others being killed with the elephants.



We haven't planted anything in our farms for three years, things have changed and previously we were producing a lot for food and commercial purposes, but since elephants started roaming in our areas



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zuberi bin Ally addresses journalists during the Mohamed VI Quran recitals competition held at the National Muslim Council headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

DAWASA and WB implementing 22bn/- water project to benefit 210,000 people

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) in collaboration with the World Bank (WB) are implementing a 22bn/- water project that will benefit 210,000 people in Temeke, Ilala and Kigamboni districts.

Stephen Urio, DAWASA project manager said that the implementation of the project that intends to improve the clean water service in the peripheral areas of the city of Dar es Salaam has continued to gain momentum and has reached 61 percent.

Urio said the project is divided into two phases of implementation

and the water source of this project is the Ruvu Up and Ruvu Down water plants as well as the deep wells of Nzasa and Kimbiji.

He added that the first phase involved the installation of water pipes of different sizes in 13 streets for a distance of 137.5 kilometers as well as connecting more than 2,000 customers.

"In this phase we have laid down 120 kilometers of pipelines and the work is going on, the connection of customers will be done in phases, especially in areas where pipelines have already been laid in Chamazi and Buyuni ward," he said.

In the second phase, Engineer Urio said the project involved the

construction of a water tank in the Somelo - Chanika area with the capacity to store two million liters of water and the laying of pipes at a distance of 69.2 km and the installation of one pump with the capacity to pump 60 million liters of water per hour.

"So far, the pipes laid for the second phase are 52 kilometers out of 69.2 kilometers," he said.

He said the project is being implemented in three districts which are Temeke, Ilala and Kigamboni within nine wards and 19 streets which are Ferry, Tunji, Magogoni, Upendo, Mwanamtoti, Butiama, Mlanzini, Dovyva, Kisewe, Magengeni, Mwembe okra, Mgeule,

Mgeule juu, Nzasa, Somelo, Kifurukwe, Uvumba, Kichangani and Yangeyange.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Nzasa Street, Hashim Yasini, asked DAWASA to supervise the implementation of the project more closely so that the people can benefit from the water service, as the people of these areas now get water through natural wells.

"We see that their speed is great, because we visit the contractors regularly and we have tried to cooperate with them when they encounter the challenge of the pipeline areas, we provide great cooperation so that the project does not get stuck," he said.



Muheza constituency legislator Hamis Mwinjuma alias MwanaFA (gesturing) pictured yesterday stressing a point to Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority director Rashidi Shabani (2nd-R) during a tour of the area where the Magoroto water treatment plant is being built. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Minister for lands in Z'bar expresses gratitude to residents of Gando village for providing area to build health centre

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Minister for Lands and Settlement Development, Rahma Kassim Ali has expressed gratitude to residents of Gando village in Pemba for providing land for the Isles's anti-smuggling force (KMKM) to construct a health centre.

The minister said this yesterday here when laying a foundation stone at construction of the site as part of the commemoration of the 59th anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution.

According to her, Gando residents have shown a patriotic heart for

putting aside political ideologies and jointly deciding to set the plot for the force.

"You are truly revolutionists, what you have done is a remarkable thing and we thank you for this, we should always live by loving each other, promoting peace and unity regardless of our political ideologies differences," she said.

She further commended KMKM technicians and labourers for the good stage they have reached in the construction of the health centre otherwise the government could have encountered high expenses to implement the project.

The minister however directed

the head of KMKM Commodore Azana Hassan Msingiri to consider wages of the technicians and labourers who are working hard to complete the project.

"Once completed, the health centre will bring relief to the force's families and citizens as it will be receiving quality health services as they are in the KMKM hospital in Kibweni, Unguja," she added.

She emphasized on the importance of ensuring that the centre is equipped with quality human resources including doctors, nurses as well as equipment as per the Zanzibar's Ministry of health guideline.

Rahma further reminded authorities to think on providing quality mother and child services so as to enable residents of Gando to access the services rescuing them from traveling long distances to seek for the same.

"I am sure that the patriotic heart which has been shown by the residents, translates that they love KMKM and that they are ready to continue supporting its operations by providing information on smuggling of various products such as cloves as well as illegal fishing," she explained.

The minister directed the permanent secretary of the Zanzibar's Land Commission to issue title deeds of the plot after the force requested the minister to help them.

At least 500 farmers in Usambara villages set to benefit from sustainable land use sample project

By Correspondent George Sembony, Muheza

MORE than 500 farmers in four villages in Muheza district's biodiversity-rich East Usambara Mountains would benefit from a pilot project, Tanga Water Fund (TWC), aimed at promoting sustainable land use, farming profitability, and plantation management in the Zigi Watershed Area.

According to Magreth Victor, the project's coordinator, the project seeks to reduce sediments flowing in the Mabayani dam, which feeds Tanga City and parts of the Muheza District, as well as to protect the ecological integrity of the Zigi River Watershed area upstream of the river.

The Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) has received USD 55,341.40 from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to support the Zigi Watershed area, where water quality is very important.

"Through UWAMAKIZI, an organisation of citizens from various villages in the Zigi River Catchment Area in the Muheza District, EAMCEF is carrying out scheduled activities and operations in four designated villages to protect the Zigi and Kihuhwi rivers.

The villages are Potwe Ndongondo, Potwe Mpirani, Kwemwewe and Ubiri. The target, according to coordinator Victor, is to reach 500 farmers. The Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (Tanga-Uwasa) is yet another project partner.

Victor said the Tanga Water Fund is a project whose proposed interventions might improve biodiversity preservation in the East Usambara Mountains. The project is currently in the design phase after completing pre-feasibility and feasibility studies.

A combination of natural and anthropogenic factors threatens the forests, which contain some of the highest levels of endemism, not only in Africa but also globally.

With an ever-growing human population, it was generally acknowledged that solving these problems would require cooperation between local communities and governing and technical bodies.

The survival of taxa that depend on wetlands, rivers, and forests would be promoted by TWF, according to Victor. The primary goal of the project, she continues, is to maintain ecosystem and service flow, safeguard the integrity of essential upstream watersheds, and increase food security for subsistence farmers by enhancing their capacity to adapt to climate-induced changes.

Meetings were used to introduce the project to the four villages that were the target audience. Beneficiaries were successfully chosen, and beneficiaries were also successfully sensitised.

The project's beneficiaries received fundamental training

in the handling, planting, and management of seedlings on the farm. At least 500 farmers in the villages received 6,000 Hass-type avocado seedlings, 3,000 clove seedlings and 6,000 cocoa seedlings as planting supplies.

Victor said that a consultant carried out a baseline survey in the four villages as a point of reference to monitor the project's progress. This is done to assess the quality and scope of change during an intervention's implementation.

She added that soil analysis was carried out in order to decide whether fertiliser or manure should be applied in order to increase crop yield.

According to Geoffrey Hilly, Director of the Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (Tanga UWASA), increased human activity has continued to harm water sources despite the adoption of bylaws governing their management.

These human activities have significantly contributed to the dwindling water supplies and the destruction of water sources. The effects of these human activities have increased turbidity and water hyacinth in the dam, and the authority has to spend a significant sum of money to fix the problem.

In the East Usambara Mountains, Tanga-Uwasa and the existing villages agreed to involve the locals in the preservation and maintenance of the environment in the regions bordering the Zigi River, which provides water to Mabayani Dam.

Hilly explained that Tanga-Uwasa extends 100 million/- annually through UWAMAKIZI to a variety of conservation initiatives.

He said it has been noticed that the authority's efforts alone come to little effect, adding that Tanga city would have enough water in the long run but only if more stakeholders support the conservation efforts.

Muheza district commissioner Halima Bulembo has meanwhile warned that the government would take stern action against miners and other people polluting water sources including Zigi River.

She asked the citizens who live near the sources to support government efforts towards that end, "including by swiftly notifying the relevant authorities on the matter so that the law takes its course before it's too late."



...soil analysis was carried out in order to decide whether fertiliser or manure should be applied in order to increase crop yield

African States asked to embrace growth of indigenous food crops

KAKAMEGA, Kenya

AFRICAN states have been asked to promote traditional food crops in the face of the ongoing debate on Genetically Modified Organisms Foods (GMOs).

An agricultural expert Doris Anjawa says that if at all the states want to adopt GMOs then they should approve genes from the local crops to preserve the traditional foods.

She however urged the government of Kenya to provide the facts about GMOs in a simplified manner for farmers in the local villages to understand and enable them participate in the ongoing discussion.

She noted that the government

should also educate farmers on what GMOs are so that in future when approved they can understand the impact and benefits of the modified crops.

A farmer, Tom Mwanje observed that the debate on GMOs is due to failure by farmers to cultivate enough food crops to feed the country.

He noted that if farmers will put their focus in planting adequate traditional crops, then there will be no need of seeking GMO crops to supplement food in the country.

Mwanje asked political leaders to support sensitization of farmers in planting traditional crops to address the challenges of food shortage and climate change.



Implementation of the third phase of Dar es Salaam city's Bus Rapid Transit project has begun in earnest along the Banda la Ngozi stretch of Nyerere Road, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

NDC teams up with Mabibo residents to spray biolarvicide to kill malaria vectors in the area

By Correspondent James Kandoya

EMPLOYEES of the Tanzania Development Corporation (NDC) yesterday teamed up with residents of Mabibo in Kinondoni District Council in the campaign to spray biolarvicide to kill malaria vectors.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Biotech Products Limited (TBPL) Fermentation operator, John Tusiwe said that the spraying exercise was part of the corporation's social responsibility.

He said every year, NDC has set a special day to participate in the community responsibilities and in this year they decided to conduct an awareness campaign.

He said it was easier to kill larva than killing mosquitoes adding that once you control larva, you can also control dengue, hydrocele and dengue fever.

"We need to embark on awareness to the community to increase uptake of the biolarvicide to kill mosquito's larvae spreading the disease," he said.

He however admitted that low awareness among the community contributed to low uptake of the biolarvicide hence the country failed to realise its dream of eliminating the deadly tropical disease, malaria.

Harrison Jackson, NDC human resources manager said that they had planned to embark on the awareness campaign to eradicate

malaria killing many people especially the children.

Jackson said TBPL resonates with the government target of eradicating the spread of malaria parasites to control the deadly disease.

"We call upon the public, municipal councils to take the product and spray in their environment to kill mosquito's larvae," he said.

He said the awareness campaign started in Dar es Salaam will also kick off in other regions to ensure the deadly tropical disease is eradicated," he said.

Jackson unveiled a future strategy to eye the market beyond the country border especially in the neighbouring countries of Kenya

and others will follow. Peter Njoka, Environment inspector from Mabibo Street, in Kinondoni district council said the awareness campaign will be held sustainably.

He admitted that unplanned streets and proper sewage systems are one of the big challenges causing standing waters favoring the growth of mosquito's larvae.

"If all regions increase the uptake of biolarvicide, I'm sure the disease will be eradicated completely in the country," he said.

TBPL is a state-of-art Biolarvicides factory that promises to wipe out Mosquito Vector Borne Diseases in Africa such as Malaria, Dengue, and Zika etc.

TBPL Ltd is a subsidiary company under Tanzania National Development Corporation (NDC). The factory is a main producer of larvicides which are Griselesf (Bs) and Bactivec.



A resident of Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam Region pictured yesterday deploying donkeys in searching for portable water, apparently with the precious liquid to be found at some distance. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

RC Sendiga vows to take severe action against all involved in selling of relief items during disasters

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

RUKWA Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga has vowed to take serious legal action against the tendency of selling relief items especially during times of disasters.

The RC made the directive when

she handed over various relief items to 256 residents of Tamasenga in Sumbawanga District who were affected by strong winds in which 45 houses were unroofed on December 16 last year.

She said there is a tendency by some victims of such incidents to sell the relief items which is against the law saying his office will not

tolerate such behavior.

"Let warn you against this tendency, I know there are some of you who have been selling the items you are given and use it for other issues including spending the money you obtain in drinking alcohol, this is not right," she said.

Sendiga named the items which were handed to the victims as 9.2

tons of maize, 200 mattresses, 200 blankets, 256 plates and 256 cups.

The coordinator for disaster management in the Prime Minister's office Doris Pantelo said there is need for relief guidance to be followed by all district councils when distributing such items.

A resident of Tamasenga Florence Maongezi said it is the right time for the people in the area to start planting trees to protect themselves from such calamities which most of the time threatens life.

Issuance of subsidised fertiliser will continue till 2025/2026 season, Bashe assures farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

THE government has assured Tanzanians that the issuance of subsidised fertiliser will continue until 2025/2026 farming season where a special evolution of the exercise will be conducted.

Agriculture minister, Hussein Bashe revealed this yesterday here when addressing stakeholders during the meeting held at the regional commissioner's office soon after completing his two-day official tour in the region.

Bashe said that the government has a number of strategies aimed to transform the agriculture sector by conducting reforms and facilitating easy access to farming inputs to increase production and productivity in the sector.

He allayed fears among farmers on the on-going exercise of supplying subsidised fertiliser complaining that it has failed to reach and benefit them and assured them that the government will address all the gaps and things will be good in the next season.

"We are well prepared to make agriculture a good payable activity for many farmers; we want to see farmers reaping big from the sector by increasing production. The government will invest heavily in digital systems to identify and register farmers across the country so as to bring closer all the needed services to the farmers," he explained.

He also said that the government will strengthen and expand services to test soil health for every farmer so as to shun away from conducting normal farming and thus increase productivity.

He said that the government was currently purchasing motorcycles for extension officers in all wards and will be installed with GPS to ensure that they are used well to serve farmers in the areas.

"The sixth phase government is very serious and keen to see the agriculture sector growing to bring productivity to farmers. We are calling upon farmers to be patient with the minor challenges they are facing with the digital system in supplying inputs as the government is mullied to ensure everything is solved," he asserted.

The minister said the government has issued 150bn/- to place subsidies in fertiliser assuring farmers that the ministry will supervise distribution

exercise to ensure that the input reaches farmers on time.

He also said that farmers are free to produce as many crops and sell them inside and foreign markets as long as he/she has secured the market.

"We will not put a ban on farmers to sell their produce outside the country as long as they have secured a market there, we know that farmers need to see productivity in their job, that's why the government supports their efforts," he added.

In addition, he wanted agents to be honest and avoid ruining the government's eagerness to transform the farming sector by not sending the inputs on time as well as selling the fertiliser at their own prices.

Zombaga Zombaga, one of the stakeholders commended the government for its efforts to address various challenges facing the agriculture sector and supporting farmers with essential inputs.

"We are thankful of what the government is doing; currently the majority of farmers can easily access inputs, the subsidised fertilisers have come to rescue farmers from high expenses and thus increasing production," he said.

He added: "Our request to the government is for it to ensure that the subsidised fertiliser are available to agents throughout the year, so as to enable farmers to access them at any time."

Rukwa Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga commended the minister for visiting farmers and projects in the region saying that his tour has helped address various challenges and responded to several issues which farmers raised.



We are thankful of what the government is doing; currently the majority of farmers can easily access inputs, the subsidised fertilisers have come to rescue farmers from high expenses and thus increasing production

PS reassures evacuated villagers of compensation

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

THE Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka, has pledged that the government will compensate all citizens who were evacuated in the villages near the Ruaha National Park (RUNAPA).

According to him, residents will be compensated according to the value of the plots which they were living in.

Speaking to residents in Iyala village where evaluation exercise is on-going, the PS said that the ministry recognised the contribution of the villagers in the country's development assuring that everyone will get his/her compensation.

"After the completion of the evaluation exercise of people's plots and properties, residents will be given their compensations and go to other areas to continue with their economic activities through farming and livestock keeping," Prod Sadoyeka explained.

Yassin Sharif, secretary of the evaluation committee said they have already educated the villagers on the importance of evacuating them as well as putting boundary beacons for them to understand and play their required role.

He explained that so far they have installed 405 stones as beacons involving small stones in a distance of 500 metres as well as big stones in a one kilometer.

Mbarali District Commissioner, Reuben Mfunne said the exercise was going well but there are a few dishonest citizens who are trying to ruin it by removing some beacons and the colour.

He directed the security and safety committee to strengthen patrols in the park so as to protect the on-going exercise and take stern measures to those ruining the good job.



After the completion of the evaluation exercise of people's plots and properties, residents will be given their compensations and go to other areas to continue with their economic activities through farming and livestock keeping



Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura (L) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday receiving a copy of the constitution of the Tanzania Police Female Network (TPF-Net) from Susan Kaganda, the force's Commissioner for Administration and Human Resources Management who is also the network's chairperson. This was shortly after the opening of a working session of the network's officials. Photo courtesy of Police Hqs

2 children die while playing after falling into water well

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

TWO children from the same family have died after they submerged into a well while they were playing with bottles at Nyantorotoro in Geita Region.

The bodies of the two children aged three and one respectively are being preserved at the Geita regional referral hospital for further investigations.

Speaking at a press conference,

acting head of the Fire and Rescue brigade in Geita Edward Lukuba said the incident occurred on January 5 this year at around 5: PM in the region.

Lukuba said the brigade received information about the incident from informers where officers arrived at the scene and found the bodies of the two children floating in the well which is located at Nyantorotoro in Geita.

He said the officers removed

the bodies of the children from the well and took them to Geita referral hospital for further investigations.

He said the death of the children has been contributed by the recklessness of their parents who seem to have failed to monitor the movement of their children who were left to move around.

The regional fire brigade boss called upon them to ensure they fence wells or cover them to avoid

such incidents which are now becoming common in the region.

He also called upon parents to ensure they monitor the movement of their children and ensure there is someone close when they play to avoid such incidents.

"When such wells are left open without a cover, there are high risks of causing such calamities because children have no idea of what might happen playing around the well," he said.



Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture executive director Nebart Mwapwele (L) presents a TCCIA membership certificate to Tanzania Ports Authority deputy director general Juma Kijavara in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPA gets TCCIA membership certificate

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) yesterday formally handed over a membership certificate to the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) at a short colourful ceremony held at the TPA headquarters here.

Nebart Mwapwele, TCCIA executive director, told reporters that the formal handing over of the membership card to TPA is significant for three reasons. First,

to broaden public knowledge on membership of the TCCIA; for some people would not expect an institution like TPA to be a TCCIA member. The second reason is to demonstrate TCCIA's determination to increase eligible members and work closely with them. The third reason is to popularise services offered by the TPA to our many members and the general public.

"You will appreciate that the varied members of the TCCIA constitute a huge network. All

those members will now know that the TPA is a fellow member and I call upon them to use that membership positively to promote their activities in the industry, commerce and agriculture sectors. To us this is an important occasion for all our members," he said.

