



**National Pg 3**  
961 Israeli tourists to visit Tanzania



**National Pg 4**  
Government to review National Youth Policy



**National Pg 5**  
Refurbishment of Kongwa fighters camp



Filbert Mponzi (L), NMB Bank Plc's chief of Retail Banking, briefs President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in Dodoma city yesterday on the bank's involvement in supporting agriculture in the country. The president was on a tour of the bank's pavilion during the national-level handing-over of agricultural equipment to agricultural extension officers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Samia to create funds for input prices cushion, irrigation loans

By Henry Mwangonde

SPECIALISED funds, one for stabilising the prices of fertiliser and another to anchor a revolving fund for community irrigation projects are to be created, President Samia Suluhu Hassan declared yesterday.

President Samia made this announcement at an event to handover working tools to extension officers Dodoma city, where 6,700 motorcycles were handed over for distribution to extension officers countrywide.

The two funds will carry the rescue function in case there is an abnormal situation like the

current shortage of fertilizer, she said, tasking the Ministry of Agriculture to look for local sources of funds to facilitate setting up of the funds. Her office would make a goodwill scan for partners to make the project a success, she said.

The irrigation associations yet to be established may seek out loans that will later be repaid to the government, she said, underlining that the fund initiative is meant to avoid past mistakes in doling out fertilizer subsidies which had demerits as some people grossly benefited and others penalized.

She said the agricultural sector grew by

TURN TO PAGE 2

## NMB backs agro-sector uplift with 1.3trn/- loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

NMB Bank Plc has in the last five years injected over 1.3trn/- into farming, which was spent on financing supportive activities in the sector's value chain.

Filbert Mponzi, the bank's chief of retail banking, has said this when expressing the bank's commitment in supporting the government's vision to radically transform the national farming sector into a commercially driven modern enterprise.

At a ceremony held here yesterday to unveil a grand plan to modernise Tanzania's agriculture, NMB senior officials said the bank was using a considerable part of its resources to catalyse growth in the sector,

briefing President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the bank's pavilion.

The president was at the scene to launch Agenda 10/30, an agriculture renewal initiative, where the retail banking executive specified that NMB has an agri-business department to uplift its financing of farming activities.

"Agriculture financing is a core operational activity and a priority aspect in NMB's support to national building efforts," he said, emphasizing the special attention and focus the bank has for the sector.

NMB was the first bank to create a special fund for sectoral stakeholders, pegging the loans at less than 10 per cent, he stated,

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Ngorongoro residents ignore threats, want fast relocations

By Guardian Reporter, Ngorongoro

REPRESENTATIVES of residents from 10 out of 11 wards in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, willing to move to Handeni District in Tanga Region, have appealed to the government to speed up the relocation process before the dry season starts.

They similarly asked the relevant authorities to beef up security for those willing to move as some traditional leaders of the nomadic pastoral group, allied with some administrative officials and political leaders, were issuing threats in their direction.

The representatives were drawn from



**I believe they benefit from their campaigns as many officials campaigning against moving seem to be well off**

Endulen, Kakesio, Aleilai, Alaitole, Nainokanoka, Olbalbal, Misigyo, Engaresero, Olorieni and Ngorongoro wards, with Foibe Lukumay of Endulen ward said people at his area are ready to move to the new zone so that they start business activity with more freedom.

"I have decided to shift on my own accord even though I repeatedly receive threats from some traditional leaders many of whom do not want to move out," he stated, pointing out that he was a member of the village government and vice chairman of the CCM elders council in the District.

This hasn't stopped his being threatened,

TURN TO PAGE 2

## NHC restores 'thinking big'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE National Housing Corporation (NHC) has outlined key priorities, beginning with the construction of a building materials factory taking up 10bn/- plus 1,000 housing units for middle income families in the Kawe suburb of the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

Muungano Saguya, the NHC public affairs and information manager, said yesterday that the move is part of the corporation's ten-year strategy which is also in line with the country's development plan. The new corporate strategy came after President Samia Suluhu Hassan restored Nehemia Mchechu to head the corporation, and he had initiated these plans earlier.

Completing the long-awaited Morocco Square project and Kawe 711 schemes which stopped in 2018 owing to cash flow constraints had now been authorized by the government, so NHC will seek a 173bn/- loan facility to complete the projects, he stated.

The manager pointed at high costs of building materials like roofing sheets, round bars and gravel as having NHC to overprice its buildings or renting at high cost, thus building a materials factory at 10bn/- will alleviate costs now being passed on to NHC tenants.

Building residential houses will start in Dar es Salaam with 360 housing units at Kawe for middle income earners, incorporating shopping lines, he said, pointing at the area near the former Tanganyika Packers factory as the prime location. The units will be sold at 90m/- to 150m/- each when completed, he said.

NHC intends to enlist synergies with other stakeholders to build various infrastructures for instance water projects, roads and electricity where it has construction activities. It will continue to improve its 18,622 rented houses countrywide by making repairs on roofs, toilets and worn out windows, where 50bn/- has been allocated for this need, he

TURN TO PAGE 2



Angel Navuri (2nd-L), The Guardian Limited's (TGL) supplements and advertising manager, hands over to The Guardian managing editor Wallace Mauggo (R) the SuperBrand East Africa Choice Award for 2020-2022 bestowed on the newspaper. She received it on behalf of TGL at a colourful ceremony held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on Thursday - the paper having qualified for the honour for the seventh consecutive year. Witnessing yesterday's event (L-R): The Guardian news editor Lusekelo Philemon and chief sub-editor Richard Mngazija (partly hidden), TGL senior graphic designer Grace Nackso and TGL chief photographer Selemani Mpochi. Photo: Gwamaka Alipipi





## NHC restores 'thinking big'

FROM PAGE 1  
specified.

