



## French companies seek health care, aeronautics partnerships

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trating a shared desire to build new partnerships.

It similarly illustrates the positive perception held by French companies on the Tanzanian market, referring to recorded successes in business between the two countries in the wake of the visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in France.

He said SMEs are the core of the French business network and are determined to enter the Tanzanian market to introduce a wide range of products suitable for local demand.

"French SMEs are eager to engage with their Tanzanian counterparts to learn from them and improve their products in order to make them more suitable for the Tanzanian market," he affirmed.

Back in March, the Franco-Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Tanzanian incubator for start-ups—Sahara Ventures, he stated, hinting that France is among members of the European Union (EU) with a substantial presence in

Tanzania.

Christopher Darmois, the president of the France-Tanzania chamber of commerce, said that ten years back, there were only eight French companies in Tanzania but the number has now increased tremendously.

The chamber was established to facilitate business operations between the two countries, with its membership rising to some 100 companies equally divided between the two sides, he elaborated.

Mourad Chouiga, head of the delegation and regional manager for eastern, southern Africa and Indian Ocean at Bpifrance, said there are investment potentials in Tanzania, where French companies can partner with local firms.

The first mission of French SMEs to Tanzania took place last year.

Bpifrance is a French public investment bank devoted to financing companies at each stage of their growth through loans, guarantees and equity.



UN Women Tanzania Representative Hodan Addou (R) and Tigo Tanzania CEO Kamal Okba pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging documents on MoU meant to empower and equip young Tanzanian women and girls with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and digital literacy skills. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TCRA says mobile cash transfers now 'universal'

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spond in any way to push messages from unknown people.

Service providers should take action and help to protect their customers, he said, alluding to inaction by some major networks to such messages.

With advanced smartphone technology and speedier data services residents of rural areas can now conduct mobile cash transfers in making or receiving payments, he said.

TCRA has the groundwork and infrastructure for mobile phone services to be operated seamlessly, he said, noting that within the decade, significant economic growth was registered, with average annual gross domestic product standing at 7.0 percent.

This has been coupled with improvements in living conditions for many people, beefed up by having more than 90 percent of Tanzanians noticed to be using mobile money services, he said, pointing

out this is an increase from 60 percent access recorded in 2017.

The figure is significant compared to physical use of commercial bank services taking up 22 percent of the population. Most Tanzanians bypass financial institutions to seek digital cash services, he asserted.

The government recognises mobile money transacting as a driver of financial inclusion, contributing to economic growth and social development, especially among women and rural populations, he stated.

Experts say that Africa is experiencing a digital renaissance via increasing digital connectivity and access to mobile phones, driving inclusive growth and innovative digital financial services. This contributes to realising some of the targets in the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The government is said to be saving more than 60bn/- annually with the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) system of bill payments, transactions and digital receipt issuance, he added.

## DRC's opposition leader Moise Katumbi launches presidential campaign

KINSHASA

OPPOSITION leader, Moise Katumbi, officially launched his campaign for president of the Democratic Republic of Congo at a rally in Kisangani on Monday, one month ahead of the election.

The 58-year-old millionaire businessman has promised to fight graft, create jobs, and reform the country's ailing economy.

He has criticised incumbent President Felix Tshisekedi's record in the DRC's volatile east, where the army has been battling M23 rebels and other armed groups.

Katumbi claimed the president was recruiting foreign mercenaries instead of increasing the salaries of military and police.

"The current government has promised you a lot. I'm telling you that these stories will never be repeated. I'm telling you that we're going to improve the conditions of our soldiers who must defend our country, and we're going to drive out all these forces that are in our country," he said at the rally.

Young people attending the rally in Kisangani said they were eager for change five years after Tshisekedi came to power in the disputed 2018 election that Katumbi was blocked from taking part in.

"They promised us security, nothing happened. They promised employment, nothing came. They

promised road construction but nothing, they have done nothing good," said Abdullah Simba.

Katumbi's rally came a day after his two main competitors, Tshisekedi and opposition figure Martin Fayulu, started their campaigns ahead of the 20 December vote.

In 2018, Katumbi attempted to run for president but was thwarted by President Joseph Kabila's government, which cancelled his Congolese passport while he was out of the country.

His critics this time question his eligibility for the presidency, alleging his father was not a Congolese citizen. However, a top court last month threw out a lawsuit seeking to block Katumbi from running.

Several opposition candidates have withdrawn from the race and thrown their support behind him.



**They promised us security, nothing happened.**

**They promised employment, nothing came. They promised road construction but nothing, they have done nothing good**

## DPM wants gas use plan for electricity, cooking, cars

FROM PAGE 1

of directors and the management on a familiarization tour

During the exchange of ideas on TPDC performance, he issued the directives on his expectations as to what the country needs from TPDC.

"The demand for natural gas is huge at the moment because the world is moving from the use of oil to natural gas," he stated, urging that the entity must plan this wide ranging use and remember that we have an agreement to export gas to

Uganda, Zambia and Kenya, "so we must have enough gas."

He aired the view that the daily lives of the people at Songo Songo, Madiba and Msimbati where the gas is being extracted must resemble the value of the commodity that comes from the area.

TPDC must also install traffic lights in district councils which receive tax dues from oil and natural gas activities, he said, affirming that this is to ensure that benefits of the natural gas economy trickle down to the people.

Mussa Makame, the TPDC managing director, said that the corporation is preparing a strategic plan setting its objectives for a period of 10 years.

This will provide the country with sufficient natural gas for domestic use and invest more in the supply chain, while promoting the use of natural gas, to stimulate business in the East African zone, he said.

Implementation of the crude oil pipeline project from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga and the liquid

natural gas (LNG) project are in final stages, with the supply contractors now in the approval stages, he stated.

The search for oil and natural gas in West Songo Songo Island is slated for September 2025 and oil exploration in the Eyasi Wembere block is ongoing, he further noted.

Ambassador Ombeni Sefue, the TPDC board chairman, took note of the senior minister's directives, hailing the visit as a motivating factor to work extra hard to push goals of the gas sub-sector.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured yesterday consoling Special Seats legislator Tecla Mohamedi Uengele, who is admitted to Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital. Looking on are medical officer Dr Ibenzi Ernest (2nd-R) and nursing officer Stanles Mahundo. Photo: PMO

## Africa's shortage of dollars pushes more countries to economic crises

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA is in the grip of a dollar drought and the current continent-wide scarcity of the US dollar is further pushing many already beleaguered African countries into deeper economic crises, according to a new Bloomberg report.

Several Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, including Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Tanzania, have for several months experienced

shortages of the greenback, which is a huge challenge for businesses on the continent, as the US dollar is the dominant currency in international transactions. The Bloomberg report also states that governments are now turning to bartering, currency devaluations, central bank exchange controls, and help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Middle East to shore up their balance sheets. The dollar shortage is also hurting consum-

ers and local businesses as import costs soar, fueling inflation, the report noted.

In the same vein, it noted that investors are rewarding nations whose efforts to boost dollar liquidity are paying off, but are punishing those that can't guarantee access to the currency they need to invest and repatriate returns, and are steering clear of countries without adequate reserves to cover import costs or debt repayments. They

are also steering clear of countries without adequate reserves to cover import costs or debt repayments. "African currencies are the worst performers in the world this year, with about a dozen sliding at least 15% against the dollar," the report added. However, in some cases, the IMF is coming to the rescue, such as when it said last week it would expand financing to Kenya to bolster the East African country's reserves.



India's Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, addresses 30 business delegates and investors from India at the conclusion of a three-day Tanzania-India Business Forum held in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Seated (facing camera, from-L): Tanzania-India Business Forum chairman Gagan Gupta, President and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) board chairman Vincent Minja, India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, and Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk. Photo: Carlos Banda

## TANAPA, WWF design an award for people who conserve water sources

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), has established a special award for taking care of the environment that will be given to people who will properly conserve water sources.

People who are targeted in the award are those who will take good care of the water sources of the Ruaha River which are important for various economic activities including agriculture, electricity production and fishing activities.

People who are targeted in the award are those who will take care of Ruaha River water sources, which are important for various economic activities including agriculture, electricity production and fishing activities.

Dr Abubakary Kijoji, WWF manager noted this yesterday at a meeting of environmental stakeholders held in the city of Mbeya and involving stakeholders from the three regions of Mbeya, Iringa and Njombe.

He said they intend to create a

special body that will be in charge of the awards and that it will have members from the private sector and the public sector.

"We will also involve the governments of all the regions and districts that exist in this area, we will also involve the development stakeholders to ensure that we have a body that is strong and will bring us positive results," said Dr Kijoji.

Mbarali District Commissioner, Col. Denis Mwila said the award will be of great benefit to the people, the government and various environmental stakeholders.

He said that the award will help mobilize citizens to take care of water that is used in various activities including domestic use, taking care of living organisms that live in water, as well as the production of electrical energy.

He said that water is the basis of human life due to various activities that require this service and therefore he asked the citizens of all the targeted areas to prepare for this important award.

"This award will help the citizens to take care of the environment to

protect the ecology in our areas, but they will also get benefits by getting the award, as well as the water they will take care of and they will use it themselves in various activities," said Col. Mwila

Some environmental stakeholders said they are ready to contribute money to the awards fund to help the awards to be sustainable in those areas and to protect the environment.

Mariam Muhaji, Wanging'ombe executive director said they will encourage citizens in various areas to participate in taking care of the environment in their areas.

She said they will also participate in contributing to the prize fund from local income to make the fund sustainable and provide services for a long time.

Misana Kwangula, Mbarali District Executive Director said when preparing the council's budget they will allocate funds for the environment which will be sent to the prize fund.

Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions have many sources of water that are important for the ecology of Ruaha, Mikumi national parks and other areas that have been facing a serious problem of environmental damage.

## India's External Affairs minister calls for use of local currencies in foreign trading

By Carlos Banda

BUSINESS leaders and bankers in Tanzania and India have been urged to employ the use of local currencies in trading activities as the move will add an alternative trade volume for both countries.

Shri V. Muraleedharan, India's Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs made the call yesterday when addressing 30 Indian business delegates and investors at the finale of a three-day Tanzania Business Forum at the Indian High Commission in Dar es Salaam.

Minister Muraleedharan said the application of such innovative mechanisms would benefit businesses from both ends.

"India is actively promoting trade in local currencies and Tanzania is among our earliest partners in this endeavour. A few transactions are already taking place using the mechanism of payment in Indian rupees and Tanzanian shillings. This new trade mechanism will provide an alternative trade avenue for businesses on both sides. And I call upon Indian & Tanzanian banks and business leaders to support and promote this innovative approach," he said.

He also added that with India amounting to become the fifth largest economy globally, the government is vigorously pursuing economic reforms which will offer opportunities for Tanzanian businessmen to become part of our growth story.

According to India's Cabinet member, India investments in Tanzania have been rising to \$3.7bn spanning in various sectors from pharmaceuticals, hospitals, education, mining and Agro-processing, highlighting that with the newly proposed 1000-acre industrial park near Dar es Salaam, the move will be a significant boost to Indian investors in Tanzania.

He also hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan efforts to cement bilateral ties between the two countries in her state visit in India

last month, adding that President Samia had pushed for establishment for a hub for manufacturing pharmaceuticals, Agro-processing and traditional medicines in Tanzania as a gateway to East Africa and key transit trade point.

Ambassador Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation commended the visit by his ministerial counterpart and the business delegates highlighting India as among the top five investment sources in Tanzania.

"To see a business delegation from India accompanied by the minister of external affairs is a clear testimony that the state visit in India by president Samia was a very fruitful one. Tanzania and India share a vibrant economic partnership in the areas of trade and investment that made India to be the fourth largest trading partner of Tanzania with a bilateral volume of \$6.5 billion currently," he said.

He added: "Five years ago, the figures whereby \$2.6 billion, this shows that the trade and investment relation between Tanzania and India is continuously growing very fast."

Minister Mbarouk assured the Indian business community that investment in Tanzania will be successful as the East African nation is a member of the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development (SADC) - the two economic blocks provide a market of not less than 417 million people combined together, also adding that with its membership in the African continental free trade area a potential market of 1.4bn people is available for any potential investor in the country.

In her address while representing the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Head of the Indian Business Delegation who doubles as the Head of International Fortis Healthcare Limited, Renu Vij, said the visit provides chance to gain important insight into Tanzania's current trade and investment scenario and a chance to rejuvenate the two nations' ties.

"Tanzania has a lot of potential but first of all it starts with the people because business happens only between the people. India and Tanzania have strong historic and friendly relations which have continued to strengthen over the years. The confederation of Indian Industries has actively tried to promote real investment between our two countries. To get additional impetus, CII in partnership with the embassy has organized today's forum to provide a platform to help rejuvenate the already existing ties," she said.

She added that: "The CII business delegation which comprises 30 Indian companies is keen to interact with key business officials and partners from Tanzania, representing sectors such as infrastructure, education and skills development, health care, agriculture, mining, energy, pharmaceuticals. The world is changing and getting digitalised and so we should also be updated and we should also adapt the most advanced technology and we are here for that to grow together, to gain a deeper understanding of Tanzania's development priorities as well as a new focused engagement with each other."

Vincent Minja, President of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA) said the bilateral trade relations between the two countries has been robust, recording a rise from \$2.6 billion in trade volume in 2017/2018 to an impressive \$6.5 billion in 2022/2023.

"Over the past five years, our two nations have witnessed a remarkable surge in trade volume, climbing from \$2.6 billion in 2017/2018 to an impressive \$6.5 billion in 2022/2023. Furthermore, India has become Tanzania's 4th largest trading partner, with a total of 631 investment projects amounting to \$3.7 billion originating from this dynamic South Asian country. As the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, our role has been pivotal in facilitating this thriving relationship, notably through the provision of Certificate of Origin for goods destined for India and other regions," he said.



### ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TradeMark Africa (TMA), formerly TradeMark East Africa, is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by: Belgium, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Ireland, the MasterCard Foundation, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. TMA works closely with regional and continental inter-governmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society.

TMA wishes to invite interested qualified and reputable firms/consortiums to participate in the following tender:

- Consultancy Services to Conduct an Independent Rewards Survey for TradeMark Africa [Tender Number: PRQ20230431]

Tender documents can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/> All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com)

The closing date for the submissions is on or before 13 December 2023 on or before 12.00 p.m. (Kenya Time).

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums MUST submit proposals via the emails indicated in the respective tender documents. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

**TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.**

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WWF for a living planet®

## JOB VACANCIES

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an International Conservation-NGO with the mission to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF Tanzania through Energy and Climate Change Program has received grants from EU to support the implementation of **"Integrated Approach for Transformation of Tanzania Fuel Wood Value Chain Project-TFWVC"**. The project is being implemented in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tabora, Morogoro, Tanga and Pwani regions.

Want to make a positive difference to the future of people and our one shared home, the Earth? Working at WWF could be your opportunity of a lifetime. WWF Tanzania is seeking to hire a highly experienced, competent and motivated individuals for the following positions based in Dar es salaam.

1. Project Officer
2. Communication and Outreach Officer

Additional information, Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) through the following websites: [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/jobs/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/) Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: [hresources@wwftz.org](mailto:hresources@wwftz.org) by **Tuesday, 05<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 3:30 pm**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are encouraged to apply. WWF is an equal opportunity employer and committed to having a diverse workforce

**WWF has a principle of zero tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to [fcci@wwftz.org](mailto:fcci@wwftz.org)**

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# Dar, Oslo varsities team up to address ethical dilemmas in clinical practice

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) in collaboration with Oslo University of Norway is undertaking a capacity building training of ethicists and healthcare professionals at Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital (MZRH) aimed at addressing ethical dilemmas in clinical practices.

The four days training is run through the Enhancing Ethics and Integrity in Medical Research and Clinical Practice (ETHIMED) project that runs from 2022 - 2026, funded by the Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART) called for handling daily ethical dilemmas emerging in clinical practices.

The project is being implemented by UDSM through the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Oslo (UiO), Norway through the Centre for Medical Ethics and the University of Rwanda to address the emerging challenges in the areas.

Speaking at the opening of the training, coordinator for programme Lukas Kitula said the course is essential for the Sub-Saharan context due to increased moral cases in clinical practice.

"Yet, there are no established clinical ethics support services to assist healthcare professionals in addressing them" he said.

He named some of the cases as intercultural issues in healthcare settings, religious issues conflicting with biomedical interventions, and allocation of medical resources in the healthcare setting encountering

medical resource constraints that need such guidelines.

He said the programme will also facilitate the establishment of an ethical committee which will be addressing clinical dilemmas contrary to the discipline committee which has been there to discipline those who breach ethics.

He said Tanzania will be the second country to have such committees as countries like Norway have such committees in all their main hospitals.

Dr Shija Kuhumba, from UDSM expressed the need to develop clinical ethics guidelines for healthcare professionals but also incorporate clinical ethics courses into the educational curriculum in health and allied science programmes.

He said the committee will not replace the disciplinary committee saying it will focus on issuing guidelines which will help in overcoming professional dilemmas by discussing with patients to address challenges.

He said the committee will involve lawyers and religious leaders who will be given special training when the committee will be operational in February 2024.

An ethics lecture from Oslo University Prof. Bert Molewijk said Tanzania will be among the beneficiaries of the training which will facilitate proper issuance of healthcare services.

"The committees will help experts to discuss best ways to serve patients when professional dilemmas arise for positive services," she said.

# Kihenzile directs LATRA to act against all tampering with VTS

By Guardian Reporter

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has been instructed to heighten monitoring systems and act accordingly against all tampering the Vehicle Tracking System (VTS).

The VTS, is an advanced digital system designed to monitor and manage motor vehicles in the country. This innovative solution provides real-time tracking capabilities, ensuring that transportation services meet the standards and regulations set by the government.

Deputy Minister for Transport David Kihenzile made the instruction on Monday in Dar es Salaam when he toured LATRA's offices.

He wanted the authority to act effectively on the dishonest people who are trying to ruin the good initiatives of the government.

Kihenzile said that the system which has been installed in more than 9,700 upcountry passenger buses has capacity to conduct 19 works including track vehicles, record the driving habits, issues status reports and alerts when incidents or other events, but there are some dishonest people especially drivers, were playing the systems in order to violate set laws.

According to him, the efficiency of the VTS is one of the reasons which pushed the government to allow 24 hours travel as it is able to monitor well transport even when traffic police are not on the road.

The minister however acknowledged that there is a need to improve and expand the VTS to all motor vehicles including private cars and government owned vehicles in order to strengthen monitoring to curb accidents.

LATRA board chair, Prof Ahmed Mohammed Ame asked the ministry to think on the possibility of allowing installation of the VTS to other vehicles than only in commercial upcountry buses.

"Despite some challenges, the system has proved that it is capable to monitor operations in buses and

avert accidents, we have been taking measures to fight who temper with the system and we will continue heightening efforts to ensure that it is well utilised by all bus operators," he explained.

He said that when the system was given chance to operate at least 80 percent of its work, it performed well and productively in reducing accidents and deaths.

He said that if the system will be installed in all motor vehicles allowing LATRA to monitor operations of all vehicles including private and government ones, will greeted help to control bad behaviours on the roads including speeding while helping to curb accidents.

He said it was high time now the system be improved and expanded to work in all vehicles in the country which also need to in line with the improvement of laws.

According to him, by installing the Vehicle Tracking System, LATRA, police and owners are able to locate the location of the vehicle and its speed across the country.

He also reminded bus owners and drivers that the VTS system has the ability to provide a clear report to the authority if it is tampered with or damaged.



**Despite some challenges, the system has proved that it is capable to monitor operations in buses and avert accidents, we have been taking measures to fight who temper with the system and we will continue heightening efforts to ensure that it is well utilised by all bus operators**



Dr Selemani Jafo (3rd-R, front row), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), is briefed by one of the pavilions exhibiting various items at the 5th Tanzania Environmental Experts Association general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

# Chinese government promises continued support to TAZARA

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Chinese government has reiterated its commitment to support the Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) to gain new vitality in future.

Chen Mingjian made the confirmation in Dar es Salaam yesterday when responding to a question if there project implementation planned for Tanzania in the future?

The envoy said that plans are underway to revitalize the TAZARA glory provided that it was an iconic project in the China-Tanzania-Zambia friendship.

"As a reliable partner of

Tanzania, China is willing to work with Tanzania to build the "Belt and Road" with high quality and deepen cooperation in areas such as infrastructure connectivity, industrialization, digital economy, and green development," she said.

"At present China, Tanzania and Zambia are exploring ways to revitalize the TAZARA Railway. We hope that this "Friendship Railway" will gain new vitality in the future and become a major transport corridor of the region and a "Development Railway".

She said that even Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Samia Suluhu Hassan discussed the development of the TAZARA

and they agreed to strongly support the railway line.

They agreed to improve the level of connectivity adding that they could discuss with Tanzania on how to revitalize the TAZARA and support Chinese enterprises to participate in the construction of major infrastructure projects with high standards such as the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to mention the few

When addressing Zambia Parliament recently, the President advocated for swift reforms of the TAZARA to foster trade and cooperation between the two countries, informing that the iconic TAZARA can bring

tremendous historic prosperity if utilised fully.

She noted that the two governments were aware of the importance of TAZARA to the economies, stressing that joint efforts will be required to resolve the challenges facing the authority.

The railway line was built to eliminate landlocked Zambia's economic dependence on Rhodesia and South Africa and, both of which were ruled by white-minority governments

It became China's biggest foreign aid project, costing about US\$415 million at the time. It was financed through a combination of interest-free loans and commodity credit arrangements.

The project was built from 1970 to 1975 as a turnkey project financed and supported by China. At its completion, the TAZARA was the longest railway in sub-Saharan Africa.



Chief Government Spokesman Mobhale Matinyi, who is Director of Information in the Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry, briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on his recent and upcoming working visits to various regions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# 'Better systems needed for political parties to engage more in elections'

By Guardian Correspondent, Rorya

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has asked executives responsible for improving the Permanent Voters' Register (PVR) in Ikoma Ward, Rorya District, Mara Region, to put in place a proper system that will enable political parties and other election stakeholders to take part in the process.

She called upon the experts to involve political parties in all matters which they are supposed

to be involved in which will also facilitate proper running of the exercise.

"Let me remind you that political parties are also allowed to put their agents through this process, let me use this opportunity to emphasize that this is an exercise in which parties and other concerned parties can participate freely," she said.