Mwapwele said the TCCIA will ensure that TPA benefits from this huge TCCIA membership and vice-versa. "We shall work hard to ensure our members use ports under the TPA. Remember,

it is the TPA that issues the certificate of origin for exports," he explained.

Eng Juma Kijavara, TPA deputy director general pledged to work closely with the TCCIA. "We hope that TPA will benefit fully from our TCCIA membership. We hope the TCCIA will popularise our services within our members and then the general public," he said.

He said the TPA has the capability and is determined to offer good services to all TCCIA members and the general public.

Authorities in Ushetu in partnership with KACU build water reservoirs for irrigation farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

USHETU Council in Kahama District in collaboration with Kahama Cooperative Union (KACU) is set to build water reservoirs to develop irrigation as part of measures to deal with prolonged drought that threatens food crop production in the area.

The water reservoirs will be built in Ulowa, Ubagwe and Bukomela wards and its implementation will start in May this year involving local government leaders, who will locate areas for the water reservoirs.

KACU chairman, Hamisi Majogoro unveiled this recently when speaking during the union's 27th annual general meeting when presenting ways on how to address drought to reach the target of harvesting 17million kilos of tobacco.

He said that the lack of reliable rains in this season will lead to the lack of enough tobacco, a situation that made them take urgent measures to dig 14 ponds and out of them 11 will be dug by the Ushetu Council.

"We are building these dams to deal with climate change as tobacco need reliable rain and in this season we expect to produce 17 million kilos, so we must take concrete measures to deal with the drought," said Majogoro.

Majogoro also said, there are some companies that entered into contracts for the production of tobacco and farmers have begun to take the step of carrying water in large vehicles and sending their farmers to the fields, the aim of which is to ensure that they reach the goals they have set for themselves in production.

African govts urged to direct more funds into agroecology

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

AFRICAN governments have been urged to channel more funds into agroecology to build resilience in food systems.

Programme Coordinator, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Bridget Mugambe said African governments have committed to allocate 10 percent of their national budget to agriculture, the funds which would be directed on production of locally biological inputs such as manure to avoid reliance on foreign imported fertilisers.

She said the funds should be allocated into infrastructure development, market expansion; promote growth and strengthen local food producers, traders, and young African agroecological entrepreneurs.

"We also need to see funds go to seed bands and support farmers seed systems as well as African-led participatory research into food systems," added Mugambe.

Mugambe said that AFSA also urged the African Union (AU) to endorse an initiative to develop an African food policy that guarantees urgent and pressing need for the continent to feed itself.

"We cannot afford to solely rely on a few food crops that lower the nutritional value of our diets, leave our food system vulnerable to climate crises and weaken our ability to adapt," said Mugambe.

Mugambe said African countries should unite and create food systems that not only ensure African communities retain sovereignty over their own economies, nutrition, and ability to feed and protect their families, but also offer the global community a path forward to fight the climate crisis.

She said that last year, unpredictability and overlapping crises became the new normal from the never-ending pandemic, to the war in Ukraine, to increasing floods and droughts across Africa driven by the climate catastrophe. It was also a year of what the World Food

Ushetu Council executive director Mwalimu Mwangi said that through local income the council will build 11 out 14 dams and the construction will start very soon.

He said that they are currently continuing with the construction and repair of the road from the farm to the market on a gravel level to give the farmer the opportunity to deliver his produce to the market and sell it and asking them to ensure that they pay taxes properly as the funds available are directed to development.

One of the farmers in the area, Mariam Bugumba said the dams will help to grow crops in the field, especially tobacco as it needs enough rain.

Kahama District Commissioner Festo Kiswaga congratulated them for the action they are taking in response to climate change and that he will ensure that he oversees it and its implementation starts early to save crops in the field and the people get enough food and get rid of hunger.



We are building these dams to deal with climate change as tobacco need reliable rain and in this season we expect to produce 17 million kilos, so we must take concrete measures to deal with the drought



Tanzanian mountain tour guide Faustine Burra (L) and colleagues (R & 2nd-R) pictured earlier this week with foreign tourists at Barafu Camp (4,673 meters above sea level) during a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Kagera residents urged to invest in cage fish farming

By Correspondent Mutayoba

Arbogast, Bukoba

KAGERA residents have been urged to massively engage in cage fish farming to ensure healthy eating and raise their income.

The call was made by Kagera Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila when he inspected a 50 acres area where a fisheries research centre will be built in Rubafu village, Bukoba District.

Addressing Rubafu residents, Chalamila thanked them for

agreeing to provide the land plot for construction of the Rubafu Research Centre. He urged them to make use of the centre to improving their fish farming activities.

He said the project is a result of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's recent visit in the United States where she met various traders and organisations' heads who were interested in establishing projects in Rubafu village.

The regional commissioner said there are almost twelve companies that have shown interest to invest in Kagera Region.

He said the investment will cost \$1 billion including construction of cages, roads and power installation.

"We are thankful to the president for bringing us this project because we had an idea on cage fish farming. This project will change our lives," he said.

Kagera Regional Administrative Secretary, Toba Nguvula said the president's agenda to unlock Kagera region's business potential for poverty reduction is being put into action.

He said negotiations to have the institute of fisheries in Kagera

were reached in September 2021 between the office of Kagera Regional Commissioner, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology and the Agriculture Stimulus Fund (TACT).

He said the Rubafu Research Centre, among other things, will deal with the best fish seed production and fish feed.

Cage fish farming is new in Kagera where fish seeds are grown in net enclosures off shore the waters with relatively low initial investment required in an existing body of water.



Katavi regional commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko pictured earlier this week being briefed on the state of warehouses storing subsidised fertilisers in Mpanda municipality. Photo: Correspondent Neema Hussein

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

INVESTIGATIONS into a case facing 10 primary school teachers for allegedly leaking Standard Seven national examination in 2022 is not complete, the Kisumu Resident Magistrates Court heard yesterday.

Before Resident Magistrate Pamela Mazengo, State Attorney Yusuph Aboud stated that they are waiting for the other two accused persons to be included in the case.

He also requested the court to offer an arrest warrant for the other accused persons. Magistrate Mazengo adjourned the case until February 6th, 2023 when it will come up for another mention.

The accused are Johnson Ondieka, Patrick Chawawa, Theresia Chitanda, Elinami Sarakikya, Joyce Nkomola, Lloyd Mpande, Olomy Odongo, Docras Muro and Alcherous Malinzi.

Investigations into 2022 examination cheating case incomplete, court told

It was alleged that on the particular day, one of the accused persons, Malinzi leaked fake examination papers telling people it was the original document from NECTA.

On December 1st, 2022 NECTA announced results of last year's primary school leaving examinations (PSLE) annulling results of 2,194 pupils equivalent to 0.16 percent of the 1,350,881 candidates over cheating allegations.

They are accused of leaking the exams through social networks—Telegram and WhatsApp. The exams were sent to people who

were not mandated to manage exams.

It was alleged that on the particular day, one of the accused persons, Malinzi leaked fake examination papers telling people it was the original document from NECTA.

On December 1st, 2022 NECTA announced results of last year's primary school leaving examinations (PSLE) annulling results of 2,194 pupils equivalent to 0.16 percent of the 1,350,881 candidates over cheating allegations.

NECTA Acting Executive Secretary, Athumani Amasi said the results have been cancelled in accordance with Article 30 (2) (b) of the 2016 Examination Regulations, together with Article 5(2)(i) and (j) of NECTA Act, Chapter 107.

The council suspended 24 exam centres, equivalent to 0.13 percent of the 17,935 exam centres/schools that were proven to have planned and cheated in the exam (PSLE) 2022, in accordance with Article No. 4(8) of the 2016 Examination Regulations

Bucking the trend: Many countries exposed to democracy contraction

POLITICAL parties are declaring themselves to be 'ready for the job after President Samia Suluhu Hassan allowed public meetings to restart. Chroniclers will notice that this is taking place 31 years after adoption of a multiparty state, or rather its restoration after having disappeared for something like 30 years. The multiparty state we arrived with at independence did not actually end in 1965 as official chronicles affirm right in 1962, with the passing of the Preventive Detention Act, vastly eroding personal freedom, silencing critics.

So the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1992 really took place after 30 years, while this renewed restoration takes place seven years after the last proper multiparty poll. As usual the criticism has been what academics know as subjective, that it was all the fault of one person, who disliked democracy and wished to be free to act as he pleased. But at times this sentiment is widely shared when things appear to go wrong in a country, at times horribly wrong.

The trouble with political systems is that, similar to election wins in stable democracy, it is difficult to say what lies next. So the sort of euphoria that is seen around is pegged not just to restarting rallies but also a series of law changes that will definitely be designed to reduce the control that regulatory agencies have in the conduct of political activities. There was a time that a political party would call an internal committee meeting at a city hotel - and find the police have arrived there earlier, blocking all entrance to the venue.

Expectations that this kind of stalemate on whether the country is democratic or not will be removed are well founded, but if one looks

closely at the range of sentiments, there are elements where the two sides are likely to disagree. That won't really be at issue unless the disagreement is bitterly expressed, and that means it has to be fought out, as that leads to chaos. The problem is around the corner, the clash of development action as primary vs liberty as principal issue.

When President Samia made the announcement about allowing parties to hold rallies, one observation she made was that since the Warioba Draft of 2014, the world has changed. She did not quite say in which direction, if it is even more hospitable to democracy, or less so, and the evidence in Africa is at best mixed. In China the two terms mandatory change has been lifted, in Russia it has been converted to prolong the mandate; in West Africa there is a succession of coups.

Yet closer to our borders a number of countries are now used to opposition parties winning polls, like Zambia and Malawi, while Kenya has a constant metamorphosis of political alliances, thus who wins is actually a dominant alliance that is just being created, not the old party or old opposition.

Our situation is somewhat unique, comparable to southern African countries to whom we are ideologically linked, the liberation countries. Here ruling parties are still in place but face intense challenges to their legitimacy, real affection.

That is why political observers need to take their spectacles out, figure out how steady or stable the newfound freedoms are likely to become. If the opposition drastically fails to play its part, conduct respectable politics, all will be ruined. There are many in the ruling party who will cherish that moment, proving them right.

Tax dialogue relevant while real vision is more effective

POLICY designers and top administrators in the Treasury have organised the first ever annual national tax dialogue, set for mid-next week, for stakeholders' views on the tax policy path for the next financial year. Just how interactive it will be is a matter for conjecture, for in all appearances it seems more suited to these people exchanging views and hearing at close range what the measures look like. It is harder to iron out differences and have a common viewpoint.

It is not clear how far this intention is being pursued by the Ministry of Finance and Planning in organising the consultation. It is one thing for the ministry to wish to hear from a high level group of stakeholders and experts for purposes of what the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) calls tax education, and a different matter to seek policy consensus from that kind of environment. Often it is not hospitable to policy consistency to open up to clients, as if one seeks sympathy.

The dialogue is being organised by the fiscal policy department at the Treasury, expected to bring together over 300 delegates mainly from the private sector. This group is complex as it isn't just big firms that one talks about but also independent professional groups interested in taxation practices. The issue is what they can possibly agree about, or they know one thing and advise another.

Strictly speaking, what the Treasury will be doing in the next Finance Act is to put in place all what President Samia has agreed with international stakeholders who need to be assured of a number of policy axes for them to stake their cash in the country, that is, bond

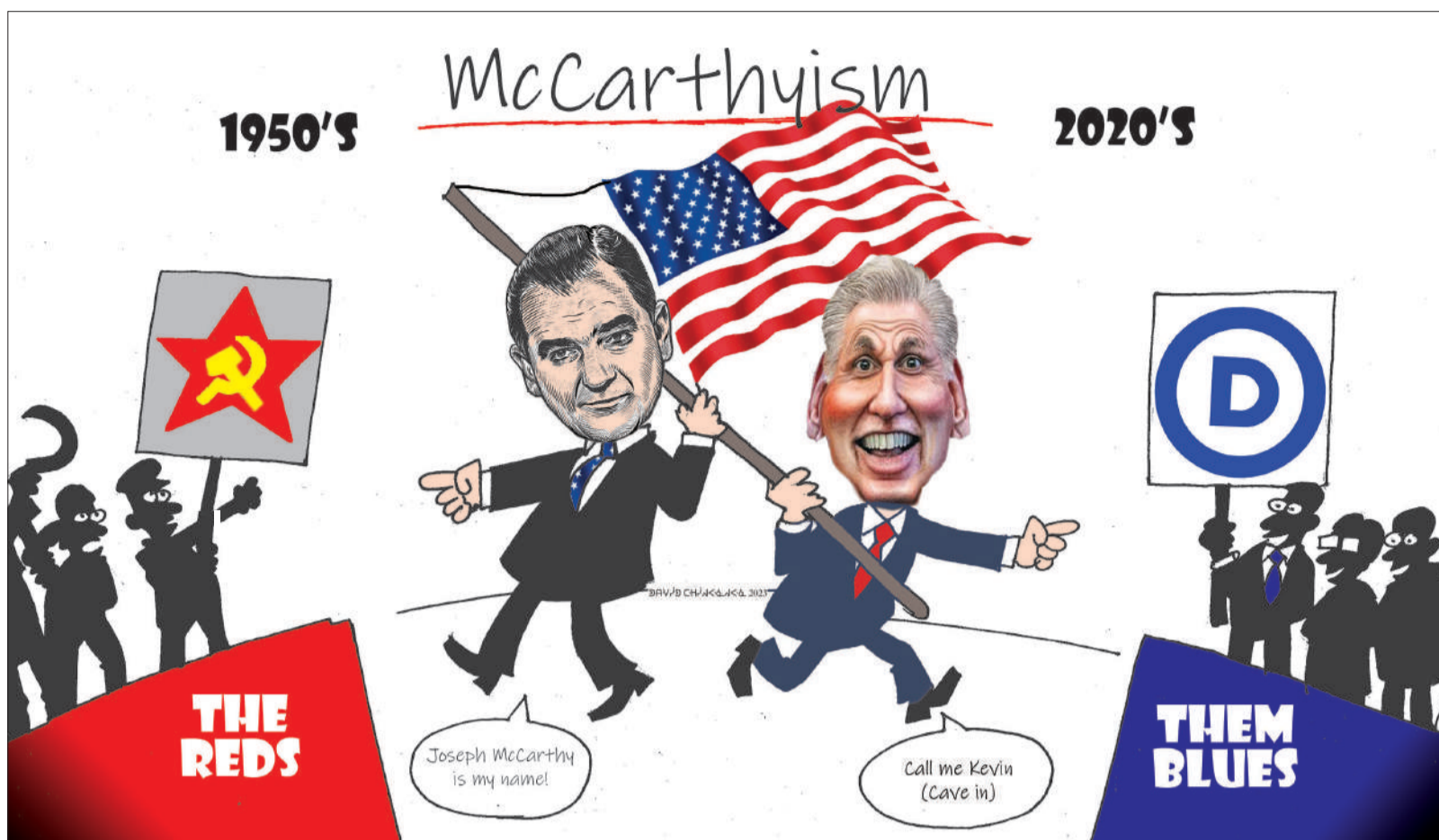
their future to ours. Those who are already planted have their lines of advantage they wish to protect, and many wish to stem the competition, and use that forum to cultivate feelings that openness is bad, we should look inward and protect local producers. President Samia once shouted down a minister making that kind of assertion, but that lobby is still as vibrant.

Put differently, private sector actors only need to take stock of fiscal policy and adapt their strategies or annual objectives to suit what lies before them, That is what is known as a doing business environment, that it isn't meant to enable each operator to succeed as it is based on competition, but take best decisions for the most usable opportunities, where tax policy is a facilitating element. So far the government has met most demands of the lobby, especially in relation to the amnesty for those with tax backlogs of five year or more, striking them out.

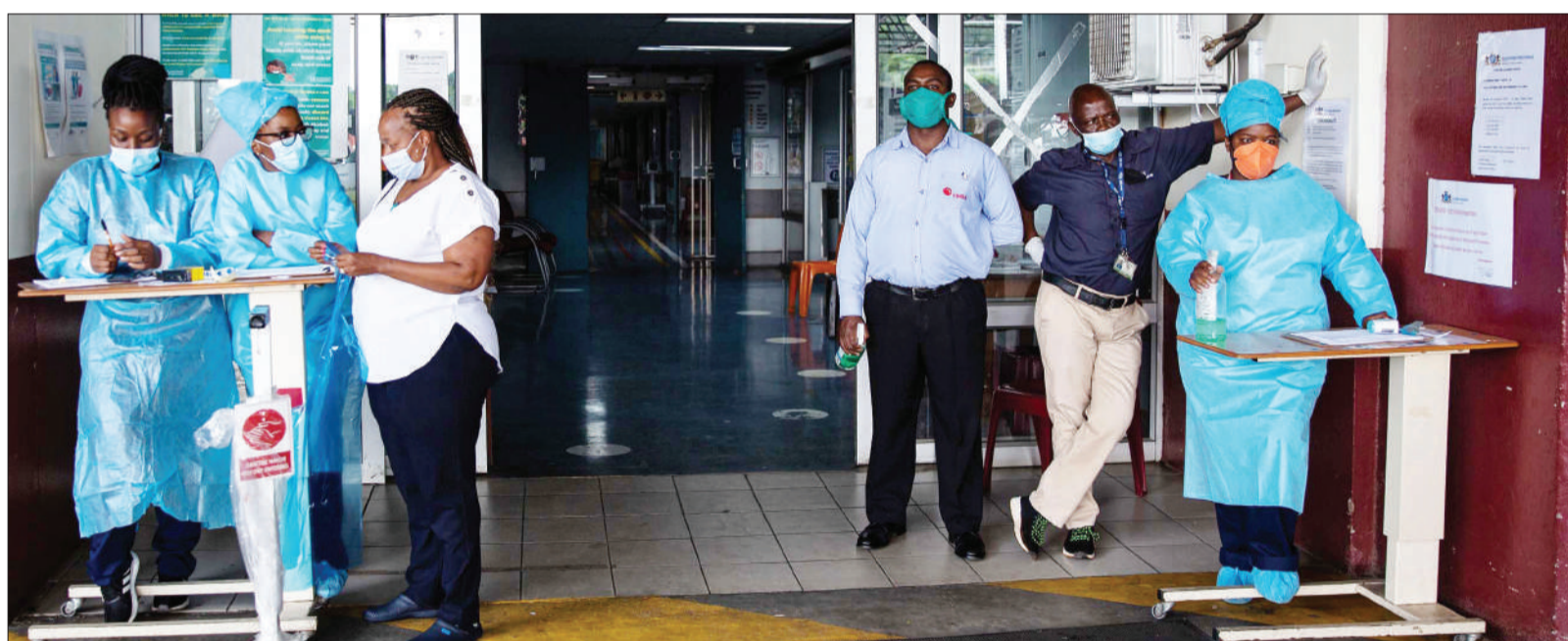
No one really expects that the Treasury is organising the discussion to enhance the level of voluntary compliance, as that often depends on ethical parameters among tax collectors. But when the levels are low enough and payable, in line with the 'doing business' blueprint, pressures for 'assisting' firms on unpayable taxes are diminished.