NHC was still making efforts to collect 22bn/- worth of rent arrears and sale of houses and land plots, he said, urging debtors too finish up repayments to enable the NHC to enhance its serve to the public at large.

In Dodoma, NHC plans to put up eight ministerial buildings in Mtumba town, projected to cost 186.83bn/-, with the third phase residential areas in Medeli and Iyumbu areas in the capital expected to be undertaken after acquiring the land earmarked to be developed, he added.

## Ngorongoro residents ignore threats, want fast relocations

FROM PAGE 1

but he was adamant about moving so as to save the Ngorongoro area, to enable wildlife to increase and they have recently been increasing, he declared.

Christopher Oloju, hailing from Olbalbal ward, said he saw it fit to move out in response to the government's call, agreeing with some members of his family to go to the new settlement at Msonera to see what it is like.

He would then come back to move out the family to move, he elaborated, insisting that more education should be imparted on this issue as in doing so many more people will be ready to shift.

Saning'o Laizer, resident of Endeleni village said that more people are ready to move out but were being misled and face threats. "Many are hesitating because they have not been adequately

educated. I have already registered myself at the Regional Commissioner's office," he stated.

Like the other representative he made a sight-seeing visit to Msomera, saw houses being built in which the new group will settle, noting that "to say the truth to get such houses in Ngorongoro is a dream. I have stayed there two days."

Paulo Mamasita, one of the residents' representatives said, that some civic groups receiving funds from sponsors are tasked with mobilising Ngorongoro residents not to move. "People want to move, but hesitate. Some NGOs/CSOs have intervened in the process by campaigning to ensure that those who are ready to shift are pressured not to do so." "I believe they benefit from their campaigns as many officials campaigning against moving seem to be well off," the villager added.

## Samia to create funds for input prices cushion, irrigation loans

FROM PAGE 1

4.9-percent in 2020/21, contributing 65percent of raw materials to industries.

"Despite the data, the growth for the sector is still minimal and we believe that if we invest more we can make the sector a working backbone of the economy," she stated, pointing out that an increase in budget funds for extension services to 51.5bn/- in the last budget estimates was aimed at expanding the ability of farmers to increase production and use modern methods.

The budget for seed production increased from 5.4bn/- to 10bn/- but also facilitated the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) with 129bn/- to purchase reserve grains, she said, pointing out that markets for avocado had been found in India and South Africa, likely to help farmers enhance confidence of viable markets before harvesting.

Earlier, the minister, Hussein Bashe said Tanzania has around 500 farmers in each village, showing the need to empower extension officers to ensure they train farmers on the best ways to change farming methods.

"If the sector grows to at least 10-percent, we believe it can remove the majority of Tanzanians from absolute poverty," he said, noting that unlocking potentials that the sector can offer was the key issue.

The government needs to provide the ministry with 150bn/- as a revolving fund subsidy to cushion farmers from hiked prices of fertilizers, he declared, highlighting initiatives to end the edible oil shortage. The government has introduced block farming with provision of certified seeds to farmers to increase production of sunflower, and the ministry was setting up irrigation offices in all districts, expecting to monitor developments in that field on a daily basis, he added.

## Special educators trained on autism

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

TEACHERS working with children with special educational needs in Hai district, Kilimanjaro region have been trained on autism and other brain disabilities including Down syndrome and hyperactive brain disorders in new drive to improve sustainable inclusive quality education.

The special training that was provided by the Gabriella Children Rehabilitation Centre (GCRC) over the weekend here as a part of series of activities aims to mark the International World Autism Awareness Day (IWAAD) which observed on April 2, every year. It is aimed at putting a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day.

GCRC executive director, Brenda Shuma said that most of the African communities tend to hide their children with disabilities at home, particularly those suffering from brain disorder.

"GCRC comes up with this special training programme for special needs teachers and care givers to create awareness to them on autism and other brain disorders for sustainable Inclusive Quality Education for all children in the community," she said, adding that most parents were unaware that the condition could be treated by special treatment, including rehabilitation.

Shuma further described autism as a developmental disability that starts appearing in children at the ages of three. Autism children often have intellectual disability requiring specialist support, though some can have normal intelligence and live a relatively normal life.

According to her, the disability may impact the child's ability to communicate and interact with others

effectively and may have Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), a situation that makes the child or youth's brain to be active above normal.

"We need to give such children the skills that will make them become productive in society and enable them to enjoy their lives," she said, adding: "Issues such as art and craft and cookery, could be taught to improve their competitiveness in the market, including gardening and livestock keeping."

She pointed out that her organization has been working with several groups of young disability children teaching them entrepreneurship skills. "We want more children with disability hidden in their homes to come out to attend our programmes," she insisted.

Hai District Special Needs Education Officer (DSNEO) Hidayat Kilima recommended the role played by the GCRC, adding that, the training is vital for sustainable teaching improvements for the special needs pupils and students in general.

Hidayat cited lack special needs teachers as a challenge, taking into account that there 33 primary schools and five secondary schools with special needs units, but they have only 11 teachers with teaching skills for children special needs.

WAAD aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day. As a growing global health issue owing to its increasing exposure in the press and common knowledge, autism is an issue that is only gaining more understanding and WAAD activities are planned every year to further increase and develop world knowledge of children and adults who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment and Youth), graces yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the Safeguard Young People Programme - sponsored by the Swiss government in collaboration with UNFPA. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# Tasaf called upon to empower more household beneficiaries

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

TANZANIA Social Action Fund (TASAF) has been urged to prepare strategies to have time limit and remove the Fund's beneficiaries who have been able to succeed economically so that new needy households are enrolled.