The member of the National

Electoral Commission called on the officials to ensure that they abide by laws, rules and Instructions of the Commission that have been given to them.

"Also make sure you manage the care of all the equipment that will be used in this exercise as they have been bought at a high cost," she added.

The National Electoral Commission will conduct a pilot update of the Permanent voter register of Ikoma Ward in Rorya District Council, Mara Region and Ng'ambo Ward located in Tabora Municipal Council, Tabora Region, from 24 to 30 November, 2023.



Enock Kivelege, principal economist with the Finance ministry's Department of Partnerships between the Public and Private Sectors, briefs pupils of Arusha city's Arusha Primary School yesterday on the department's activities. It was all in commemoration of National Financial Services Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## US ambassador applauds outreach services via mobile clinic in Mbeya Region villages

By Guardian Reporter

THE US Ambassador to Tanzania Michael Battle commended outreach initiatives implemented by HJF Medical Research International (HJFMRI) for bringing HIV prevention services, including voluntary male circumcision (VMMC), closer to the community using a new mobile van clinic.

Ambassador Battle visited the VMMC mobile van last week at Mjele village in Mbeya District Council.

"I am thrilled to see you here, and I will always pray for you," said Ambassador Battle "I will ensure my government will continue to support this initiative, and I am happy this mobile clinic van is reaching you," he said.

VMMC is an evidence-based HIV prevention strategy. Research shows that being circumcised reduces the risk of acquiring HIV by 60 percent. VMMC also protects against other sexually transmitted diseases, such as HPV, which can cause cervical cancer in women.

James, a client who received VMMC services during the ongoing outreach, told Ambassador Battle that with the availability of the van in his village, he was able to receive services he always dreamed of having. Distance to healthcare had previously prevented him from receiving these services.

Chairman of Mjele Village, Emanuel Masebo, says his village has a population of 6,738, and the majority travel 30-50 kilometers to access healthcare services when they are in need.

He said the availability of the VMMC mobile van has dramatically impacted many men who need the services.

"I am told every day more than 20 men are visiting the mobile clinic to access the services at their convenience, even at night. We wish the service could be prolonged for at least two to three months," said Masebo.

Dr Castro Masanja, Acting VMMC Senior Advisor at HJFMRI, said peer educators travel around villages and

mobilize men who are eligible for the services according to PEPFAR guidance and direct them to where the van is stationed in the village.

"Most of the people in this area are pastoralists, and with this van, we can reach them where they are," said Dr Castro. We provide VMMC and other HIV prevention services including HIV self-test kits, condoms and PrEP services," he noted.

From October 2022 through September 2023, more than 140,347 men aged 20 years and above received free VMMC services provided by HJFMRI in the regions of Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa, Katavi and Ruvuma.

HJFMRI in Tanzania implements HIV prevention, care and treatment programs in the southern highland regions of Mbeya, Songwe Rukwa, including Katavi with funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

## LHRC urges govt to work on 11 issues in the recently tabled electoral reform bills

By Correspondent Halfani Chusi

THE Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has issued 11 recommendations for the improvements of recently tabled electoral reform bills to strengthen democratic processes in the country including establishing a system to recruit the chairperson of the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

The government recently tabled the National Electoral Commission bill 2023, the Political Parties Affairs Laws (Amendment), bill 2023 and the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local government Elections bill, 2023, to be read for the first time in parliament in the just ended seating.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, LHRC Managing Director Dr Anna Henga said the new reforms should include allowing prisoners to vote but also making constitutional reforms to create a system for the recruitment

of the chairperson and deputy of the electoral body.

"The bills should clearly show the qualifications of the commissioners of the electoral body by restricting them to be members of a political party five years before elections but also formulate a body to solve conflicts in political parties," she said.

She said the new bills should also include a requirement for a national debate for all presidential aspirants.

"The bill should also create a system which allows the diaspora to vote in a system which will be indicated by the commission," she added.

She further said the government should table a bill in the coming parliamentary seating to let the electoral body oversee the local government elections instead of the case now where the ministry responsible for local government manages the elections.

"The bill should also put in place a

system which should allow political parties and other stakeholders to take part in voter registration updates together with the electoral commission," she said.

She said the government should come up with a system to let the citizenry to register themselves as voters through agents.

Dr Anna said a section in the bills which requires a voter to pay for a lost voter card should be removed as doing so will deny several eligible voters from exercising their rights.

She faulted some of the sections including that which gives the director of elections to be the secretary for the recruitment team.

Her tabled bill proposes that Chairman and Vice Chairman will be required to be judges of the Court of Appeal and the High Court with qualities to be an advocate practicing not less than 15 years.

Section 9(3) of National Electoral Commission bill 2023, proposes establishment of a recruitment committee for commissioners in which the direct of elections will be the secretary.

HUMULIZA



### INVITATION TO BID

RFQ TITLE: Supply of Education Subsidies

RFQ Number: 2023-HUMULIZA/11/ 22

Date of Solicitation: 22rd November 2023

Closing date and time: 6th January 2024 at 11:00 am

Questions and Clarifications: Due by 5th January 2024

HUMULIZA Organization is a registered Non-governmental Organization (NGO) established in 1997 to provide psychosocial support (PSS) to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). It is located in Nshamba ward, Muleba District, Kagera region of Tanzania in East Africa. The organization was created in response to a household survey conducted in 1996, which discovered that HIV/AIDS was a key factor for a growing number of child-headed households (CHH) and orphans. HUMULIZA Organization was officially registered on 21 December 2005 under the Non-Governmental Organization Act No. 24 of 2002 with Registration No. 0586 and on 28th February 2022 was issued with new registration under NGO Act No. 00NGO/R1/00461. Since its inception, HUMULIZA has 25 successful years of operation with good performance and very strong PSS approaches to support MVCs/OVC wellbeing.

Currently HUMULIZA is implementing ACHIEVE Project (Adolescents and Children HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination) which is a five-year global project with the focus of reaching and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children in 8 councils of Kagera region.

The project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a Pact led consortium of top global HIV/AIDS partners, including JHPIEGO, Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER.

HUMULIZA through ACHIEVE Project invites bids from eligible suppliers to supply 8,971 education subsidies kits.

#### Objective of the Assignment

The overall objective of this assignment is to procure 8,971 education subsidies kits as per description table below. Delivery will be at our offices located at Nshamba, Muleba, Kagera Region.

DREAMS Education Kits			
Items	# of items	Specifications	Quantity
Small School Bag	1	School bag (Black/Brown/Blue/Maroon Waterproof, 30 - 40 cm length)	8,971
Exercise books	5	A4 exercise books (80 Pages)	44,855
Pens	5	Ball pen (Ink color: Blue, Pen length: 14.5cm)	44,855
Pencils	5	HB Pencil (Material: Wood, Dimension: 17.5 x 0.5 x 0.8 cm, Point type: fine)	44,855
Mathematical Set	1	Mathematical set (including the geometry set i.e., pencil, ruler, sharpener, eraser, stencil, compass, protractor, set square, timetable)	8,971

\*All items must be packed in the backpack, except for the receipt form which will be collected and submitted to HUMULIZA.

Interested vendors should request the full Terms of Reference (ToR) through email with the subject line "TOR for Procurement of Supply of education subsidies" to [procurement@humuliza.or.tz](mailto:procurement@humuliza.or.tz) before 5th January 2024, at 11.00am.

All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to [procurement@humuliza.or.tz](mailto:procurement@humuliza.or.tz) with the subject line "Request for Clarification: Supply of education subsidies" before 5th January 2024 Eligibility Criteria.

Vendors must be legally operating in Tanzania, and the tender document must include all the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the Requirements/ Specifications outlined above.
- Ability to deliver the items/services no later than the date(s) required.
- Must be legally registered in Tanzania

#### Evaluation Criteria:

- Price
- Financial capability
- Experience
- Quality of items to be supplied (Shortlisted applicants will be required to submit samples).
- Delivery terms

#### Submission Instructions:

- Draft inception report detailing the methodology for supplying and distributing education subsidies kits, including tentative work plan, for review and approval by Humuliza Organization.
- Tender validity is 90 days
- Current company profile.
- Copies of office registration certificates, addresses, valid

business licenses, VAT certificates, TIN certificates, and Tax clearance certificates.

- Items specifications are fully addressed in the tender document
- Current Audited financial statements for two current consecutive years
- Delivery time must be specified.
- Payment terms will be 100% after delivery
- Evidence of similar assignments and at least two quote or contracts of clients served.
- Shortlisted vendors will be required to submit samples similar to or close to the sample provided by Humuliza Organization.
- All vendors are encouraged to attend during tender bid opening date.

Vendors interested should submit their proposal in sealed envelopes to Humuliza Organization by **6th January 2024 before 11:00 am**. All sealed envelopes should be marked as **Tender for Procurement of Education Subsidies**

**Office Address:**  
HUMULIZA ORGANIZATION,  
P.O.BOX 46,  
NSHAMBA- MULEBA, KAGERA,  
TANZANIA.

HUMULIZA will open bids on **6th January 2024 at 12:00pm**. In the presence of bidders or their representatives who will choose to attend.

- Price quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings and include Tax separately
- Proposals submitted through emails will not be considered.
- Proposals received after that time, or at a different address shall not be accepted.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Over the years, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and its partners have been implementing sustainable livelihood support programs alongside their freshwater conservation efforts in Lake Tanganyika. One area of particular focus for TNC's conservation work is Nkasi district, where they are intensifying efforts to protect fish breeding sites (FBS), within the Beach Management Units (BMUs). An extended point of intervention is the network of FBSs within a ward known as Collaborative Fisheries Management Area (CFMA).

While fishing communities may be open to collaborating with the government and other partners in co-managing fisheries resources, the lack of sustainable financial resources for BMU/CFMA management is a major obstacle to achieving co-management goals. Lessons learned from other project villages indicate that BMUs and CFMAs struggle to fulfill their duties due to a lack of a reliable revenue source, resulting in illegal fishing practices that harm fisheries resources.

The Lake Tanganyika Program wishes to contract a vendor for the purpose of mapping out sustainable livelihoods opportunities in Mandakerenge in Kipili ward, Kalangu in Mkinga Ward and Mtakuja in Kirando Ward all of Nkasi District.

The purpose of the consultancy is to enhance the overall well-being of communities in Nkasi District by reducing dependence on unsustainable fishing practices and promoting sustainable livelihood options that contribute to the conservation of the ecosystem and biodiversity within and along the lake basin.

Interested and technically vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal.

E-mail : [procurement.lake@tnc.org](mailto:procurement.lake@tnc.org)

# Serengeti beats 200 other national parks in Africa in Safari Bookings

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

FOR the fourth consecutive time, Serengeti National Park in Tanzania has emerged the best African Safari Park from the 2023 study conducted through Safari Bookings.

SafariBookings.com, is the largest online marketplace for African safaris and has conducted the study to determine the 50 best African safari parks for 2023.

An official statement from Safari Bookings reveals that the basis for the travel-based study comes from more than 2,500 reviews written by Africa safari experts and safari-goers.

Serengeti National Park was the clear winner, which according to Safari Bookings, will be no surprise to safari enthusiasts.

The Serengeti received an overall rating of 4.87 out of 5, which was significantly higher than every other park that was under the microscope.

The top five winning list include: Serengeti National Park, Tanzania 4.87, Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve, South Africa 4.71, South Luangwa National Park, Zambia 4.71, Okavango Delta, Botswana, 4.70 and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, South Africa 4.67.

A total of 1,380 reviews were contributed to the study by safari tourists from 107 countries.

The remaining 1,114 park reviews were written by renowned international safari-industry experts, including guidebook authors working with Lonely Planet, Rough Guides, Frommer's Bradt Travel Guides and Footprint.

According to Safari Bookings, Serengeti is the poster child for the East African safari.

The endless plains is one of Africa's largest, and has an astonishing array of wildlife that ranges across landscapes and

habitats of singular beauty.

The annual 2.5-million-strong migration of wildebeest and zebra through the park may capture the attention, and rightly so, as one of nature's greatest spectacles. But the Serengeti is a year-round proposition even when the herds move on.

Why do so many travelers and safari experts rate the Serengeti as their favorite safari destination?

The annual great migration of wildebeest is the greatest wildlife show on earth.

Wildlife viewing is exceptional year-round, and includes predators in large numbers.

Rolling savannah grasslands, punctuated by flat-topped acacias and great piles of giant boulders known as kopjes, look like the perfect safari canvas, unfurling to a seemingly endless horizon.

Visiting the Serengeti is part of Tanzania's extraordinarily diverse Northern safari circuit; it's easily combined with other stunning parks.

The Serengeti's fourth successive victory as Africa's best safari park is a remarkable and thoroughly deserved achievement.

This is especially the case given the high standard of competition in Tanzania and farther afield - across East and southern Africa, Ethiopia and Madagascar.

In total 200 parks in 15 African countries were included in the study (Botswana, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Ethiopia, Lesotho, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

Only parks known for classic wildlife-viewing safaris were considered. Parks mostly known for scenery or typical gorilla and chimp tracking parks were not included.

Parks with less than 10 reviews were excluded from the Top 50.

## 24million people to be connected with communication services by next year

By Francis Kajubi

NEARLY 24 million people in the country's remote areas will be connected to communication services as the implementation of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) and local mobile companies starts.

The commencement of the MoUs entered in May this year marks the beginning of extending communication services by connecting 1,974 wards with 5,111 villages through the construction of 2,149 new mobile towers.

The new towers are however expected to boost the penetration of the current 2G, 3G and 4G internet speeds from the current 69 percent, 62 percent and 50 percent to over 90 percent respectively.

Justina Mashiba, UCSAF Chief Executive Officer made this observation to journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam saying that the target is to boost connectivity especially in remote areas.

Mashiba said that so far 1,197 wards with 3,613 villages with approximately 14,572,644 residents have been connected to communication services such as internet, mobile money and calls, after 1,321 towers were constructed in those wards.

According to her, the mobile towers construction project that fetches 326bn/- is ongoing in another 777 wards formed by 1,498 villages and domiciled by 9,226,204 people.

Speaking of the state of communication in the country, Mashiba said that 1,120 schools have been provided with ICT equipment, with each school being provided with an average of five computers, one printer and one

projector.

"For the financial year 2022/23, 150 schools were provided with ICT equipment 1.8bn/-," she said.

Likewise, she said, in collaboration with internet providers UCSAF is considering the connection of the rapid transit bus stops and that negotiations with service providers are still ongoing.

Mashiba said UCSAF in collaboration with mobile service providers is working to improve the functioning capacity of 127 mobile towers.

"As of today almost 111 towers have already been improved in their functionalities in the project that fetched 5.14bn/-, the improvement of the remaining towers is expected to be accomplished by December this year," said Mashiba.

Regarding the telemedicine project, Mashiba said that UCSAF is implementing the initiative in collaboration with the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), and Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI).

She said the hospitals connected to the service so far are Morogoro Regional Hospital, Ruvuma Regional Hospital, Tanga Regional Hospital, Katavi Regional Hospital, Nzega District Hospital and Chato District Hospital.

On the part of Zanzibar, she asserted that UCSA hopes to connect Abdalla Mzee Hospital in Pemba with Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital in Unguja when the project implementation reaches the final stages.

Regarding the Digital Tanzania project, Mashiba said 758 towers will be built in 713 wards.

She added that 127 districts will benefit when the project is completed and will benefit almost 8.5 million people.



Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata (L) addresses a meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday discussing ways to ensure members of the Authorised Economic Operators Forum work more efficiently and productively. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Use official statistics, African countries told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA has appealed to the rest of African countries to rightfully use official statistics for both national and continental levels for proper use of data decartelizes development.

The message was relayed here yesterday at the climax African Statistics Day-2023, nationally celebrated in Dodoma

The Chief Guest, Rosemary Senyemule made the statement, reminding the gathering that Tanzania ranks beyond many African countries in producing reliable and scientific data.

Senyemule who is also the Dodoma Regional Commissioner argued that the government has invested heavily in statistical sector and that this is evident in the last 2022- Population and Housing Census.

She said no country has managed to conduct both population and housing census at the same time, using almost own financing, noting that a lot of preparations were involved.

"It is our plea that fellow countries use official data for the betterment of our countries and continent at large" she said, adding that data produced by the country are trusted beyond the continent.

Earlier, Chief Statistician, Dr Albina Chuwa noted that Tanzania join the rest of countries in the continent in marking the day following agreement signed some three decades ago, aimed at accelerating development.

The day is preceded by various activities and yesterday the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with the Eastern African Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) convened a conference that brought together different stakeholders to discuss statistical issues.

African Statistics Day is an annual event that is celebrated on November 18th of every year, to raise public awareness of the importance of statistics in all aspects of social and economic life.

However countries can choose the most suitable dates to mark the day and it is on that ground that

Tanzania is celebrating it today.

This year's theme is "Modernising Data Ecosystems to Accelerate the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): The Role of Official Statistics and Big Data in the Economic Transformation and Sustainable Development of Africa."

The theme aligns with the African Union theme of the year 2023, "Acceleration of the AfCFTA Implementation", and encapsulates the call to modernise data systems on the continent to produce and use high-quality official statistics and seize the opportunities that big data presents.

"National trade statistics that go along with international trade statistics are important for they tell the import and export trends locally and internationally", she said.

She observed that to fulfill the objectives of the agreement, States parties need to progressively eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods; progressively liberalise trade in services; cooperate on investment,

intellectual property rights and competition policy; and cooperate on all trade-related areas; among others.

According to Dr Chuwa, AfCFTA aimed at creating a single African market for goods and services facilitated by free movement persons, capital, and investment to deepen economic integration, promote and attain sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, and gender equality.

He added that the AfCFTA aims to contribute to establishing regional value chains in Africa, enabling investment and job creation.

"The practical implementation of the AfCFTA has the potential to foster industrialization, job creation, and investment, thus enhancing the competitiveness of Africa in the medium to long term," said the director.

Godfrey Chaga from EATC argued that the 2022- Population and Housing Census remind people that statistics remain important in trade and planning, from family to national level, calling on them to use the data



Inging Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi (C) and Ruaha National Park senior assistant conservation commissioner and commanding officer Godwell ole Mening'ataki (to his left) show journalists yesterday elephant tusks and traditional weapons they said were seized from 34 suspected poachers. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

## East African states seek to boost tourist arrivals

NAIROBI

THE seven member states of the East African Community (EAC) have pledged to improve policy and regulatory frameworks to boost tourist arrivals in a post-pandemic era.

Speaking at the third edition of the East African regional tourism expo underway in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, senior officials highlighted the sector's potential for growth, citing the abundance and diversity of scenic attractions. More than 3,000 delegates,

including ministers, industry leaders and investors, are attending the expo, running until Thursday and featuring exhibitions, seminars and business networking.

Alfred Mutua, Kenya's cabinet secretary for tourism and wildlife, said that EAC member states should leverage targeted marketing and product diversification to stimulate growth in the tourism and hospitality sectors.

"As a region, we need to invest additional resources towards

regional tourism promotion. The expo provides a platform to foster debate on how best to showcase regional tourist attractions to local and overseas travelers," Mutua stated.

Peter Mathuki, the EAC secretary general, said that tourist numbers have been on a growth trajectory in the bloc, recording 7.2 million arrivals in 2019, with projections aiming to increase numbers to 14.05 million by 2025.

"Following numerous efforts by the EAC partner states, and at the regional level, we are now

seeing good signs of full tourism recovery," Mathuki said.

He urged countries to showcase the region's scenic attractions such as sandy beaches of the Indian Ocean, snow-capped mountains, savannah grasslands, dense rainforests, wildlife and cultural heritage to attract more visitors.

Mathuki highlighted that the implementation of a regional tourism marketing strategy covering 2021 to 2025 is on track, adding that sports, culture and agro-tourism, if harnessed optimally, can boost arrivals.



Smallholder farmers from Kilimanjaro Region show their certificates at the weekend shortly after attending a workshop on ways to ensure sustainable consumption of traditional foods for the good of future generations. It was held in Hai District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Africa CDC and IHME joining forces to train health officials

By Katherine Leach-Kemon

AFRICA Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made spectacular contributions to tackling epidemics and fighting inequities, positioning the organisation as the continent's leading public health body, it has been declared.

Africa CDC, an independent health agency of the African Union, and IHME joined forces to promote data science and evidence-based decision-making throughout Africa.

Together, over the past year, the two organizations have hosted four workshops across the continent, collaboratively training approximately 140 people from

48 African countries, primarily individuals working in ministries of health and national public health institutes.

The partners wrapped up the final session of their Africa-wide Global Burden of Disease (GBD) training at Africa CDC's headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in October. The workshop, which included attendees from Central and North African countries, focused on understanding how the GBD study findings can be used to inform policymaking. Training attendees also learned about the science behind the research.

At the workshop, Dr Awoke Misganaw Temesgen, an IHME faculty member and leader of the

Ethiopia Subnational Burden of Disease Initiative, spoke about how his country passed laws banning smoking in public places, such as restaurants and public transportation, given the GBD study's findings.

In Ethiopia, tobacco use is among the top 15 leading risk factors for death. Yet another way that Ethiopia is translating data into action, Dr Awoke explained, is by reevaluating its health budget. Around one-tenth of the country's health budget goes to non-communicable diseases, yet non-communicable diseases caused one-third of the disease burden according to the GBD study. As a result, the country developed interventions to address non-

communicable diseases.

Around one-tenth of the country's health budget goes to non-communicable diseases, yet non-communicable diseases caused one-third of the disease burden according to the GBD study. As a result, the country developed interventions to address non-communicable diseases.

Participants brainstormed ways that they could use findings from the GBD study to shape policy decisions in their own countries. Representatives from the Democratic Republic of the Congo focused on GBD findings on maternal and newborn disorders as leading causes of early death and poor health in the country. To improve the health of birthing parents and newborns, they recommended strengthening health care during pregnancy and childbirth, reducing infections during pregnancy, and ameliorating maternal nutrition.



Efatha Mlay (C), Infrastructure Planning director with the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads), briefs members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives' Communication, Lands and Energy committee and Zanzibar Works, on a tour of Dar es Salaam's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) infrastructure construction project yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Adesina urges global lenders to prioritise Africa's climate needs

By Special Correspondent

AS global leaders prepare for the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), the President of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, says their deliberations must support a new climate finance architecture that prioritises Africa's needs.

Adesina also urged wealthy nations to fulfill their commitments to provide \$100 billion annually in climate finance.