So the meeting has no fixed objectives but a periscope, to take stock of the country's revenue performance and levels of compliance, and if there are manageable issues that can be resolved. It is like clearing the air on policy, assuming that there are some doubts or any helpful clarification needed.

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New public health order in Africa without surgical care is incomplete



By Arsen Muhumuza

THOUSANDS of public health leaders and clinicians from Africa and the world gathered in Kigali, Rwanda, on December 13-15, for the 2nd International Conference on Public Health (CPHIA) in Africa. The conference theme was "Preparedness for future Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Recovery: Africa at a Crossroad".

A major thread at the conference was the New Public Health Order for Africa which was pioneered by Dr. John Nkegason, former head of Africa CDC and global ambassador of The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). This new order focuses on building strong African public health institutions, expanded manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics, investment in public health workforce and leadership, increased domestic investment in health, and respectful action-oriented partnerships.

In alignment with the new public health order, much of the attention focused on communicable diseases such as COVID-19, monkeypox, and the recent Ebola outbreak in Uganda. While I was proud as an African to be part of this much-needed African-led forum on public health in Africa, as an aspiring global surgeon, I was surprised that surgical diseases were excluded from the dialogue despite the fact that 95% of the 1.2 billion people living on the continent do not have

access to safe, affordable, and timely surgical care.

Robust surgical systems, including the right staff, space, and systems, play a critical role in reducing maternal mortality, childhood deaths, and disability, and even curing sequelae of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. In an astonishing study published in the Lancet, African women are 50 times more likely to die after a cesarean section than women in high-income countries. Globally, conditions amenable to surgical care reportedly kill more people than HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined, most of them in Africa's low- and middle-income countries. Most of these unjust deaths can be prevented with safer surgical systems.

Global health leaders have begun drawing attention to this shocking healthcare problem. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organisation, has stated surgical and anesthesia care is an essential component in achieving Universal Health Coverage and countries must invest in surgery if they are to attain UHC.

Some African states such as Rwanda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Nigeria, Madagascar, and Tanzania have begun addressing this problem by developing National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anesthesia Plans. National policies that aim to strengthen national surgical systems. Nonetheless, progress

has been slow due to limited financial resources allocated to the implementation of these policies.

Efforts from various organisations worldwide, including G4 Alliance, Global Surgery Foundation, and others, have been tabling dialogues around improving access to surgical services through health system strengthening. However, these conversations remain unheard at monumental global public health conferences and gatherings, highlighted when we consider this year's 2nd International CPHIA.

Leave no one behind
For far too long, the healthcare agenda and priorities for African countries have been set by foreign institutions and funders, not by African global public health leaders and communities. This is perhaps part of the reason why strengthening surgical systems has not been a healthcare priority on the continent. However, this is changing with initiatives such as the International Conference on Public Health in Africa. As we enter this new era of the New Public Health Order in Africa, we must ensure the inclusion of surgical and anesthesia care in public health dialogues and conferences at both the national and international levels, so that surgical patients are not left behind.

Governments should allocate financial resources to and scalable surgical systems focused on providing quality surgical services and prevention. We need more and better trained surgical and anesthesia providers, nurses, and

allied health care providers. We need safer and better-equipped operating rooms and supply chains, access to safe blood, and medicines to prevent deaths and disability from surgical conditions.

play a critical role by making the public health dialogue more transparent to the primary stakeholder, the public is aware of movements like the New Public Health Order for Africa by the Africa CDC, the agenda 2063 by the African Union, and the National Surgical Plans. In doing so we can rally people to the global surgery movement that is striving to promote access to equitable and quality healthcare for all.

Agenda 2063, 'The Africa We Want', which often takes the backseat to the Sustainable Development Goals, is really all about Africans coming together to determine for ourselves what problems we want to solve and how we can work together to do this. I commend the Africa CDC for leading efforts to set continental agendas to achieve Agenda 2063. Nonetheless, to build the Africa we want, the public health agenda setting, and the New Public Health Order for Africa must include surgical care in both local and regional dialogues.

Dr. Muhumuza is a physician conducting research and advocating for global surgical systems strengthening. He is a Global Surgery Fellow and part of the Health Policy and Advocacy team at Operation Smile.

Call for restraints in US arms transfers to Ukraine

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

More than 10 months since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the United States and its allies continue to seek the most effective military, humanitarian, political, and economic means of assisting Ukraine.

In his December 2022 visit to Washington, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reportedly reiterated his desire for advanced US weapons; Ukraine's wish list includes Abrams tanks and F-16 fighter aircraft. Fulfilling President Zelensky's request for US combat aircraft and tanks would be a significant escalation of the US military commitment to Ukraine and could further increase the risks associated with that commitment.

The situation is fraught, with threats of conventional war beyond Ukraine's borders and even possible nuclear weapons use, as well as uncertainty about weapons suppliers' ability to ensure that the weapons transferred reach their intended users and are not retransferred.

Danger of transferring weapons and munitions that could be used to attack Russia

The US weapons that have been transferred to Ukraine so far have been largely defensive in nature; these include anti-aircraft and anti-armor systems. The US has reportedly not provided the munitions with the longest range for systems such as rocket launchers, making it more difficult for Ukrainian forces to strike far beyond the Ukrainian-Russian border.

In contrast, weapons such as battle tanks and fighter aircraft can be used in offensive roles that may increase the likelihood of Russian reprisals against the United States and our European allies. In particular, providing weapons that can reach deep into Russian territory may increase the likelihood of escalation, with Russia potentially responding by attacking countries in Europe that have assisted with Ukraine's war effort.

Through its actions, the US government implicitly seems to assume that the Russian government will perceive these transfers the way that the US government wants them to – as defensive in nature. There's no guarantee that this will be the case. And even if the Russian government does not deliberately choose escalation, it may still occur be-



F-16A fighter aircraft. Credit: US Air Force photo

cause of accident, mistake, or miscalculation. Focusing US aid on defensive weapons and shorter-range munitions is likely to decrease this risk.

Insufficient accountability for weapons transfers

Far too often, the US government transfers weapons and ammunition without putting sufficient systems in place to ensure accountability for their storage, deployment, and use. Without robust controls, these weapons can be stolen and sold to the highest bidder or transferred to other conflicts.

The capture of US weapons by Russia would present a particular threat – the potential disclosure of US technology through Russian reverse engineering of US weapons systems.

The hurried nature of transfers to Ukraine further increases the likelihood of diversion. Continuing to expand the number and capability of US weapons provided may also exacerbate these risks.

In addition, even if US military forces are not deployed in Ukraine, in the future they could still face US weapons that were diverted to other conflicts.

The risk of diversion can be reduced by verifying that only authorized users receive US weapons and ammunition, that they carefully track the deployment and use of the weapons, and that weapons and their ammunition are securely stored when not deployed. In addition, diversion to other conflicts can be reduced by destroying the weapons and

ammunition that remain when the conflict ends.

US even more dominant in assistance to Ukraine than in global conventional weapons transfers

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the United States continues to be the world's largest supplier of conventional weapons, supplying nearly 40 percent of the global value of weapons transferred from 2017-2021. This was virtually identical to the total value of weapons transferred by the next four countries during the same period (Russia, France, China, and Germany). US dominance in aid to Ukraine is even more pronounced.

In conjunction with President Zelensky's visit to Washington,

the US Department of Defense announced the 28th drawdown of US defense stocks to aid Ukraine since August 2021. The press release acknowledging the latest commitments indicated that the US has provided more than \$21 billion in security assistance since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The omnibus spending bill that President Biden signed in late December 2022 contains \$47 billion in additional military, economic, and humanitarian assistance.

In contrast, the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) issued a press release on 30 December 2022 stating that the UK had provided £2.3bn of military aid in 2022, and that this was second only to the United States. The MOD also indicated that they planned to provide the same level of funding in 2023. This commitment is a small fraction of US assistance.

As with other US transfers of conventional weapons, transfers to Ukraine risk diversion to other countries and other conflicts. US dominance of the supply of weapons means that it also holds a disproportionate responsibility for the use and potential misuse of the weapons.

Danger of nuclear weapons use

During the Cold War, one of the most significant concerns was that a conventional war might escalate to the nuclear level. Analysts and political leaders alike recognized, while this could take place because of deliberate action, it could also occur because of accident or

miscalculation.

This likelihood of nuclear use persists today, and is arguably higher as a result of Russian President Putin's threat to use all means of military force in the conflict in Ukraine.

If Russia is losing the conventional war, they may decide to turn to nuclear weapons to try to change the war's outcome. The US providing Ukraine with weapons designed primarily for offensive use may increase this risk.

The continued use of nuclear threats is yet another illustration of the danger of nuclear weapons. As long as nuclear weapons exist, this danger continues. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons provides a roadmap for escaping this existential threat.

Danger of ignoring long-term risks in favor of potential short-term gains

Taken together, these risks highlight the danger of giving priority to potential short-term political and military gains over longer-term negative consequences.

Further weapons transfers to Ukraine need to be subjected to rigorous analysis of potential long-term consequences before the transfers occur. Saying yes to Ukraine may be the easier response from a short-term perspective.

For example, saying yes is likely to enhance the political connection between the US and Ukraine, and military contractor's profit from weapons sales. However, that response may well endanger US security interests in the longer term.

Gender parity at the UN willfully ignores the facts

WASHINGTON DC

There are two sides to the problem of Gender Parity at the United Nations.

On the one hand, member states need to appoint more women to their senior ambassadorial ranks. There is always tremendous competition for the post of UN ambassador, especially if a member state is on the UN security Council.

It's a pipeline question for the member states. To reach that level of seniority, a diplomat has to have the years of service. It will likely take time for countries to have the flow through of women ambassadors. So, the UN Secretary-General (SG) is correct in putting the onus on member states to change or accelerate their systems.

That said, there is still a problem within the UN itself.

In the last 5 years, many governments notably the UK, Italy, the Scandinavians have sponsored the regional women's mediation networks. For example, I'm a member of the Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth (WMC).

The vision was to identify women with the requisite skills and experience in mediation efforts and provide a new pathway into senior UN positions particularly as Envoys and mediation work. In the WMC we have 50 amazingly experienced women from across Commonwealth nations.

Similarly, the Mediterranean Women's Mediation Network has members from that region. For senior positions, our

governments have to support our candidacy, and they have done so.

But the UN system is a blockage, because when it comes to determining eligibility, their criteria still include things like '15 years of UN experience'. Well, the whole point is that most of us have gained experience outside of the UN bureaucracy or as expert consultants with the UN, but not as UN staff.

We bring a wealth of other valuable expertise, yet the skill and knowledge that outsiders might bring seems of less value to the recruiters, than then traditional institutional knowledge. As a result, the female candidates that member states might endorse, are blocked by the UN.

If they are serious about having more women in the peace and security sector, particularly women with the relevant experience in inclusive and gender responsive peacemaking, security humanitarian work, they need to look for us in civil society. This is where most of the innovation has happened and is happening.

The work being done by women on the ground and lessons sharing that goes on through our networks is invaluable. It is exactly what the UN needs to be more fit for purpose. It is also the path towards actual reform and renovation of the UN architecture and practice.

But it can only happen if the member states and the UN leadership and bureaucracy have the vision, political will and willingness to change their recruitment priorities and practices.

Anyone claiming they can't find the women, is willfully ignoring the facts.

European energy crisis hits Roma populations hard

BRATISLAVA

As European households brace for energy shortages this winter and leaders draw up support packages to help people heat homes in the coming months, experts fear that the largest minority on the continent, the Roma, will be left behind.

Many of the 12 million Roma in Europe have a low standard of living, and even before the energy crisis, energy poverty was rife among their communities.

Roma leaders and rights organisations say the current crisis has only deepened the problem and are calling for governments to ensure that one of the continent's most vulnerable groups gets the help they need this winter and beyond.

"EU leaders and policymakers must ensure that energy policies already agreed, or any agreed in future, must be tailored and implemented in such a way that the most vulnerable, including the Roma, can access and benefit from them," Zeljko Jovanovic, director of the Open Society Roma Initiatives Office at the Open Society Foundations (OSF), told IPS.

Roma living in Europe are among the most discriminated and disadvantaged groups on the continent. In many countries, significant numbers live in segregated settlements where living conditions are often poor, and extreme poverty is widespread.

Energy poverty is also common. It is estimated that at least 10% of the roughly 6 million Roma living in EU countries have no access to electricity at all.

Meanwhile, where utilities are available, many struggle to afford them.

Rising energy prices this year have exacerbated the problem. But while governments have rolled out help in the form of one-off payments and other support for families and businesses to pay energy bills, this aid is often not filtering through to Roma despite the minority being among those most in need, say rights activists.

Unemployment in Roma communities is often high, with only one in four Roma aged 16 years or older reporting being employed, and many earn money working in the grey or black economies. But because of this, they often struggle with accessing state support schemes. This is especially true for measures approved to provide financial aid during the energy crisis.

"Even before the energy crisis, there was a problem with energy poverty in Europe, and for the Roma, this was even more so because so many were not in the formal system.

"Measures [approved] for the energy crisis are made for those in the formal system. Many Roma are not in that system - they are unemployed, or not formally registered, or earning money and paying into the social welfare system - so they cannot access those measures," explained Jovanovic.

Roma NGOs working in some countries say they have already seen these problems.

In Romania, which has a Roma population of 1.85 million according to the Council of Europe, a programme to help the vulnerable with



Roma community protest in the Serbian city of Nis after dozens of families in a settlement in the city had their electricity cut off. Credit: Opre Roma Srbija

energy payments has been launched.

But Alin Banu, Community Organiser at the Aresel civic initiative, told IPS some Roma are unable to access it precisely because "they work in the grey or black economy and don't have the right documentation of social insurance payments, wages etc."

Meanwhile, even those who are eligible for help are often being denied it, he claimed. He said that some municipalities had put conditions on receiving help to pay energy bills - for example, evidence of historical tax debt, or car ownership, makes an individual ineligible for the help.

The group says this is illegal.

"We have solved this problem in some cases, but most Roma will not complain about this because often they simply will not know it is illegal," Balu said.

There are also concerns that other measures already adopted will actually make things worse for Roma.

Last year European leaders agreed on a non-binding goal for EU countries to reduce overall electricity demand by at least 10% by 31 March 2023, and a mandatory reduction of electricity consumption by 5% for at

least 10% of high-demand hours each week.

Jovanovic fears that politicians' first steps to save on energy consumption could involve simply cutting off power supplies to those not formally connected to the energy grid.

"Countries' reductions in energy demand might come from cutting energy to those who do not have formal access to it, like the Roma," said Jovanovic.

Nicu Dumitru, a Community Organiser at Arsesel, agreed - "the Roma would be the first to be cut off in that case," he told IPS - but said that even if that does not happen, many Roma are already struggling with soaring energy costs.

Information collected by his group suggests that a fifth of all Roma households have had their electricity cut off since the start of the crisis because they cannot afford to pay. They are then connecting informally to the grid - usually through one person in their community who has a connection and who then charges high prices for others for use of that power - often borrowing money to do so, and worsening their already precarious financial situation.

There are an estimated over 400,000 people informally connected to the power grid in Romania, many of them Roma.

"The situation is getting critical for Roma," Dumitru said.

Meanwhile, Roma activists in other countries are worried that politicians will use the energy crisis as an excuse to ignore long-term problems with energy poverty among the Roma or even as a justification to allow Roma settlements to be cut off from supplies.

In May this year, electricity supplies to 24 families in the '12 February' Roma settlement in the southern Serbian city of Nis were cut off over unpaid bills. The families claim this debt pre-dates their time living there, but the local power distributor demanded proof of house ownership from the families before reconnection.

People in many Roma settlements often lack such documents as the process for obtaining them is costly and difficult for many to navigate without expert legal help, and none of these families was able to provide the required proof.

It was only after both local and nationwide protests by members of

the community themselves and negotiations between the families, who were represented by the Opre Roma Serbia rights group, local authorities, and the local distributor Elektrodistribucija Nis, that in December, limited supplies of electricity were restored to the families involved.

Jelena Reljic of Opre Roma Serbia said she was pleased those affected could now access electricity again but warned "the situation in this settlement is an example of a much wider systemic problem" which politicians are not doing enough to solve.

"The last cut off in this settlement was because of historic debt, but the problems with electricity [there] have been going on for a decade. Politicians are relying on being able to cut Roma settlements off from electricity during the energy crisis without too much public outrage or resistance. Around 99% of the reaction we have seen to the problem in this settlement has been of the type 'oh, no one should be getting energy free during this crisis, we pay, so why shouldn't they?'" she told IPS.

"Politicians are using the energy crisis to cover up the fact that they have never dealt with the problem of energy poverty for years and years," she added.

The OSF's Jovanovic wants European policymakers to review their proposed help during the crisis, including not just the approved reductions in energy demand but plans for energy price caps and a solidarity levy on the profits of businesses active in the oil, natural gas, coal, and refinery sectors.

He said the 5% reduction must not lead to electricity cuts for those already in energy poverty and that public revenues from the energy cap and solidarity levy - estimated at €140bn within the EU - should be redistributed along principles that are both morally and macroeconomically justified.

He has been involved in high-level EU committee meetings on energy crisis support policies, but, he told IPS, at those meetings, there seemed to be "little idea of the perspective of Roma and other vulnerable groups and how they would cope in the crisis".

Now he and other activists are trying to arrange further talks with EU and national policymakers to urge them to address shortcomings in current policies affecting vulnerable groups, including Roma.

"We want to raise these issues," he said.

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

India's forest-dependent societies to reap from integrated agri-forestry livelihood

By Gautam Prateek

AROUND 1.6 billion people in the world live within 5 kilometres of a forest, according to a recent study.

In India, the Forest Survey of India (2019) estimated, roughly 26 per cent of the total 650,000 villages can be classified as forest fringe villages, where forests fulfill significant socio-cultural and livelihood needs. As of 2019, these villages were home to around 22 per cent of the country's total population.

But these communities are often ignored during policymaking. During the onset of the pandemic, for instance, when states had to shut down economic activities, the precarious condition of India's agrarian people was covered extensively in studies and assessments. But the forest-dependent communities (FDC) got very little space in this debate.