The call was given at the weekend by Mbeya District Commissioner, Dr Rashid Chuachua representing Mbeya Regional Commissioner at the National

TASAF governing council that visited beneficiaries in Rungwe district, Mbeya region.

Dr Chuachua said TASAF cannot reach all areas at one time. Hence there must be a strategy in place to remove households that have succeeded in their economic activities.

He added that as for now TASAF is supposed to reach households that are yet to benefit by TASAF funds.

Commenting on the matter, TASAF Director, Ladislaus Mwamanga said the

programme cannot continue providing funds to those who have already benefited, and that they have in place a procedure to identify others who are to be enrolled after verification of their details.

"In the Three to Five Year Plan, we continue mobilising all those who have been enrolled to start various development projects instead of using the money for other unprofitable activities," he said.

The Chairman of TASAF Governing

Council, Dr Naftal Ngondi said the Report for the programme implementation for Mbeya Region was going on well and praised coordinators and stressed that funds given should be used to alleviate poverty among the households.

Among TASAF beneficiaries, Sauda Mwamboneke from Rungwe Region said she has been able to establish a business, send children to school and build a good house through TASAF funds.



Omar Amir, a computer systems specialist with Vodacom Tanzania Plc, briefs students of Kagera Region's Rumuli Secondary School at the weekend on how to use the e-Fahamu service in accessing digital education wherever they may be. The training was organised by Vodacom Tanzania Foundation, which recently donated computers to a 50 public schools in ten regions in the country under the School Connectivity Project. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# NMB backs agro-sector uplift with 1.3trn/- loans

FROM PAGE 1

noting that the plan started last October and had already reached 3,700 borrowers, disbursed a total of 78.8bn/- so far.

NMB was also undertaking a financial inclusion drive enabling over 500,000 new accounts opened by farmers across the country, he stated, relating these accounts with special agriculture insurance packages and financing medical needs in conjunction with

the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

Health insurance loans had been extended by the bank to around 700 farming groups, amounting to 110m/- so far, he stated, highlighting also that capacity building among farmers had been cultivated on basis of agro-sector undertakings, their commercial feasibility, alongside taking up modern farming practices.

"A good example of that is training sea weed farmers in Zanzibar that

reached well over 3,000 people, transforming the way they farm for the better," he stated.

NMB is seeking to make finance uplifting viable and emancipate women via women banking, to empower them economically. The recent floating of an entrepreneur bond has paid off handsomely as the corporate security instrument was oversubscribed, he told the gathering.

In its pursuit of innovation, the bank has lately upgraded its agency

function to digital finance service, to accommodate more people in the cash in and cash out business, he further stated, explaining that the rebranding was intended to take NMB's financial services closer to where the people live.

Currently the bank has market reach in most districts, supported by a branch network of 227 outlets.

To consolidate this presence in the market to an operational competitive edge, NMB plans to open three new





Raphael Group director Raphael Ndelwa (2nd-R) symbolically gifts President Samia Suluhu Hassan one of the firm's products, 'pure aromatic rice'. This was at the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) booth in Dodoma city yesterday, as she moved to hand over working tools to agricultural extension officers. Witnessing the event are Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (2nd-L) and TADB managing director Frank Nyabundege (C). Raphael Group, one of the beneficiaries of TADB's credit facilities, produces rice and other cereals for sale within and outside Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt issues two-month ultimatum to hospital to improve customer care

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has issued two months ultimatum to the management of Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) to improve customer care services.

Deputy minister for Health Dr Godwin Mollle issued the order yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the launch of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS)'s blood drive.

The blood drive is aimed to sensitise the varsity's students and staff as well as the public to donate blood so as to help patients with blood cancers.

Dr Mollle said they have received a number of complaints from the public on lack of good customer care services at the national hospital and what was needed is to make required changes so as to enable patients to receive quality services.

"MNH is doing very well in medical and specialised services, but only one area of customer care, so the management has to invest heavily to improve this part because some patients are sometimes forced to seek for services in other private hospitals," he explained.

He hailed the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) for investing in good customer care, something which places it as one of the best public health facilities.

He said as the government finalises processes for health services for all insurance, public hospitals should invest in improving services and especially good customer care services.

Dr Mollle commended MUHAS for organising the blood donation day so as to support patients who are struggling for life in hospitals.

He emphasised that blood should be given to patients for free. "Some coordinators in regional zones were not playing their roles well, but we brought them together and directed and reminded them of their roles and

I believe now they are doing their part well in promoting and encouraging people to donate blood," he said.

He wanted MUHAS and other colleges in the county to improve curriculums, services so as to produce innovative and competent graduates who will be able to address challenges facing the society.

He wanted scientists to invest in research and come up with special solutions which are not found anywhere in the world so as to improve health care services and reduce disease burden in the country.

"The government is also investing in financing research so as to find permanent solutions to various health challenges facing the public. We will channel enough funds to support the health colleges to invest in research so as to reduce disease burden in the country," he asserted.

He added: "There is no way we can succeed to improve the health sector without investing in research."

Magdalena Lyimo the programme manager for the national blood transfusion service said Tanzania faces a deficit of 40 per cent of blood, so the public should come forward to donate blood and save the lives of others.

"We should work together to ensure that blood is available all the time in hospitals. We thank MUHAS for organising this special day so as to collect blood to support patients who are in need," she said.

MUHAS deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics, Research and Consultancy), Prof Apolinary Kamuhabwa said the varsity has continued to invest in curriculum and services so as to produce competent graduates to work in the health sector.

He also said the college will also invest much in coming up with researched solutions to address challenges, especially the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

## Tanzania to receive 961 Israeli tourists next week

By Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIA will next week receive 961 tourists from Israel to see the country's tourism potential and experience what it has to offer in the sector.