COP28, will take place from November 30 to December 12 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Under the theme 'Unite, Act, Deliver' the event represents a milestone moment for the world to take stock of its progress on the Paris Agreement. This will help align climate change efforts, including measures to bridge the gaps in progress.

In its latest Africa Economic Outlook report, the Africa Development Bank estimates that

the continent requires as much as \$2.8 trillion through 2030 to implement its climate commitments as set out in countries' recently submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, Africa's inflows of climate finance remain very low (only 3% of global climate finance), and tend to focus on small-scale, fragmented and uncoordinated operations primarily concentrated in middle-income countries.

Dr Adesina said urgent responses to the climate emergency were needed at several levels.

"At the global level, the developed economies must meet their commitment to provide \$100 billion annually in climate finance. The global climate financial architecture must be changed to prioritize the needs of Africa. At the national level, we must accelerate actions on climate adaptation," he reiterated.

Adesina said Africa must revalue its wealth by accounting for the

proper valuation of its abundant natural resources, including its vast forests and peatlands that sequester carbon.

He said African nations should voluntarily consider climate-friendly endeavours "not because someone has told us so, but because we have to".

Adesina highlighted a number of key Bank initiatives to support a climate-resilient and decarbonized future for Africa. It is also championing several flagship programmes to scale up climate action and green investments across the continent.

For example, the Bank has pledged to double its climate finance to \$25 billion by 2025. It has also launched the \$20 billion Desert to Power initiative to harness solar power and deliver clean electricity to 250 million people in the Sahel region. "We must power every home, every school and every hospital," said Adesina, who will lead a Bank Group

delegation to Dubai.

The African Development Bank is working with the Global Center on Adaptation to mobilize an additional \$12.5 billion to galvanize and scale up climate-resilient actions.

At COP28, the Bank will seek to amplify Africa's voice and profile on climate change while enhancing strategic partnerships for the significant mobilization of new financial resources. Its participation will help reshape the global narrative on key issues such as energy transition, nature-based solutions, adaptation finance, reform of multilateral development banks, carbon markets and restitution for loss and damage. As in previous years, the Bank will host an Africa Pavilion with other African institutions during COP28 to amplify the continent's priorities.

Dr Adesina, and senior Bank executives will participate in high-level sessions at the conference, including a summit of global leaders.

## Scholz vows greater investment in Africa's green energy sector

BERLIN

GERMANY will invest 4 billion euros in green energy projects in Africa until 2030, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Monday, noting these could in turn help Europe's largest economy achieve its own transition to carbon neutrality.

Germany will need to import large quantities of green hydrogen going forward, including from Africa, if it is to achieve its goal of net zero emissions by 2045, he said at a German-African business forum in Berlin.

The forum preceded a summit of the "G20 Compact with Africa" that aims to drum up investment in the world's poorest but fast-growing continent by coordinating the development agendas of reform-minded countries and identifying business opportunities.

"Hydrogen production requires considerable investment at the start, so clear signals for a long-term and durable cooperation are needed," said Scholz, who has made five trips to Africa since taking office in late 2021 in a bid to increase engagement with the continent.

"The Compact with Africa conference aims to send this signal: You can count on Germany as a partner." The 4 billion euros would be channelled into the common EU-Africa Initiative for Green Energy. The European Union had already announced it would deliver it 3.4 billion euros in grants.

## Global agencies call for urgent action to address antimicrobial resistance in Africa

HARARE

GLOBAL agencies have stressed the growing urgency for Africa to scale up efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), amid its significant implications for global health and food security.

Being the hardest hit by AMR, Africa needs political will across the continent to marshal resources towards an AMR fight that would leave no part of the continent behind, a senior UN official said.

"As we observe World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) 2023, the United Nations, in collaboration with the African Union and the Republic of Zimbabwe, calls for enhanced political advocacy to highlight the severity of the growing AMR threat across the continent," said UN Resident Coordinator in Zimbabwe, Edward Kallon, in a speech read on his behalf at an event commemorating the WAAW that runs on Nov. 18-24 in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has already identified AMR as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity, and the theme for this year's event: "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together" underscores the need for urgent multi-sectoral action under the One Health Approach to safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobial medicines, he said.

Unregulated and inappropriate use of antimicrobials across various sectors, including human, animal, and plant use, as well as inadequate access to clean water, lack of sanitation, and insufficient infection prevention and control measures are major drivers in the development of drug-resistant pathogens in Africa, Kallon said.

"These factors not only jeopardize health but also endanger several key sustainable development goals related to health, agriculture, animals, the environment, and food security," he said.

In Africa, AMR has become a silent pandemic and already been documented to be a bigger problem than HIV, Malaria and TB combined. By 2050, millions of people could be affected, said Director General of Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Jean Kaseya.

"We therefore require a very strong, coordinated, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach to tackle this growing problem," he said.

African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU IBAR) director, Huyam Salih, called for collaborative efforts and

African countries have long complained that while Europe talks about investment, China actually provides financing without any moral lecturing. Still, Chinese lending in Africa is in decline, while European interest is rising.

Indeed the West is increasingly jostling with China and Russia for geopolitical influence, critical minerals and new economic opportunities in the continent.

"The global order is shifting and Europe and Germany cannot just sit on the sidelines," Finance Minister Christian Lindner said after meeting with his counterparts from several African countries at the conference.

The summit of the G20 Compact with Africa on Monday was its fifth since its creation in 2017 under the German G20 presidency and convened the leaders of more than a dozen African states.

German trade with Africa was 60 billion euros (\$65.4 billion) last year, which is a fraction of its trade with Asia but up 21.7% on 2021.

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara said the number of German companies had tripled in five years while Morocco's Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch said German investment had increased sixfold since 2015.

The member countries of the G20 Compact are Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia.

equitable financing to tackle AMR on the African continent.

"It is imperative that we prioritize equitable financing for AMR-related activities to ensure that no country is left behind. The fight against AMR should be a collective effort with resources allocated equitably. We should redouble our efforts that emphasize preventive measures and the importance of practices aimed at reducing reliance on antimicrobials," she said.

Lindiwe Makubalo, the assistant regional director at WHO, said compared to other regions, Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest AMR-associated deaths at 99 deaths per 100,000 people, with drug resistance to commonly used HIV medicines also being detected in almost 60 percent of cases on the continent.

The WHO Regional Office for Africa was making steady progress to capacitate member countries to fight AMR, including assisting 46 member states to develop AMR national action plans and surveillance capacity building, among other initiatives, Makubalo said.

She added that the fight against AMR was being hampered by several challenges, including weak one-health governance and multi-sectoral coordination in member countries, weak health care systems, unavailability of AMR representative data in over 40 percent of African countries and a lack of sustainable domestic financing for AMR national action plans implementation.

Disjointed systems for supply and distribution of medicines and poor enforcement of regulatory frameworks related to the use and sale of antimicrobial medicines were the other challenges.

She said despite the challenges, the continent must maintain its resolve to fight AMR through enhanced collaborations, development of alternatives to antimicrobial use including the use of vaccines for infectious vaccine-preventable diseases and reinforcing surveillance systems to monitor resistance patterns, enhance regulatory frameworks, and promote education and awareness campaigns to empower individuals with the knowledge needed to take action.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Abebe Haile-Gabriel, said the FAO was supporting national and regional initiatives in Africa to address AMR, focusing on its vision to reduce AMR levels and slow the emergence and spread of resistance across food production and value chains and for all food and agriculture sectors.

## Campaigns notwithstanding, lack of toilets is still a blot in health system

A 'naming and shaming' operation of sorts was being conducted the other day when the Health minister marked World Toilet Day by setting out regions said to be leading in poor supply or availability of toilets.

The regions singled out for mention are Katakwi, Simiyu, Manyara, Tabora and Arusha, within the background where 98 per cent of the entire population did not entirely have the all-important facilities at household level.

This is the king of data that many people often 'conveniently' skip and look the other side, as if it isn't a problem of policy.

This data lead back to the problem of spreading out community health officials and administering a universal health coverage system, as its application requires serious efforts aimed at prevention of diseases.

It implies logically that a house without working toilets would not exactly be qualified for inclusion in the coverage as chances are that such a household would be a burden.

Those who drafted the proposals sent to the legislature and approved were basically worried about what they said were 15 million out of the country's population of roundabout 62 million people categorised as too poor to pay.

That is one aspect of the data on the availability of toilets and the way that can impinge the prospects of workable rollout of universal coverage.

The other matter it would be interesting to see how the Health ministry believes it can tackle is how public authorities can bring that hardcore part of the population that appears to detest or abhor toilets to which regulations are attached.

Some people would recommend imposing fines or hauling people to remand prison for that reason, but that might be frowned upon as a reminder of colonialism.

That would bring up some sheepish smiles on the faces of a few, with

people stepping back to examine how far some distress on what happened during that time was warranted.

In a way, the biggest issue was crushing those who objected to the rise of a new order, but how else would such a development have come about?

Can it really be agreed that the new order that some warrior-minded clusters went that far to oppose was really a bad thing?

Making some basic requirements of a healthy public order dependent on what one feels would amount to limiting the pace of development, occasioning, precipitating or aggravating disease and putting plenty of pressure on public resources.

It can also be a reason for stunting, with children being down with environmentally-based ailments all the time, sucking up vitality.

This would likely be an area where local governments ought to be in vigilant command so that the various representatives of top government officials see to it that it is done.

In the past few years there have been staged nationwide campaigns, whose message was to the effect that a household's dignity lay with the state of the toilet.

However, a significant portion of the population does not appear to have heard, or grasped, what the particular crusades were all about.

The answer to that situation is not the conducting of follow-up campaigns but entrusting the matter to local governments, and in particular district commissioners, to sort out.

If a clean-up campaign is carried out under central government oversight there will likely be more complaints, particularly from those defending indigenous peoples on just about everything.

When local administrations take up by central government directives, things can work better as then the local representatives would be the government's emissaries on the matter. Worth a try, wrong?

## Govt tiring in shouting about corruption; curbs don't work

SOME top-level government officials have lately been hard lamenting - not really complaining - that corruption is shooting up to the roof, at least relative to standards that we have for some years been used to appreciate.

Tanzania has for a while scaled up some notches with respect to sensitivity to corruption and, since then - admittedly, with more freedoms - our ability to keep to that record is diminishing.

It is a lesson in politics that can scarcely be offered in a lecture theatre - that democratic anti-corruption methods don't work effectively enough, at least in Africa.

Most people would stiffen at such a suggestion but there are those who silently know that being tougher or less tolerant works.

Of course, the wider problem might remain where it is: how to combine good governance, which presumes democratic conduct, and effectiveness in combating corruption.

So far, a sufficiently working or sustainable remedy has not been found, as whatever we may have previously relied on in curbing manifestations of corruption, diminishing the number of those in authority by deliberate embezzlements, can no longer be applied. So, there is a choice that looks like picking a rock or a hard place, since neither is really sufficiently 'potent'.

The issue is what really concerns people most, as this is where what is known as politics basically falls - namely, solving problems among people on the basis of what they prize most.

In our case - and in all democratic countries, it would appear - it is democracy that boasts the uppermost value and the fight against corruption comes second in that agenda.

The crusade in no way fetches or

elicits as much attention as broad freedoms, while these freedoms imply a certain mode of conduct in the running of government business.

Democracy isn't just a system but, rather, a culture where everyone in the government is entitled to enjoy shielding those testing the will of authorities.

It is precisely this that a well-placed individual in combating such situations, that is, the minister responsible for Public Service Management and Good Governance, was recently saying in exasperation that corruption is now afoot everywhere.

The minister directed his remarks at small bribes that deny people services in public institutions, with varying levels of impact, though at no point can it be said that such situations are harmless.

He was talking to officers - and commanders - of the national anti-corruption bureau, most of whom are understood to exercise their functions carefully, taking account of the prevailing mood in the country.

At times MPs have pointed out in debate that some local government officials protect one another, but they have been cautioned against "reckless generalisation".

Looking at the issue at close range, not much is likely to happen as people in public office know their range of privileges and how far complaints can be worked upon or resolved.

So, what will be uppermost is the freedom that people will have in registering and voting in the civic polls next year and the all-important General Elections the following year.

Corruption will be diminished by greater transparency and, to an extent, greater political competition compelling those in authority to act so as to reinforce the trust the public has placed in them.

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## BRICS: New hope for Africa's economic liberation

By George Cleoplace Muntu



THE 14-year-old intergovernmental political and economic organisation until recently comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and therefore popularly known by the acronym BRICS, representing its member states' initials (in English), calls for no introduction.

This group of major emerging economies seeking to reshape the global order currently boasts 11 member countries. The membership expansion came true after six countries were accepted at the (last - 15th) BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg this August.

The new members which joined the BRICS are Argentina, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Iran and Ethiopia.

The addition of the six members makes BRICS stand as a group with a population of 3.67 billion, which accounts for around 47 per cent of the world's total population. It also boasts a total GDP of 29 trillion US dollars, which accounts for approximately 29 per cent of the global GDP.

Along with the increase in member countries, the Johannesburg summit was concluded with positive results, including encouraging the use of local currencies for trade among members and other developing countries.

The expansion of BRICS has raised new hopes for stronger commercial cooperation with mutual benefit that will promote the development of Africa. This hope is based on the fact that BRICS countries oppose the Cold War mentality and unilateralism.

For that reason, they are committed to promoting multilateral cooperation, mutual respect, mutual trust and cooperation in strengthening an alternative international developmental path that is inclusive.

Unlike some countries bent on dividing the world into exclusive blocs and expanding their military alliance to maintain their rule, BRICS countries focus on maintaining world peace and promoting common development.

Considering the enhancement of the economic and political power of the 'bloc' and its cooperation with Africa, the African countries have become more interested in BRICS than obtained previously.

And the major explanation here is that it offers new opportunities for trade, investment and technology transfer, which will help promote the development and integration of the African continent.

BRICS member countries, especially China, have in recent years expanded their economic cooperation with Africa. In fact, China is currently Africa's largest trading partner and has granted greater market access to African products.

For example, last year saw nearly 15 per cent of Africa's exports go to China, compared to 3.8 per cent in 2001.

And, according to official statistics, the value of trade between China and Africa reached a new high of 282 billion US dollars last year, which increased 10.9 per cent year on year.

Additionally, China has invested massively in infrastructure and industrial projects in African nations.

India has also meanwhile stepped up its trade and investment cooperation with Africa, particularly in agriculture, health care, renewable energy, water supply infrastructure, education and information technology. Furthermore, it has established a fund of 10 billion US dollars to support development projects in Africa.

According to the statistics of India's Commerce and Industry ministry, financial year 2022/2023 saw trade between India and Africa grow by 9.26 per cent to almost 100 billion US dollars - from 7 billion US dollars in 2001.

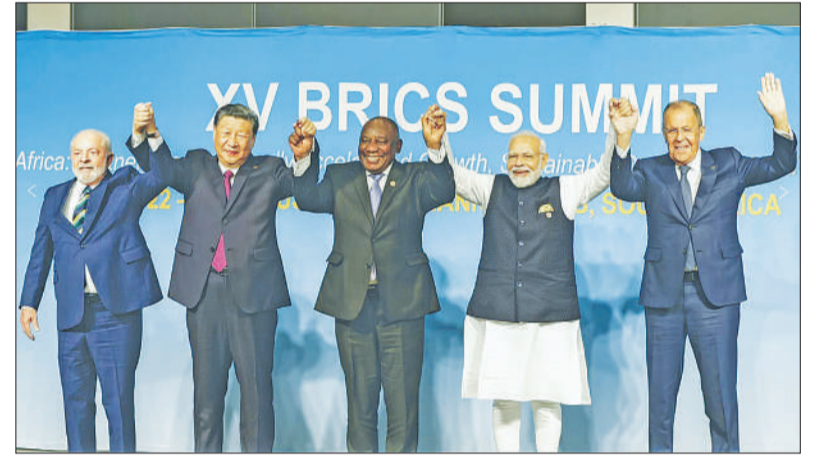
Economic research data for calendar year 2022 from the African Development Bank (AfDB) meanwhile show that BRICS is now Africa's largest trading partner with their trade expected to exceed 500 billion US dollars by 2030.

It is clear that BRICS countries have contributed far more appreciably to Africa's economic development than have G7 members.

It is important to note that African countries have realised that depending on Western countries makes them vulnerable, especially when their interests collide.

That they have to sell their oil and other resources to Western countries at a fixed price, trade in US dollars and use the West-dominated financial system are just some of the disadvantages in dealing with Western economies.

Largely owing to BRICS' new



Leaders of BRICS member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa pose for a group photo during the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 23, 2023. File photo: AP

financial strategy and its decision to encourage the use of local currencies in trade, African countries would be well advised to use this opportunity to fight for their full economic independence. They need to take decisive actions to reduce their economic dependence on the US dollar and Western financial institutions, especially private creditors.

This freedom includes appreciating the importance of economic emancipation as well as freedom to do business based on equality and to manage their internal affairs independently, without being subject to Western countries' interference.

BRICS' new financial system, BRICS PAY, provides an opportunity for the bloc's member countries and other developing countries to receive and make payments in their respective local currencies.

In the circumstances, there is every need for African countries to join this system so as to reduce the risk of economic instability resulting from unilateral sanctions imposed by Western nations.

But in order to benefit most from the BRICS PAY system, African countries need to increase trade with BRICS countries and use their strength and resources for mutual benefit.

This can be done effectively if African countries adopt a strategic approach in cooperation with BRICS based on the assessment of their respective strengths and weaknesses and the pursuit of mutual benefit.

To that end, African countries need to strengthen their internal institutions and policies, strengthen regional cooperation and carry out cooperation with BRICS member nations in a bold but prudent way based on a shared vision of common prosperity.

In addition, African countries need to take advantage of the opportunities offered by BRICS by prioritising investment in education, technology and infrastructure alongside promoting

innovation, regional integration and sustainable development.

Above all, African countries need to attract more investments and increase trade volumes with BRICS member countries and other developing nations. In doing so, they will realise their full potential and contribute more meaningfully to the shaping of a global economic order that is more equitable and inclusive.

It is worth noting that, since and before independence, African countries have had to live with Western financial systems as well as the strict conditions attached to the latter's economic and financial aid.

This is because there was no alternative financial system or other institutions with which to replace the Western ones. Therefore, African countries had to use the monopolistic SWIFT system and comply with the wishes of those Western countries.

For that reason and in order to break free from over-dependence on the SWIFT system and the aid provided by Western financial institutions, African countries may find it beneficial to join the BRICS PAY and strengthen trade cooperation with BRICS member countries.

Additionally, it is advisable for them to start doing business using their own currencies so as to lessen the risk of ending up with insufficient capability to service foreign debt and to purchase foreign goods and services.

As countries increasingly realise the importance and benefits of doing business in their respective local currencies, we expect to witness the emergence of a decentralised and more complex international financial system in which BRICS member countries, particularly China, play an increasingly important and noticeable role.

\* The writer (pictured) is a Dar es Salaam-based analyst on international politics and foreign relations. Email: cleoplacegeorge@gmail.com



# Volcanic eruptions: Rare catastrophes with hidden benefits

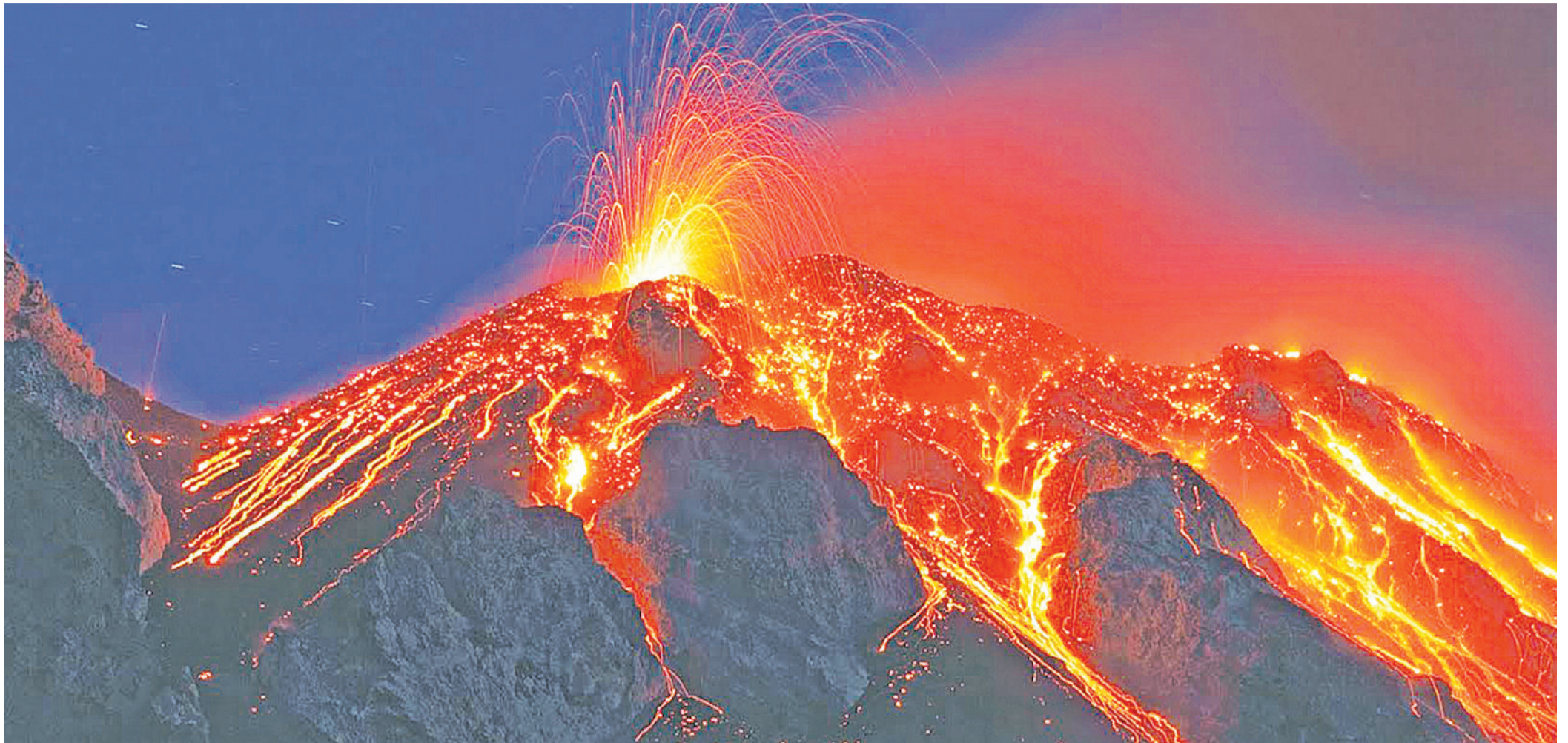
By George Rwegoshora

**W**E normally don't talk about geohazards that much because they rarely occur. Naturally, people are conditioned with what they regularly see. The fact that geohazards occur and leave catastrophic impact on humans and the environment calls out everyone to be aware of the causes and effects of geohazards together with their prevention, mitigation and adaptation measures.