In fact, when movement of agricultural commodities was allowed on April 15, 2020 amid the lockdown, forest produce was not included in that ambit. It was added only the next day.

Not much is known about the overall wellbeing of FDCs in India due to a lack of comprehensive assessments. (SAL & CFR-LA are exceptions.)

To bridge this gap and understand the food insecurity of FDCs, PRADAN, a non-profit that works towards eradicating poverty in India, and the School of Rural Management (SRM), XIM University carried out a collaborative study in June-August 2021. It covered 2,258 households in 141 villages of 24 districts, located in the seven states of Central India.

These seven states constitute around 42 per cent of the total estimated population in the forest fringe villages of India. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha are among the top five states in terms of the percentage of population in forest fringe villages.

The assessment revealed inter-



esting information on the inter-related aspects of food security, livelihood and out-migration in the FDCs of central India.

Food security is a major concern for FDCs in central India, as it directly impacts their well-being. In the study, although a majority of households reported dependence on forest-based livelihoods, their income from forest products was relatively low.

Wage and cultivation income are more prominent sources of income in these communities, reflected in the Situation Assessment Survey of 2021 as well.

One of the notable findings of the study was that a majority of the households were found to be food

insecure, despite having acceptable levels of diet diversity.

The average income of FDCs was also found to be lower and the percentage of landless households was higher than the latest figures on agricultural households in India.

This alludes to the livelihood challenges faced by the FDCs, their link with nutrition and the need for improved income-generating opportunities. We found that the majority of respondents reporting income from forest resources often do so without adding value to the forest resources. Fodder (all kinds), sal and tendu emerged as the top three forest resources meant for commercial sales.

Furthermore, most of the sales are being made either to the forest

department or being sold in the local markets, either independently or to the local contractors.

Additionally, a majority of the respondents reported to be illiterate and were not much aware of forest rights. This limited their access to forest resources and income-generating opportunities.

The bright side: With awareness, the likelihood of claims for forest rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also called the Forest Rights Act (FRA), increased, our assessment showed.

Interventions promoting greater awareness and recognition of rights for the FDCs under FRA can, thus, go

a long way.

Food insecurity & migration

All the seven states covered in the study are hotspots of migration at the national level, and this was recently evident in multiple articles and studies published since the onset of COVID-19.

Migrant households, which made up around 18 per cent of the sampled households, were more likely to experience food insecurity than non-migrant households, the PRADAN-SRM study showed.

In addition, these households had smaller average landholding sizes and were located much further from the forests than the non-migrant households.

Although additional research is

needed, areas distant from the forest may be more plausible sources of migration.

Challenged access to basic amenities and shocks to livelihoods were also found to be more pronounced for the FDCs. Natural and climate-related shocks were the most widely reported vulnerabilities by the majority, underscoring the crucial need for planning mitigation and adaptation strategies for greater resilience and wellbeing of the FDCs.

In terms of basic amenities, it was observed that a majority of FDCs depend on public pumps for water, and 36 per cent of households had no toilet facility at home.

Policy implications

The seven sources of income growth outlined by the interministerial committee didn't explicitly mention forestry. But the following quote from the policy recommendations mentioned in the Doubling of Farmers' Income report conveyed a vital point:

It is necessary to recognise non-timber forest products (NTFP) as a source of income at par with agriculture in the case of tribal communities and facilitate them to improve the practices of gathering minor forest produce.

The results of the PRADAN-SRM study indicate that agriculture and wages are the primary sources of household income for FDCs in India. Therefore, it is important for policy planning and implementation to consider the intersection of forest-based livelihoods and agricultural development as means of addressing poverty.

It would be simplistic to consider FDCs solely in terms of their reliance on forests, or agrarian communities solely in terms of crop cultivation. One approach that may be worth considering is the promotion of more forest-based farmer-producer organizations, which have been a central focus of agricultural development efforts in recent years.

Overall, ensuring access to forests for the purpose of generating income, as well as addressing basic needs such as education, sanitation and access to clean water, should be prioritised.

Researchers strive to end human-wildlife conflicts in southern Africa

By Special Correspondent

IT was past midnight when Grandson Kenalemang awoke to an all too familiar sound: the rumbling of an elephant rampaging through his farm.

By the time he was outside, banging pots to scare the animal away, it was too late. His mango trees were gone, and two sections of his fence torn apart, damage that was unlikely to be compensated by the government of Botswana.

Standing over the still fresh footprints, Kenalemang described how human-wildlife conflict disproportionately affects smallholder farmers like him.

"I get [nothing] because of [these] elephants. They eat everything, destroying my fence. We are trying, but there is nothing we can do."

Kenalemang's farm is one of many located on the border of Chobe National Park, part of the Kavango Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area, or KAZA. More than just a national park, KAZA is a 520,000 km2 mosaic of conservation areas, wildlife corridors, farms and human settlements distributed over five countries: Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia

and Zimbabwe.

Home to over 2 million people, as well as 70 per cent of African savannah elephants, it's a landscape where people and nature have no choice but to live side by side. It also operates as a living laboratory for finding ways to balance conservation and development.

"We know we have an increasing human population. We also know we have an increasing wildlife population. So, there's bound to be conflicts," says Professor Patience Gandiwa of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. "It is a landscape where the possibility of coexistence is not an option, but a necessity."

Conflicts between humans and animals are among the greatest threats to the long-term survival of some of the planet's most iconic species, found a 2021 report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the WWF. Carnivores, like polar bears, wolves and lions, are frequently targeted by humans worried about threats to themselves and their livestock. But elephants, which often trample fields and people alike, are also a conflict-prone species.



Researchers have developed a computer model that simulates the effects of government policies and conservation strategies.

Speaking at a series of policy dialogues hosted by UNEP in Botswana in October 2022, Professor Gandiwa was gathered with other experts and policy makers to discuss more sustainable models of development in KAZA.

They explored policies that could help smallholder farmers, such as Kenalemang, while also protecting the wildlife the region is famous for. They were all meeting as part of the Africa's Coexistence Landscapes project.

Led by UNEP and financed by the European Union, the project was implemented over the past four years to explore new ways to minimize human wildlife conflict in Africa, engaging both

policymakers and stakeholders with a focus on exploring what roles technology could play.

A major highlight of the landscapes project was the development of a computer model that simulates the effects of government policies and conservation strategies. While still a pilot programme, limited to a section of the KAZA known as the Hwange-Kazuma-Chobe Wildlife Dispersal Area along the border of Botswana and Zimbabwe, the upshot of the dialogues was that the simulator has massive potential.

A team from UNEP and the Universities of Bergen and Nova Lisbon worked with nearly 100 local stakeholders to

develop the model and collect data on many variables, including wildlife, borehole and livestock numbers. They also used satellite imagery to track land use. The data was then put into the computer model and tested until it was accurate enough to simulate real policy choices.

Springbok on a plain

The Kavango Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area is home to 2 million people and an array of wildlife, including most of Africa's savannah elephants. Photo: UNEP/Duncan Moore

This sort of model allows researchers to assess the consequences, intended or unintended, of policies. For example,

one simulation found that the common practice of subsidizing maize production increased the risk of conflict with elephants, which are attracted to certain crops.

Subsidizing crops that are less palatable to the animals emerged as an alternative strategy, one that could prevent losses for farmers and reduce retaliatory killings of animals. The computer model helped to enable this holistic view, versus seeing the problem through the single lens of conservation or agricultural development.

This type of systems modeling has massive potential when it comes to government decisions around conservation, said UNEP's Julian Blanc, who is managing the project.

"There's rarely one silver bullet, one policy that will solve all the problems. But there are powerful combinations of policies that could help address the issues."

The beauty of the model, he says, is its ability to simulate different blends of policy, especially important in a complex landscape such as KAZA.

"The process of policy design is normally conducted in departments or silos," says Blanc. "There is a growing interest for this kind of integrated approach to planning."

The project and policy dialogues have led to a broad agreement on how to manage the dynamics of conflicts between humans and animals both at the national and Transboundary levels. Observers are hopeful that precedent will help usher in a new era of peaceful co-existence between elephants and humans in KAZA.

"I believe in the vision [behind] KAZA," says Gandiwa. "Our wildlife will perish if we do not cooperate across international borders." But, she added, "Conservation only works when it makes sense to the people that are coexisting with wildlife in these landscapes."

Living another year dangerously

By Anis Chowdhury, SYDNEY

2022 has been a year of great uncertainty when it seemed the world perilously reached the brink of self-destruction - be it human-induced climate change or military conflict. Welcoming 2022, we had enough reasons to be optimistic; but it was another 'year of living dangerously' - Tahun vivere pericoloso in the words of Soekarno, or an annus horribilis in the words of the late Queen Elizabeth

No end to Covid-19

The joy of the COVID vaccine discovery quickly vanished as the 'vaccine apartheid' blatantly prioritised lives in rich nations, especially of the wealthy, over the 'wretched of the earth', and corporate profit triumphed over people's lives. Meanwhile, Dr Anthony Fauci's sober warning of a more dangerous COVID variant emerging this winter may come to be true as China, the country of 1.4 billion, struggles to deal with the surge in cases since it has largely abandoned its unpopular 'zero COVID' policy.

New cold war turns into proxy war

Whereas the global pandemic required extraordinary global unity, unfortunately, a 'new cold war' quickly turned into a 'hot war', bringing the world to the verge of a devastating nuclear war for the first time since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. Russia, finding itself cornered by an expanding NATO, decided most foolishly to invade Ukraine, believing it could overrun the country without any resistance. While the heroic Ukrainians continue to defend their motherland, Russia seems to have become bogged

down in a proxy war with NATO.

If the proxy war with Russia was not enough, the US is recklessly provoking China towards another 'hot war', following Trump's trade war. Clearly the monopoly capital of the US and its military-industrial complex are pushing the US to a 'Thucydides Trap'. More than 60 years ago, President Eisenhower, in his farewell address to the nation, warned about the military-industrial complex, a formidable union of defence contractors and the armed forces. Eisenhower, a retired five-star Army general, who led the allies on D-Day, saw the military-industrial complex as a threat to democratic government and global peace. Alas, his dire warning fell on deaf ears.

Western hypocrisy exposed

The Russian invasion of Ukraine exposed Western pretence. The Western mainstream media unashamedly declared the dislocation of Ukrainians intolerable because the victims are blue-eyed, blond-haired Europeans, not "uncivilized" third world inhabitants or "barbaric" Arabs. Western duplicity is nowhere as blatant as it is in the case of the Palestinian plight. To them, Russia's occupation and annexation of parts of Ukraine is illegal; but Israel's occupation and annexation of Palestinian land as well as gross human rights violations are justified on various professed grounds, e.g., right to protection from "terrorist acts".

Leadership vacuum

The world now needs Eisenhower to resist the military-industrial complex; it needs 'Teddy Roosevelt to break monopoly capital's stranglehold and to protect consumers, workers and the environment; it needs Franklin

Roosevelt to promote multilateralism and social justice; it needs Kennedy to defuse crises. At the height of the 'old cold war', Kennedy ate humble pie by quietly removing the security threat to the USSR posed by offensive weapons (Jupiter MRBMs) deployed in Turkey, and publicly pledging that the US would never invade Cuba or attempt another Bay of Pigs operation. Eisenhower was magnanimous enough to bear the lion's share of financing the USSR's proposal for global efforts to eradicate smallpox - the leading cause of death and blindness then.

Alas, we see no such signs in a world of Trump, Biden, Johnson, Marcon and Scholz. Even 'out of touch', billionaire Sunak does not inspire any hope, despite being the first coloured person of colonial descent to occupy the 10 Downing Street. Sunak will probably try to prove himself holier than the Pope, instead of promoting the interest of former colonies or descendants of colonial subjects or downtrodden.

No better leadership in the South

The South is also devoid of visionaries, such as Nkrumah or Nehru who promoted non-alignment and Southern unity. Nehru's land is now overtaken by Modi's Hindutva movement, openly promoting violence against minorities. Unsurprisingly, Modi was in sync with Trump; but he equally cosies up to Biden professing to promote democracy and human rights. Sadly, Mandela's South Africa is mired in scandal after scandal. Although many, including myself, eagerly looked forward to Lula's victory in Brazil, neither his return to power nor the so-called 'second pink tide' in Latin America should make one overly joyous. The Left has demonstrated its propensity to fracture or implode easily, e.g., contributing to Correa's defeat in Ecuador, or aiding the Right to strike back in Peru. In Colombia, Finance capital, mining giants and the elite have already ganged up on Petro's vow to tackle inequality with tax and land reforms and his proposed ban on new oil and gas exploration. Chile's Boric has faced setbacks including the rejection of a new constitution, forcing his concessions to the Centre-Right. Constitutional coup is a common strategy of the established vested interest.

Some inspirations down under

Down under, the Australians soundly defeated an increasingly autocratic and unaccountable conservative government in May. It was the government that implemented inhumane off-shore detention centres for people seeking to escape persecution and starvation in their own countries (about to be emulated by the UK Tory Govt.). It also was cruel enough to pursue vulnerable people on social security payments with a robotic program whilst cutting taxes for the wealthy and letting them evade tax. It was the government which created plumb jobs for the boys. It was the government which continued to deny climate science and refused to act.

Finally, the Australians got rid of it. Labor showed extraordinary discipline in opposition, and in government, it stood up to big business and vested interests. It has quickly moved to put in place the processes to:

- set up an independent anti-corruption body with real teeth;
- recognise the voice of First Nations people;
- respect human rights of asylum seekers languishing in detention centres;
- address environmental degradation & achieve 43% emissions reduction target by 2030;
- restore labour rights, fair and decent wages;
- review RBA's performance to ensure monetary policy serves broader national interest, not the finance; and
- balance geo-political alliances.

Its progressive agenda is quite long. Let me end here, wishing the Australian Labor Government success to inspire other nations - large and small, developed and developing; and with best wishes for you to be safe and remain healthy, even if not quite bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.



Anis Chowdhury

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 405 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 PAS, DAM, MAN, MOA, AIT, DNA,
4 letters ADAH, LIRA, RARE, YAMS, AQUA, SEAR
5 letters POSSE, SAHIB, SHARE, UNITA, ENNUI
6 letters AARON, SCARE, TIDAL, KILIM
7 letters MALAWI, SAHARA, INDIAN
8 letters LIBERIA, NOONDAY, UGANDAN
9 letters UGARITIC, ODALISQUE

CLUES: Across
1 a native of the south
5 a large perching bird with mostly black plumage
7 bear native to bamboo forests in China
8 Kathmandu is the Capital city
10 the ship built by Noah
11 Latin from Greek Khoreia
13 break with a sharp cracking sound
15 accept
17 movements of hands when you talk
19 a person who uses something
20 feel doubt

Down:
1 ill
2 formal term for on
3 not imagined or supposed
4 tolerate
6 put on clothes
7 canal connects the pacific ocean and Atlantic ocean
9 medium for communications
12 stoat
14 stone in Greek
16 a diving waterbird with a long neck
17 a weapon with bullets
18 join fasten

SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD: D O D O M A P D, R I S R A E L, E A S T E R I A, A T N A V E R T, M W A N Z A A, S N Y S T A G E, S C A M P E O, C L E V E R E, O O R A N G E, P I V O T S, P E D D L E S A Y S

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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NHC TO STUDY 66 REAL ESTATE COMPANIES FOR EXECUTION OF MAJOR HOUSING PROJECTS

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE National Housing Corporation (NHC) has started going through local and foreign real estate companies' applications for investing into developing plots that have been earmarked by the state-owned entity for joint venture projects.

Last year NHC opened a special window for eligible and interested companies to apply for opportunities to extend their investment footholds for the development of its various plots through joint venture arrangement.

NHC's Public Affairs and Information Manager, Muungano Saguya, told Property Watch earlier this week that the corporation has so far received applications from at least 66 companies from inside and outside the country, and added that further requests were still pouring in.

"Deadline for submitting and receiving applications from the companies that wish to invest was set for November 30, last year," he said. Saguya said NHC's management is keen to analyze the quality of the applicant companies with an eye to determine if they meet the set standards needed for undertaking the envisaged projects professionally.

"As per the relevant regulations, among others, the companies are being authenticated in terms of their financial status, ability to mo-



bilize resources in undertaking real estate development projects, but also and experience in undertaking the projects in question," he stated.

Saguya asserted that as part of key requirements, the companies were requested to submit to NHC their project proposal concepts, company profile, company registration documents, and dem-

onstrate ability to mobilize resources in undertaking real estate development projects.

They were required to submit audited financial statements for the past three years, demonstration of relevant expertise as well as skills and experience in undertaking real estate and related development projects.

"After being verified by the NHC

management, names of the eligible companies will pass through another technical screening at the hands of the NHC's board of directors before finally being confirmed for the respective projects," he said.

He said the screening exercise will encompass rating of qualification of the companies in meeting the set criteria required in

each and every category under the joint venture program, and insisted that the final decision will be made based on the interests of all parties.

"The whole exercise for the scrutiny and selection of the best companies is being conducted ethically, fairness and in a transparent manner while reflecting the relevant procedures and regulations in order to finally pick the reputable and most qualified companies that will develop the intended projects at a given time and recommended quality," he assured.

He said that according to the joint venture projects implementation procedures, NHC stands to undertake due diligence of the prospective partners to establish their legal status, technical proficiency, financial capability, and any other relevant information that is related with their ability to undertake the proposed project successfully.

"According to NHC's Joint Venture Policy, there are four main types of joint venture arrangements, including Land as Equity Contribution (LEC), Land and Finance as Equity Contribution (LFE) Revenue Sharing Model and the Long-term Lease Model (LLM)," Saguya expressed.

NHC has been working to implement joint development and ownership of properties with the private and public sector in a general quest to improve performance of the real estate sector across the country.

Zanzibar plans world's tallest timber building

By Special Correspondent

ZANZIBAR is on course to boasting the highest green building in the world, a 28-storey apartment tower designed in hybrid timber technology.

Named Burj Zanzibar - "burj" meaning tower in Arabic - the spectacular high-rise is designed to reach 96 metres in height.

Dubbed "vertical green village", it would represent an iconic landmark not only for the island but for the whole of Africa and a global environmental milestone, being the first timber structure worldwide of such proportions.

The design of the mixed-use apartment and commercial building, in a playful beehive style with breathtaking ocean views, was unveiled to the public in Muscat, Oman October last year.

Dutch-born architect Leander Moons, responsible for the concept, said: "Burj Zanzibar is not just an outstanding building but a new ecosystem for the future of living".