Briefing journalists from different media houses yesterday Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) board chairman Judge (rtd) Thomas Mihayo said the 1st batch of the 361 Israeli tourists will arrive in Tanzania on April 9th, while other 600 tourists will arrive on April 16th.

"As TTB we are very glad for this tour because while in Tanzania

they will have the opportunity to visit various tourist attractions in northern circuit.

He said although COVID-pandemic had affected different countries across the globe, the number of tourist's arrivals from Israel has continued to increase in Tanzania.

According to Judge Mihayo, between 2020 and 2021, the number had increased from 620,867 in 2020 to 992,692 tourists in 2021 that is equivalent to 48.6 per cent.

As result, the tourism earnings had increased from USD714.59 million in 2020 to USD 1,254.4 million in 2021

which is equal to 76 percent.

On domestic tourists, he said also the number of local tourists who visited the tourist's attractions within the country has increased from 562,549 tourists in 2020 to 788,933 in 2021 equivalent to 40.2 per cent.

The tourism income generated from local tourists has increased from 9.7bn/- to 12.4bn/- in 2021 equivalent to 27.8 per cent.

He also commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan's royal tour, programme that had improved tourist arrivals and investors in Tanzania.

So far, 30 tour operators and travel

agents from USA, UK and Israel had already visited in Tanzania for a familiarisation trips to see what the country has to offer in the tourism sector and to promote tourism potentials in their respective countries.

Apart from that, investors from Bulgaria are expecting to invest in accommodation facilities with highest standards as well as build five star lodge in Serengeti, Manyara region and in Tarangire National Park including Ngorongoro that will be operated by the Kempiski Company.

### UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA PRESIDENT'S OFFICE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MSIMBAZI BASIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania, through President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and the Ministry of Works and Transportation, intends to implement Msimbazi Basin Development Project.

The main project objective is to mitigate floods within the basin, especially on the lower part of the basin, and optimize opportunities which will result from flood mitigation interventions. The project will recontour the lower basin to increase conveyance capacity of storm water resulting into having flood plains and safer lands which will then be used for urban redevelopment and city park. The project will also implement erosion control measures in the upstream, solid waste management programmes and associated interventions and construct a new bridge at the Jangwani area.

One of initial activities of the project is to resettle communities that reside in flood prone areas in the sixteen (16) identified sub-wards "mitaa". The resettlement will be guided by Tanzanian law and regulations in line with World Bank Resettlement policies.

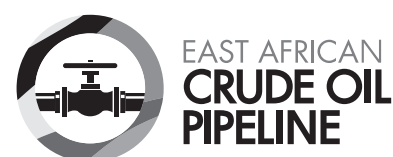
PO-RALG hired a Consultant (i.e., NORPLAN(T) Ltd) to prepare Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the flood prone communities. The Consultant commenced the assignment on November 10, 2021, by identifying Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and their properties. This is to inform the public that the Government prohibits any kind of development in the identified area from the said cut-off date onwards.

In proceedings of RAP preparation, PO-RALG, in collaboration with the Consultant, intends to carry out verification exercise to all PAPs and their properties as well as confirming preferred resettlement option for each PAP, whether it is "cash compensation" or "in-kind compensation". The exercise will be done for two (2) weeks from April 04, 2022. Please consult your respective sub-ward "mtaa" offices for the exercise schedule.

PO-RALG is requesting necessary cooperation from the PAPs for achieving timely and successful implementation of the verification exercise.

PERMANENT SECRETARY

216785601



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT IN THE FORM OF ERW QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL TO IMAS STANDARDS SPECIALIST ADVISORY SERVICES FOR EACOP REFERENCE NO: 10007568

East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their interest in Provision of EOD (Explosive Ordinance Disposal) Quality Assurance and Quality Control Services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania. Parts of the project area are affected by ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) which require clearance prior to project construction works. As part of the service there is a requirements for professional oversight in the form of Quality Assurance and Quality Control to IMAS standards (International Mine Action Standards). The role is 100% field based. In addition, there may be a requirement for magnetometer datalogging services to be conducted.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES :

The Company is current looking for the Company which shall provide the following services:

- Provision of IMAS QA/QC services
- Optional, but highly desirable, capability to conduct Magnetometer datalogging services
  - o Data capture
  - o Data analysis
- Complete support services to enable team to be self-sufficient during field deployment including:
  - o Full on site mobile medical support (Paramedic & Vehicle)
  - o Community liaison team as detailed by EACOP
  - o Survey Capability to achieve Sub-1m accuracy for recording purpose & GIS mapping data

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
  - Proof of IMAS Qualified QA/ QC Officer:
    - o Qualified by internationally recognised EOD training establishment to L3 IMAS Standard
    - o Proven experience in instruction of IMAS subjects to L3 standard
    - o Minimum 10yrs EOD Experience
    - o Comprehensive knowledge of IMAS reporting systems and mapping
    - o Recognised First Aid Qualification
  - Proof of previous experience in provision of Mine Action/ EOD Services in Africa.
  - Proof of experience working on projects with high levels of local engagement and liaison
  - Proof of business registration and business license for Tanzania.
  - Registration with the Tanzania Tax Revenue Authority.
  - Proof of Tanzania Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
  - Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
  - Compliance with Petroleum (Local Content) Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition for Tanzania

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [procurement.tz@eacop.com](mailto:procurement.tz@eacop.com) (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **15:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on Wednesday **13<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. Email subject should be **10007568**

**Note:**The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English language.

216778401



# Government to review National Youth Policy

By Getrude Mbago

THE government is currently reviewing the National Youth Policy which focuses on incorporating all important things that will help young people realise their full potential politically, socially and economically.

Deputy minister, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Patrobas Katambi said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the official launch of the Safeguard Young People (SYP) programme.