Volcanic eruptions are one of the geohazards that result from erupting magma from the earth's sub surface, pouring on the surface in the form of lava. Magmatic fluids are very hot, they burn anything they touch be it people, buildings, plantations and so on. Some magma can reach temperatures of up to 1400 degrees celsius.

The magmatic fluids turned into lava are accompanied by rock fragments, volcanic gases and ash. Volcanic gases which are toxic and contain smoke when inhaled lead to death. This happened recently in 2021 when Mount Nyiragongo erupted near the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo. When emitted, volcanic gases go up and block sun rays which eventually cool the earth's temperature.

Deep down in the earth's interior mantle, there oc-



urs magma which moves from side to side. This movement of magma is caused by convection currents. There are various volcanic activities happening on earth with Indonesia having the maximum number of active volcanoes.

Most of the volcanoes happen in the oceans, making minimum impacts to people and properties. They mostly occur around diverging and converging boundary plates.

Volcanoes on land mostly happen as a result of stretching and thinning of the crust such as the East African Rift and Rio Grande Rift in North America. Africa has been experiencing volcanic eruptions in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo. Volcanic eruptions have had severe damages to people: causing death, destruction of properties and displacement of people. People are forced

to evacuate their homes for safe places like in the Nyiragongo case in where 400,000 people left their homes. Volcanism has a long-term effect to climate due to the gases and ash emitted that go on to cool the earth's temperature, causing problems in health, agriculture and other socioeconomic activities. At times volcanic eruptions also cause earthquakes, resulting in destruction of buildings and death.

Despite the harsh effects, volcanism is also advantageous in that it contributes to the formation of essential metals and minerals like gold, silver, copper, nickel, zinc, diamond and lead.

Volcanic fluids contain elements that are of importance in agricultural soils. These elements are calcium, potassium and sodium. This is why we observe good crop yields in mountainous areas like those around Mount Kilimanjaro.

Volcanic eruptions are useful in research and tourism activities which in turn create revenue for people and governments. Mountains Kilimanjaro, Meru and Rungwe are some of the volcanic tourist attractions in Tanzania. According to the 2013 World Bank report on Tourism in Africa, Mountain Kilimanjaro National Park contributed 13 percent of Tanzania's gross domestic product which goes to the national development plans and also improves the livelihoods of people around the area.

Volcanism has also made it possible to tap geothermal energy. Water in the underground gets hotter when near volcanic fires, resulting in features like geysers, fumaroles, hot springs and mudspots. Steam from hot water can be used to run the turbines, eventually producing electricity.

To ensure that volcanic disasters are prevented, it

is very useful to carry out hazard mapping and regular surveys around volcanic regions so as to predict early the occurrence of a volcano to alert people for evacuation before it is too late. As the saying goes, the earlier the better. It is also important that governments allocate funds for such hazards so that mitigation and adaptation measures can be carried out earlier other than waiting until lives are lost and properties destroyed.

*The author is a geologist and executive director of Afrikagera Geological Centre, a Non-Government Organization based in Dar Es Salaam. He can be reached at +255714338049 or afrikagerageologicalcenter@gmail.com*

## Israel recalls its SA ambassador ahead of parliamentary vote on EFF motion to shut embassy in Pretoria

By Peter Fabricius

**I**SRAEL has recalled its ambassador to South Africa after strong criticism by Pretoria and the ANC of Israel's continuing military assault on Gaza.

The Israeli government has recalled Ambassador Eliav Belotserkovsky "for consultations" following the "latest statements from South Africa", Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lior Haiat said on Monday in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

He did not specify the statements, but the SA government and ANC have been growing increasingly critical of Israel as the war in Gaza unfolds and the death toll mounts.

Pretoria recently announced that it was recalling all of its diplomats from its embassy in Tel Aviv and it issued a demarche – a very stern form of diplomatic rebuke – to Belotserkovsky. It has also referred Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the International Criminal Court.

Israel's decision on Monday to recall Belotserkovsky came a day before Parliament was expected to vote on an EFF motion calling upon "the government to close the Israeli Embassy in South Africa and suspend all diplomatic relations with Israel".

Daily Maverick's Marianne Merten has reported that while the ANC supported the motion in principle, the ruling party and the government were unlikely to support it because of the practical implications – including the fact that breaking diplomatic relations with Israel would mean that South Africa would no longer be able to maintain its embassy to Palestine in Jerusalem.

It seemed likely that the ANC would settle for a compromise of expelling Belotserkovsky but not cutting relations with Israel. Now it seems Israel has pre-empted that move by recalling the ambassador.

The South African Zionist Federation condemned "South Africa's increasingly antagonistic and discriminatory position against the world's only Jewish State" which it said had led to Israel's decision to recall Belotserkovsky.

Africa4Palestine, a South African NGO, welcomed the decision to recall Belotserkovsky ahead of the vote in Parliament.

"South Africa now has no ambassador in Israel, and Israel has no ambassador in South Africa," it said.

It said Israel was being isolated, in a similar fashion to South Africa's apartheid government, which it described as a crucial step towards holding the country accountable. "People and countries across the globe are making it clear: no normal relations with an abnormal state."

### Test for BRICS

Meanwhile, the crisis in the Middle East could present the BRICS bloc with an important test of unity as its leaders gather on Tuesday for a virtual summit hosted by BRICS chairperson President Cyril Ramaphosa to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

He will be joined by most of the leaders of the other BRICS member states, Brazil, Russia, India and China, as well as the six countries that were admitted to BRICS at its summit in Johannesburg in August: Saudi Arabia,



Israeli's Ambassador to South Africa, Eli Belotserkovsky (Photo: Agencies)

Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres will also participate in the virtual meeting, at the end of which leaders are expected to adopt a joint statement on the situation in the Middle East with particular reference to Gaza, the South African Presidency announced.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to participate, but Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not, South African officials have confirmed, and will instead be represented by Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. Although the official explanation is a scheduling problem, there is a suspicion that the real reason could be India's outlier position on the Middle East conflict.

India is the only BRICS member

which abstained from the UN General Assembly resolution on 26 October calling for "an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities" between Israel and Hamas and for unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza.

India explained that it did not support the resolution because it failed to condemn Hamas for its 7 October attack on Israel, in which it killed more than 1,200 people, mainly civilians, and took about 240 hostages. In retaliation, Israel launched an attack on Hamas in Gaza which by Monday had killed about 13,000 people, also mostly civilians.

Last week, Modi told the virtual Voice of Global South Summit that "India has condemned the dastardly terror attack on Israel on October 7". He added that India urged a "restrained response along with dia-

logue and diplomacy" from Israel. "We strongly condemn the death of civilians in the Israel-Hamas conflict," Modi said.

Five of the six new BRICS candidate countries which will attend Ramaphosa's virtual summit on Tuesday also supported the UN General Assembly ceasefire resolution, but Ethiopia, like India, abstained.

Iran openly provides military and financial support to Hamas and has publicly welcomed its attack on Israel, so it would be the least likely participant in Ramaphosa's meeting to agree to any criticism of Hamas in the joint statement which the 11 participating leaders are scheduled to issue at the end of their meeting.

Official sources have confirmed that Argentine President Alberto Fernández will participate in the virtual summit though he is about to leave office and it is uncertain

whether his successor, Javier Milei, will take up the invitation for Argentina to join BRICS.

Milei, who has just been elected, is a right-wing, anti-government populist in the Donald Trump mould and stated during his election campaign that he was opposed to Argentina joining BRICS.

In a statement on the recall of Belotserkovsky, South African Zionist Federation chairperson Rowan Polovin said: "The ANC's prejudicial posturing on this conflict will have profound implications for our country, as well as Jewish and Christian South Africans and others with religious and spiritual ties to Israel."

He added that the government's "one-sided and irresponsible rhetoric" and refusal to engage in dialogue with Israel had prevented SA from playing any meaningful role in ending the current war or in any future peace efforts.

"All it has achieved is [to] deepen the divisions in South Africa, undermine our country's international standing and economic interests, and harm the constitutional rights of our citizens."

"We hope this is a temporary recall and that diplomacy can continue," Polovin said.

# The world's right-wing and left-wing torturers

By Thalif Deen

JEANNE Kirkpatrick, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, once made the distinction between “friendly” right-wing authoritarian regimes (which were mostly U.S. and Western allies) and “unfriendly” left-wing totalitarian dictatorships (which the U.S. abhorred).

Among the “dictators” the U.S. shunned in the 1970s and 80s were Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe, Myanmar’s General Than Shwe, Iraq’s Saddam Hussein, Cuba’s Fidel Castro, Libya’s Muammar al-Qaddafi, Syria’s Hafez al-Assad and North Korea’s Kim Il-Sung.

At the same time, successive U.S. administrations cozied up to a rash of right-wing authoritarian regimes and family-run fiefdoms, mostly in South-East Asia, Latin America and particularly the Middle East.

These regimes were widely accused by human rights organizations of instituting emergency laws, detaining dissidents, cracking down on the press, torturing and executing political prisoners and rigging elections. (As a South-East Asian right-wing dictator once said: “I promised you I will give you the right to vote, but I did not say anything about counting those votes.”)

Kirkpatrick’s distinction between user-friendly right-wing regimes and unfriendly left-wing dictators prompted a response from former US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who shot back: “It seems to me that if you’re on the rack (and being tortured), it doesn’t make any difference if your torturer is right-handed or left-handed.”

But some of the Western nations have tried to politically separate “right-wing governments” from “left-wing governments” – the white-hatted good guys from the black-hatted bad guys, as in Hollywood movies of the wild West.

The strongest link between the United States and some of the oppressive Middle East regimes, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, is primarily military.

And Israel’s right-wing government, accused by Amnesty International, of human rights abuses and torture, is a coalition of seven political parties.

The ongoing devastating and one-side battle between Israel, a strong US ally, and the militant group Hamas has underlined a longstanding double standard on torture and human rights abuses.

The US rarely, if ever, is critical of Israel and exercises its political clout to veto any Security Council resolution condemning the Jewish state, as it did last week.

Dr. Simon Adams, President and CEO of the Center for Victims of Torture, told IPS: “Unfortunately, if history teaches us anything it is that most governments are capable of perpetrating torture, regardless of their political complexion.

Some democracies, he pointed out, try to justify torture in moments of extreme crisis, like the United States after 9/11, while dictatorships often commit torture as part of an industrial system of terror and control, like North Korea or the Assad regime in Syria.

“The sad, reality is that authoritarian governments that declare themselves as belonging to the far left or to the extreme right have often committed torture in the name of advancing their cause,” he noted.

“The more deluded a government is regarding the alleged purity of the ruling ideology, the more likely they are to perpetrate torture against dissidents and non-believers. What all authoritarian regimes have in common is disdain for universal human rights” declared Dr Adams.

Meanwhile, in a report released in early November, Amnesty International (AI), a leading human rights organization, says testimony from released detainees and human rights lawyers, as well as video footage and images illustrate some of the forms of torture and other ill-treatment prisoners have been subjected to by Israeli forces over the past four weeks.

These include severe beatings and humiliation of detainees, including by forcing them to keep their heads down, to kneel on the floor during inmate count, and to sing Israeli songs.

Heba Morayef, AI’s Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa says: “Over the last month we have witnessed a significant spike in Israel’s use of administrative detention – detention without charge or trial that can be renewed indefinitely – which was already at a 20-year high before the latest escalation in hostilities on 7 October.”



“Administrative detention is one of the key tools through which Israel has enforced its system of apartheid against Palestinians.

Testimonies and video evidence also point to numerous incidents of torture and other ill-treatment by Israeli forces including severe beatings and deliberate humiliation of Palestinians who are detained in dire conditions,” says Morayef.

The AI also says the summary killings and hostage-taking by Hamas and other armed groups on 7 October are war crimes and must be condemned as such, but Israeli authorities must not use these attacks to justify their own unlawful attacks and collective punishment of civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip and the use of torture, arbitrary detention and other violations of the rights of Palestinian prisoners.

“The prohibition against torture can never be suspended or derogated from, including – and especially – at times like these,” said AI.

Amnesty International says it has for decades documented widespread torture by Israeli authorities in places of detention across the West Bank.

However, over the past four weeks, videos and images have been shared widely online showing gruesome scenes of Israeli soldiers beating and humiliating Palestinians while detaining them blindfolded, stripped, with their hands tied, in a particularly chilling public display of torture and humiliation of Palestinian detainees. In one image analyzed, by Amnesty International’s Crisis Evidence Lab, three Palestinian men, blindfolded and stripped of their clothes can be seen beside a soldier, wearing a green olive

uniform like those worn by the Israeli ground forces.

A Haaretz investigation published on 19 October found that the image was taken in Wadi al-Seeq, a village East of Ramallah, on 12 October. One of the three victims depicted in the photograph told Amnesty International that he had initially been held and beaten by settlers but two hours later an Israeli military jeep arrived:

“One of the Israeli officers who came, approached me and kicked me on my left side, then jumped on my head with his two legs pushing my face further into the dirt and then continued kicking me as I was head down, into the dirt, with my hands tied behind my back. He then got a knife and tore all of my clothes off except for my underwear and used part of my torn clothes to blindfold me.”

“The beating to the rest of my body did

not stop, at one point he started jumping on my back - three or four times - while yelling ‘die, die you trash’ ... in the end before this finally stopped, another officer urinated on my face and body while also yelling at us ‘to die.’”

Meanwhile, the UN Committee against Torture is currently holding its sessions, through November 24, during which it will examine Burundi, Costa Rica, Kiribati, Denmark, Egypt and Slovenia.

These six countries are among the 173 States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. They are required to undergo regular reviews by the Committee of 10 independent international experts on how they are implementing the Convention.

IPS UN Bureau Report



## 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

## Kibaha reagents plant becomes 'game changer' in Tanzania's medical sector

By Guardian Reporter

IN efforts to reduce cost of medical reagents and improve supply of quality medical products to hospitals in the country, the government in collaboration with investors has introduced Health Technology Centre in Kibaha. The center runs by Action Medeor – the German-based largest medicine organization.

The center has significantly reduced the cost of medical reagents. "For instance, in the past the reagents were sold at the price of 320,000/-, but now the price has dropped to 80,000/-, which is a significantly lower cost," Dr Godwin Mollel, Deputy Minister for Health said recently when speaking at the official launch of the center.

This benefits the government by ensuring a steady supply of quality medical products to hospitals, without any allocation or delay issues. It has brought about significant economic advancements for Tanzania and helped to address the issue of unemployment among Tanzanians.

Prior to its establishment, many Tanzanians were employed in its construction.

As its operations progress, it is expected to employ more than 20 individuals to meet the growing production demands.

It stimulates the economic growth of neighbouring countries as well. After initiating production, there is the potential to fulfill both domestic and international demands for medical reagents, thus contributing to Tanzania's revenue and generating numer-

ous new jobs.

According to Mollel, since President Samia Suluhu Hassan got into office, the ministry has so far received a total of 6.7trn/-.

He said that the money dished out by the government has gone to the construction of health facilities and procurement of critical medical equipment such as x-rays, CT-scans and MRI.

"Efforts by the President Samia, to open up and encourage investment in the health sector has seen the only haematology reagent factory in Eastern and Central Africa being established in Tanzania," the minister said.

According to him, the establishment of the factory will bring major revolution to the health sector something which President Samia has always been encouraging.

Dr Mollel directed the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) to ensure efforts are made so that the plant kick starts operations within two-week's time.

On Covid-19 pandemic, Dr Mollel said: "This is a big lesson learned during the time on the importance of having local factories, saying investors like Action Medeor need to be embraced."

He urged Tanzanians working at the centre to acquire skills and later on become innovators rather than remaining as mere machine operators so as to help the country realise its ambitious plan of industrialisation.

Christoph Bonsmann, Country Director and Executive Director at Action Medeor International Healthcare noted that the reagent is ISO certified,



Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel (3rd-L) cuts the ribbon to launch the Action Medeor Health Technology Centre at Kibaha in Coast region recently. Looking on are Zanzibar Health deputy minister Hassan Hamis Hafidh (3rd R) Germany's Ambassador to Tanzania Dr Detlef Waechter (2nd L), and Action Medeor International director Christoph Bonsmann (2nd R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

saying currently it is awaiting TMDA registration for its take off.

"The product is expected to bring down cost of reagents by 70 per cent thus saving Tanzania from huge importation costs from abroad," he said.

Upon starting operation, he said they can produce up to 500 tonnes per year, meaning that the product can be marketed outside East African Community and beyond.

However, he noted that their goal is to expand the production base to other crucial medical supplies in

the near future.

Hassan Hamis Hafidh, Zanzibar Deputy Minister for Health applauded the Action Medeor, noting that their step is important one as it paves the way for creating a healthier future for Tanzania.

He indicated that Zanzibar has made major reforms in their health sector whereby bureaucracy is discouraged, welcoming Action Medeor in Zanzibar should they want to invest.

Kibaha District Commissioner Nickson Simon observed that the Coast Region currently accommo-

dates 1,523 industries and 434 health facilities, adding that 22 plots have been earmarked for industries in the region.

The DC Simon called on investors to chip in and invest in the Coast Region because of its countless opportunities.

So far, the region has a Special Export Zone valued at 3trn/-, that has been designed to accommodate around 200 factories.

## After seven months of war, Sudan faces risk of collapse

KHARTOUM

SEVEN months of war between rival generals in Sudan have resulted in thousands of deaths, millions of displaced persons and the risk of disintegration of the country, which was already in a fragile state before the outbreak of hostilities.

As the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continue their brutal offensive in the Darfur region (west), experts fear a "Libyan scenario", in reference to the inextricable political crisis shaking this North African country neighbouring Sudan, where two governments are vying for power, one established in the west and the other in the east.

In Sudan, the RSF, which now controls most of the capital Khartoum, has made lightning advances in Darfur. At the same time, the government and army leaders have left the capital to retreat to the city of Port Sudan, which has been spared the fighting, exacerbating fears of a break-up of the country.

"Continued fighting could lead to terrifying scenarios, including division," warns Omar Youssef, spokesman for the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC), the civilian bloc ousted from power in the 2021 putsch led by the two generals who were allies at the time and are now at war.

"The growing wave of militarisation (of civilians) is aggra-

vating the social fissures", he added.

At the negotiating table, the two sides, unable to gain a decisive advantage, have little intention of making concessions, as demonstrated once again by the failure in early November of talks sponsored by the United States and Saudi Arabia, leading to fears of fragmentation of the country if the status quo is prolonged.

Failure to reach a political solution could lead to a situation similar to that in Libya, which has been plunged into a major political crisis since the 2011 revolt, with "more than one government, with no real effectiveness or international recognition", explains Fayed al-Salik,

political analyst and journalist.

The conflict that broke out on 15 April between the head of the army, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhane, and his deputy-turned-rival, General Mohamed Hamdane Daglo, has claimed more than 10,000 lives, according to an estimate by the NGO Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (Acled), which is widely considered to be an underestimate.

It also displaced more than six million people and destroyed most of the infrastructure.

At the beginning of November, new massacres were reported following a large-scale offensive by the RSF in Darfur, where the militia quickly

claimed control of army bases in almost all the major towns in the region.

In the town of Ardamata alone, hundreds of people are reported to have been killed by armed groups, who have forced more than 8,000 people to flee to neighbouring Chad in the space of a week, according to the UN.

The European Union (EU) said it was "appalled" by the "more than 1,000 deaths" in two days in Ardamata, warning of possible "ethnic cleansing."

Since the start of the war, the UN has counted more than 1.5 million internally displaced people in Darfur, a region the size of France and home to a quarter of Sudan's 48 million

people.

While General Daglo can count on the support of powerful allies, foremost among them the United Arab Emirates, General Burhane retains his role as de facto head of state on the international stage, regularly taking part in UN and Arab League summits.

On the ground, however, the unbridled advance of the RSF in Darfur "gives them an advantage and allows them to move within their base", according to Mr Salik, referring to the Arab tribes.

It is Arab militiamen, the Janjaweed, who form the bulk of the RSF troops and who in the 2000s, under the command of General Daglo, carried out a

scorched earth policy in Darfur, pillaging, raping and killing members of non-Arab ethnic groups on behalf of deposed dictator Omar al-Bashir.

Despite the paramilitary advances in Darfur, the chances of either side achieving a decisive victory remain slim, according to a military expert speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity.

According to him, "even if the army) manages to regain control of Khartoum, which looks very arduous, sending troops to retake the areas of Darfur controlled by the RSF represents an enormous logistical challenge", with more than 1,400 kilometres separating Khartoum from the town of El-Geneina, on the border with Chad.

## Gender norms 'still block African women in science'

By Aphelele Buqwana, Pretoria

TRADITIONAL gender norms continue to stymie the progress of women in science in Africa, says Hulda Swai, one of two women appointed as chairs at an African research initiative dedicated to anti-apartheid icon Oliver Tambo.

The O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs Initiative (ORTARChI), which works to support research for socio-economic development across the continent, aspired to ensure that at least half of its chairs - appointed in 2020 for a five-year term - were women researchers.

But only two slots out of the ten chairs slots ultimately went to women. "Women in Africa often face societal and cultural expectations that make it more difficult for them to pursue careers in science. Sometimes, even their own families are not supportive of their goals."

Hulda Swai, an anti-malarial drug delivery researcher at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)

Swai, an anti-malarial drug delivery researcher at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in Tanzania, believes lack of support and role models are blocking progress for women.

"Women in Africa often face societal and cultural expectations that make it more difficult for them to pursue careers in science," Swai told SciDev.Net.

"Sometimes, even their own families are not supportive of their goals." She says men must step up to support women in their families in pursuing science pathways.

"Traditional gender roles and societal expectations, such as marriage and family responsibilities, can hinder women's progress in the field," she said.