The residential tower with 266 residences is to be located in Fumba Town, East Africa's pioneering eco-town developed by German-led engineering firm CPS.

Categorised as a strategic investment and fully supported by the Zanzibar government, the growing city near the capital, where foreigners are allowed to buy, stretches along a 1.5-kilometre shoreline on the southwest coast.

"Burj Zanzibar will be the highlight and natural continuation of our efforts to provide sustainable housing in Africa, thereby empowering local employment and businesses", elaborated CPS CEO Sebastian Dietzold in Muscat.

With turquoise seas, white sandy beaches and a UNESCO-protected historic Stone Town, Zanzibar recorded 15% annual growth in tourism in recent years and 6.8% economic growth.

Earlier this year, the semi-autonomous archipelago, 35 kilometres off the coast of Tanzania, stretched its wings also into another direction, launching an initiative to attract African tech companies with a total worth of six billion dollars.

Benefits of timber

Timber is the oldest building material in the world. As timber technology, it currently enjoys a renaissance because of its environmental benefits and longevity.

New timber products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glulam are considered the building material of the future.

One cubic metre of wood binds half a ton of carbon dioxide, whereas conventional concrete construction is responsible for 25% of CO2 emissions.

Once realised, Burj Zanzibar would be the highest timber building in the world and Africa's first high-rise ever in this innovative technology.

A few weeks ago the 86.6-metre Ascent Tower in Milwaukee, US, was certified as the world's tallest timber hybrid building by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH).

Africa's highest conventional skyscraper is a 385-metre office tower named "Iconic Tower" in Egypt, still under construction.

Tanzania's top skyscraper is the 157-metre Ports Authority building in Dar es Salaam. The world's tallest conventional building is Burj Khalifa in Dubai with 828 metres.

Consortium of specialists from New York to Switzerland

Burj Zanzibar is planned as a hybrid timber tower. A steel-reinforced concrete core is designed to meet all required fire and life safety standards.

The project is to be executed by a consortium of leading specialists from Switzerland, Austria, Germany, South Africa, Tanzania and the US.

Green roof gardens and planted balconies further reduce the carbon footprint of the building.

"Burj Zanzibar will be a widely vis-

Major economic projects scheduled for Kagera Region

By Guardian Correspondent,

Bukoba

KAGERA region plans to implement major economic projects worth \$1billion (2.2trn/-) in Rubafu village, Bukoba district.

The projects include the construction of a center of excellence for fish farming research and a project for fish farming in cages.

Speaking on a visit to the area where the projects will be built, Kagera Trade and Investment Officer Issanya Tendega said the projects are funded by the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) and Tanzania Agricultural Catalytic Trust (TACT).

Tendega said that the construction of a research center will enable the production of



quality fish seeds, thanking residents of the village for giving 50 acres of land to the Nelson Mandela College to build the project.

"These areas will be assessed as investment plots and factories will be built to process fish food. Cold rooms will also be built to store fish before being processed to go to the market," said Tendega.

He said that the area has been surveyed and it is enough to put

500,000 cages and wants the people to join the groups to be trained so that they can benefit from the project.

"These cages cannot be developed by the people alone, that's why we have invited investors to invest modern and productively. The people can get enough understanding from them and they can do better breeding and raise themselves economically," he said.

Tendega said that the projects are the result of an agreement between the Kagera Regional Commissioner's office, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Nelson Mandela College and TACT in September last year.

According to Tendega, one cage for raising fish is estimated to cost between 4m/- and 6m/-, and if a person keeps two or three cages, he will be able to

recover his expenses after two or three seasons, if the fish are fed as required.

Kagera regional commissioner Albert Chalamila visited the village and explained to the people that the projects are the result of the visit of the President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan to the United States and convinced 12 investors including TACT.

Chalamila said that by January 10, this year experts from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and TACT will visit the area to complete plans to commence the projects.

"There are conditions for people who come to invest here, one of them is that Rubafu village must be the identified as small town. To fulfill this, the process is ongoing and the entire project area will be given one certificate to allow citizens who want to invest not to worry and incur more costs," said Chalamila.

Nakumatt note holders suffer Sh508million insurance blow

NAIROBI

MORE than 30 debt investors who held commercial papers with collapsed giant retailer Nakumatt Holdings have suffered a blow after their quest to be paid more than Sh508 million by an insurer was rejected by a tribunal.

The investors wanted Mayfair Insurance Company Ltd to compensate them after Nakumatt sank with their millions.

But a tribunal chaired by senior counsel Njoroge Regeru together with retired judge Aaron Ringera and John Ohaga ruled that there was no valid policy between the investors and the underwriter since there is no evidence that the

premium had been paid.

"The upshot of the totality of the foregoing analysis is that the Claimants (note holders) did not provide credible prima facie evidence of payment of the premium to shift the evidential burden of proof to the Respondent," the tribunal ruled.

A commercial paper refers to a short-term unsecured debt instrument that is issued to meet short-term liabilities, among others.

The note holders claimed that they took an insurance policy in May 2017 on behalf of various investors in connection with advancements to Nakumatt Holdings Limited.

Through lawyer Elijah Mwangi,

the investors claimed the underwriter guaranteed payment to the noteholders of up to 80 percent of the invested amount in the event of default by Nakumatt.

The lawyer said after Nakumatt was placed under administration, the underwriter refused to pay the noteholders under the policy.

They sought payment of Sh508.9 million plus interest.

Some of the investors who testified in the tribunal are James Dry of Dry Associates, Peter Obondo Kahi and Bimal Shah, the MD of Broadway Bakery.

The tribunal heard that around July and November 2017, the note holders and their beneficiaries notified the insurance firm of Na-

kumatt's default to pay the commercial paper notes, which had matured.

They accused the insurance firm of failing to honour their claim expeditiously and purporting to divert liability.

The tribunal heard that being a trade insurance policy, the policy amounted to an indemnity policy and a guarantee, under which they are entitled to full compensation plus interest from February 2018.

The underwriter through lawyer James Singh denied having issued a comprehensive insurance policy and contended that if any such policy was issued, it was to the Note Trustee and not to the claimants in their individual ca-

pacities.

Mr Singh further contended that the insurer was not bound to honour any claims that did not comply with the policy and the company did not receive any valid claim or valid notice of default.

He said the investors were at all times aware that Nakumatt was not in a position to pay its creditors.

The tribunal ruled that the policy could not have come into force without payment of the first premium and commitment fee.

Caption

City Residents walk past the closed Nakumatt Lifestyle branch located along Monrovia Street at Hazina Towers.

SAHARA GROUP UNVEILS SUSTAINABILITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

LAGOS

Leading energy and infrastructure conglomerate Sahara Group has flagged off a "Responsibly Sahara" initiative as part of a strategy to enhance its sustainability footprint across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

Ejiro Gray, the organisation's Governance and Sustainability director, has said the initiative will embody Sahara Group's march towards greening its operations progressively to promote access to clean energy and environmental sustainability.

"The 'Responsibly Sahara' initiative represents our very deliberate commitment to sustainability right from the board of directors, the management and business leaders to our next generation of young graduate management trainees," she said recently.

"It is our insignia for sustainability, our enduring call to action to over 6,000 Sahara Group employees to always make a difference when it comes to securing the future today," she added.

Gray said Sahara Group would continue to channel investments towards shoring up its environmental, social and governance (ESG) footprint across the energy conglomerate's upstream, midstream, downstream, power and infrastructure businesses.

According to her, Sahara's membership of leading global carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) re-

search organisation, CO2CRC "demonstrates its commitment to reducing its emissions footprint and building a more sustainable business model".

"We are happy to lead the quest for a just and equitable energy transition in Africa by subjecting our operations and processes to the highest sustainability standards as well as supporting and investing in initiatives that will help galvanise more action towards clean energy for all," she added.

Gray said Sahara Foundation, the Group's social responsibility vehicle, had since streamlined its activities to drive the overarching sustainability focus of Sahara. "Promoting access to energy and sustainable environments are Sahara Foundation's key focus areas and we have already implemented a number of projects towards this objective," she explained.

Sahara Foundation launched the Sahara STEAMers Programme, an initiative that encourages young African students to explore ways of proffering solutions to global issues through science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

The initiative kicked off last year in Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda and is set to expand into more African countries effective from this year.

The second cohort of the Sahara Impact Fund, a Sahara Foundation initiative designed to empower young African social entrepreneurs, provided seed funding to beneficiaries from



L-R: Asharami Energy (a Sahara Group upstream company) reservoir engineering officer Anuola Osinaike, exploration officer Anna Aribatise, production technology officer Kolapo Akande and projects officer Folu Kuti at the recent launch of the 'Responsibly Sahara' initiative in Lagos. Photo: Agencies

over ten countries in Africa towards creating solutions that promote access to energy.

Sahara Group has a fleet of four LPG vessels promoting access to clean energy across

Africa, while the use of electric buggies, scooters and bicycles continues to de-carbonise the

environment across the conglomerate's power operations.

Uhuru spent Sh1.4trn on roads in ten years

NAIROBI

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta's government spent Sh1.4 trillion building roads in his 10-year stint, opening up the country while also saddling it with debts.

This was nearly six times what his predecessor Mwai Kibaki spent in his two terms, with some of his largest road projects being the Thika Superhighway, which cost the country a total of Sh26.7 billion.

Although Kenyatta's administration built most of the roads using loans, the Sh88 billion Nairobi Expressway that was completed towards the end of his term was financed and built largely by the private sector.

Nonetheless, taxpayers will still spend Sh24.8 billion on a 27.4-kilometre highway, which motorists are already paying toll fees of as much as Sh417 to use, according to a disclosure by the Treasury.

While the government's financial burden on privately-built projects like the 27.4-kilometre highway is expected to be minimal, the report from the Treasury shows that by end of June last year, it had released Sh5.93 billion for the double-decker road, with the outstanding balance of Sh18.9 billion to be released later.

Some of the other major road projects that were completed between 2013 and June 30, 2022, include the dualling of the Nairobi Eastern Bypass at a total cost of Sh38.9 billion, with Kenyatta following in the footsteps of his predecessor to build more bypasses to decongest cities.

Kenyatta's administration also built Nairobi's Western Bypass at a cost of Sh22.4 billion, while Outer Ring Road took up Sh19.6 billion.

It is also during his term that there was the dualling of the Mombasa-Mariakani at a total cost of Sh39 billion, while the Miritini-Mwache Road, including the Kipevu Link Road, was done at a cost of Sh21.6 billion.

The James Gichuru junction-Rironi, which is still under construction, will cost Sh34.4 billion.

Virtually all the roads built by President Kenyatta were loans, with critics arguing that this has saddled Kenyans with debts with a big chunk of taxes being used on interest payments. However, the former President insisted that his administration had achieved a lot "using other people's money."

"The only time that debt is a burden to a nation is if the nation is led by a cabal of looters. But in the hands of a visionary administration, debt is a catalyst for rapid development," said Kenyatta in his last Madaraka Day speech.

"In the last decade Kenya's infrastructure development drive has been funded mainly by borrowing including from international bond markets," said the Treasury in a new report.

By end of June 2022, road projects that had been commissioned by Uhuru's administration had taken up Sh631.5 billion, with Sh781 billion yet to be disbursed.



Exim Bank's Head of Alternative Channel & Digital Transformation Silas Matoi (2nd R) along with the bank's Tower Branch Manager Vishal Ratansinh (R), and the bank's Alternative Channel & Digital Transformation officer Gregory Malembeka (L) handing over an iPhone 14 Pro smart phone to Balubhai Patel from Dar es Salaam, after emerging the winner of the second monthly draw of the bank's 'Chanja Kijanja, Kimasta Zaidi' Campaign which aims to entice its MasterCard holders to use their card instead of cash for payment of goods and services at merchant's Point of Sales (POS) or ecommerce sites.

Rwanda launches electronic land titles to boost efficiency

KIGALI

RWANDANS are set to start accessing land titles online - a move that is expected to reduce the cost and time needed to get such a service, the National Land Authority (NLA) has announced.

NLA said through a press release dated January 4 that it is introducing the electronic certificate of land registration or land title, known as "e-Title", effective January 6, 2023.

The development, according to NLA, is expected to eliminate issuance of hard copies or physical land title deeds to citizens, but also across various sectors which usually need them to serve citizens in different capabilities.

Also, electronic land titles are going to change the way people perceive land services because there will be no need to make trips to the sector office or to the registrar's office to pick the physical land titles.

Rather, it said, after the application is approved by the Registrar of the Land Titles, the owner of the land will get a notification with a link to be used to download and save the digital copy of his/her land title.

"This means that the issuance is going to be done straight away after Registrar's approval and people will get rid of days they used to wait for printout and transportation of printed titles from the districts to the sectors' offices," it said in the press release.

As the e-Title feature is now fully implemented and deployed, the Authority said the transactions that do not need to be processed by land notaries will be fully online on Trembo - the Government's online one-stop service portal.

With this progress, NLA observed that Rwandans including those living in diaspora, are able to enjoy the automated land services and instantly get access to their land titles at their fingertips through their devices, without making any single visit or involving third parties, which would necessitate provision of the power of attorney for representation purpose.

The issuance of land titles has always been done only in non-digital format, namely

on printed certificates, which is costly due to high printing expenses, paperwork, NLA said.

It added that there was a possibility of fraud as well as loss of title, which needs to be replaced at additional charges, and time constraints associated with the procedure to request its replacement.

It explained that for each new title, citizens have to pay Rwf5,000. With e-Title, this cost will no longer be paid by the land owner but on top of this.

So far a flat fee of Rwf30,000 is charged for land transfer fee regardless of the value of the plot in question, something that Members of Parliament have been arguing should be revised to factor in the value aspect. This fee covers

the printed land title and the transfer of ownership.

"The government will no longer pay for printer leasing fees, templates used to print the land titles out, and the staff involved in printing will serve in speeding up land services as the burden will be thrown away from them," NLA said.

During the period of 2009-2013, NLA indicated, Rwanda conducted a countrywide Land Tenure Regularisation programme, which involved, among others, land demarcation and a land registry that is fully digital.

It showed that the systematic land registration resulted in registering more than 10.4 million parcels and issuance of 8.8 million of land titles to the land owners.

CONSTRUCTION

The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

UGANDA PROCURES CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY

KAMPALA

The Uganda government, through the National Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation Skills Enhancement Project has procured 300 pieces of construction equipment and machinery to enhance technological and skills development and build capacity of Ugandans to participate in strategic national infrastructural projects and manufacturing.

The equipment is part of the Shs435b National Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation Skills Enhancement Project under Uganda National Council for Science and Technology that seeks to help Ugandans build capacity with the view of participate in strategic sectors of the economy.

Speaking during tour in Lyantonde District, where the machinery is currently stationed, Mr Paul Okiria, the National Council for Science and Technology procurement officer, said the equipment, which will be used at a lease and use basis, will give Ugandan contractors an opportunity to compete with other international companies in undertaking major infrastructure projects.

"I have been in this business of con-



Dr Monica Musenero (L), the Uganda Science Technology and Innovation minister, inspects the equipment in Lyantonde District recently.

tracts for long but at times you sympathise with our local companies. You find it hard to award a contract to a local firm that is competing but just a tractor and perhaps a truck. But with this project, our local firms, individuals and even lo-

cal governments, they can rent or lease the equipment to undertake major infrastructural projects," he said, noting that some local companies such as National Enterprise Corporation had already expressed interest in renting some of the

equipment.

However, Okiria noted they were yet to come up with any fees structure, adding that charges for renting out or leasing the equipment will depend on how long a company or an individual intends to

use the equipment.

Large infrastructural projects are dominated by foreign companies, especially Chinese, due to low capacity of local contractors to handle mega projects.

The equipment, among others include excavators, compactors, hoisters, water transportation trucks and auxiliary machinery.

Mr Gerald Tumwine, a mechanical engineer with Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, said as part of enhancing local skills, they will offer skills training on handling and maintaining this equipment to companies that rent or lease the equipment.

Local capacity

According to Mr Jossy Muhangi, the head of communications at Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, the equipment has been procured under the National Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation Skills Enhancement Project through Uganda National Council for Science and Technology to enhance technological and skills development as well as growing participation of local companies in large infrastructure projects.

Blastr planning to build €4bn green steel plant in Finland

HELSINKI

NORWEGIAN company Blastr Green Steel plans to invest €4bn in a Finnish steel mill with an integrated hydrogen production facility.

Blastr signed a letter of intent with Finnish state-owned utility Fortum giving access to land on an existing industrial estate in the coastal town of Inkoo, about 30km west of Helsinki.

The company was founded in 2021 with backing from Nordic investment company Vanir Green Industries, which specialises in low carbon projects. As well as the Finnish scheme, it is planning a pellet plant on Norway's Atlantic coast, with the aim of producing 2.5 million tons of hot and cold-rolled steel coils a year, beginning in 2026.

The plan, which has not yet secured finance, is to use local iron ore deposits and renewable energy based on wind power to reduce the plant's carbon output to 5% of traditional plants.

He added: "Inkoo was selected due to its high-quality infrastructure and access to clean power. In addition, the ice-free deep-sea harbour enables efficient, low-carbon logistics all year round and close access to the European market."

The final investment decision is due in the beginning of 2025.

Through our pre-feasibility studies, we have planned for a new, large and green industrial adventure, with priority to locate a pellet plant on the Norwegian Atlantic coast, and a steel plant on an industrial site in Finland. The plan entails the production of 2.5 million tons of high-quality steel on coils per year, mainly based on Nordic iron ore concentrates.

Before final investment decisions, extensive engineering will be carried out, which includes EIA - environmental impact assessments, and subject to necessary permits and licences.

In collaboration with the authorities, research and other stakeholders, analyses of the significant positive ripple effects and social consequences will be carried out.

Backed by Vanir Green Industries a a Nordic investment company that invests in, develops and scales green, robust and profitable businesses needed to accelerate the energy transition. Vanir Green Industries is managed by a team of experienced professionals with deep industrial competence and a genuine drive to build a more sustainable future.



A traditional steel mill site.

GISI pays 19 pct more for Hill acquisition

ALAMEIN CITY

GLOBAL Infrastructure Solutions (GISI) has finalised its acquisition of Hill International at a higher price than first agreed after an unsolicited third-party proposal.

The two companies' boards initially approved GISI paying \$2.85 per Hill share in August last year but the rival buyer pushed the per-share price to \$3.40, some 19 percent higher, in a deal that has now cleared final regulatory reviews.

Hill shareholders representing 72.9 percent of outstanding common shares approved the deal on 2 November.

Hill keeps its brand as it joins GISI's Engineering & Consulting Services division along with companies The LiRo Group, GEI Consultants, J. Roger Preston Limited (JRP), and Asia Infrastructure Solutions.