The three-year programme worth 14.3bn/- aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of adolescent and young people aged between 10-24 years. It will be implemented collaboratively by the government, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Swiss embassy.

He said once completed, the policy will also facilitate review and enactment of laws and regulations to further meet youth needs.

"We will ensure that the review process engages all important groups including youth, children and elders, we expect to send the draft of the policy before the parliamentary committee before starting collecting views from various areas to improve it," he said.

He appreciated the Swiss embassy through the Swiss Development Cooperation for facilitating the implementation of the Program which will help improve and enhance the welfare and development of youth and adolescents especially in the areas of health, education, participation and economic empowerment.

He said the government has taken various steps to address challenges facing young people through the implementation of the Life Skills Program which involves self-awareness, confidence, goal setting and decision making so as to promote self-employment.

UNFPA country representative Mark Bryan Schreiner said the SYP program empowers adolescents and young people aged 10 to 24 years (with special focus on adolescent girls) to

protect themselves from diseases, early and unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, early marriage, gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices, while promoting gender-equitable norms.

He said the programme comes as complementary intervention to the existing programs targeting young people in health, governance and livelihoods spheres adding that it will be implemented in six regions Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar

He named the regions as Simiyu, Shinyanga, Dodoma, Kigoma, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar adding that the future plan was to scale the programme to other regions depending on the performance.

Didier Chassot, Swiss ambassador to Tanzania said last year, Switzerland marked 40 years of development cooperation partnership with Tanzania.

"We appreciate that the path to sustainable development is not linear and does not allow for quick-fix solutions. We believe long-term engagement is essential and thus my country, and our Embassy, are deeply committed to continue strengthening this bilateral cooperation towards the achievement of Tanzania's important and ambitious goals," he said.

He said in 2013, Switzerland supported UNFPA to launch the Safeguard Young People programme in Southern Africa, covering Zambia, Eswatini, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Lesotho and it has extended to Tanzania.

He added increased numbers of an educated, healthy and empowered working age population provide indeed a dynamic opportunity for attaining sustainable economic gains.

Zlatan Milicic, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Tanzania said "As a One UN family, we have heard the voices of young people, and the focus of the new Safeguard Young People program across the African and I believe that all issues mentioned and discussed are imbedded in the four strategic priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2027."



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) communications manager Everlasting Lyaro (with microphone) briefs Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi (2nd-L, in blue) in the city yesterday on the agency's activities. It was during the opening of a Science and Water Symposium. Looking on: Water College principal Dr Adam Karia (L) and Water ministry deputy permanent secretary Nadhifa Kemikimba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Transportation of people on cargo vehicles banned

By Guardian Correspondent

THE police force (traffic department) has banned lorries and other transit motor vehicles to carry passengers, saying stringent measures will be taken against drivers violating the directive.

Speaking over the weekend at the closing of a special road safety education programme dubbed: Children's Court which involved pupils from nine public primary schools in Dar es Salaam region, Traffic Police Commander, Wilbrod Mutafungwa said traffic officers will conduct inspection of the vehicles and check

whether they have road safety stickers.

Mutafungwa said drivers violating the directive will be punished accordingly as well as having their vehicles seized by the force. He said owners of the vehicles will be punished since they are the ones to stop drivers from carrying passengers. He said lorries are meant to transport luggage and not human beings, which contributed to road crashes.

"The law allows drivers of vehicles on transit to other countries to carry only one passenger. Vehicles transporting newspapers are also prohibited from carrying passengers. Both owners and

drivers must obey traffic regulations," he said, calling upon passengers going to upcountry regions to use registered passenger buses.

Commander Mutafungwa said that his officers will conduct training to lorry drivers at the port of Dar es Salaam whereas among other things drivers will be insisted on the importance of ensuring that containers are properly locked throughout the journey. "We will talk to drivers at the port of Dar es Salaam for purposes of discussing and reminding each other of the obligation to comply with the road safety laws.

The road safety program which

is implemented by the force in collaboration with Amend is a continuation of previous programs which aimed at imparting road safety education to students and drivers who later on become road safety ambassadors.

Data from the force indicates that in 2021, a total of 1245 people lost their lives and 2,023 were injured in road accidents. Of the number, 56 were students who lost their lives and 65 others were injured.

According to the traffic commander, more needs to be done to reduce road accidents, saying school children are at risk because they use the roads on a daily basis to and from school.

He also called on the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and the Tanzania Rural Roads Agency (TARURA) to ensure roads are safe for all users as well as placing road signs at all roads especially those near schools.

# Livestock, Fisheries ministry spent 300bn/- in last 5 years treating animal diseases - PS

By Francis Kajubi

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries had spent almost 300bn/- in the last five years to treat livestock diseases in order to bridge the knowledge gap between pastoralists and veterinary officers on livestock emerging epidemic diseases.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary Tixson Nzunda (Livestock) said in Dar es Salaam last Friday at a graduation ceremony of 25 veterinary officers from different regions of the country who had pursued a four months building capacity training programme.

Dubbed 'In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISA-VET)', the programme is intended at grooming veterinary officers at the district level on detecting and acting on emerging livestock epidemic diseases.

"Almost 70 percent of epidemic diseases from humans to livestock and vice versa are yet to be fully controlled. The ministry had spent between 250bn/- and 300bn/- in treating livestock epidemic diseases that can be prevented from occurrence if veterinary officers could properly link themselves to pastoralists by educating them on detection of the diseases and urgent treatments," said Nzunda.

According to him, if the disease knowledge gap between pastoralists and veterinary officers is well bridged, such money could be used in other areas of the ministry.

According to him, the ministry is preparing a 1.95trn/- strategic plan starting with the 2022/23 financial year that targets and transforms the livestock sector to make it more productive through resource mobilization and make the sector offer a vast amount of opportunities to all players.