"Encouragement from the broader society, including husbands, fathers, and brothers, can play a pivotal role in supporting women in science."

Dorothy Ngila, from South Africa's National Research Foundation, which is a core partner in the initiative, explained that the reason the gender requirements were not met was because of the poor women representation already existing in research and STEM.

"Research has consistently indicated that, globally, we have fewer women in research leadership positions," Ngila said.

This, she said, is reflected in the pool of applications that were received



for the ORTARChI chairs, as there were fewer applications from women.

Ngila told SciDev.Net of the effort the initiative is making to increase women representation, including tracking the number of postgraduate students and postdoctoral student that the chairs are mentoring and ensuring that women are represented in that cohort.

"The chairs are collectively supporting 157 masters and PhD and Postdocs, of which 42 per cent are women," she said.

"Additionally, of the cumulative 316 core research team members across all the chairs, 34 per cent are women."

Last month, researchers and scientists from across Africa gathered in Pretoria, South Africa, for the 2023 ORTARChI Annual

Gathering.

The meeting brought together researchers and scientists from across Africa to explore how to achieve research excellence through collaborations across the continent.

It sought to honour the legacy of its namesake Tambo, a South African anti-apartheid activist and former science teacher who co-founded the African National Congress Youth League alongside Nelson Mandela.

Tambo was dedicated to a free and united Africa and saw South Africa's knowledge and expertise as a resource to be shared with the rest of the continent.

Swai commended the Annual Gathering for including female scientists and researchers as facilitators and speakers, sharing their expertise. She views this as a positive sign of

progress for science in Africa.

She says more needs to be done to promote the value of science among young women and to give them the resources they need.

"Institutional change" needed to meet gender equity goals Bridging South Africa's math's language gap Impact of global South research 'should be recognised'

"For example, in Tanzania, I talk to female teenagers in various schools, and when they look at you as professor in science, they get so excited.

"What they need is to be encouraged," she said in an interview with SciDev.Net after the event.

She is hopeful that Africa will see change for the better, as has been seen elsewhere.

"In Europe, for example, women are increasingly taking on leadership roles, and their contributions are being celebrated," she says.

"We can learn from these successes and work towards a more supportive environment for women in Africa."

Swai said she believed initiatives like ORTARChI had an important role to play in promoting the growth and development of young researchers in Africa, especially women.

"If the ORTARChI is successful in promoting the value of science and supporting the development of young researchers, it could lead to a positive cycle of growth and development on the continent," she said.

She hopes it will serve as a model for future partnerships that support African researchers and lead to innovative breakthroughs that improve people's lives on the continent.

This interview has been edited for clarity and conciseness.

This article was supported by the O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs Initiative. The initiative honours the work of Oliver Tambo, a prominent South African and pan-Africanist with a science education background. In total ten researchers have been selected as O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs at leading universities across the continent. The Chairs are focused on research themes which are identified by each host institution in conjunction with national granting councils, and which are aligned with regional priorities.

# Obama, Clooney and Gates: 'We can end child marriage in a generation'

By Megha Mohan, Yousef Eldin and Emma Ailes

THREE of the world's most influential women have told BBC News they want to end child marriage within a generation.

Michelle Obama, Amal Clooney and Melinda French Gates announced last year a collaboration between their foundations to combat the problem.

At the current rate of progress, the UN has warned it will not be eradicated for 300 years.

But former First Lady Mrs Obama told BBC News: "It is an issue that can be solved tomorrow."

The three women spoke exclusively to BBC 100 Women during a visit to Malawi and South Africa.

Short presentational grey line

"I'm sorry," said 26-year-old Lucy, as she choked back tears. "I feel emotional."

Lucy was in the library of Ludzi Girls secondary school in the central region of Malawi. US secret service agents stood outside, under the red flame trees of the school grounds. She had just been speaking about the importance of girls staying in school, and spared the fate of marriage to much older men, before emotion suddenly overcame her.

Around the table, three of the world's most influential humanitarians - Melinda French Gates, Amal Clooney and Michelle Obama - had quietly listened to her story.

According to the NGO, Girls Not Brides, Malawi has one of the highest child marriage rates in Eastern and Southern Africa, with 42% of girls already married by the age of 18. In Mchinji District, where Ludzi Girls school is located, 33% of girls are reported to fall pregnant before they reach 18, and leave education.

Lucy could have been one of those girls. Her father had wanted her out of school when she was 14, but she resisted, and later became the first girl in her village to go to university. Now, with a degree in education, she is a district leader for AGE Africa, an organisation that provides scholarships for vulnerable girls in Malawi, a country where secondary education is not free. Lucy was once a student in the programme, and now she helps girls like herself.

Her mother is overjoyed at her achievement, Lucy said, although her father is less so. She said he is still coming to terms with an independent daughter. Sharing all this left her overwhelmed.

The former First Lady of the US, sitting to Lucy's left, spoke up. "Will you send your father a message for me? Next time you see him, tell him that Michelle and Barack Obama are so proud of you, and the woman you have become."

Lucy looked up, smiling. On Lucy's right sat international human rights barrister Mrs Clooney. "And tell him you



Michelle Obama (second-L), Amal Clooney (second-R) and Melinda French Gates (R).

have a lawyer too now," she added.

BBC 100 Women names 100 inspiring and influential women around the world every year - Michelle Obama and Amal Clooney are on this year's list, while Melinda French Gates was listed in 2021.

After announcing their collaboration to combat child marriage last year, Michelle Obama, Amal Clooney and Melinda French Gates visited Malawi and South Africa together to amplify the work of grass-roots organisations focusing on the issue, and to meet girls and women whose lives have been affected.

Mrs Obama's education-focused organisation, Girls Opportunity Alliance, had already identified that girls around the world were leaving school due to pregnancy and teenage marriage. Mrs Clooney was working to make sure girls in rural communities were aware of their rights, and many of Ms French Gates's projects had focussed on improving healthcare - including treatment for girls who experience complications after giving birth at a young age.

All are passionate about defending the rights of women and girls, so a coalition seemed like a natural fit.

"It's been a really lovely and very organic partnership, and friend-

ship, between the three of us," international human rights lawyer Mrs Clooney told BBC 100 Women.

"In an early conversation with the Gates Foundation, I said: 'You're working on gender justice at a massive scale, but mostly you're not using law as a tool. You're looking at economics, and you're looking at health. Maybe we can form a partnership?'"

Ms French Gates, who got a spontaneous cheer from the Ludzi schoolgirls when she said it was her fifth visit to Malawi, said working together was a strategic decision, and that their overlapping areas of expertise would make them more effective.

"Women, I think, naturally work in collectives," she told the BBC. "I've talked to a number of women who are older than me who made it as CEO, or CFO, in their company. And there's some regret that they didn't do it in concert with other women. They didn't pull other women up and along with them. The generation that we've been part of - Michelle and I are essentially the same age - we've wanted to pull everybody up with us." According to Unicef, 650 million girls and women are alive today who married under the age of 18, and currently more than 12 million girls a year marry in legal and traditional ceremonies around the world. South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa have the highest rates globally, but this is not just an issue in the global south. Five states in the US have no minimum age of marriage as long as parents consent.

Some countries, such as Malawi, have progressive laws that outlaw marriage under the age of 18, although these often come up against longstanding cultural barriers. On Monday, following the visit of the three campaigners, President Lazarus Chakwera announced further funding for a national strategy to end child marriage. Until now there have been very few prosecutions.

Mrs Clooney thinks outreach is a solution. Her Waging Justice for Women programme funds the Women Lawyers Association of Malawi, which arranges for specialists to travel to rural communities to seek out women looking for help. More than 85% of Malawi's population lives in villages, set in expanses of land governed by chiefs, living in huts under baobab trees, miles from roads and electricity.

"We formed a network of mobile legal aid clinics, which means literally, there's a van that goes out with lawyers, and we go out in a community and say to girls, 'These are your rights. If you need a lawyer - for free - to protect you, we are here."

"We wage justice, and we say 'waging' because you can't assume it's going to happen," Mrs Clooney said. "You have to form alliances and fight against these kinds of injustices with the determination that it takes to win a war."

The BBC visited a legal clinic under a makeshift tent in a village in Mchinji district - it had more than 1,000 attendees, mostly women. Some were pregnant teenagers, asking what they could do to stay in school after giving birth.

"I see myself in the girls that we're fighting for," Mrs Obama told the BBC. "I see my daughters in those girls."

There is, however, concern this issue has no solution, at least in the short term. In a report earlier this year, Unicef said child marriages now made up 19% of all marriages, down from 23% 10 years ago. But it added that eliminating child marriage could still take about 300 years.

"This is an urgent issue," said Mrs Obama. "We can't afford to ignore it and assume that we can make headway on all the other big stuff that we're trying to deal with - poverty, climate change, war, and the rest - unless we're doing right by 50% of our population."

"It is an issue that can be solved tomorrow. If all the world leaders got together and made it a priority, it wouldn't take 300 years. It could happen in less than a generation."

Michelle Obama, Amal Clooney and Melinda French Gates chose to visit Malawi because each of their programmes was already supporting projects in the country. What form their long-term collaboration will take is still being worked out, but for now the women say they will back in-country organisations that have been working with communities for years.

"Large scale international organisations that are supposed to be dealing with this, like the UN Security Council, like powerful governments, are not delivering," said Mrs Clooney. "So I think philanthropy and individuals have to play a larger role."

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 28 -**

18. move rhythmically to music  
20. a deep yellow colour  
22. related by blood  
23. Beryllium symbol  
24. an alloy of copper and tin for making bells, with a higher tin content than in bronze

**DOWN:**  
1. Largest port in Kenya  
2. be shut forcefully and loudly  
3. a discussion group  
4. leave out or exclude  
5. usual  
6. cease work in order to relax  
8. Drum in Kiswahili  
11. largest country in North America  
12. strike out with the foot  
14. a Polynesian garland of flowers  
16. Mango in Kiswahili  
17. Brother of Cain in the Bible  
19. nasal mucus  
21. any intoxicating drink in North America

**ACROSS:**  
1. Capital city of Russia  
7. a common flatfish of the plaice family  
9. what is meant by a word  
10. an agricultural tool similar to pickaxe  
13. e-mail 15. a fish-eating aquatic mammal with a streamlined body and feet developed

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.

CASES DEER DUBIETY EIRE OWNERS BOOM RUB BLOOD OMNIBUS RESITE BASE REEDS RYES

**Yesterday's solution**

UGANDA USES PONE J  
KENYAN SCAB ONEROUS  
RETARD EARS  
A ESKER N REPOLUTE  
ISSA SUNDAY CRATE I  
N L SAAG I LIABLE  
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**RADIO One**

**RATIBA YA MIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One**

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## BUSINESS

## UN-Women in drive to inspire girls, women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

By Faustine Feliciane

THE United Nations Women (UN-Women) has launched a special programme designed to inspire Tanzanian girls and women to develop interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through digital systems.

UN Women will run the programme in collaboration with Tigo Tanzania which will see girls aged 17-25 take science subjects including Information Communication Technology (ICT).

Speaking at an event to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the programme UN women country representative Hodan Addou said the agreement is part of efforts to support Tanzania's government efforts in empowering women and girls in contributing to the digital economy.

Addou said data shows 90-percent of future jobs require know-how in technology and digital.

"Registration of girls in science subjects shows a gap in gender equality be-

cause there are less girls being registered compared to boys, and this programme is going to help address the matter," he said.

She said when women participate in ICT, they bring new insights which are important in innovation for better results and national development.

"The agreement is not only leveling the ground but also ensuring that women and girls have the same opportunity to learn, pass and lead," she said.

For his part, Managing Director for Tigo Kamal Okba said the programme will help not to leave women behind in ICT and digital.

He said Tigo in collaboration with UN Women are determined to close the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

"We promise, we will ensure that we provide digital literacy training along with high speed 4G and 5G internet connectivity so that girls can learn easily," said Kamal.



UN women country representative Hodan Addou



Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's office (Finance and Planning) (C) witnesses the signing of the agreement by NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (L), and the Commissioner General of the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA), Yusuph Mwenda (R). The agreement provides an opportunity for the bank to collect various payments for the Zanzibar Government through its network and digital banking system. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NBC Bank partners with Zanzibar govt agencies to bolster revenue collections

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

NATIONAL Bank of Commerce (NBC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with six institutions of Zanzibar government, providing an opportunity for the bank to collect various government payments through its digital banking network and system.

The agreement, involving the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA), Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF), Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS), Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO), Public-Private Partnership and Cooperation Department-Zanzibar (ZPPP), and Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA), is expected to not only simplify payment services for citizens but also significantly help in preventing revenue loss for the government.

The signing ceremony for the agreement was held yesterday in

Zanzibar witnessed by the Dr. Saada Mkuya Salum, Zanzibar Minister of State Office of the President, Finance and Planning, and other senior officials as well as NBC Bank's senior officials led by the bank's MD, Theobald Sabi.

Dr Saada said that the move aligns with the Zanzibar government's commitment to complete its e-government system.

"This step is greatly supportive of the government's efforts to effectively utilize technology and electronic systems in its operations, especially in revenue collection. It helps us facilitate various payment services for citizens, increase the speed and efficiency of revenue collection for the government, and importantly, prevent revenue leakage. We commend NBC and all stakeholders for this initiative," she said.

According to the minister, through the agreement involving major insti-

tutions of the Zanzibar government, citizens will directly benefit from various economic and social advantages, while also emphasizing that the system will help promote good governance through transparency in revenue collection.

NBC Bank MD, Theobald Sabi stated that the MoUs signify a strengthened relationship between NBC Bank and Zanzibar government.

NBC Bank, as a Mandated Leading Arranger and Agent for the \$200million loans to finance strategic projects, is committed to supporting the government's vision for economic development and prosperity.

"Through this agreement, citizens will now be able to use the NBC Bank services to make payments to the government's institutions and authorities through its network. The payments can be made through our two branches in Zanzibar and also through our 207 agents located in

every corner of Unguja and Pemba, as well as through our digital banking services, namely NBC Kiganjani and our online services," he added.

Yusuph Mwenda, ZRA commissioner general referred the collaboration as a vital tool, not only in revenue collection and facilitating financial processes, but also as a significant catalyst for the economic development of Zanzibar.

"Through this partnership, it is evident that we will witness a significant increase in our revenue as it will greatly help in eliminating the inconvenience faced by many citizens in visiting various offices just to make various government payments, including taxes and fees from government authorities. It will also accelerate the speed of the payments as citizens will fulfill this obligation in large numbers, considering that NBC Bank has easier and more modern systems," he said.

## Dr Abbas says NMB smart beekeeping drive becomes boon for BBT initiative

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has initiated a special programme to promote sustainable commercial beekeeping by distributing modern beehives in line with efforts to make the trade a strategic growth sub-sector.

Dr Hassan Abbas, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, made the revelation on Monday when nationally officiating the launch of the eco-friendly honey production drive in Morogoro, which together with Tabora and Njombe regions will benefit from the distribution of the first 500 beehives under the programme.

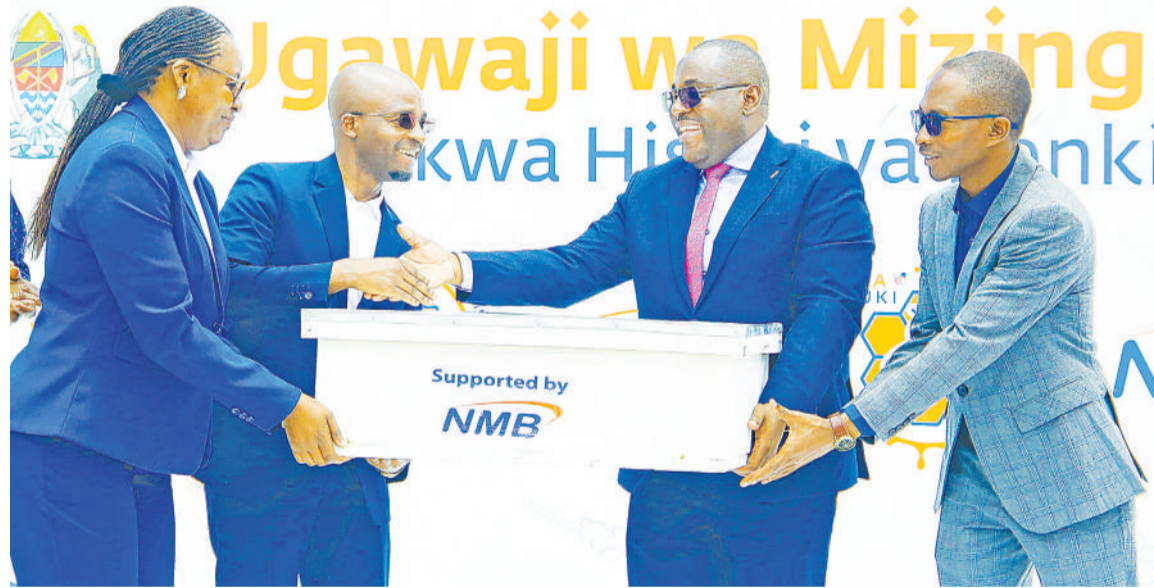
He said that the undertaking complements the government's endeav-

our to make apiculture part of the Build a Better Tomorrow (BBT) initiative.

According to him, beekeeping was a lucrative enterprise with impactful socio-economic benefits that will add tremendous value to the BBT youth empowerment strategy, which principally seeks to promote Tanzanian youth's engagement in sustainable agribusiness activities.

"Apart from the biodiversity benefits of bee pollination, beekeeping and forests play a significant but unheralded role in the national economy," the seasoned technocrat said in Gairo where he handed over 200 sheds earmarked for beekeepers in Morogoro region.

The smart beehives will be distrib-



Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Dr. Hassan Abbas (2nd right) receiving one of the beehives from NMB Chief of Wholesale of Banking, Alfred Shao offering to provide 500 modern hives to 17 beekeeping groups in the regions of Morogoro, Tabora and Njombe during a small ceremony to distribute the beehives in Gairo, Morogoro region. Left is NMB central zone manager, Janeth Shango and Gairo DC Jabir Makame.

uted equally in Gairo and Kilombero districts. Overall, the NMB programme to boost livelihoods and spur the economy will benefit over 300 members of the targeted 17 beekeepers' groups in the three regions.

"Currently these two sub-sectors employ more than two million people across the country and account for 3.5 per cent of national output (GDP) as well as 5.9 per cent of foreign exchange earnings," Dr Abbas stated.

"Because of their enormous commercial, fiscal and economic potential, the government has directed us to prepare a strategic action plan to incorporate them into BBT," he pointed out.

The importance the Sixth Phase Government accords to beekeeping, he explained, is better explained by the investments being made to make the sub-sector flourish and play its due role in national development.

These include over 2bn/- invest-

ed in seven honey packaging materials plants and establishment of a special fund to support beekeepers that has disbursed 2.9bn/- in the last five years.

Dr Abbas also mentioned a related 27bn/- joint Tanzania-EU project being implemented in five regions, namely Tabora, Shinyanga, Singida, Katavi and Kigoma.

"Among other things, this project seeks to enhance the quality of Tanzanian honey, which is highly regarded in the world," he

said, lauding NMB for the supportive investment.

Speaking at the event held at Msingisi Forest, the bank's Chief of Wholesale Banking, Alfred Shao, said objectives of the programme included protection of nature and mitigating risks of climate change.

The seasoned banker added that the venture was part of executing NMB's sustainability agenda whose undertaking started in March with the launch of the campaign to plant a million trees across the country this year.

"It is through this agenda that today we are presenting this programme. From here we will be going to Tabora where 200 beehives will be delivered. In Njombe, 100 sheds will be distributed in the Lupemba area," he explained.

Shao said smart beekeeping practices do not only boost alternative income sources for communities living in vicinities of forests but also deter them from devastating forest resources.

The programme also involves providing entrepreneurship and financial education to beekeepers through NMB Foundation in conjunction with Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

Beekeepers will also be educated on how to sustainably preserve nature and produce quality honey for local and external markets.

## Dar traders urged to grab opportunities at East Africa Commercial, Logistics Centre

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has urged local traders to grab opportunities in the East Africa Commercial and Logistics Centre (EACLE), which is under construction in Dar

es Salaam to expand their businesses.

TIC, Eastern Zone Manager Fidelis Obanga made the call during a meeting between the centre, EACLE and Kariakoo Traders Association.

He said the construction of the center will help to

reduce the use of dollars on importation of goods but also facilitate expansion of foreign currency reserves.

He said the government has taken various initiatives in promotion of trade and investment including reducing the cost required for a local investor to register

investment from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

The official said there are many benefits for investors to register their projects at TIC, including getting various investment incentives that will help them save time and money.

Chairman for the Ka-

riakoo Traders Association Martin Mbwana made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a meeting with traders, which was organized by the EACLE.

He said the project will upon its completion by next June, host more than 2,500

shops hence provide an opportunity for Tanzanian businessmen as it will help them get products from China and sell them in various markets in the east African region.

He said that the centre will also be used as a storage facility by storing prod-

uct samples which will be released after an order from a potential customer within a short time.

Cath Wang, center's executive director commended Tanzanians who have been cooperating with his company in the construction exercise.

## Diversification of tourism products now catalyst for regional growth in sector

By Guardian Reporter

DIVERSIFICATION of tourism products beyond traditional tourism attractions and joint promotion of the region, is a catalyst for revamping the EAC region as a single tourism destination.

This was underscored by regional Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs and Tourism and Wildlife Management who converged for the opening of the 3rd EAC Regional Tourism Expo (EARTE'23) and the Magical Kenya Travel Expo in Nairobi, Kenya.

The three-day Expo that kicked off today provides an opportunity for EAC Partner

States to create awareness of tourism investment opportunities and address the challenges affecting the tourism and wildlife sectors in the region. The new EAC tourism brand, "Visit East Africa - Feel the Vibe," was also launched at the opening of the expo and aims at promoting the region as a single investment hub.

Speaking while officially launching the forum, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary in charge of Tourism and Wildlife, Dr. Alfred Mutua, who was also the Chief Guest, said that the Expo has brought together over 100 hosted buyers and 300 exhibitors providing an opportunity for the region to jointly showcase



its unique resources.

"This year's theme, 'Tourism for Green Growth,' underscores our commitment to sustainable tourism. Kenya is set to introduce initiatives such as electric cars in parks and eco-rating schemes

in our quest to propel tourism and our green growth agenda," he said.