"The completion of our merger with Hill International is GISI's fifth strategic merger or acquisition during 2022," said Rick Newman, GISI President and CEO. "Our employee-ownership model differentiates us and is an important feature of our growth, recruitment, and professional development initiatives."

In December last year, Global Infrastructure Solutions (GISI) and Hill International Inc. (NYSE:HIL) today announced their strategic merger is complete after clearing final regulatory reviews. This merger presents enhanced opportunities for growth in global, for-fee infrastructure consulting markets.

"The completion of our merger with Hill International is GISI's fifth strategic merger or acquisition during 2022," said Rick Newman, GISI President and CEO. "Our employee-ownership model differentiates us



Marina Towers project in Egypt's New Alamein City.

and is an important feature of our growth, recruitment, and professional development initiatives.

As a result, we believe that the GISI family of companies is well positioned to serve the needs of an expanding market requiring more technical and professional expertise than ever before."

Hill International CEO Raouf Ghali said: "Since our founding in 1976, Hill has grown into an industry-leading program, project, and construction management company. By joining the GISI family of companies, Hill is ready

to continue to grow while enhancing the quality of our client services, thanks to GISI's focus on long-term success."

Newman added: "Hill's uniqueness as a for-fee-only program management firm, combined with its technical and managerial expertise, makes the company a welcome addition to the GISI family. We're excited to bring aboard Raouf and the entire Hill team."

Initially approved by GISI and Hill boards of directors on August 16, 2022, merger terms were later amended to US\$3.40 per share

from US\$2.85 after receipt of an unsolicited third-party proposal. Hill shareholders representing approximately 72.9% of outstanding common shares approved the combination on November 2.

Hill International will continue to serve its customers under the Hill International brand as part of GISI's Engineering & Consulting Services platform, along with sister companies The LiRo Group, GEI Consultants, J. Roger Preston Limited (JRP), and Asia Infrastructure Solutions.

Concern as vandals now target Masaka streetlights

KAMPALA

SUSPECTED vandals are targeting streetlights in Masaka City, with about 10 of them stolen between November and December, the authorities have said.

The mayor, Ms Florence Namayanja, yesterday said vandalism is a setback in their efforts to improve the city infrastructure.

"We are trying to fight darkness in the city but our efforts should not be frustrated by the vandals. We are currently lighting up the trading centres that were recently annexed to the city," she said.

Among the areas targeted by the vandals are Kimanya/Kabonera Division, Mukungwe and the central business area.

"We need security for the entire city because the vandals take advantage of the relaxed security in some areas that have less deployment," the mayor said.

Mr Abed Bwanika, the MP for Kimanya/Kabonera Division, also appealed to police to be on the alert and always respond to the emergency concerns raised by the residents.

"We also need more CCTV cameras to boost the city's infrastructure security. The cameras will not only monitor crime but serve different purposes that benefit the population," he said.

Last year, Masaka leaders embarked on a campaign to light up the city through installation of additional security lights in areas that were still experiencing darkness in the night hours.

The city received Shs60b from the World Bank under the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) project. Under the project, the city installed 500 streetlights that are solar powered.

In Masaka City, most of the solar lamps were installed between 2015 and 2018 and each, according to city authorities, cost Sh12m, with a 10 year-



Solar lights installed along Edward Avenue in Masaka Town.

warranty.

Trend

Last year, this this publication reported that the street lighting system installed in most urban centres across the country under the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Develop-

ment (USMID) project has broken down due to poor maintenance and vandalism. The solar-powered system was considered as the most efficient way to curb darkness in the streets without accumulating power bills. The lights had helped to reduce crime rate.

WORLD

US House still in turmoil as Kevin McCarthy fails for 2nd day of voting

WASHINGTON

THE US House of Representatives remains in turmoil with no speaker elected on the second day of voting.

House members voted on Wednesday night to adjourn until noon Thursday, prolonging a historical political stalemate that has paralyzed the lower chamber.

US Congressman Kevin McCarthy, a Republican from California, failed to secure enough votes another three times earlier in the day due to intra-party division.

House members voted three times on Tuesday -- the opening day of the divided 118th Congress -- but McCarthy fell short of the necessary votes to be the next speaker.

It was the first time a House speaker -- who maintains order, manages its proceedings, and governs the administration of its business on the lower chamber's floor -- hadn't been elected on the first ballot in 100 years.

The 435-seat House will have to vote on until a speaker is elected with a ma-

majority of votes. Before that, members cannot be sworn in and committees cannot be formed with the rest of business stalled.

US Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, a Michigan Democrat, tweeted that the infighting "isn't just a shame for Republicans, it's bad for the entire country."

US President Joe Biden, a Democrat, reacted to the political drama surrounding the House speakership vote on Wednesday morning, saying that "it's embarrassing the way it's taking so long."

"How do you think this looks to the rest of the world?" Biden told reporters at the White House before leaving for Hebron, Kentucky. "It's not a good look. It's not a good thing."

McCarthy has the support of most House Republicans and former US president Donald Trump, but a handful of hardliners have opposed his bid to lead the conference by arguing that he is insufficiently conservative while refusing to decentralize the speaker's power.

The House has elected a speaker 127



US Congressman Kevin McCarthy, a Republican from California, leaves the House floor after it adjourned for the night on Jan 4, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

times since 1789. There have been 14 instances of speaker elections requiring multiple ballots.

Thirteen of 14 multiple-ballot elections occurred before the Civil War, when party divisions were more nebulous, according to Congressional historians. The last time a speaker election required two or more votes on the floor happened in 1923.

Harvard legal scholar Laurence Tribe tweeted on Wednesday that "because the House of Representatives, unlike the Senate, is not a continuing body, it must reassemble itself without full constitutional authority every two years, like someone rebuilding a ship on the open seas."

"But when the voyage is this rough, that's a sign of dysfunction," Tribe said. All House Democrats have voted for Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat, to be speaker.

Though it's unlikely for Jeffries to attain the position, he is set to become the first African American lawmaker to lead a party in either chamber of the US Congress.

Republicans flipped the House in the 2022 midterm elections while Democrats held onto their majority in the Senate.

The new Congress convened for the first time on Tuesday, with US Vice-President Kamala Harris presiding over the opening of the 100-people upper chamber in which Democrats control 51 seats versus 49 for Republicans.

Chuck Schumer from New York and Mitch McConnell from Kentucky remain the Senate majority leader and minority leader, respectively.

Russia cannot view Italy as guarantor of peace process around Ukraine – diplomat

MOSCOW



RUSSIA cannot view Italy as a guarantor of the potential peace process around Ukraine due to Rome's biased stance against Moscow, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday.

The diplomat was asked to comment on the reports that Rome was poised to act as a guarantor of peace settlement in Ukraine. In particular, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced that at a press conference on December 29, 2022.

"Obviously, with regard to the biased position taken by Italy, we cannot view it either as 'an honest broker' or a possible guarantor of the peace process," Zakharova said in her response to a media question published on the ministry's website.

Zakharova pointed out that "many countries pledge their readiness to take part in resolving the Ukraine crisis, and some even openly offer us their mediation services."

"Pope Francis, French President Emmanuel Macron, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and other heads of state and government, politicians and public figures have spoken about it," she continued. "Some are sincere in doing so, but others are motivated by their self-interest, trying to wedge themselves into the negotiation process for foreign policy benefits."

"However, we find it strange to hear proposals for mediation from the countries that since the very beginning of the special military operation in Ukraine have taken an unambiguous and very aggressive anti-Russian position, not only supporting the bloody Kiev regime, but also providing it with substantial military and military-technical assistance and intentionally pumping the cutting-edge weapons into Ukraine," Zakharova said.

According to the diplomat, "Along with a wide range of weapons and military equipment, Italy also supplies Kiev with anti-personnel mines."

Zakharova pointed out that "not only do those irresponsible actions multiply casualties, including among the civilian population in Donbass, and drag out the end of the conflict, but they also risk dragging NATO countries into direct military confrontation with Russia."

"Nevertheless, Kiev's Western handlers, with Italy regrettably among them, have no intention of stopping and, on the contrary, are stepping up their supplies," she said.

"It would be better if European pseudo-peacemakers halted their military boost of Kiev and focused their efforts on working more firmly and demandingly with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky, who has repeatedly reiterated his total aversion to a peaceful resolution to the conflict, and even signed a decree on September 30, 2022 to reject negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman concluded.

US Apollo 7 astronaut Walter Cunningham dies at 90

HOUSTON

FORMER U.S. astronaut Walt Cunningham, who flew into space on Apollo 7, the first crewed Apollo flight, died at 90 on Tuesday in Houston, according to a news release from the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"On Apollo 7, the first launch of a crewed Apollo mission, Walt and his crewmates made history, paving the way for the Artemis Generation we see today," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. Cunningham died of complications of a fall, his family said.

A public memorial service will be held on Jan. 24 in Houston. Cunningham, who called being an astronaut "one of the world's greatest jobs ever," was a U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilot before becoming an astronaut in 1963 as part of NASA's third astronaut class. He was designated the lunar module pilot for the 11-day flight of Apollo 7, which launched on Oct. 11, 1968 and was the first human flight test of the Apollo spacecraft.

With Walter Schirra and Donn Eisele, he tested maneuvers necessary for docking and lunar orbit rendezvous using the third stage of their Saturn IB launch vehicle, according to NASA.

The crew successfully completed eight tests, igniting the service module engine, measuring the accuracy of performance of all spacecraft systems, and providing the first live television transmission of onboard crew activities.

The 263-hour and 4.5-million-mile flight splashed down on Oct. 22, 1968 in the Atlantic Ocean. "Walt Cunningham was a fighter pilot, physicist, and an entrepreneur -- but, above all, he was an explorer," Nelson said.

"NASA will always remember his contributions to our nation's space program and send our condolences to the Cunningham family." "The world has lost another true hero, and we will miss him dearly," the Cunningham family said in a statement.

Agencies

Steps urged to promote principles of CPC congress

BEIJING

A senior Communist Party of China official has called for concrete efforts to make the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress better understood by the public in order to boost the nation's confidence in building a modern socialist country in all respects.

Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, made the remark at a conference on Wednesday attended by publicity officials in person and via video link nationwide.

Addressing the conference, Cai said that solid efforts should be made to strengthen publicity work to provide ideological support and intellectual strength to the nation's modernization drive.

Speaking about this year's publicity work, Cai urged

publicity officials across the country to implement the decisions and policies adopted at the Party's 20th National Congress in October, in line with the new situation and the new tasks the nation is facing.

It is important to unite and inspire the people with Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, he said, adding that publicity work needs to focus on boosting people's confidence and educating younger generations about socialist core values.

Cai said greater efforts should be made to meet people's diverse needs for high-quality cultural works and to make China better heard and understood by the world through efficient international communication.

He also asked for the Party's leadership of publicity work to be strengthened, and urged publicity officials to improve their work performance.

Li Shulei, a member of the



A medical worker prepares medicine for patients according to prescription at a fever clinic in Weiyang District of Xi'an, Northwest China's Shaanxi province, Dec 20, 2022. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, presided over the meeting.

Li stressed the importance of fully implementing Xi's instructions and theories about publicity and ideological work and called for learning

and implementing the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress.

Libya condemns Israeli minister's visit to Jerusalem holy site

TRIPOLI

THE Libyan Foreign Ministry on Wednesday condemned Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's controversial visit to the flashpoint holy site of Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem.

"This is an attempt to change the current historic and legal status of Al-Aqsa Mosque... a provocation to the feelings of Muslims and a clear violation of relative international resolu-

tions," the ministry said in a statement. The ministry held Israel responsible for the "repercussions of the continuation of such daily violations on Jerusalem."

"The ministry reiterates Libya's position towards the justice of the Palestinian cause and calls on the international community to live up to its responsibilities and end those Israeli violations, which could fuel conflict, extremism, and instability in the region," the statement added.

On Tuesday, Ben-Gvir made a visit to the flashpoint holy site of Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem, triggering a furious backlash from the Muslim world in the Middle East.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, known to Jews as the most sacred site, is regarded by Muslims as their third-holiest site.

The holy site has been administered by the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf, a Jordanian body, since 1948. Under a 1967 agreement between Israel and Jordan,

non-Muslim worshippers can visit the compound but are prohibited from praying there.



the ministry said in a statement. The ministry held Israel responsible for the "repercussions of the continuation of such daily violations

"We cherish peace and development and value friends and partners as we have always done. We stand firm on the right side of history and on the side of human civilization and progress. We work hard to contribute China's wisdom and solutions to the cause of peace and development for all humanity."

In his 2023 New Year Address, Chinese President Xi Jinping reviewed the accomplishments achieved by China in 2022, and encouraged the Chinese people to press on courageously to make tomorrow's China a better place. His remarks demonstrated China's sense of responsibility to keep working with the rest of the world to create a better future for mankind on a new journey.

China will do well only when the world does well, and vice versa.

China to contribute wisdom, solutions to cause of peace, development for all humanity

Changes of the world, of the times and of history are unfolding today in ways like never before.

China always pursues the common good of the world. It is a country where dreams become reality. Brimming with vigor and vitality, keeping to its national character, and closely linking itself with the world, the country is not only seeking its own development, but also benefiting the entire world.

Last year, China's economy achieved steady progress. The country's GDP for the whole year is expected to exceed 120 trillion yuan (\$17.38 trillion), which will hit a historical high. It had 19 consecutive years of bumper harvests in grain production and embraced the

eighth consecutive year to register a grain harvest of over 650 billion kilograms.

China has always put the people first and put life first all along. Following a science-based and targeted approach, it has adapted its COVID response in light of the evolving situation to protect the life and health of the people to the greatest extent possible.

Last year, the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games concluded with a resounding success. Shenzhou-13, Shenzhou-14, and Shenzhou-15 soared into the heavens (\$17.38 trillion), which will hit a historical high. It had 19 consecutive years of bumper harvests in grain production and embraced the

None of these achievements would have been possible without

the sweat and toil of the numerous Chinese people. Sparks of talent are coming together, and they are the strength of China!

A strong leadership is very much needed for a country to cope with the changing international situation, and there must be solutions for the world to tackle challenges amid the turbulent international environment.

In 2022, Xi chaired and attended over 10 international multilateral meetings at home and abroad, met and held talks with more than 60 leaders of foreign countries and international organizations, and made telephone and video calls with nearly 30 foreign leaders, exchanging views with them on bilateral rela-

tions and major international issues. China follows the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, works with relevant parties to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, promotes the implementation of the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and pushes for the building of an open world economy.

China's vision of advancing the common progress of the world, its promises that place a high value on its friendships with other countries, its wisdom that guides it to seek harmony in diversity, as well as its sense of responsibility that makes it keep its word all shed light on the future development of the

world. Around the world, the trends of transformation and turbulence are both evolving continuously, and the tendencies toward unity and division are both surging and contending with each other. China will continue to be a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of the international order.

Based on the principle of objectivity and fairness, China proposed four points about what must be done and four things the international community must do together to alleviate the geopolitical conflicts intensified by the Ukraine crisis, playing a constructive role in encouraging peace talks and alleviating humanitarian crisis.

People's Daily

Russia to block military threats coming from Japan - MFA

MOSCOW

MOSCOW considers Tokyo's policy of abandoning peaceful development as a serious challenge to the security of Russia and the Asia-Pacific Region in general and warns that if this practice continues, it will be left with no choice other than to take adequate counter-measures in order to block military threats, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko told TASS in an interview.

"We have taken note of the [Japanese Prime Minister Fumio] Kishida administration's accelerated implementation of abandoning a policy of peaceful development, which has been professed for many decades, and embarking on a track of fast-tracked militarization.

Among the concrete steps along these lines are the holding of large-scale military exercises near Russia's borders together with non-regional partners, the adoption of an updated version of doctrinal documents in the field of defense and security with a view to creating an attack potential and an unprecedented increase in defense spending," Rudenko said.

Russia regularly expresses its stance in the public space and via diplomatic channels.

"We consider such activity by Tokyo as a serious challenge to the security of our country and the Asia-Pacific Region as a whole. We warn that if this practice continues, we will be forced to take proportionate counter-measures in order to block military threats to Russia," he stressed.

Earlier, the NHK television broadcaster quoted government sources as saying the Japanese Defense Ministry had plans for deploying hypersonic weapons with a range of up to 1,000 kilometers on the northern island of Hokkaido and the southwestern island of Kyushu. **Agencies**

Humanitarian aid remains priority to ensure people's recovery from conflict in northern Ethiopia - FAO

ADDIS ABABA

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on Wednesday said humanitarian access and the delivery of urgently needed assistance to conflict-affected parts of northern Ethiopia remain a key priority to ensure people's recovery from conflict.

The FAO, in its latest humanitarian response overview for Ethiopia, said humanitarian assistance has slowly started to reach people affected by conflict in northern Ethiopia, following the recently signed peace agreement between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

"However, humanitarian access and the delivery of urgently needed assistance, especially in Tigray, remain key priorities to ensure people are able to recover from conflict," it said.

According to the FAO, across the three conflict-affected regions in northern Ethiopia that are Afar, Amhara and Tigray, the conflict has further contributed to mass displacement, loss of livelihoods, and limited access to markets, food and basic services.

"It has likewise hindered many communities from engaging in agricultural activities, as well as accessing farm inputs (seeds, fertilizer and tools) and vital services (healthcare, education, banking and water)," it said. It also said although humanitarian actors are now moving supplies into the Tigray region, they are not enough to meet growing needs.

"This distinct lack of resources and limited access to humanitarian support has diminished people's coping capacities, increasing their vulnerability to additional shocks and stressors," the FAO said.

According to the FAO, in the just-started 2023, it will prioritize the restoration of people's agricultural livelihoods, particularly in conflict and drought-affected parts of Ethiopia, so as to ensure people have the resources they need to strengthen their resilience.

Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation, has seen a devastating conflict between government-allied troops and forces loyal to the TPLF since November 2020, which left thousands dead and millions more in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. In early November 2022, the two parties in the Ethiopian conflict formally agreed to the cessation of hostilities and orderly disarmament.

The deal also includes restoring law and order, restoring services and unhindered access to humanitarian supplies. **Xinhua**

Turkish president increases salaries of civil servants, pensioners

ANKARA

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Wednesday the salaries of civil servants and pensioners would rise by an additional five percent to 30 percent in the first half of 2023.

The move comes one day after Erdogan announced on Tuesday that salaries for both active and retired civil servants would be increased by 25 percent for the first six months of this year.