The plan, he said, is being purposely framed at making the livestock sector a leader in offering employment

opportunities in the country.

"I would also like to encourage veterinary officers to adopt the habit of drafting proposals that will convince the ministry to provide their districts or villages with funds for different programmes. It is unfortunate that I have visited almost all districts but find veterinary officers without plans of how they will earn extra funds apart from the allocated budgets for their operations," he said.

He called upon the veterinary officers to go and conduct deep research on trans-boundary diseases.

Dr Moses Ole-Neselle, ISA-VET Programme Coordinator said that the 25 officers come from local government authority, veterinary laboratories at district and village levels, Livestock Training Agency (LITA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and mentors from the Zonal Veterinary Centers (ZVC).

"Themed developing skills in the animal health workforce, the programme targets at training 300 veterinary officers by the year 2025. Our training is focused on epidemiological diseases detection and surveillance, field investigation and response," he said.

He said that the programme is being funded by the USAID and coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Dr Nyabenyi Tipu, FAO Country Representative, said that among other aspects, the organization is focused on livestock welfare that includes disease and researches for better health of humans and livestock.

"This is part of ensuring there is global health security. In this country we know that many communities rely on the livestock sector for their livelihoods this ISA-VET programme is critical," said Dr Tipu.



Brenda Shuma, executive director of Hai District's Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre, pictured at the weekend lecturing teachers of special needs children on autism. It was all in commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day (April 2). Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

# UNICEF calls for protection of most vulnerable children

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A new study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is calling for the government to take immediate action to save the plight of children in the country.

The study shows that Tanzania's child aged 0-17 years the population in 2015 was 24 million, 27 million in 2020 and is projected to be 58 million in 2050 - which is more than double.

The study indicates that situation, if the current inequities continue to persist; the country will not be able to achieve its Vision 2025 nor the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

It shows that despite decreased neonatal mortality rate in Tanzania, nearly half of all under-five deaths in the mainland and Zanzibar occur in the first month of life.

A baby born in an urban area in the country is twice as likely to die in the first month of life as a baby from a rural area, being 39 per 1000 live births

compared to 20 per 1000 live births.

Presetting a paper on themed, "Situation of Children in Tanzania" before the parliamentary cross-cutting committees, Usia Nkoma, Communication Specialist at UNICEF noted that the time to act is now.

She said almost three in four children in the country have experienced physical violence during their childhood as 72 percent boys and 73 girls aged 13-24 years have experienced physical violence during their childhood.

Some of the types of physical violence include slapping, punching, hitting with a fist, kicking, beating, attacking or threatening with a gun or a knife.

Main perpetrators, she said include relative, figure of authority like teachers, among others whose actions include slap of an upset parent, the sexual advance by a neighbor or relative, bullying from other classmates at school.

"Globally, every five minutes a

child dies as a result of violence, they are victims of violence every day, everywhere" she said, adding that millions more live in fear of physical, emotional and sexual violence.

The study shows that teenage pregnancy among girls aged 15-19 in the mainland is 27.3 percent and 8.2 percent of girls of the same age in Zanzibar have started child bearing.

The report, citing Basic Education Statistics in Tanzania (BEST-2021), states that currently, only 34.2 percent of five-year-old children are accessing pre-primary education, with the lowest being Dar es Salaam, being 14.9 percent and the highest Njombe with 58.8 percent.

Some of the challenges associated with this include high pupil-to-qualified teacher's ratio. Teachers use mostly "basic" instructions, which means rote learning, and teacher-centred pedagogy is very common, states the report. "98 percent of pre-primary classrooms have no storybooks" shows the report.

In primary education, one in every five primary school children is out of school in the country. Primary school-aged boys, being 24.7 percent are more likely than girls to, 21.7 percent to be out of school. It also shows that rural children are three times as likely as their urban peers to be out of school.

School sanitation is also lagging behind as only 29.5 percent and 58.3 percent of schools in mainland and Zanzibar have basic sanitation services.

Maswa East MP, Stanslaus Nyongo who chaired the meeting thanked UNICEF for the good work that depicts the real situation of the state of Tanzanian children.

He said as lawmakers, they will urge the government to invest further in children. "Investment in children is very important for they hold the future of our nation and generations" he said.

Special Seats MP Shally Raymond, on her part also thanked UNICEF for unveiling statistics that could not be easily accessed, adding that that it is time for the government to act.





Salma Wibonela, head of the nursing department at Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), pictured yesterday taking students of the city's Haven of Peace Academy through the basics of preventing infections. The students were on a study tour focused on the diagnosis and treatment of heart conditions. Photo courtesy of JKCI

# Arusha city to have four zonal hospitals

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA city council has thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her one-year leadership by improving health services and for plans to build zonal hospitals.

Speaking here yesterday to reporters in his office, Arusha city council director, Dr John Pima said the government has decided to build hospitals in four zones in the city to streamline health services provision.

He said the decision has been endorsed by the city councillors and the hospitals will be built in Muriet, Moshono, Olmot and Central wards.

He added that the Muriet zone will use Muriet hospital and already the council has set aside 200m/- to purchase a modern generator as well as for refurbishing infrastructure, including buildings for specialist services.

"Muriet hospital will be the same level as a district hospital, we want it to provide specialist services so that patients are referred direct to the Mt Meru referral hospital and not to district hospital," he said.

He said another hospital will be

built in Moshono ward, another one at Olmot and already 600m/o has been allocated and construction work is expected to be completed before December this year.

"All in all, President samia has helped in strengthening health services in our City, we are proud of having her as president, and after this year you will all problems regarding health services will have been solved," Dr Pima added.