Dr. Mutua added that the Kenyan government is focusing on infrastructure improvement, security, incentives and marketing

campaigns to sustain tourism growth.

"As part of our five-year plan, we target 5.5 million international tourist arrivals and a \$6.3 billion annual contribution by 2028," said Dr. Mutua.

## TADB brings opportunities closer to farmers through financial services week exhibitions

By Guardian Reporter

THE state-owned Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) is taking part in this year's Financial Services Week exhibition ongoing in Arusha as it targets at reaching more farmers with diverse financial services and opportunities.

The bank is also keen at bringing even closer its flagship services including but not limited to afford-

able interest loans, training, and technical advice. TADB's Public Relations and Marketing Manager Amani Nkurlu said yesterday that the bank is proud to take part in this year's financial services week exhibition and urged farmers and the general public to visit the bank's pavilion to learn what the institution is doing in supporting the country's agriculture sector value chain.

"TADB is happy to participate in the 2023 edition of the financial ser-

vices exhibitions. To us, the is very important platform as it provides an opportunity to come into direct contact with farmers whom we serve, and other stakeholders across the agriculture value chain;

We urge farmers and the general public to visit our pavilion here at the Sheikh Amri Abeid grounds to learn more about us, and explore our services and products," he said.

"Farmers can access our short,

medium and long term credit facilities at affordable interest rates which can go as low as 9 per cent. We support farmers and agripreneurs across the entire agri-value chain, from agri, livestock and fisheries sector," added Nkurlu.

Theme 'Financial Education, the Foundation for Economic Growth' the exhibitions further intends to create awareness and professionalism to the public on the right use of

financial services to assist in building the economy and eliminate poverty, strengthening the efficiency of financial markets through financial education, increase access to financial services as well as providing education on consumer protection for the users of financial services.

Established in August 2015, TADB's vision is to be a champion development finance institution for agricultural transformation in Tanzania.

Some of its products are Asset Loan, Matrika Loan, Project Finance, and Stock Finance to mention a few.

The bank also has its Small Holder Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS) which extends loans to small holder farmers through partner commercial banks in the country with the aim of mitigating the credit risk of underlying loans extended to the agri sector, where TADB acts as the guarantor to farmers.

## Sugar prices rising worldwide

LAGOS

SKYROCKETING sugar prices left Ishaq Abdulraheem with few choices. Increasing the cost of bread would mean declining sales, so the Nigerian baker decided to cut his production by half.

For scores of other bakers struggling to stay afloat while enduring higher costs for fuel and flour, the stratospheric sugar prices proved to be the last straw, and they closed for good.

Sugar is needed to make bread, which is a staple for Nigeria's 210 million people, and for many who are struggling to put food on the table, it offers a cheap source of calories. Surging sugar prices – an increase of 55% in two months – means fewer bakers and less bread.

"It is a very serious situation," Abdulraheem said.

Sugar worldwide is trading at the highest prices since 2011, mainly due to lower global supplies after unusually dry weather damaged harvests in India and Thailand, the world's second- and third-largest exporters.

This is just the latest hit for developing nations already coping with shortages in staples like rice and bans on food trade that have added to food inflation. All of it contributes to food insecurity because of the combined effects of the naturally occurring climate phenomenon El Nino, the war in Ukraine and weaker currencies. Wealthier Western nations can absorb the higher costs, but poorer nations are struggling.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is predicting a 2% decline in global sugar production in the 2023-24 season, compared with the previous year, translating to a loss of about 3.5 million

metric tons (3.8 million U.S. tons), said Fabio Palmeri, an FAO global commodities market researcher. Increasingly, sugar is being used for biofuels like ethanol, so global reserves of sugar are at their lowest since 2009.

Brazil is the biggest sugar exporter, but its harvest will only help plug gaps later in 2024. Until then, import-dependent countries – like most of those in sub-Saharan Africa – remain vulnerable.

Nigeria, for instance, buys 98% of its raw sugar from other countries. In 2021, it banned imports of refined sugar that ran counter to a plan to build up domestic sugar processing and announced a \$73-million project to expand sugar infrastructure. But those are longer-term strategies. Abuja traders like Abba Usman are facing problems now.

The same 50-kilogram (110-pound) bag of sugar that Usman bought a week ago for \$66 now costs \$81. As prices rise, his customers are dwindling.

"The price keeps increasing every day, and we don't know why," Usman said.

It's partly due to the El Nino, a natural phenomenon that shifts global weather patterns and can cause extreme weather conditions ranging from drought to flooding. Scientists believe climate change is making El Nino stronger.

India endured its driest August in over a century, and crops in the western state of Maharashtra, which accounts for over a third of its sugarcane production, were stunted during the crucial growing phase.

India's sugar production is likely to decline by 8% this year, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association. The world's most populated nation is also the biggest consumer



An employee puts a spoon of sugar into a cup of coffee as he serves a customer at a food stall in Jakarta

of sugar and is now restricting sugar exports.

In Thailand, El Nino effects early in the growing season altered not just the quantity but also the quality of the harvest, said Naradhip Anantasuk, leader of the Thailand Sugar Planters Association. He expects only 76 million metric tons (84 million U.S. tons) of sugarcane to be milled in the 2024 harvest season, compared with 93 million metric tons (103 million U.S. tons) this year.

A report by U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted a 15% dip in output in Thailand in October.

Thailand reversed a hike in sugar prices within days, imposing price controls for the first time since 2018. Anantasuk said this would discourage farmers from growing sugar by capping their income.

"It's like preventing the industry from growing, preventing an open competition," he said.

Wholesale prices had been allowed to rise to

help farmers cope with higher costs – partly due to government demands that they not burn their fields, which makes harvesting cheaper but envelops much of Thailand in heavy smog.

Looking ahead, Brazil's harvest is forecast to be 20% bigger than last year's, said Kelly Goughary, a senior research analyst at the agriculture data and analytics firm Gro Intelligence. But since the country is in the Southern Hemisphere, the boost to global supplies won't come until March.

This is because of favorable weather earlier this year in Brazil along with an increase in areas where sugarcane was planted, according to the USDA.

The next few months are the greatest concern, said the FAO's Palmeri. Population growth and rising sugar consumption will further strain sugar reserves, he said.

The world now has less than 68 days of sugar in stockpiles to meet its needs, compared with 106 days when they began declining in 2020, according

to data from the USDA.

"It's at the lowest levels since 2010," said Joseph Glauber, senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Indonesia – the biggest sugar importer last year, according to the USDA – has cut back on imports and China, the No. 2 importer, was forced to release sugar from its stocks to offset high prices domestically for the first time in six years, Palmeri said.

For some countries, importing more expensive sugar eats up reserves of foreign currency like dollars and euros that also are needed to pay for oil and other crucial commodities, said El Mamoun Amrouk, an FAO economist.

That includes Kenya. Once self-sufficient in sugar, it now imports 200,000 metric tons (110,000 U.S. tons) a year from a regional trade bloc. In 2021, the government limited imports to protect local farmers from foreign competition, but it reversed that decision as harvests shrank due to insufficient rain and mismanagement.

## Liquid Dataport signs VIPNET agreement in Côte d'Ivoire

YAMOISSOUKRO

LIQUID Dataport has teamed with VIPNET, a privately-owned corporate Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Côte d'Ivoire, to provide cloud and cyber security solutions.

According to the firm, this collaboration would allow Liquid Dataport to leverage VIPNET's

infrastructure to provide ISPs and enterprise customers with access to Liquid's comprehensive array of services, including network, cloud, and cyber security solutions.

Liquid Dataport says this is an important step in growing its network and service capabilities across West Africa, which is a critical growth region for the



company.

According to research firm DataReportal, internet penetration in Côte d'Ivoire is now 45.4%, and Liquid Dataport says it hopes to provide businesses with reliable and secure connectivity options through this relationship.

"We see Côte d'Ivoire as a critical ICT hub in the Francophone

West African region.

The country's stability, significant economic growth, and rising demand for connection services make it an attractive area for Liquid to expand its presence. Through our partnership with VIPNET, Liquid will enhance regional connectivity and empower businesses and enterprises

through expanded service capability," says David Eurin, chief executive officer of Liquid Dataport.

"This new partnership will enable VIPNET to strengthen its position as a technological hub of excellence within the West African sub-region, with much higher bandwidth and access to a diverse range

of ICT products and services," says Ahmed CHERIF, CEO of VIPNET. "We believe that our unique position as a strong, national, and dependable alternative player in our industry, along with the significant development with Liquid Dataport, will benefit our customers with next-generation solutions to expedite their digital maturity."



# Co-op Bank Q3 profit rises to Sh18 billion

**NAIROBI**

CO-OPERATIVE Bank of Kenya posted a 7.5 percent profit growth to Sh18.4 billion in the nine months ended September, driven by higher interest income from loans.

The net earnings grew from Sh17 billion a year earlier. Co-op Bank's total interest income increased 12.8 percent to Sh49.3 billion as the lender increased its lending to ordinary customers and the government via purchase of treasuries.

"The strong performance by the bank is in line with the group's strategic focus on sustainable growth, resilience, and agility," said Gideon Muriuki, Co-op Bank managing director.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm expanded its loan book by Sh42.9 billion to Sh378 billion while its investments in government debt securities increased by Sh2.7 bil-

lion to Sh185.1 billion.

Rising interest rates are expected to lift lending margins for banks, especially those that can avoid a substantial increase in their cost of funds as well as non-performing loans.

Co-op Bank's deposit base increased by Sh835.7 million to Sh432.8 billion while interest paid to depositors grew by Sh4.8 billion to Sh16.5 billion, reflecting the impact of rising rates.

The average rate on fixed deposit accounts across the banking sector rose steadily to peak at 8.39 percent in August, according to the Central Bank of Kenya. Lending margins have meanwhile remained stable at about 5.4 percent as lending rates also rose to hit an average of 13.24 percent in August.

Besides higher income from lending, Co-op

Bank also benefitted from lower operating costs. The bank's total operating expenses shrunk by Sh629.1 million to Sh29 billion, partly due to loan loss provision falling by Sh1.5 billion to Sh4.2 billion.

The bank's gross non-performing loans meanwhile increased by Sh10.1 billion to Sh61.9 billion. Other operating costs also fell to Sh8.8 billion from Sh9.8 billion.

Co-op Bank's subsidiaries made positive contributions to the group's overall results in the review period. Kingdom Bank posted a net profit of Sh784 million – a 28.7 percent growth from Sh609 million.

Co-op Consultancy & Bancassurance Intermediary Limited posted a pre-tax profit of Sh762.9 million while Co-operative Bank of South Sudan

returned a pre-tax profit of Sh43.5 million after factoring in hyperinflation.

Co-op Trust Investment Services Limited contributed Sh154.5 million pre-tax profit as the subsidiary's funds under management closed the period at Sh196 billion.

Co-op Bank has continued with its local expansion strategy, growing its branch network to 193, with eight being opened this year and five having been opened last year.

In September this year the Co-operative Bank of Kenya overtook KCB Group to become the second most valuable lender on the Nairobi Securities Exchange as the latter's share price continued to fall.

Co-op Bank's stock was unchanged at Sh11.85, giving it a market capitalisation of Sh69.5 billion.

This saw the lender overtake KCB for the first time, opening a gap of Sh2.3 billion.

KCB's share price fell 4.78 percent on Thursday to close at a new 52-week low of Sh20.9, assigning it a market value of Sh67.1 billion.

The bank's share price fall gained pace in recent weeks after it reported lower earnings and a surge in provisions for loan defaults in the half year ended June.

At the start of the year, KCB's market value was ahead of Co-op Bank by Sh52.2 billion. KCB's relegation to third place came after it shed Sh56 billion in paper wealth since the first trade of the year.

Over the same period, Co-op Bank has lost only Sh1.4 billion. The bank has one of the lowest share price volatility among the country's publicly-traded lenders.

Equity Group remains the most valuable bank at Sh135.6 billion despite losing Sh34.3 billion over the review period.

At current levels, Equity is valued at almost KCB and Co-op Bank combined. The second-place rank is likely to remain in contention as observers watch the evolution of the performance of the two lenders in the next few quarters. Their rivalry is among the upheavals in the league table of Kenya's listed banks.

Standard Chartered Bank Kenya has also closed in on NCBA Group with their market capitalisation standing at Sh61.8 billion and Sh62.1 billion respectively as of Thursday.

StanChart has grown its market value by Sh7 billion since the start of the year while NCBA has lost Sh2 billion over the same period, leading to the convergence.

The biggest change in shareholder paper wealth was seen at KCB whose chief executive Paul Russo, now in his second year at the helm, is taking measures to address the legacy bad debt at the lender.

KCB reported a 20 percent net profit drop in the six months to June, nearly tripling its provisioning for loan defaults. Its net profit fell to Sh15.5 billion from Sh19.5 billion posted in the preceding similar period.

KCB's operating expenses increased by 60 percent to Sh50.61 billion while provisions for non-performing loans jumped 2.4 times to Sh10.2 billion from Sh4.32 billion.

Analysts say investors have overreacted to the bank's spike in provisions, placing a buy recommendation on the stock.

All the listed banks remain undervalued by historical standards, with the lenders having previously traded at multiples of their net assets before the onset of the bear run.

# Kenya takes a step towards regulating crypto-currency

**NAIROBI**

THE Kenyan government has asked the Blockchain Association of Kenya (BAK) to write the first draught of the Crypto Bill, also known as the Virtual Asset Service Provider's Bill, in a move that could see crypto-currencies regulated.

The government made the recommendation after BAK appeared before the National Assembly Committee on Finance and National Planning.

BAK appeared before the committee to discuss digital asset legislation and how it may collaborate with the government to promote advantageous digital asset policy.

Representatives from Binance, Yellow Card, Kotani Pay, and the Law Society of Kenya were also present throughout the deliberations.

They gave a comprehensive presentation to the committee outlining critical factors for implementing a strong crypto regulatory framework.

This featured a clear licencing structure, a tax framework, a framework for consumer protection, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures, and a regulatory sandbox.

This is not the first time that Kenyans have discussed crypto-currency regulations.

The Kenyan Senate took the proactive move in February of this year to engage the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in discussions that could result in the country legalising the usage of crypto-currency as legal cash.

The Senate's Standing Committee on Information, Communication, and Technology, chaired by Trans Nzoia Senator Allan Chesang, led the debate.

The CBK addressed the need, opportunity, and risks provided by digital currencies in Kenya in its discussion paper.

The regulatory framework is planned to investigate a wide range of digital payments, including electronic money (e-money), crypto-currency, stable coins, and Central Bank Digital Currency, which is defined by the CBK as a digital currency issued by the central bank and intended to serve as legal tender.

It is the same as fiat currency and may be exchanged one for one with fiat currency, except that it is in electronic form.

The CBK also invited members of the public, industry, and stakeholders to peruse the Discussion Paper and provide appropriate feedback.

Kenya is Africa's third most active Bitcoin asset trader, with the largest web traffic to crypto-currency sites.

If passed, the bill will be a key step towards the realisation of a comprehensive regulatory framework for Kenya's digital asset business.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
<b>TUESDAY 21 Nov</b>			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	13:55	Habari za saa
6:00	HABARI	14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
7:30	HABARI	14:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	15:00	Meza huru
8:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Waloto wetu
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	17:00	Music: The Base
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	18:00	Jiji Letu
9:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe
10:00	Waloto wetu	19:30	Jarida la wanawake
10:25	Jagna	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT
10:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
11:00	Chetu ni chetu	20:00	Habari
11:40	Igizo: Mizengwe	21:05	Alu Yako
11:55	Habari za saa	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
12:00	Al Jazeera	21:35	Ripoti maalum:
12:30	Habari za saa	22:30	Soap: Uzalo
12:55	Habari za saa	23:00	Habari
13:00	Kipindi maalum: REPOA	23:30	Music: The Base
13:30	Shikabamba	00:30	Al Jazeera
13:55	Habari za saa	<b>THURSDAY 23 Nov</b>	
14:00	Ugali Popote	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
14:15	Igizo: Mizengwe	5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi
14:55	Habari za saa	6:00	HABARI
15:00	Meza Huru	6:40	Kumekucha
16:30	Waloto wetu	7:30	HABARI
17:00	Music: The Base	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
18:00	Jiji Letu	8:55	Habari za saa
18:15	Mapishi	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama	9:30	Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	9:55	Habari za saa
20:00	Habari	10:00	Waloto wetu
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	10:30	Shamba lulu
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	10:55	Habari za saa
21:45	Habari za saa	11:00	Ripoti maalum rpt
22:30	Soap: Uzalo	11:55	Habari za saa
23:00	Habari	12:00	Al Jazeera
23:30	Music: The Base	12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
00:30	Al Jazeera	12:55	Habari za saa
<b>WEDNESDAY 22 Nov</b>			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	13:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	13:30	Art and Lifestyle
6:00	HABARI	13:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	14:00	Shamshani za Pwani rpt
7:30	HABARI	14:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	15:00	Meza huru
8:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Waloto wetu
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	17:00	The Base
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	18:00	Jiji Letu
9:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Mapishi
10:00	Waloto wetu	18:30	Jagna
10:25	Habari za saa	19:00	Ujaji wako
10:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	20:00	Habari
11:55	Habari za saa	21:05	Malumbano ya hoja
12:00	Al Jazeera	23:00	Habari
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	23:30	Music: The Base
12:55	Habari za saa	00:30	Al Jazeera
<b>FRIDAY 24 Nov</b>			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	6:00	HABARI
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	6:40	Kumekucha
6:00	HABARI	7:00	Habari
6:40	Kumekucha	8:00	Al Jazeera
7:30	HABARI	9:00	Waloto wetu
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	9:30	Slay Queen
8:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Shikabamba 5
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	10:30	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
9:55	Habari za saa	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:00	Waloto wetu	12:50	Art and lifestyle
10:25	Habari za saa	13:20	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa	13:50	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	14:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
11:55	Habari za saa	15:10	Igizo: Slay Queen
12:00	Al Jazeera	15:30	ITV Top 10
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	16:00	Shika Bamba
12:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Habari
<b>SATURDAY 25 Nov</b>			
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
7:00	Habari	8:00	Al Jazeera
7:30	HABARI	9:00	Waloto wetu
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	9:30	Slay Queen
8:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Shikabamba 5
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	10:30	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
9:55	Habari za saa	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:00	Waloto wetu	12:50	Art and lifestyle
10:25	Habari za saa	13:20	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa	13:50	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	14:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
11:55	Habari za saa	15:10	Igizo: Slay Queen
12:00	Al Jazeera	15:30	ITV Top 10
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	16:00	Shika Bamba
12:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Habari
<b>SUNDAY 26 Nov</b>			
5:30	Uwajiza wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
7:00	Habari	8:00	Al Jazeera
8:00	Al Jazeera	9:00	Waloto wetu
9:00	Waloto wetu	9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	10:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi housing
10:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	11:00	Jagna
10:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:20	Habari za saa
11:45	Mjuzi Zaidi	11:55	Habari za saa
12:45	Mjuzi Zaidi	12:00	Al Jazeera
13:30	Ujaji wako	12:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	12:55	Habari za saa
15:30	Mwanga	13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt	13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo	13:55	Habari za saa
18:00	Jiji Letu	14:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
18:30	Mapishi	14:30	DW Afrikaax rpt
19:30	Mbatoko ya wizi	14:55	Habari za saa
19:30	Igizo: Slay Queen	15:00	Meza huru
20:00	Habari	16:30	Waloto wetu
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko	17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
21:10	Igizo: Mizengwe	17:30	Kisiam
21:35	Kipindi maalum: Michezo Supa Jackpot	18:00	Jiji Letu
21:45	Mjuzi Zaidi	18:35	Habari za saa
22:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt	18:45	Our Earth
23:15	Al Jazeera	19:00	Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet
<b>MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM</b>			
<b>CAPITAL</b>			
<b>Mon 20 Nov</b>			
06:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Business Edition Rpt
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	14:30	Ingood Shape
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt	15:00	Shamba Lulu
11:30	Business edition	15:30	Bundesliga Kick off
12:00	Out and About	16:00	Culinary Delights Rpt
12:30	Our earth	16:30	Capchat rpt
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt	17:30	Meza huru
14:00	Ripoti maalum	18:00	Innovation
14:45	Sports Gazette	19:30	Our Earth
15:15	Jagna	20:00	The Décor
16:00	Tomorrow Today	20:45	Capchat Prime News
16:30	EcoAfrica	21:30	Capital Prime News
17:00	Dw News Africa rpt	22:00	Culinary delight rpt
17:30	Meza huru	22:30	Innovation rpt
18:00	Chetu ni chetu	23:00	Meza huru
20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt	19:00	Sports Gazette
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana	19:30	Chetu ni chetu
21:30	Capital Prime News	20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
22:00	Dakika 45	20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana
22:45	The Décor	21:30	Capital Prime News
23:15	Al Jazeera	22:00	Capchat rpt
<b>Thurs 23 Nov</b>			
06:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Our Earth rpt
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	14:30	DW news Africa rpt
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt	15:00	Jagna rpt
11:30	Sports gazette	15:30	Mizengwe rpt
12:00	Innovation	16:00	Tomorrow Today
12:30	Culinary	16:30	Business edition rpt
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana	17:00	Culinary
14:00	Our Earth rpt	17:30	Meza huru
14:30	DW news Africa rpt	18:00	Chetu ni chetu
15:00	Jagna rpt	20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
15:30	Mizengwe rpt	20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana
16:00	Tomorrow Today	21:30	Capital Prime News
16:30	Business edition rpt	22:00	Capchat rpt
17:00	In good shape	23:00	Al Jazeera
17:30	Meza huru		
18:00	Out & About Rpt		
19:30	EcoAfrica		
20:00	Our Earth Rpt		
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana		
21:30	Capital Prime News		
22:00	Capchat rpt		
23:00	Al Jazeera		
<b>Tues 21 Nov</b>			
06:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Our Earth rpt
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	14:30	DW news Africa rpt
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt	15:00	Jagna rpt
11:30	Sports gazette	15:30	Mizengwe rpt
12:00	Innovation	16:00	Tomorrow Today
12:30	Culinary	16:30	Business edition rpt
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana	17:00	Culinary
14:00	Our Earth rpt	17:30	Meza huru
14:30	DW news Africa rpt	18:00	Chetu ni chetu
15:00	Jagna rpt	20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
15:30	Mizengwe rpt	20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana
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17:30	Meza huru		
18:00	Out & About Rpt		
19:30	EcoAfrica		
20:00	Our Earth Rpt		
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides Of Ana		
21:30	Capital Prime News		
22:00	Capchat rpt		
23:00	Al Jazeera		

**The regulatory framework is planned to investigate a wide range of digital payments, including electronic money (e-money), crypto-currency, stable coins, and Central Bank Digital Currency, which is defined by the CBK as a digital currency issued by the central bank and intended to serve**

## WORLD

## UN chief calls for 'record action' to tackle climate change

UNITED NATIONS/NAIROBI

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for "record action" from world leaders to tackle climate change.