"As a result of the studies carried out, we have provided opportunities to hike the salary increase rate of civil servants and pensioners up to 30 percent by making sacrifices in some other areas," Erdogan told his party members at the parliament.

The lowest pension for retired citizens would be 5,500 Turkish liras (293.45 U.S. dollars) in 2023, up from 3,500 liras, he said. The move is part of the government's efforts to ease Turkish citizens' burden of rising living costs, which stem mostly from high inflation.

Since mid-2018, Türkiye has been experiencing serious economic problems, such as high inflation and a decline in households' purchasing power. Erdogan prepares to run for presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled in June, hoping to gain the support of Turkish citizens despite the country's challenging economic conditions.

The Turkish government has introduced a number of initiatives, including a big housing project for low-income families, cheap home mortgages for middle-income Turks, and lower utility tax rates. The government earlier announced a rise in the minimum wage by 55 percent from the beginning of 2023.

The monthly net minimum salary will be 8,506 liras in 2023. Erdogan favors low-interest rates in the hope of boosting economic growth and employment. The Turkish lira has devalued by more than 50 percent since September 2021.

For the first time since May 2021, Türkiye's inflation saw a slowdown in November last year, decreasing to 84.3 percent from 85.5 percent in October, which was the highest since 2002. The country's annual inflation fell sharply to 64.27 percent in December due to a base effect. **Xinhua**



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Latest 'atmospheric river' storm renews flood threat in California

SACRAMENTO

EMERGENCY crews braced for the latest bout of high winds and torrential rains sweeping California on Wednesday, renewing the threat of power outages and deadly flooding that gripped parts of San Francisco Bay and Sacramento over New Year's weekend.

The "atmospheric river" - an airborne current of dense moisture flowing from the ocean - was expected to drench much of California ahead of a storm front bringing additional showers to low-lying areas and more snow to the Sierra Nevada Mountains through Thursday.

The incoming blast of extreme winter weather - the next in a succession of storms expected to wash over California in the coming weeks - originated from a sprawling, hurricane-force low pressure system churning over the eastern Pacific, forecasters said.

The National Weather Service predicted widespread rainfall totals of 3 to 6 inches, with up to 3 feet of fresh snow in Sierras.

Authorities warned the heavy downpours would likely unleash flash flooding and mudslides, especially in areas where the ground remains saturated from rains that soaked northern California days earlier. Fire-ravaged hill slopes are also particularly vulnerable to slides.

High-wind warnings were posted along the central California coast



A fallen tree blocks the street next to Fort Sutter Medical Complex in Sacramento, California, Jan 1, 2023. California was drying out and digging out on New Year's Day after a powerful storm brought drenching rain or heavy snowfall to much of the state, snarling traffic and closing highways. AP

north through the Bay area and into extreme northern California and Oregon. The National Weather Service said gale-force gusts were expected to uproot trees, shear off limbs and knock down power lines, disrupting electricity service in many areas.

San Francisco's transit agency halted its famed cable car service through Thursday due to inclement weather, and scores of commercial flights were canceled at San Francisco International Airport.

Stormy weather was blamed for at least one traffic death in the north Bay city of Fairfield, where pooled water on a roadway sent a car crashing into a utility pole, killing the driver, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Voluntary evacuation notices were issued for homes along three

roads in a flood-prone area of Alameda County, across the bay from San Francisco, citing threats posed by "the impending storms, saturated soils and current runoff."

Emergency footing

Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on Wednesday to support the state's winter weather hazards response, and activated California's flood operations center.

The governor's Office of Emergency Services said it had staged crews in several northern counties likely to be hardest hit by flooding, and where previous wildfires have stripped hillsides of vegetation, leaving them at high risk of mudslides.

State Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot urged residents in such areas to stay indoors unless

ordered to evacuate, and to prepare for power outages by charging electrical devices and having flashlights and candles handy.

Casualties

Sacramento County crews were still out on Wednesday repairing levee breaches along the Cosumnes River, near Sacramento, where flooding last weekend closed Highway 99, Crowfoot said at a news briefing in the state capital.

At least three deaths have been attributed to last weekend's storm. Two bodies were recovered from Cosumnes River flood zone, and a 72-year-old man was found dead under a fallen tree in Santa Cruz, authorities said.

The latest round of extreme weather was the second in a series of potentially damaging storms expected to hit the state over the next seven to 10 days, Nancy Ward, director of emergency services, told reporters. The state operations center had been placed at its highest level, she said.

Agencies

Defaming China's optimisation in COVID-19 response exposes political prejudices of the West

CHINA, enhancing the construction and coordination of its medical resources, has taken a series of detailed measures to protect its people's lives and health to the fullest extent.

The country has converted nucleic acid testing booths into temporary "fever clinics" and launched expansion programs for first-aid centers. It has mobilized hundreds of key enterprises to keep improving the production and supply of major medical materials and guided them to precisely distribute the materials in accordance with infection peaks in different regions. It has also worked to guarantee the prevention and control needs of key regions and high-risk groups.

China has adapted its prevention and control protocols to the evolving situation, coordinated COVID-19 response and economic development in a science-based manner, and shifted its focus from preventing infections to ensuring people's health and preventing critical cases. The adjustment is scientific, timely and necessary.

However, some media outlets in the West, turning a blind eye to the facts and ignoring science, viciously defamed the adjustment in China's COVID-19 response, which completely deviates from the professional ethics of journalism and has no credibility at all.

COVID-19 is a major test for every country. Since its outbreak, China has always followed the principle of putting people and their lives above everything. It has gathered all available resources to protect the life and health of every Chinese citizen, withstanding rounds of resurgences and successfully getting over the toughest time.

The country has issued nine editions of prevention and control plans and diagnosis and treatment plans, which has helped it avoid the widespread infections of the original strain and the Delta variant that are relatively more pathogenic than the other variants.

As a result, the numbers of critical cases and deaths have been significantly reduced, and the country has won valuable time in vaccination and medicine development, as well as the preparation of medical



An elderly man receives a COVID-19 vaccine shot in Zhengzhou, Henan province, on Oct 14, 2022. [Photo/VCG]

resources.

China has kept its COVID-19 severe cases and death rates among the lowest in the world. Despite the pandemic, average life expectancy in China went up from 77.3 to 78.2 years. Even when the global Human Development Index dropped for two years straight, China went up six places on the Index.

The optimization of China's COVID-19 prevention and control measures mirrors the country's scientific and practical attitude.

At present, the virulence and pathogenicity of the Omicron variant have significantly declined, and China is continuously improving its capability in terms of medical treatment, pathogen detection and vaccination.

It was under such a background that China optimized its prevention and control measures and downgraded its management of COVID-19 from Class A to Class B.

The optimization came in time and is of great necessity. It is a strategic and visionary move to coordinate the COVID-19 response and the development of the economy and society at a higher efficiency, and to protect the fundamental interests of the people.

Every country needs to go through an adaptation period when adjusting the COVID-19 prevention and control measures, and China is no exception.

Under the joint efforts of all relevant parties, China's COVID-19 situation is within expectations and controllable. Local authorities and relevant departments are working actively to expand medical resources, establish a hierarchical diagnosis and treatment system, improve the

supply of medicines, and gather all resources to protect high-risk groups such as seniors with underlying diseases, women in maternity and children.

International personages that are objective and impartial believe that China has gained enough experiences and is well-prepared for the COVID-19 response. They said the country is capable of ensuring a smooth transition.

Facts have proved that China's optimization in its COVID-19 response measures is by no means "lying flat." Those who have "laid flat" are exactly some Western countries that enjoy abundant medical resources.

These Western countries had already succumbed to the virus. They prematurely removed the face mask mandate, stopped quarantining the infected and abandoned the tracking of close contacts. They failed to formulate solutions to the social problems caused by the wide spread of the virus, which finally led to the loss of lives and health of the people.

According to a report issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S., the life expectancy of Americans dropped for the second year in a row in 2021, declining nearly a year from 2020 to 2021. The decline in life expectancy was attributed primarily to mortality from COVID-19, the report said.

Surrendering itself to COVID-19, the U.S. has triggered a trauma that's almost incurable to its society. Over a million Americans died because of the virus, which exposed the systemic flaws of the U.S. government in responding to public health crises.

By defaming China's optimization

in COVID-19 response measures, some Western media laid bare their deep-rooted political prejudices. Over the past three years, they ignored China's achievements in pandemic control and attacked every single control policy released by China.

From smearing China on the COVID-19 origin tracing to fabricating the so-called "lab leak" rumor, and to pointing fingers at China's optimization in control measures, they have made the pandemic response an ideological issue. They are addicted to putting politics first and following double standards, which has severely damaged the global unity in fighting COVID-19.

China has always put people and their lives first. It is sincerely protecting the health and well-being of the Chinese people and assisting the international community to fight COVID-19. With the solidarity of over 1.4 billion Chinese people and the support of an increasingly strong national strength, China and its people will finally secure a victory over the virus.

People's Daily

The Guardian

SPORT

Column: The games will go on after Hamlin - they always do

By PAUL NEWBERRY

It was a horrific scene, no doubt. A young athlete just getting started on a promising NFL career, seemingly the personification of fitness and health, popping up from a rather innocuous-looking tackle – and then slumping back to the turf.

Just like that, fighting for his life. Naturally, when a traumatic event happens like the one that stopped Damar Hamlin's heart – not once, but twice – and left him in critical condition, we're roused to ponder the value of a sport.

Especially a violent one such as football, which has turned many a man's brain to mush and left so many bodies maimed and broken.

Some parents won't let their children play football anymore. Some fans say they can no longer bear to watch the physical toll these modern-day gladiators put themselves through for our enjoyment.

Both sentiments are understandable. There are plenty of other sports that kids can play. There are plenty of other ways to enjoy a Sunday afternoon in the fall that don't require watching the carnage of the NFL.

But anyone who suggests this is a precarious moment for America's No. 1 sport, that somehow we've crossed a Rubicon leading to its slow, inevitable downfall, simply hasn't been paying attention.

Tragedy and death are a part of all sports, as intertwined with the games we play and cheer for as life itself.

There is nothing to suggest this time will be any different.

The NFL already has endured massive criticism for doing its best to ignore the awful toll of repeated concussions, its protocols called into question again this season, yet hasn't seen its popularity wane in the the least.

Football's hold on America is strong indeed.

When a new weekend arrives, the masses will be back in the stadiums or plopped down in front of their giant TVs – cheering on their favorite teams, barking at those who make a mistake, breaking down potential playoff matchups, incessantly checking on point spreads and parlays and fantasy rosters.

The risks were calculated long ago and determined by the vast majority to be worth it.

"I don't know how you avoid it," President Joe Biden said Wednesday. "I think working like hell on the helmets and the concussion protocols, that all makes a lot of sense. But it's, you know, it is dangerous. You've got to just acknowledge it."

Ignoring the potential peril is built into a football player's DNA. Consider Devon Gales, a former college football player who was paralyzed in a 2015 game.

His love for the gridiron hasn't waned at all. If anything, it's gotten stronger. If he could get up from his wheelchair, he would run back out there without hesitation.

"I want to hit somebody. Or give me the ball. I'll roll to the touchdown," Gales said during a recent interview, breaking into a big smile.

Any discussion about football's future is sure to be brushed aside quickly by most fans. The only real hope is that Hamlin's plight will make those of us on the outside more empathetic to the players of this savage game – a worthy goal, for sure – but even that sentiment figures to fade in short order.

Fumbles must be booed. Interceptions must be heckled. First-round busts must be taken to task.

"I've gotten up here and I've talked about how these young men deserve everything they've got," New York Jets coach Robert Saleh said. "We know what they do every day. We know how hard it is to play this game. And it's not just playing the game of football, it's all the preparation and how much their bodies hurt, every day."

Roughly five decades ago, just as the NFL was establishing itself as America's new national pastime, a diminutive Detroit receiver named Chuck Hughes collapsed on the field while trotting back to the huddle in the closing minutes of a game between the Lions and the Chicago Bears.

Many thought he was dead as soon as he hit the turf, though that wouldn't be made official until he arrived at a nearby hospital and all efforts to revive him had proven unsuccessful. Turns out, he was suffering from major heart disease that had gone undetected. He was only 28 and remains the lone player to die in an NFL game.

Even in that era before the internet and social media and Red Zone, Hughes' death was a jarring event that sent an entire nation into mourning. President Richard Nixon even sent a letter of condolences to the player's widow.

"Never, ever in the wildest moments would you ever believe a thing like this could happen," Lions owner William Clay Ford would tell the Detroit Free Press as he choked back tears. "It's just inconceivable."

But Hughes' death did nothing to slow the NFL's enormous growth. And while Ford's words are just as applicable today when talking about Hamlin's fight to survive, the grim truth is that things like this do happen, across all sports.

Not that often, thankfully. But enough to remind us of the fragility of life.

Cleveland Indians shortstop Ray Chapman was killed by a pitch to the head. Bill Masterton of the NHL's Minnesota North Stars died from a hit on the ice. Hank Gathers and Reggie Lewis collapsed on the basketball court. Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes was doomed by a freak bouncer that caught him in the neck.

Several cyclists have perished while tackling the Tour de France. Countless race car drivers – including mammoth stars such as Ayrton Senna and Dale Earnhardt – have lost their lives in high-speed crashes. Boxing has extracted a horrific toll from those who step in the ring.

Death has even come to those in the stands. Thirteen-year-old Brittanie Cecil was killed by a deflected puck that struck her in the temple while she was watching a Columbus Blue Jackets NHL game in 2002.

Each sport stopped for a moment to grieve after those unthinkable tragedies, some of which even led to much-needed safety improvements such as protective netting going up behind the net in all NHL arenas.

Then the games went on. They always do.

Schröder propels Lakers past Heat 112-109 without LeBron, AD

LOS ANGELES

DENNIS Schröder scored 14 of his season-high 32 points in the fourth quarter and the undermanned Los Angeles Lakers improbably overcame LeBron James' absence for a 112-109 victory over the Miami Heat on Wednesday night.

Russell Westbrook had 21 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Lakers, who rallied from a six-point deficit in the fourth quarter and held off Miami without their top three scorers. James stayed home with a cold, while Anthony Davis and Lonnie Walker are injured.

Thomas Bryant added 21 points and nine rebounds, while Schröder was brilliant down the stretch. The German point guard scored nine points in the final 2:35, and his 9-for-9 performance at the free throw line in the fourth quarter sealed the Lakers' fourth victory in five games.

"I've got to be more aggressive anyway, even when AD and Bron are coming back, to open up things for AD and Bron," Schröder said. "Hearing that Bron is sick and AD is out as well, everybody just gave a little bit more."

Schröder rolled his ankle midway through the fourth quarter, and Lakers coach Darvin Ham intended to take him out of the game – but Schröder's teammates said he insisted on staying in.

"He didn't want to come out," Bryant said. "He said, 'No. Let's be great.'"

Bam Adebayo had 30 points and 13 rebounds, and Jimmy Butler had 27 before missing a 3-pointer at the buzzer for the Heat, who lost for only the fourth time in 12 games.

"They were rolling," said Kyle Lowry, who had 11 points. "They were confident in what they were doing. We were a little bit of a step slow tonight."

One week after beating the Lakers in Miami and two days after rallying to beat the Clippers in Los Angeles, Miami blew a late lead and couldn't catch up to the Lakers' reserves and role players.

"It's been extremely disappointing every time we get a little bit of footing on the season, and then we have a disappointing loss," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That's what this was tonight, but you



Detroit Pistons forward Saddiq Bey shoots the game-winning 3-point basket against the Golden State Warriors in an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023. (AP Photo)

have to credit the Lakers. They played with a great motor, with spirit with their guys out. We've had some wins like that as well, where we've had guys out and you can catch a team."

After trailing for much of the first three quarters, Miami appeared to be moving toward a victory before the Lakers made a 14-3 rally and eventually went up 102-96 on Schröder's three consecutive free throws with 2:35 to play.

After Adebayo trimmed Los Angeles' lead to one point on a putback basket, Schröder hit two free throws and then drove for a vicious layup with 20.3 seconds left for a 108-104 lead.

Adebayo got another putback with 15.4 seconds left, but Austin Reaves found Westbrook with a beautiful inbounds pass for a layup. Westbrook missed a free throw and Max Strus hit a 3-pointer with 4 seconds to play, but Schröder hit two more free throws and Butler missed a tough 3-pointer.

"Everybody just banded together and continued to fight, and that's what we have to be about," Ham said. "That's what our identity has to be."

Meanwhile, in San Francisco, the final play had been drawn for Bojan Bogdanovic, then Saddiq Bey suddenly found the ball in his hands with no time to think, so he just let it fly.

Bey hit a 3-pointer falling backward as time expired after Golden State's Klay Thompson tied it on a 3 with 2.3 seconds left, sending the Detroit Pistons past the Warriors 122-119 on Wednesday night.

"It was tough, I don't even

remember I kind of blacked out a little bit," Bey said. "I had one second so I didn't have that much time to think, so I had to shoot it so I'm just grateful it went in."

Detroit ended the injury-plagued defending champions' season-best winning streak at five. Reigning NBA Finals MVP Stephen Curry missed his 10th straight game with a partially dislocated left shoulder and is set to be re-examined Saturday at the two-week mark from his last evaluation.

"I just told the guys how proud I am of them for holding down the fort these last couple weeks," coach Steve Kerr said.

Bey made another key 3 late and wound up with 17 points, Bogdanovic hit his first five 3-pointers and one with 3:42 left on the way to 29 points to lead six Pistons in double figures.

"Saddiq popped back to get open and had the presence of mind to get it off quick enough," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said.

Thompson secured a defensive rebound with 27 seconds left but Jordan Poole turned the ball over before the Warriors could attempt a shot. Thompson scored on a layup with 40 seconds left to pull Golden State to 117-116 then delivered again – and the Warriors appeared headed to overtime for a second straight game after holding off Atlanta 143-141 in double-OT on Monday night.

"It never feels good," Thompson said. "I thought we fought very hard tonight."

Extra basketball might have been welcome with an atypical

severe winter rain and wind-storm hitting the Bay Area to greet fans afterward.

Thompson missed his first six 3-point tries then hit two big ones down the stretch on the way to 30 points, but the Warriors couldn't make the key defensive plays late on the perimeter against Detroit's shooters. Thompson made a go-ahead dunk with 7:33 to play and finally hit his first 3-pointer with 5:15 remaining coming off his season-best 54-point performance against the Hawks.

Draymond Green was ejected with 1:24 to play for his second technical of the game.

Poole added 24 points in his seventh straight 20-point game to go with six assists and five rebounds as the Warriors dropped to 17-3 at home as their six-game winning streak at Chase Center ended.