He said the central zone will use the Kaloleni Hospital, that has been upgraded with modern equipment and all hospitals will be available at the hospital.

The Head of the Laboratory Department at the Central Zone Hospital, Dr Erasto Kyando said the hospital has a modern laboratory with specialist services with a machine for kidney, liver examination and one for the full blood picture.

*"Muriet hospital will be the same level as a district hospital, we want it to provide specialist services so that patients are referred direct to the Mt Meru referral hospital and not to district hospital"*

# African ambassadors promise to refurbish the former Kongwa military training camp

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AMBASSADORS from countries in southern Africa have pledged to refurbish the military training camp used by former freedom fighters and stressed to preserve the historical past.

The made the pledge at the weekend during their visit to Kongwa District to see the military camp and training centre for former freedom fighters.

The envoys include the Mozambican Ambassador to Tanzania, Ricardo Mtumbuida, Angola's Ambassador Sandro Renato Agostinho De Oliveira and others from Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Speaking on behalf of fellow envoys, Mozambican ambassador Mtumbuida said the aim of the visit was to see and learn the history of their countries in collaboration with the government of Tanzania and find ways to preserve that history.

"We have come to see the former settlements of freedom fighters from Mozambique, Angola, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe in order to see their conditions, we have seen they have started to deteriorate, when we go back to Dar es Salaam we shall meet to plan how we can assist the district, as well as the Tanzania government to rehabilitate the settlements so that history is not erased," said Ambassador Mtumbuida.

He added that many African countries received assistance from Tanzania to gain their independence.

"We were supported by Tanzania and we thank the father of the Nation, late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere because he was able to push fellow leaders when he said Tanzania will not consider itself to be free if all African countries were not free, hence he held our hands and opened up this place," he added.

For his part, Kongwa District Commissioner, Remedius Mwema said it is of great respect for Kongwa district to be among the history of the liberation of Southern African countries.

He said it would be better for Tanzanians to value the history in Kongwa District because it mobilises for patriotism, better relations built by all nations that fought for their liberation.

He added that Kongwa District is an important area that reminds by past prominent leaders.

The Chairman of Kongwa District Council, White Zuberi said the district has a wide history due to having hosted a camp for African freedom fighters.

He said the camp was built in 1964 and freedom fighters from Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa used to live.



**We were supported by Tanzania and we thank the father of the Nation, late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere because he was able to push fellow leaders when he said Tanzania will not consider itself to be free if all African countries were not free, hence he held our hands and opened up this place**

**Canara Bank (Tanzania) Ltd.**  
(Together, we can build a better life)

### PUBLICATION OF INTEREST RATES, FEES AND CHARGES

PURSUANT TO REGULATION 11 OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DISCLOSURE REGULATION, 2014 AND REGULATION 40(3)(a) OF THE FINANCIAL CONSUMER PROTECTION 2019.

TZS		USD		E. REMITTANCES	
A. SAVINGS BANK				TZS	USD
1. Monthly Maintenance Charges	FREE	FREE	FREE	1. TISS	
2. Non Maintenance of Minimum Balance	FREE	FREE	FREE	2. E Remittances	
3. A/C Statement Charges	FREE	FREE	FREE	Upto USD 1000 or Eq. TZS	TZS 8,450.00
a) Monthly		FREE	FREE	1001 to 5000	\$ 9.00
b) Interim	TZS 4,300.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	5001 to 10000	\$ 11.00
4. Cash Withdrawal Charges	FREE	Up to 5000	FREE	10,001 and above	\$ 22.00
5. Cash Deposit Charges	FREE	Above 5000	0.26%	3. SWIFT	\$ 43.00
6. Balance Confirmation certificate	TZS 12,800.00	FREE	FREE	a) Swift Outward	
7. A/c Closure charges	TZS 12,800.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	Upto 5,000	NA
8. Activation of Dormat A/c	TZS 5,100.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	5,001 to 10,000	\$ 39.00
				above 10,000	\$ 77.00
				b) Swift Inward	
				Upto 5,000	NA
				5,001 to 10,000	\$ 11.00
				above 10,000	\$ 26.00
B. CURRENT ACCOUNT				F. LOAN/ADVANCES RELATED CHARGES	
1. Monthly Maintenance Charges	FREE	FREE	FREE	1. Processing Charges	
2. Non Maintenance of Minimum Balance	FREE	FREE	FREE	Upto 5 Mio -	TZS 21,200.00
3. A/C Statement Charges	TZS 4,300.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	5Mio to 10 Mio -	TZS 169,500.00
a) Monthly		Fixed	Fixed	Upto 5,000 -	\$85.00
b) Interim	TZS 4,300.00	plus For each page	For each page	5Mio to 10 Mio -	TZS 339,000.00
		TZS 500.00	\$1.00	10 Mio to 25mio -	TZS 339,000.00
				25 mn to 500 mio	1.28%
				500mio-*	1.06%
				>500,000-*	1.06%
				(*minimum 7,500)	
4. Cash Withdrawal Charges	UPTO 25 MILLION FREE	Upto 5000	FREE	2. Documentation Charges	
	ABOVE 25 MILLION 0.11%	5000 to 10,000 -	0.26%	Upto 100 MILLION	FREE
		Above 10,000	0.43%	>100 mio - (Min 300,000)	0.26%
				Upto 5Mio -	TZS 21,200.00
				5 Mio to 10 Mio -	TZS 169,500.00
				10Mio 25mio -	TZS 381,400.00
				25 mn to 500 mio -	1.53%
				>500mio-*	1.28%
				(*minimum 9mio)	
5. Cash Deposit Charges	UPTO 50 MIO FREE	Upto 10,000	FREE	3. Upfront fee on Term Loan	
	ABOVE 50 Million 0.11%	10,000-	0.26%	Upto 100 Mio -	TZS 21,200.00
		>	0.26%	>100 mio -	TZS 42,400.00
5. Balance Confirmation certificate	TZS 12,800.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	6. Pre-payment penalty	1.70%
6. Stop Payment Charges	TZS 25,500.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	calculated as % pre-paid amount in the case of takeover of liability by other bank/lenders	of pre-paid amount in the case of takeover of liability by other bank/lenders
7. Cheque Clearing Charges					1.70%
a) Inward	TZS 1,300.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00		
b) Outward	FREE	FREE	FREE		
8. Cheque Return Charges					
a) Inward	TZS 25,500.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00		
b) Outward	TZS 25,500.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00		
9. A/c closure charges	TZS 21,200.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00		
C. MOBILE BANKING CHARGES				G. Guarantees (Local & International)	
1. Cash Withdrawal				Bonds & Guarantees	(Min TZS 75,000) 1.02%
Upto 100,000	TZS 1,700.00	NA	NA	Bonds & Guarantees with 100 % Cash Margin	(Min TZS 75,000) 0.43%
101,000 to 200,000	TZS 2,600.00	NA	NA		
201,000 to 400,000	TZS 4,300.00	NA	NA		
401,000 to 600,000	TZS 5,100.00	NA	NA		
601,000 to 999,000	TZS 6,800.00	NA	NA		
2. Funds Transfer/Mobile Wallet					
Upto 100,000	TZS 500.00	NA	NA		
101,000 to 250,000	TZS 900.00	NA	NA		
251,000 to 500,000	TZS 1,700.00	NA	NA		
501,000 to 1,000,000	TZS 4,300.00	NA	NA		
1,001,000 TO 10 Mn	TZS 8,500.00	NA	NA		
D. LOCKERS RENT YEARLY				H. LETTER OF CREDIT	
1. SMALL	TZS 296,700.00	NA	NA	Import Letter of Credit (per qtr of Part thereof)	
2. MEDIUM	TZS 508,500.00	NA	NA	Opening commission	NA
3. BIG	TZS 635,600.00	NA	NA	LC amendment Commission	NA
				Swift charge for LC opening	NA
				Swift charge for other message/amendments	NA
				Extensions - Commissions	NA
				LC cancellation charges	NA
				Non payment of Bills on due date	NA
				Export Letters of Credit (per quarter or part thereof)	
				Advising commission	NA
				Confirmation Commission	NA
				Negotiating bills under LC	NA
				Reimbursement claim paid	NA
				Extensions - Commissions	NA
				Collection of Export LC	NA
				Amendments	NA
					NA