Present climate trends are racing planet Earth down a dead-end three-degree temperature rise, he said at the launch of the Emissions Gap Report 2023 of the UN Environment Program (UNEP).

"In short, the report shows that the emissions gap is more like an emissions canyon -- a canyon littered with broken promises, broken lives, and broken records," said Guterres.

All of this is a failure of leadership, a betrayal of the vulnerable people, and a massive missed opportunity, he said. "Leaders must drastically up their game now, with record ambition, record action, and record emissions reductions."

The next round of national climate plans will be pivotal. These plans must be backed with the finance, technology, support and partnerships to make them possible. The task of leaders at the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference in the United Arab Emirates (COP28) is to make sure that happens,

he said.

COP28 will respond to the Global Stocktake -- an inventory of countries' climate plans that will show just how far the world is from meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. That response is vital. Voluntary initiatives and non-binding commitments can play an important role. But they are no substitute for a global response agreed by all, he said.

"The response to the Global Stocktake must light the fuse to an explosion of ambition in 2025. It must align with what the science tells us is needed. It must set out plans to massively increase ambition and investment in adaptation. It must commit to a surge in finance and cooperation. And it must set an expectation for more ambitious and detailed national climate plans," he said.

That means national plans with clear 2030 and 2035 targets, that align with 1.5 C, that cover the whole economy, and that plot a course for ending fossil fuels, he said.

Achieving all this depends on countries cooperating and working together. The recent climate statement between China and the United States is a posi-



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks at the launch of the Emissions Gap Report 2023 of the UN Environment Program, at the UN headquarters in New York, on Nov 20, 2023. (PHOTO / UN HANDOUT VIA XINHUA)

tive first step. But much more needs to be done, said Guterres.

Achieving all this also depends on restoring trust between developed and developing countries, which has been badly damaged by broken promises and sluggish action, he said.

"At a time of doubt, division and distrust, we need the response to the Global Stocktake to restore credibility in climate action. Leaders can't kick the can any further. We're out of road. COP28 must set us up for dramatic climate action -- now," said Guterres.

Meanwhile, the UNEP said in the report that the global community must adopt radical measures to curb the emission of greenhouse gases and avert climatic shocks whose devastations could take years to repair.

The Emissions Gap Report 2023 projects a planet heading for a rise of 2.5 C to 2.9 C in temperature unless governments and industry rapidly shift to low-carbon development pathways.

The report also says that to avoid a worst-case scenario, including cascading extreme

weather events, low-carbon lifestyles must become the norm.

According to the report, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 28 percent to 42 percent would enable countries to realize the goal of maintaining temperatures below 2 C to 1.5 C, respectively, in line with the Paris Agreement.

Inger Andersen, the UNEP's executive director, said that runaway greenhouse gas emissions were pushing the planet to the cliff, hence the urgency to reverse course through a deliberate shift to low-carbon economic development.

"Humanity is breaking all the wrong records when it comes to climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions reached a new high in 2022. In September 2023, global average temperatures were 1.8 C above pre-industrial levels," Andersen said.

The UNEP report reveals that greenhouse gas emissions spiked by 1.2 percent from 2021 to 2022 to reach a record of 57.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

## China's role in volunteerism praised by UN

A senior United Nations official in charge of the UN volunteers who contribute to global socioeconomic development has hailed China's focus on volunteerism, welcoming the Chinese volunteers' role in bolstering sustainable development worldwide.

Toily Kurbanov, executive coordinator of United Nations Volunteers, noted that volunteers are taking the lead in climate action and creating a world without poverty and hunger, and that through volunteering, "young people in particular are honing their talents and acquiring exposure to international development".

"Through its important steps, China is encouraging young people to volunteer and to become global advocates for sustainable development," he said in an exclusive interview with China Daily.

He noted that this year, 134 Chinese nationals have served as UN Volunteers. Among them, 85 work with 11 UN agencies within China, including the UN Development Programme.

"These volunteers work on important projects throughout China in areas such as poverty alleviation, food security, environmental protection, children's rights and women's empowerment," he said.

Forty-nine UN Volunteers from China are working with the UN in 21 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Tanzania, South Africa,



In this file photo dated March 26, 2019, a Chinese volunteer teacher (center) looks on during a language class to local students at Nongping Primary School in Vientiane, Laos. XINHUA

Peru and Panama.

In these countries, the Chinese volunteers "work in important areas such as climate change, poverty alleviation, gender equality,

youth engagement, economic inclusion, data management, partnership building and humanitarian assistance", he said.

Kurbanov is visiting China from

Tuesday to Friday.

Since 1981, United Nations Volunteers has worked with the Chinese government on social and economic development through

volunteering.

Through a new cooperative effort started in 2019 with the Chinese Young Volunteer Association, "Chinese youth got the opportunity to work in the UN system through university and youth volunteer assignments across the globe", the UN official said.

"It's often said that youth hold the key to creating a better future. We at United Nations Volunteers see that in a tangible way," he said.

Regarding United Nations Volunteers' plan to work with China in the future, he said the UN will "promote two-way South-South knowledge exchange, learning and partnerships and use its global networks and platforms to facilitate knowledge transfers and technical exchanges under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Xinhua



**These volunteers work on important projects throughout China in areas such as poverty alleviation, food security, environmental protection, children's rights and women's empowerment**

## 'India-Australia important for each other's future'

NEW DELHI

THE Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong (pictured) said yesterday that the India-Australia bilateral relationship is really significant for both countries' futures and expressed her determination to work together to achieve shared objectives in the region.



"We (India-Australia) share so much. We share a history. We both value our democratic traditions. We both love our sporting traditions. But I think, even more importantly, we understand how important we are to each other's future," she said.

While speaking at the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, she added, "That is a point about the bilateral relationship, that's a point about us working together in the region. As you said, whether it is bilaterally or through the Quad or through other mechanisms, we know that this partnership is to the peace, prosperity and stability of the region. We are very focused on and determined to work with you towards that shared objective."

EAM Jaishankar met his Australian counterpart Penny Wong in the national capital for the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue on Tuesday morning.

"Glad to welcome FM @SenatorWong of Australia to Hyderabad House today morning. Our Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue will advance our strategic partnership," Jaishankar posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Earlier on Monday, the India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue took place with EAM Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participating with their Australian counterparts; Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles.

In her opening remarks, Wong said that Canberra deeply values its bilateral relationship with New Delhi, adding that it is "crucial to region" where sovereignty is respected. She further noted that the two nations have done a lot together bilaterally and hope to do more.

During the meeting, Jaishankar said that the bilateral relationship between India and Australia has grown rapidly and noted that it has larger implications for the region. He called the partnership between India and Australia in Quad format "very beneficial" for bilateral relations and the Indo-Pacific region. ANI

## Fight against terrorism should not violate humanitarian law – Lavrov

MOSCOW

RUSSIA does not support terrorism in any form but does not believe the fight against it should violate humanitarian law, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, commenting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"I would like to reiterate that we condemn every form of terrorism but when it comes to the fight against terrorism, there is a need to use methods that neither suggest collective punishment nor run counter to international humanitarian law, or rather, frankly speaking, blatantly violate it," the top Russian diplomat pointed out at a meeting with his counterparts from a number of Arab League and Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states.

Tensions in the Middle East flared up again after Hamas militants infiltrated Israel from the Gaza Strip on October 7, killing residents of border settlements and taking people hostage.

The Palestinian movement described its attack as a response to the actions of Israeli authorities against the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

Israel announced a total blockade of Gaza and started carrying out strikes on the Palestinian enclave, as well as on certain areas in Lebanon and Syria.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

CALLOWAY came to China for the 14th time for a visit with a delegation from the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation.

The delegation included both Flying Tigers veterans and their descendants, who aimed to reminisce about the old days of the Flying Tigers in China, carry forward the spirit of the Flying Tigers, and pass on the friendship between the two peoples from generation to generation.

Over the years, Calloway has been actively promoting people-to-people friendship between the United States and China. She has established the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum and the Chennault Aviation Academy.

Her efforts started in 2002 when she made her first trip to

## Flying Tigers spirit promotes China-US friendship

China together with her mother.

Calloway recalled that her grandfather came to China when her mother was only nine years old. Her mother could not understand why he stayed in China for 7 years until their first visit to China, where they learned about the events that took place during the war era.

Since then, Calloway and her mother have been dedicated to promoting Flying Tigers' tales and the history of China's resistance war against Japanese aggression to the American public.

She believed that it's crucial to share with the world how Chinese people admirably overcame difficulties and fought

against Japanese invaders, and said she has always taken it as her mission.

During the resistance war against Japanese aggression, General Claire Lee Chennault led the Flying Tigers to fight alongside the Chinese people.

"We must remember the history," Calloway has mentioned multiple times in interviews, saying Flying Tigers veterans and their descendants have the responsibility to carry on this precious friendship, to help and assist each other, and to create a better future for future generations.

During her visit to China this time, Calloway always took photos with General Claire Lee

Chennault's pictures at each site.

She said these photos touched her deeply because they signify that many Chinese people still remember the contributions her grandfather had made.

"Over the years, I have witnessed the development and changes in China. It would be wonderful if my grandfather could see today's China," Calloway told People's Daily.

Calloway believes that history needs to be recorded and told, and common memories must be passed on by those who have lived through it.

She said the Flying Tigers veterans she interviewed had great admiration for the Chinese

people and were proud that they had fought alongside them against the Japanese invaders.

"Both the United States and China need to understand this shared history," Calloway noted. As one of the descendants of the Flying Tigers veterans, she said they have a greater responsibility to speak up and continue telling the story of the Flying Tigers.

Coming to China again after four years, Calloway placed particular importance on the power of face-to-face exchanges, believing it to be crucial for promoting people-to-people friendship between the two countries.

She said the two peoples

need to engage in more exchanges in order to enhance mutual understanding. When the two peoples are separated by oceans, it is difficult to have a tangible sense of connection; when they come to each other's land and make eye contact, everything falls into place naturally, she explained.

Calloway expressed her hope that the two peoples, especially the younger generation, can continue to inherit the spirit of the Flying Tigers.

"The U.S.-China relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world and is highly regarded by the international community. We should set an example for the

world, set aside our differences, extend the hand of friendship, and work towards our common goals," she said.



**Calloway believes that history needs to be recorded and told, and common memories must be passed on by those who have lived through it**



## Sunak reportedly said 'just let people die', virus inquiry hears

LONDON

PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak was quoted as saying the government should "just let people die" during the COVID-19 pandemic rather than impose a second national lockdown, the inquiry into how Britain handled the crisis heard on Monday.

Patrick Vallance, who was the government's chief scientific adviser during COVID, made a note in his diary on Oct 25, 2020, about a meeting involving then Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Sunak, who was finance minister.

The diary entry shown to the inquiry recorded how Dominic Cummings, Johnson's most senior adviser during the pandemic, had relayed to Vallance what he said he had heard at the meeting.

Vallance quoted Cummings in his diary as saying: "Rishi thinks just let people die and that's okay. This all feels like a complete lack of leader-

ship." A spokesman for Sunak said the prime minister would set out his position when he gives evidence to the inquiry "rather than respond to each one in piecemeal".

The inquiry is examining the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic that shut large sections of the economy and killed more than 220,000 people in Britain. It is due to run until the summer of 2026.

Senior government officials have repeatedly said the government was unprepared for the pandemic and a "toxic" and "macho" culture hampered the response to the health crisis.

The danger for Sunak is that evidence at the inquiry undermines his attempt to cast himself as a change to the chaotic leadership of Johnson even though he was one of the most senior ministers in that government.

Previous evidence has shown he was branded "Dr Death" by one gov-



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivers a speech at a college in north London on Monday. (PHOTO / AP)

ernment scientific adviser over his "Eat Out to Help out" policy in the summer of 2020, which subsidised meals in pubs and restaurants but was criticised by health experts for spreading the virus. **Agencies**

## Putin points to UNHRC's political bias in Donbass conflict

MOSCOW

THE UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and other international institutions in the field of human rights have demonstrated their political bias throughout the duration of the conflict in the Donbass republics and Novorossiia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"Unfortunately, throughout the history of the conflict in Donbass and Novorossiia, international institutions which are supposed to guarantee and promote human rights - the UNHRC, the Council of Europe and others - have demonstrated their biased position and inability to do their job," he said, addressing an international conference on the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) underway in Moscow.

"Given their clearly biased stance, Russia was forced to withdraw from these institutions, but it continues to strictly adhere to its human rights commitments," Putin said.

The international community is screaming for radical changes, the Russian leader said as he called for ensuring a fair approach to the implementation of human rights based on mutual respect, with the cultural and historical peculiarities of countries being taken into account.

Also, Putin urged that civic institutions should play a substantial role in achieving this goal.

The address was read out by Valery Fadeyev, head of the Presidential Council on Civil Society and Human Rights.



## UAE minister calls on global leaders to unleash potential of food systems in fight against climate change

DUBAI

TODAY, Mariam bint Mohammed Almhiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment and COP28 Food Systems Lead, addressed the Global Food Security Summit in London, where she called on global leaders to find the will to work collectively and creatively to unleash the potential of food systems in the fight against climate change.

The Summit held in partnership between the UAE, the UK and Somalia, and sponsored by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and the Bill Melinda Gates Foundation, saw the United Kingdom show strong support for the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda, including their endorsement of the Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action.

The Declaration commits nations to putting climate action at the heart of their food systems by aligning their national food systems and agricultural strategies with their Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and National Biodiversity Strategies.

The Declaration forms part of the first of four pillars that make up the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda - galvanizing national leadership; involving non-state actors; boosting innovation; and scaling up finance.

Almhiri said: "What we are seeing unfold around the globe is a devastating cycle of escalating climate threats that can be avoided, but only if we show the resolve to make a difference and walk the talk".

"I am delighted that the United Kingdom supporting Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable

Agriculture, and Climate Action. It is only through collective action can we make a substantial change and protect our planet and people".

In her opening remarks in the presence of dignitaries including Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of Somalia, Almhiri stressed as hosts of COP28 in just 10 days' time the UAE intends to "build on top of the momentum of action for the food and climate agenda which was firmly set on course by the United Kingdom at COP26 and then accelerated and further accentuated by Egypt at COP27".

She outlined through its COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda the UAE will elevate the food systems debate and "place it at the very heart of the Presidential Action Agenda".

Looking ahead to COP28 in 10 days' time, the minister added, "The program

of the COP28 Presidency begins with a high-level session on Food and Climate. Every day thereafter includes at least one Presidency-hosted event related to agriculture and food systems, with the program reaching a crescendo on December 10, before the Parties move on to the final negotiations on December 11 and 12, we are marking a day dedicated to food, agriculture, and water".

The minister stressed: "Our goal is to highlight the severe pressure and risks that climate change puts on food, agricultural and water systems, which are pivotal to human well-being. At the dedicated day to food, agriculture, and water at COP28, we will reiterate both the challenge and the opportunity presented by food systems and their interactions with our precious planet."

Later in the afternoon, Almhiri also opened a series of panel discussions on 'Building a climate resilient and sustain-

able agriculture sector and Food System'. She spoke about the importance of innovation, technology, and finance in transforming our food systems and creating a more sustainable world.

The minister detailed the key milestones in UAE's climate journey to date such as the Cabinet's recent approval of the Net Zero 2050 Strategy that outlines mechanisms to achieve zero emissions in the UAE across all core sectors, including agriculture, as well as the UAE's Third Update to its Second Nationally Determined Contribution, the third in three years.

She stated: "By progressively raising ambition we are making real change in our green transformation. It is through the wise direction of the UAE's leadership that we are able to take bold and decisive steps towards Net Zero and a greener future".

ANI

## China's logistics sector injects new vigor into world economy

IN recent years, Chinese logistics companies have rapidly expanded their presence in overseas markets alongside the growth of China's cross-border e-commerce platforms. They have entered markets in North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Central and South America, bringing digitalized logistics services and efficiency to their target markets while contributing to the global growth of foreign trade.

The world's first live broadcast of cross-border logistics concluded on the evening of Nov. 4, 2023. Over the course of 48 hours, millions of people worldwide witnessed the complete journey of cross-border packages, from packing and sorting to shipping, consolidation, and loading onto international cargo planes.

Cainiao Global, the official global parcel tracking platform of China's Alibaba Group, has introduced its flagship product, the "Global 5-Day Delivery" express service, for this year's "Double 11" shopping festival. This service allows products sent from China to reach consumers thousands of miles away in just five days.

To achieve such fast delivery, Cainiao Global has made significant advancements in logistics technology and infrastructure. The company has established the country's largest cross-border logistics park, equipped with intelligent sorting machines and an automated air freight center. Additionally, the use of a Boeing 747 widebody freighter further enhances the efficiency of the delivery process.

This year's "Double 11" shopping festival has be-



British girl Alexandra receives parcels sent from JD Logistics' self-operated overseas warehouse in Lutterworth, the UK. (Photo/WeChat account of JD Logistics)

come a competition for faster delivery, receipt, and after-sales service for cross-border merchants and overseas consumers.

The "Double 11" shopping festival is China's biggest shopping event. Since its inception in 2009, the festival has been known for its abundance of discounts, promotions, and offers. This year, instead of solely engaging in the price war, companies have prioritized providing high-quality services to their customers.

JD Logistics, the logistics unit of Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com, has been making consistent investments in overseas supply chain logistics facilities.

With nearly 90 bonded warehouses, overseas warehouses, and direct mail warehouses worldwide, JD Logistics has established a self-operated warehousing network in European countries like Germany, France, and the UK. Alongside expanding its warehousing capacity, JD Logistics Europe is actively collaborating with local service providers to enhance its last-mile delivery capabilities.

In 2022, China's total social logistics reached 347.6 trillion yuan (about \$47.89 trillion), marking a 3.4 percent year-on-year growth. With this growth, China's logistics market has maintained its position as the global leader for seven consecutive years, solidifying its status as a logistics powerhouse.

The steady and positive growth of the Chinese economy has provided significant support for the rapid development of the logistics industry. The government's increased support to promote economic growth, coupled with a rebound in consumer spending, has led to impressive economic performance in the third quarter.

Data released by the National Bureau of Statistics of China shows that the country's GDP grew by 4.9 percent year-on-year between July and September this year, surpassing economists' median forecast of 4.5 percent.

The growth of cross-border e-commerce has contributed to the expansion of China's cross-border logistics industry.

According to recent data from the Korea Customs Service, Koreans spent a total of 4.79 trillion won (approximately \$3.65 billion) on cross-border online shopping from Q1 to Q3 this year, marking a 20.4 percent increase compared to the previous year. Chinese e-commerce accounted for 46.4 percent of this total, with sales amounting to 2.22 trillion won.

According to China's Ministry of Commerce, the import and export volume of China's cross-border e-commerce reached 1.7 trillion yuan from January to September this year, marking a year-on-year increase of 14.4 percent. China has established trade

partnerships with countries worldwide, being one of the countries with the most comprehensive cross-border e-commerce ecosystem.

Overseas warehouses play a crucial role as key nodes for cross-border e-commerce and logistics. They serve as new foreign trade infrastructure and a vital platform for driving the high-quality development of foreign trade.

Xue Qun, head of JD Logistics International, recently expressed that JD.com plans to construct a comprehensive global supply chain logistics network in the coming three years. This network will encompass overseas warehouse networks, international transit hubs, distribution networks in foreign countries, and cross-border transportation networks encompassing key routes.

According to a news report by Quartz, China views logistics as a strategically important industry underpinning the efficiency and competitiveness of its economy. The Chinese government wants to take that a step further by building a modern circulation system that integrates flows of commerce, finance, transportation, and commodities.

According to the news report, one area where China has made significant progress in recent years is the number of overseas warehouses it operates via exporters or cross-border e-commerce firms with operations in international markets. These now number over 2,000, up from less than 100 in 2015, according to Chinese government figures.

People's Daily

## India advocates for sovereign, independent state of palestine at UN, opposes violence

NEW YORK

INDIA advocates for the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine living within secure and recognised borders side by side at peace with Israel, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj said at the United Nations General Assembly.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly informal discussions on the humanitarian situation in Palestine on Monday, Kamboj said, "India's consistent position of achieving a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine issue. India has always advocated the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine living within secure and recognised borders side by side at peace with Israel."

Kamboj, welcoming the international efforts to ensure further de-escalation of the conflict, also affirmed that India opposes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and is clearly against violence.

She said, "India welcomes all efforts by the international community that strive towards a de-escalation of the conflict and enables the delivery of urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Palestine."

She added, "The message from our leaders has been clear and consistent - we are firmly opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, clearly against violence and are on the side of adherence to international humanitarian law and ensuring that further escalation is prevented, humanitarian aid delivery continues, all hostages are released unconditionally and

all parties work towards an early restoration of peace and stability. Towards this, we also welcome efforts for humanitarian pauses."

Kamboj highlighted that India has already delivered 70 tonnes of disaster relief materials, including medicines and medical supplies, to the people of Palestine.

She stated, "We are also firm in our commitment to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine and have already delivered 70 tonnes of disaster relief materials including 17 tonnes of medicines and medical supplies in two tranches and our humanitarian support continues. Similarly, India continues to play an active role as Member of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)."

Israel announced war against Hamas after it launched attack on Israel on October 7 and killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, with around 240 people taken hostage, according to Israeli officials.

Meanwhile, amid the ongoing situation in Gaza, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will host the BRICS groups of nations to convene a virtual BRICS Extraordinary Joint Meeting on Monday, the South African President Office said.

In a major development, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres will also participate in the virtual meeting.