Jalen Duren added 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons, coming off a 135-106 loss at Portland on Monday night.

Undermanned Golden State again demonstrated its amazing depth – Ty Jerome scored 18 points off the bench and Anthony Lamb added 17.

Lamb credited Bey for getting through the Warriors' switching defense: "He had just enough time to get it off, a turnaround shot, a great shot by him."

Killian Hayes hit a key 3-pointer with 6:21 left and contributed 13 assists and nine points while returning to Detroit's starting lineup following a three-game suspension for his actions scuffling against Orlando last week.

AP



FILE – Buffalo Bills defensive back Damar Hamlin (3) leaves the field after an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, in Foxborough, Mass. Hamlin was in critical condition early Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, after the Bills say his heart stopped following a tackle during the Monday Night Football game, which was indefinitely postponed. (AP Photo)

AP

Hudson to guide US camp as Reynas admit pressuring Berhalter

NEW YORK

WORLD Cup assistant coach Anthony Hudson was named Wednesday to guide a January national team camp while Gio Reyna's parents admitted igniting a US Soccer investigation into coach Gregg Berhalter.

Hudson will guide the Americans, co-hosts with Mexico and Canada for the 2026 World Cup, in a Los Angeles training session ahead of friendlies against Serbia on January 25 and Colombia on January 28, US Soccer sporting director Earnie Stewart said.

The news came a day after Berhalter, whose contract as US coach ended last Saturday, admitted kicking his future wife Rosalind in a 1991 incident he said was being used against him in a threatening manner.

Claudio Reyna, a former US captain and current sporting director at MLS' Austin FC, and his wife Danielle admitted in statements to The Athletic and ESPN that they pressed US Soccer Federation executives with details about Berhalter's past.

The moves came after Berhalter told Gio Reyna, their 20-year-old son who plays for Borussia Dortmund, that he would have only a limited role at the Qatar World Cup.

Berhalter and Claudio Reyna played together on youth and high school teams as well as the US national squad and their wives were college teammates at the University of North Carolina.

US Soccer is investigating Berhalter and the incident as well as conducting a World Cup review while considering who will manage the Americans in the upcoming home-field World Cup cycle.

Berhalter said he underwent counseling after the kicking and he has not repeated any physical incidents.

"It was a shameful moment and one that I regret to this day," Berhalter said. "There are zero excuses for my actions that night."

Danielle Reyna challenged Berhalter's characterization of the incident.

"Without going into detail, the statements from yesterday significantly minimize the abuse on the night in question," she said in a statement.

"Rosalind Berhalter was my roommate, teammate and best friend, and I supported her through the trauma that followed. It took a long time for me to forgive and accept Gregg afterwards."

Reyna said she was upset when he refused her son the consideration she had given him over the incident three decades earlier.

"I worked hard to give him grace," she said. "I would have wanted and expected him to give the same grace to Gio. This is why the current situation is so very hurtful and hard."

Claudio Reyna said there were no threats attached to his comments to US Soccer officials regarding Berhalter.

"While in Qatar, I shared my frustrations about my son's World Cup experience with a number of close friends, Earnie and Brian McBride among them," Claudio Reyna said. "However, at no time did I ever threaten anyone, nor would I ever do so."

- 'Personally betrayed' -

Details were not revealed to US Soccer officials until December 11 by the Reynas after Berhalter spoke of an unidentified player who was nearly sent home from the World Cup, with Gio Reyna confirming on Instagram the next day that he was the player.

"I let my emotions get the best of me and affect my training and behavior for a few days after learning about my limited role," Gio Reyna said on Instagram.

"I apologized to my teammates and coach for this and I was told I was forgiven. Thereafter, I shook off my disappointment and gave everything I had on and off the field."

When Berhalter spoke of nearly sending a player home, even without naming her son, Danielle Reyna said she was upset.

"I thought it was especially unfair that Gio, who had apologized for acting immaturity about his playing time, was still being dragged through the mud when Gregg had asked for and received forgiveness for doing something so much worse at the same age," Danielle Reyna said.

"I felt very personally betrayed by the actions of someone my family had considered a friend for decades."

Hudson, 41, is a former national team manager for New Zealand and Bahrain as well as the US under-20 side.

AFP

A club-by-club look at Cristiano Ronaldo's glittering career

By STEVE DOUGLAS

A CLUB-BY-CLUB look at Cristiano Ronaldo's career ahead of the start of the Portugal superstar's time in Saudi Arabia with Al Nassr:

SPORTING (2002-03)

At the age of 12, Ronaldo left the island of Madeira and headed to Lisbon for a trial at Sporting. He joined the club's academy and by age 16 was training with the first team. Ronaldo, a skinny, skillful winger, made his senior debut at 17 and was already earning admiring glances from big European clubs during his only full season at Sporting (2002-03), when he scored five goals and had five assists. The following pre-season, Manchester United visited Sporting for a match to inaugurate the Portuguese team's stadium. Ronaldo's performance was so good – he tormented right back John O'Shea – that United's players urged their manager, Alex Ferguson, to sign him. Ronaldo was even introduced to United's players in the locker room after the

game. Within a week, he had signed for United for 12.25 million pounds (now \$14.75 million).

MANCHESTER UNITED (2003-09)

It was during his first spell at United that Ronaldo became a superstar, developing from a supremely gifted but erratic winger into a prolific, fearsome striker. He scored 118 goals in 292 matches in all competitions, helping United win the Premier League for three straight seasons from 2007-09 – matching the club's achievement from 1999-2001. He also won the Champions League with United in 2008, scoring the team's goal in the final that finished 1-1 before United triumphed in a penalty shootout. Ronaldo won the first of his five world player of the year awards in 2008, after a 2007-08 season when he scored 42 goals in all competitions. By that time, he was heavily linked with a move to Real Madrid but he stayed at United one more season – during which he helped the team to a Premier League-League Cup double.

REAL MADRID

Cristiano Ronaldo reacts during his official unveiling as a new member of Al Nassr soccer club in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Ronaldo, who has won five Ballon d'Ors awards for the best soccer player in the world and five Champions League titles, will play outside of Europe for the first time in his storied career. (AP Photo)

(2009-18)

Signed for a world-record 80 million pounds (then \$131 million), Ronaldo gained more trophies and fame in a nine-year stint that was defined by his rivalry with then-Barcelona star Lionel Messi and their combined scoring prowess. So prolific was Ronaldo, who mostly played as a center forward, that he averaged more than a goal a game in his time at Madrid –

450 goals in 438 games – to become its record scorer. He topped the 40-goal mark in eight of his nine seasons, reaching 60 in two of them. He won the Champions League in 2014, '16, '17 and '18 along with two La Liga titles and picked up more Ballon d'Or awards in 2013, '14, '16 and '17 amid a sustained period of excellence that lifted him among the greatest players to ever play the game.

ADVERTISEMENT**JUVENTUS (2018-21)**

Wanting to start a "new phase" in his career – amid a period when he and other top players in Spain were accused of tax fraud – Ronaldo secured another big-money move, this time to Juventus for 112 million euros (then \$131.5 million). It was a record transfer fee in the Italian league and he kept on delivering goals, scoring 101 times in 134 appearances and being the top scorer in two of his three seasons. He never won the Champions League with Juventus, though it was at the Italian club where he moved ahead of Messi in the overall scoring charts in Europe's top competition. He also won the league title twice (2019, '20).

MANCHESTER UNITED (2021-22)

"I'm back where I belong," wrote Ronaldo after he sealed a sudden, rather unexpected return to United amid reported interest from the team's local rival, Manchester City. A fee of 15 million euros (then \$17.75 million) to be paid to Juventus over five

years seemed a bargain for United, which saw Ronaldo as the player to lead the club to its first Premier League title since 2013 and a place back on European soccer's top table. It didn't work out that way. He continued to score goals – there were two in his first match and 24 in all competitions, including hat tricks in successive home league games – but his reduced mobility and work rate affected United as a whole as the team finished sixth in the 2021-22 season, extending its run without a trophy to five years. Ronaldo missed the start of this season after returning late to training because of what was described as "personal reasons." Essentially, he wanted a move because United hadn't qualified for the Champions League. So began a standoff with United's new manager, Erik ten Hag, that saw him become a bit-part player and then deliver an explosive pre-World Cup interview with Piers Morgan that was the beginning of the end. A week later, his contract was terminated.

AP

Why Neymar and other Brazilian greats did not attend Pele's funeral

By Sam Wallace

The 1980s Brazil international Walter Casagrande, a fearsome striker of the era and now a columnist with views just as robust, was unequivocal about the way in which Pele had been treated in death by his successors in the famous yellow shirt.

"The vast majority resent the King," Casagrande wrote in his column on uol.com, "because when he was a pundit he was critical at times." He did not stop there, taking aim at the current Brazil players as well as those who were part of the two squads that won the nation's last two World Cups. "Not having any representative of these two at Pele's wake," Casagrande wrote, "was shameful for the history of Brazilian football."

He accused the nation's most famous players of not honouring the man who had launched Brazil's football pre-eminence and in doing so become the country's greatest ever cultural export. In Brazil, the absence of the greats, past and present, from Pele's memorial in the streets and stadium of his hometown of Santos, the port city two hours from Sao Paulo, has reignited a row about the state of the country's football.

For the most famous current player of them all, Neymar, the official word from his club Paris Saint-Germain was that he did not ask for permission to attend. He was represented by his father Neymar Senior, and the man himself was training at PSG on Monday, the day when Pele's body was lying in state at Santos's Vila Belmiro stadium where Neymar's career was also launched.

Back from suspension, Neymar is, PSG



Soccer player Neymar, left, and Brazilian soccer legend Pele, share a laugh during a centennial anniversary celebration of the team in Santos – AP Photo

say, under consideration for Friday's French Cup tie. The wreath he sent to Pele's funeral was certainly, according to those who saw it, hard to miss. He has in the past gained a certain notoriety for returning to Brazil for treatment on various injuries only to be pictured attending a sister's birthday party or other such celebrations. The view from the players' side is that none of them – either Neymar or any of those in the Premier League – would have been granted permission to leave their clubs.

Some have even suggested that it has become a political issue. The theory being that supporters of the newly re-elected president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose inauguration caused Pele's memorials to be pushed back, are weaponising the non-attendance of players who supported his far-right rival Jair Bolsonaro.

As for those who do not have playing commitments any longer, the picture has been less clear. Of those two squads from 1994 and 2002, only Mauro Silva, from the former, attended the memorial services from Pele. He is

now the president of the Sao Paulo football federation

Casagrande also noted that many players, including Cafu, Ronaldo and Ronaldinho from 2002, as well as Kaka, were only too happy to be paid guests of Qatar and Fifa at the World Cup finals. There they presided over the games in the VIP seats and were a constant backdrop to the games. From the former players themselves, the perspective is different. The Telegraph contacted representatives of some and was given a list of where various players were located when news broke on Dec 29 of Pele's death.

It is convention in Brazil that burial takes place within 12 hours of death. Although that was eventually not the case for Pele, many felt that they simply would not make it back in time. Cafu himself was flying from Germany to Switzerland. Gilberto

Silva was in Portugal; Kaka was in the United States; Ronaldinho was in Barcelona; Roberto Carlos was in Madrid; Bebeto was in Portugal. The list goes on. Rivaldo was in Brazil but felt that he would rather pay his respects privately.

There appears to be a fear among the players of accusations of posturing. Many of them have said privately that they will be back in Brazil in time for a mass planned to mark Pele's death. It has also been noted that not all the surviving members of Pele's 1970 World Cup winning team, including Rivellino and Jairzinho, attended the memorials. Their feelings about the public Pele and the private Edson Arantes do Nascimento are no secret. Yet, even so, it does feel like a moment has been lost.

The fifth largest country in the world, Brazil's global reputation – for better or worse – centres

upon football. That was a reputation built on the back of Pele: the dazzling teenager in monochrome from 1958 who became the giant of colour television in 1970 for his unmatched third World Cup triumph. His passing was a chance for the country to celebrate Pele and also demonstrate the great legacy of players who have followed him. The opportunity seems to have slipped past.

Pele was eventually laid to rest on Tuesday on the ninth floor of the Memorial Necropole Ecumenica in Santos, a 32-storey necropolis which lays claim to be the highest of its kind in the world. His coffin had previously sat for 24 hours at Vila Belmiro stadium and the ordinary fans had come to view it. Curiously a similar row over funeral attendance had blown up 40 years earlier when Pele's great team-mate Garrincha had died at just 49, of cirrhosis of the liver.

When both were in the side, the national team had famously never lost. Yet in 1983, Pele, and many other famous players from the country's past, did not attend Garrincha's funeral. At the time there was criticism, notably from the pair's former team-mate, the 1958 World Cup winning captain, Hilderaldo Bellini. He said the players' behaviour set a bad example and contrasted with that of the ordinary people. "This proves," he said then, "that the people do not forget their idols."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

A club-by-club look at Cristiano Ronaldo's glittering career

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Khalid Aucho

Ugandan midfielder Aucho extends contract with Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

UGANDA international midfielder Khalid Aucho has extended his stay with NBC Premier League champions Young Africans SC for another two years, the club announced Wednesday.

However, financial details for Aucho's new contract were not disclosed.

His current deal that was going to expire at the end of this season has now been extended until the end of the 2024/25 campaign.

Aucho joined Young Africans in August 2021 and signed a two-year contract as a free agent after leaving Egyptian side Misr El Makkasa following the expiry of his two-year contract.

Aucho's contract with Young Africans was due to expire at the end of the ongoing season but it has been extended until the end of the 2024/25 campaign.

On joining Young Africans, the 29-year-old immediately won the hearts of the club's faithful who nicknamed him 'Daktari Wa Mpira' straight away.

Since then, he has helped his club secure the NBC Premier League title, Federation Cup and two Community Shields.

He also helped the club qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage for the first time since 2018.

In his maiden season, he made 25 appearances for Young Africans, scoring three goals and assisting four. This season he has made 16 appearances in the league and managed to grab two assists so far.

In an earlier interview, Young Africans president Hersi Said said Aucho was one of the key players they were negotiating to extend his contract in a bid to keep the backbone of the title-winning squad.

They are keeping Aucho but are already looking to refresh their midfield. To boost their midfield, Young Africans recently signed former Azam central midfielder Mudathiy Yahya on a free transfer.

In last season's mini-transfer window they had added former Azam midfielder Abubakar Salum 'Sure Boy'.

The defending champions have taken advantage of the December-January transfer window to extend the contracts of key players.

Players with expiring contracts are of course allowed to sign a pre-contract when they enter the last six months of their deals, adding an extra element of risk for Young Africans if they allow their contracts to run right down.

Aucho is the second player to extend his stay with Young Africans in this mini-transfer window. The first was Malian international goalkeeper Djigui Diarra.

Currently, Young Africans are at top of the current NBC Premier League standings as they continue with their quest to defend their crown.

They have collected 50 points, six more than their arch-rivals Simba SC after 19 games.

Nine young tennis players set for ITF-CAT Championships in Burundi

where they are to compete in the CAT Championships which will take place for two weeks.

Organized by the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) in conjunction with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and Burundi Tennis Federation (BTF), the Eastern African Junior Individual and Team's Championships 2023 will take place in Bujumbura from 7 to 15 January.

A total of eleven countries from the East and Central African Region are expected to participate.

The Tanzania team will involve nine young tennis players from Arusha, Kili-

manjaro and Dar es Salaam.

In the national youth tennis team, Arusha is contributing five delegates, three from the City's Gymkhana Tennis Club. These are Fred Ongige, Faith Nyamakula and Hadija Said.

The other two come from the Arusha International Conference Center (AICC) club and are Elia Balthazar and David Tarimo. All the five players from Arusha play in the Under-14 category.

From Kilimanjaro there are three players all being girls in the Under-16 category. The girls are Nasha Singo and Rachel Swai from the Rafiki Foundation Club of Moshi and Eunice Kimaro from UWC International School.

Dar es Salaam will field a single player, Happy David, from the Gymkhana Club, who plays in the Under-14 category.

The players from Tanzania are accompanied by two officials who are their coach Goodluck Mollel and the Matron, Faraja Yindi.

The countries expected to take part in the event include Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Eritrea, Djibouti, the Comoros, Seychelles and the host Burundi as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to organizers, each nation is entitled

to send a team comprising a maximum of 12 players, three boys and three girls each for the Under-14 and Under-16 events who will be sponsored by CAT.

But for Tanzania, they decided to field just nine players because the funds were not enough to pay for the initial line-up of 15 people, who were 12 players and three officials.

Nicholas Leringa, the Arusha Gymkhana Club tennis coach, explained that the Burundi Championships event is the qualifying stage for the forthcoming African Tennis Tournament coming up between May and June 2023.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame - Arusha

TANZANIA is sending a team of nine young tennis players to Burundi



Vijana basketball team players Julio Mtaki (L) and Abbas Rugayi during a training session at Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Ihefu release Kinyozi, four others in mini-transfer window

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

NBC Premier League side Ihefu have announced the release of five players in the ongoing mini-transfer window.

Most noteworthy was former captain Joseph Kinyozi, who was with the club for more than four years, guiding them in their debut top-flight season before being relegated and earning straight promotion back to the NBC Premier League.

Kinyozi was released af-

ter playing only 15 minutes for the side this season, as he found himself down the pecking order after the arrival of Obrey Chirwa and Jafari Kibaya at the start of this campaign.

During his time, the striker won the Championship title and also captained the team.

Also out the door were left full-back Ally Ramadhan 'Oviedo', who joined from KMC at the start of this season. Oviedo struggled to dislodge Hassan Mwasapili and

is reported to be on the verge of returning to KMC.

Striker Evarist Mujwahuki has also left the Mbarali-based side. The former Kagera Sugar forward had struggled for playing time, finding himself limited to just five appearances without scoring or assisting this season.

Ihefu also confirmed that defender Wema Sadock and midfielder Omary Hamis have been released.

The duo have been part of the Ihefu squad since the

2020/21 season.

The club has found the going tough in the NBC Premier League and have been in the relegation zone from match day one when they lost to Ruvo Shooting.

However, they boosted their technical bench with the addition of coach Juma Mwambusi and began ascending up the NBC Premier League.

They have won their last three league games, beginning with a 2-0 away victory over fellow strugglers Ruvo

Shooting in December 16, they then followed it with a 3-1 home win over Mtibwa Sugar.

On Tuesday, they beat KMC 2-0 to climb to 13th place in the league.

Their next league assignment will be against defending champions Young Africans on January 16.

Ihefu ended Young Africans 49 unbeaten league run when the two sides met on November 29, 2022 at Highland Estate stadium in Mbeya.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