As per the press statement, in the meeting, the South African President will deliver an opening speech, followed by speeches from invited states and members on the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

ANI



Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj speaking at the UNGA informal discussions on the humanitarian situation prevailing in Gaza, in New York yesterday. ANI

# SPORT



Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi. (Agencies)

## The lull before the storm: Yanga slowed reexamining the squad after '5G' roaring

By Correspondent John Kimbute

HARDLY anyone is talking about improving the Young Africans SC line up or back up squad, in the wake of an unheralded 5-1 win against archrivals Simba SC, in an encounter where all the cards were staked in favour of the latter, except the timing.

They were just coming out of a social celebration of sorts two days earlier, presumably going well into early hours of the next day. As they say, the rest is history; the Msimbazi Street side is still ruing the fallout with a members' revolt.

Before the phenomenal rout of the more ambitious club side in relation to continental competitions, it was the Jangwani Street side which appeared to be in need of an uplift as it had suffered a defeat at Ihefu FC and with the archrivals at the start of the season.

While the club side was itself convinced of its prowess as it reached the group stage of the CAF Champions League, close watchers saw many gaps in the qualification, as El Mirreikh is a pale shadow of its former self.

It lost most of its foreign players, with the exception of a South Sudanese and a Colombian.

What has given the Jangwani Street side vastly renewed confidence is the derby drubbing of their archrivals, such that for a few weeks if not months it will be overly difficult to speak of the team except in glowing terms.

Yet this will have its limits and it may not have to wait long, as upsets like the Ihefu encounter can always be produced out of insufficient attention, following some 5G outcome or anything.

The point is that the 5G win against their rivals was a bolt from the blue.

It unavoidably had links with structural strengths and weaknesses of their rivals, sort of exaggerated to the limit because of the festival environment, so finally it is this atmosphere that did it.

There was perceptibly a wrong choice of players in the goalkeeping though pundits don't agree about that, and there are stories of changing room shenanigans where some calming spray would have been used in the room before the half time breather.

It took energy out of the side and failed it, plus faulty team selection options that have elicited vibrant defence from pundits.

Put differently, there is going to be a short period of experimentation for the

Jangwani Street side, especially its fan base, to actually arrive at the position that the side needs a new coat of paint.

On the whole, the club has been relatively less disposed of discussing its actual team strength on account of the Confederation Cup final appearance in the past season. It was twice dented, and then crept back.

Despite that former coach Nasreddine Nabi took the club to heights in continental competition - via a window that is now closed - there are areas where the current coach can claim to be more successful in that regard.

Since there were no star signings for instance in the likeness of ex-Yanga striker and now Pyramids superstar Fiston Mayele, the tactical arrangements of Miguel Gamondi have in a sense produced the chemistry that the side needed, with the new signings that came on board.

They weren't as expensive compared to their

archrivals across the street.

That is what made a number of observers see a brighter future for Simba SC in this year's tournaments, but at the local league level their rivals have been somewhat more convincing, despite slips ups like the sharp pain of Ihefu FC defeat.

It was a reminder that the side still needs to be improved, but after crossing the Champions League preliminary stages and enter the group stage, despite glaringly benefiting from the ravages in Khartoum and Omdurman, the worry subsided somewhat.

The massive derby win stands to silence voices for a while, till reality comes knocking.

The dreaded moments aren't far to seek, as the Jangwani Street side drew two of

CAF Champions League best sides in its group, that is, along with Medeama FC of Ghana.

The two are Algerian champions Belouizdad FC and veteran Egyptian continental leaders Al Ahly, in a sense the toughest draw that the Jangwani Street side could have expected.

Their rivals by contrast only have Wydad Casablanca as an acknowledged strong side to be worried about, while Botswana hard hitters

Jwaneng Galaxy and Ivorian side ASEC Mimosas are fellow travelers like Simba.

It is thus staggering to any aware observer that the Jangwani Street side has fewer chances of making it beyond the group stage, and equally, faces little fan base pressure to improve the side in terms of signings.

The club's situation in the local league is largely comfortable as league leaders, with a series of excellent wins.

It is reason enough to believe that the side is in safe hands, and has a performing squad.

That is what is being projected into the continental championship, where the fans believe that the side is strong enough for the challenges, but the leadership is more reserved, reiterating their group stage target for this year, following the biting draw.

There was a time some people started projecting the team at higher stages but for all intents and purposes this has ended.

Few believe they can scale up the tree and emerge among the best two; afterwards, they may start rethinking the side.

said the supper will be held at the National Stadium and Permanent Secretary of Culture, Arts and Sports Greyson Msigwa is expected to be the guest of honour at the event which is aimed at recognizing the job which local artists are doing.

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## Basata to host supper for Zokomo Africa Awards artists

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## Southgate expects Euro charge despite drab draw with North Macedonia

LONDON

GARETH Southgate insists England's lacklustre finish to the Euro 2024 qualifying campaign will mean nothing when they start their bid to win the tournament in Germany.

Such are the expectations that Southgate is working under these days that qualifying with an unbeaten record from a potentially tricky group including Italy and Ukraine earned him few plaudits.

Being held to a 1-1 draw by North Macedonia on Monday meant England failed to beat a side as low as 66th in the FIFA rankings for the first time since 2016, when they drew with Slovenia.

But with a runners-up finish at the last European Championship in 2021, as well as World Cup semi-final and quarter-final appearances in the Southgate era, England's status as one of the Euro favourites is well earned after six victories from their eight qualifiers.

And Southgate is confident England's drab end to the qualifying campaign will prove nothing more than an irrelevant blip.

"The really big results were in March against Italy and Ukraine. It meant coming here was a completely different test," he said.

"I thought that given we had already qualified and everything had been achieved the mentality of the players was excellent.

"The quality on the ball was good on a difficult pitch. Just that final pass or finish was difficult to find. But I thought there were lots of positive performances."

One area of concern for Southgate could be his team's struggle to pierce the massed ranks of North Macedonia and Malta's defences over the last four days.

Southgate was without influential Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham due to injury for both qualifiers, while England's record scorer Harry Kane was left on the bench for the first 58 minutes against North Macedonia.

Only when Kane came on did England snatch their equaliser, an own goal from Jani Atanasov as he tried to stop the Bayern Munich striker turning in Phil Foden's corner.

Southgate will have noted his side took 65 minutes to manage their first shot in the 2-0 win against Malta at

Wembley on Friday.

And although England had 75 per cent of the possession against North Macedonia, they mustered only two shots on target, making it just the third time in the last 26 Euro qualifiers that they failed to take maximum points.

In truth, England's lethargic displays over the last two games owed much to the dead rubber status of the matches and their scheduling amid a hectic programme of Premier League and Champions League fixtures.

But Southgate will still want improved performances in the friendlies against Brazil and Belgium in March.

By then, he will know the teams England will face in the group stage, with the point in Skopje ensuring they will be in the pot containing the top seeds.

"The next exciting bit is the draw at the beginning of December and we will see what the path looks like," Southgate said.

Plotting how many of England's emerging young talents to take to Germany will keep Southgate busy over the winter.

He was impressed with the way Manchester City's teenage left-back Rico Lewis handled his debut.

Lewis's composed display was all the more commendable after he was harshly adjudged to have fouled Bojan Miovski, conceding the penalty that brought North Macedonia's goal when Enis Bardhi converted the rebound from his saved spot-kick.

"Rico was excellent. His composure with the ball and the way he responded to that setback, he's a super footballer," he said.

Crystal Palace centre-back Marc Guehi also caught Southgate's eye. "He has been excellent in every game and showed great composure, taking what I've seen from him at his club to international football. That's not straightforward," he said.

The jury remains out on Southgate's experiment with playing Liverpool right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold in midfield.

But, befitting his ambition of taking fourth-placed England to the top of FIFA's world rankings, the manager is looking ahead with optimism.

"There are a lot of players to keep a track on. Trent again did an excellent job," he said. "Rico, Cole Palmer, there's plenty for me to think about."

AFP

## US coach Berhalter slams 'inexcusable' Dest after Trinidad defeat

PORT OF SPAIN

UNITED States coach Gregg Berhalter slammed the "inexcusable" sending off of defender Sergino Dest on Monday after his team stumbled to a 2-1 defeat against Trinidad & Tobago in the CONCACAF Nations League.

Despite the loss, the US advanced to the semi-finals of the Nations League -- and sealed their place in next year's Copa America -- with a 4-2 aggregate quarter-final victory.

But what should have been a routine second leg in Port of Spain was made harder than it needed to be after Dest's dismissal towards the end of the first half.

The US at the time were leading 1-0 after Antonee Robinson's 25th-minute header and appeared to be cruising into the last four.

But the match was turned on its head in the 39th minute after a moment of madness from Dest.

The US defender was booked by referee Walter Lopez after kicking the ball away petulantly, and then picked up a second yellow card after continuing to harangue the Guatemalan official.

Trinidad subsequently equalised through Reon Moore on 43 minutes and then scored a winner through Alvin Jones' free-kick on 57 minutes.

Although Trinidad never looked like scoring the five goals they required to win on aggregate, Berhalter could not hide his fury at Dest's self-inflicted red card after the game.

"He put a number of guys in jeopardy, made a number of guys do a lot of extra work in this weather, and it's inexcusable," Berhalter said of Dest.

"We pride ourselves in staying mentally disciplined, battling through any type of conditions, whether they're good decisions or bad decisions. We're supposed to keep going and respond in an appropriate way, and that obviously wasn't the right response from Sergino."

Dest, who had been lambasted by team-mates Tim Ream and Matt Turner as he trudged off following his red card, issued an apology on Instagram after the game.

"I want to apologize to my team-mates, staff and fans and whole nation for my behavior; it was unacceptable, selfish, and immature," Dest wrote on Instagram. "I let my team down. It's something I have to learn from and it won't happen again."

US goalscorer Robinson described Dest's dismissal as a "moment of unprofessionalism."

"Disappointed we didn't get the win," Robinson said. "We started the game pretty well and had things under control and then a moment of unprofessionalism kind of went against us."

"But we'll take it," he added. "We're in the semi-finals of the Nations League and we're in the Copa America, so it's still been a successful break."

AFP

# Holdings Italy secure Euro 2024 place, Czech Republic and Slovenia qualify

LONDON

REIGNING champions Italy secured their ticket for Euro 2024 on Monday after holding on for a nervy goalless draw against Ukraine in their final qualifier, while the Czech Republic and Slovenia also clinched places at next year's finals.

Italy only needed the draw in a game played in Leverkusen, Germany, in order to qualify but a defeat against their direct rivals in Group C would have left their fate to be decided in play-offs next March.

That was a scenario they desperately wanted to avoid following the trauma of failing to qualify for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups after losing in play-offs, either side of winning the last European Championship in 2021.

The high stakes made it a tense occasion and Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma had to produce a firm hand low down to keep out an early Georgiy Sudakov strike.

However, Luciano Spalletti's side threatened at the other end with Ukraine keeper Anatoliy Trubin saving from Nicolo Barella and racing out to deny David Fratelli before the half-hour mark.

Donnarumma blocked a Mykhailo Mudryk attempt in the 65th minute and there was a flashpoint in stoppage time when the Ukraine winger went down in the Italy box under a Bryan Cristante challenge, but no penalty was given.

The two nations finish level on 14 points behind England in Group C, but Italy have the better head-to-head record having won 2-1 in Milan in September.

"We are delighted. After all the difficulties we have had, we will be in Germany and we will be going there as reigning champions and going there to win," Donnarumma told broadcaster Rai 1.

Ukraine must therefore negoti-



Italy players celebrate after drawing with Ukraine to qualify for Euro 2024. Agencies

ate the play-offs if they are to return to Germany for the tournament next June.

Asked about the late penalty call, Ukraine coach Serhiy Rebrov told the post-match press conference: "From my point of view that was a penalty, but again I was not there and it's only about my emotions."

England had already qualified before their trip to Skopje to play North Macedonia, when they needed a second-half own goal to earn a 1-1 draw and finish their campaign undefeated.

Enis Bardhi opened the scoring for North Macedonia four minutes before half-time, following up to net after his penalty was saved by Jordan Pickford.

The spot-kick was given after a VAR check showed that Manchester City's Rico Lewis, on his debut, had caught Bojan Miovski in the area.

England drew level just before the hour mark, and moments after Harry Kane was sent on from the

bench, as Jani Atanasov diverted a Phil Foden corner into his own net.

The Czech Republic only needed a draw at home to Moldova in Olomouc to secure their place at an eighth consecutive Euro finals, and the outcome was never in doubt as they eased to a 3-0 victory.

David Doudera swept in the opener and Moldova had Vladislav Baboglo sent off early in the second half before late goals by Tomas Chory and captain Tomas Soucek secured victory.

- Czech coach quits -

They finish second in Group E behind Albania -- who drew 0-0 with the Faroe Islands on Monday -- but their evening was overshadowed by coach Jaroslav Silhavy announcing his resignation immediately after the game.

"Even though we are happy now, we had already decided before the game not to continue," the 62-year-old coach told Czech television.

His departure comes after three

players, including West Ham United defender Vladimir Coufal, were sent home from the squad for having spent Saturday night at a night-club.

Slovenia will appear at the Euro for the first time since 2000 after their 2-1 win at home to Kazakhstan in Ljubljana clinched second place behind Denmark in Group H.

Benjamin Verbic netted Slovenia's late winner after Ramazan Orazov had netted for Kazakhstan to cancel out Benjamin Sesko's penalty opener.

Kazakhstan would have qualified with a win but will instead now go into the play-offs as their hopes of appearing at first major tournament remain alive.

Denmark lost 2-0 in Northern Ireland, with Isaac Price and Dion Charles scoring, while Finland -- who will be in the play-offs -- won 2-1 away to minnows San Marino.

AFP

## Everton to argue 10-point deduction was unconstitutional in appeal to Premier League

By Ben Rumsby

THE Premier League's failure to adopt a detailed "sanction policy" for its financial rules could form a key plank of Everton's appeal against an unprecedented 10-point deduction, Telegraph Sport can reveal.

The club is formulating its strategy for overturning their "wholly disproportionate" punishment for breaking profit and sustainability (PSR) regulations and it may include zeroing in on one element of the judgment by an independent commission.

The 41-page decision stated that: "On 10 August 2023 the Premier League board adopted a sanction policy that it considered to be appropriate to breaches of the PSR."

It went on to state that included a starting point of a six-point deduction plus a point for every £5 million by which those rules had been broken.

The independent commission refused to use that formula for a case that was brought before the Premier League came up with that "policy" but still ended up imposing a sanction almost exactly in line with it.

Everton may need to convince an appeal board to take an even dimmer view of the lack of a detailed sanction policy if they are to succeed in securing a more lenient punishment.

The original commission made clear Premier League rules gave it the power to impose a range of sanctions that include deducting points, and that although the English Football League did have sanctioning guidelines, commissions were not bound by them.

An appeal board would also have the power to increase Everton's sanction but the prospect of it doing so is remote given the original punishment ended up in line with the Premier League "policy".



Everton are determined to fight against the 10-point penalty that dropped them into the relegation zone. Agencies

"Everton will stress they were not guilty of a 'deliberate cynical breach' The club could also point to the original commission's ruling that they were not guilty of a "deliberate cynical breach of the PSR to achieve a sporting advantage" - although it did nevertheless find a sporting advantage had been obtained - and may argue again that they "cooperated fully with the Premier League's investigations".

Everton's appeal must be lodged by December 1 under a 14-day timetable outlined in the governing body's rules.

Rival teams relegated during the period of the club's rule breach - including Leeds United, Leicester City, Burnley and Southampton - have a further two weeks to lodge claims for compensation that could exceed £200 million.

Everton would fight any such claims, while their appeal has won the backing of the Liverpool-supporting Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, Steve Rotherham.

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Holdings Italy secure Euro 2024 place, Czech Republic and Slovenia qualify

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Fred Felix 'Minziro'. (Agencies)

## Geita Gold chase second victory as JKT seek top-four

By Guardian Correspondent

TWO sides at opposite ends of the NBC Premier League table lock horns this afternoon as struggling Geita Gold welcome high-flying JKT Tanzania to the Nyankumbu Stadium.

Geita Gold find themselves second from the bottom in the standings, having managed to win just one of their nine matches this season. By contrast, JKT Tanzania occupy sixth place in the table following a strong start to the season, opening up a seven-point gap between them and their hosts Geita Gold.

The hosts head into today's clash of the back of back-to-back goalless draws against Tabora United and Tanzania Prisons. They are winless in their last eight games.

As a result, Geita Gold have drawn three of their last five league matches, with four defeats coming in their previous eight encounters.

Unlike in their first campaign, Geita Gold have been especially weak at home recently, failing to win any of their last six league games at the Nyankumbu Stadium and CCM Kirumba.

To make matters worse for the hosts, Geita Gold are struggling in front of goals. They have scored five goals making them the second worst attacking side in the division.

Only Coastal Union have scored fewer goals so far. They have failed to score in any of their last two matches.

Assistant coach Choke Abeid will lead the team in the absence of head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman, who is on national duties with Taifa Stars as deputy to Adel Amrouche.

Abeid said they are aware they have not been doing well and this is an opportunity to kick start their season.

Abeid said they will miss the service of two players, captain Elias Maguri and winger Yusuph Mhilu who are recovering from injuries.

As for JKT Tanzania, they were victorious on the road last time out, a result that kept them just one point shy of the top-four. They have won three of their previous five league clashes, scoring five goals while conceding three.

When you look at the bigger picture, JKT Tanzania have lost only three of their nine league games this season, picking up four wins and two draws in the process.

Having also won two of their previous five away league outings, they will be confident of picking up another positive result on the road.

Danny Lyanga has bagged two goals and two assists for JKT Tanzania this season, while David Bryson has contributed two assists from left-back.

## Yanga jet out to Algeria for CAF Champions League campaign



Young Africans squad. (Agencies)

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

RECORD Tanzanian champions Young Africans yesterday left the country for Algeria where they will kick start their 2023/24 CAF Champions League group stage campaign.

Young Africans are lined up to play against CR Belouizdad of Algeria at the Stade du Juillet 1962 Stadium on Friday from 10 pm (East African Time).

The first batch of Young African players and technical bench members left Dar for Algiers yesterday dawn.

The group is mainly composed of players who were not called up for national team duties during the international break.

The final batch, including Aboutwalib Mshery, Metacha Mnata, Dickson Job, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Ibrahim Hamad, Nickson Kibabage and Mudathir Yahya, who were with Taifa Stars, was

expected to leave today at 4 am following their involvement in the game against Morocco last night.

Stephane Azizi Ki, Djigui Diarra and Khalid Aucho, who were with Burkina Faso, Mali and Uganda national teams, are expected to join the rest of the team immediately after their international games.

Speaking just before the first batch of players boarded Turkish Airlines, club spokesman Ali Kamwe said they are to report no injury in the squad.

"The technical bench tracked all groups. It was easy to monitor and issue instructions to the first group that remained here. The other groups, in the sense of the players in the national teams, we tracked them to check their fitness levels.

"We would not like to see our players in the national team have a drop in fitness levels. We are monitoring them to see if there are minor injuries they have received and how we can solve them quickly. We are grateful that until now before Tuesday's games all our players are well.

"And the entire traveling batch is also safe. The coach is satisfied with their fitness and we believe they are going to fight to ensure we get a good result in Algeria," he said.

Young Africans will not be taking part in any of the NBC Premiership action for the rest of November as they look to do well in their long-awaited return to Africa's premier club competition.

After the North African trip, their first home outing will come against Al Ahly at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Saturday, December 2 (19:00 EAT) on matchday two of CAF Champions League group stage.

A busy December will also see Young Africans travel to Ghana for a date with Medeama for the first time since 2016 when the two teams met in the CAF Confederation Cup group stage. The game is set to take place on Friday, December 8 (kick-off 19:00 EAT).

The reverse fixture in Dar will follow next on matchday four, as Wananchi host the Ghanaians. The confirmed date for that encounter is Wednesday, November 20 (16:00 EAT).

## Prisons part ways with head coach Fred Minziro

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

Michael Mwebe TANZANIA Prisons have parted company with head coach Fred 'Minziro' Kataraiya. Minziro's departure took the total number of coaches' exits in the NBC Premier League to seven for the season.

It comes after a disappointing run for the Mbeya side, losing four of their opening nine matches of the campaign.

There have been losses to Kagera Sugar, Simba, Tabora United and Azam.

The team managed one victory and four draws to collect seven points that leave them in the relegation zone.

Minziro took the reins at Prisons in July. He had coached Geita Gold for two years helping them secure a top-four finish in their debut top-flight season.

He eventually led them to the Confederation Cup. He parted ways with Geita Gold at the end of last season.

Prisons said in a statement: "For the great benefit of the team, the management has mutually terminated the contract of coach Minziro effective from today."

Wajelajela have also confirmed that assistant coach Shaban Mtupa will take charge on an interim basis.

The team is currently third from the bottom of the NBC Premier League and next faces Coastal Union tomorrow.

Through just nine games, seven coaches have already been sacked or resigned following starts not aligning with preseason expectations.

The first coach to leave their job this season was Singida Fountain Gate's Hans van der Pluijm. He resigned from his post on August 30, having led them to a top-four finish.

Pluijm was replaced by Ernst Middendorp, who guided the team in just one game before stepping down from his post.

Ihefu coach Zuberi Katwila was next in line.

Katwila resigned and was subsequently unveiled as the new Mtibwa Sugar head coach. He was succeeded by Ugandan coach Moses Basena.

The third coach to be sacked was Habib Kondo.

Mtibwa Sugar sacked Kondo on October 18 following a poor start to the season. He was removed while the club was languishing in the relegation zone and replaced him with Katwila, who had already coached the team.

The next to go was Namungo head coach Cedric Kaze with the club struggling at the bottom of the table with no win from six games. Dennis Kambi, who was part of the technical bench, came in his place.

On October 26, relegation battlers Coastal Union pulled the trigger on Mwyni Zahera after his side had collected just five points from the first seven games.

He was replaced by Kenyan coach David Ouma.

Brazilian Robert 'Robertinho' Oliveira was relieved of his duties as Simba head coach a day after losing 5-1 to arch-rivals Young Africans.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV WEDNESDAY**

**UJENZI**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 MJADALA (I)  
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
14:00 Mpera Mpera  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kunhu  
16:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kati Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA I  
20:00 DADAZ (I)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 Mid week Movie  
21:50 UJENZI  
22:30 MID Week Movie  
23:00 KURASA  
23:05 EATV SAA I

**UJENZI** provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

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05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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