#### OTHER DISCLOSURES(VIAMBATANISHI)

	TZS	USD		
1. Base or Prime Lending Rate	16	7	i. Fixed Deposits of TZS	Amount in TZS
2. Maximum spread above Base or Prime Lending Rate	5	5		up to TZS 50 Million
3. Penal Interest				Over TZS 50 Million
a. For non compliance on Terms of Saction	3% p.a over regular rate of interest			Above 100 Million
b. For Overdrawing/Excess drawing due to non payment of interest/installment/charges	5% p.a over regular rate of interest		30 -90days	3.50%
4. Deposit Rates			91-180days	4.50%
a. Current account	Niil	Niil	181-364 days	5.50%
b. Savings bank deposit	3.00%	1.00%	Above 1 year	8.00%
				8.25%
				8.50%
			ii. Fixed Deposits of USD	Amount in USD
				up to USD 50,000
				Over USD 50,000
				Over USD 100,000
				30 -90days
				1.50%
				91-180days
				2.00%
				181-364 days
				2.50%
				Above 1 year
				3.00%
				3.50%
				4.00%

	GM-OPERATIONS	SIGNED	01-04-2022
JOHN CHARLES SALMA MRISHO	HEAD TREASURY AND TRADE FINANCE	SIGNED	01-04-2022
KAUSHENDRA TIWARI	GM-CREDIT	SIGNED	01-04-2022





## RE-ADVERTISEMENT

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SANY SPARES TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED TANZANIA**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Sany spares and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this equipment as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

## Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01381	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SANY SPARES TO GGML

## II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>	<b>5%</b>
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	<b>5%</b>
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
<b>OTHER POLICIES</b>	<b>5%</b>
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>5%</b>
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01381)</b>	<b>60%</b>
Ability to supply OEM – Sany Parts	20%
Warranty terms clearly stipulated	20%
Dealership proof clearly indicated	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01381)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than **8.30AM 15TH April 2022** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



## RE-ADVERTISEMENT

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS CHEMICALS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of Procuring Various chemicals and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest as per details below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

## Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01940	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS CHEMICALS TO GGML

## II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>	<b>5%</b>
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	<b>5%</b>
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
<b>OTHER POLICIES</b>	<b>5%</b>
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>5%</b>
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01940)</b>	<b>60%</b>
Product specifications per operational standards (E.g., concentration, etc.)	10%
Quality control assurance	5%
Chemical & Physical characteristics (e.g., physical form, capacity in weight, etc)	10%
Included information in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)	15%
Packaging standards	5%
Information about means of disposal	10%
Other relevant technical Information (e.g. expiry date, etc.)	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01940)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than **8.30AM 15th April 2022** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=





CRDB Bank Plc Ruangwa branch officers sensitise residents of the district's Nangurugai village late last week on the importance of national IDs and financial management. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Govt to continue coordinating all nutrition matters to arrest stunting

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government will continue coordinating and supervising all policies regarding nutrition issues as a step to fight malnutrition and stunting in the community.

The remarks were made by the Director of Budget in the Prime Minister's Office, Eleuter Kihwele at a training seminar for capacity building of the Office's Management in regard to the implementation of the Nutrition Second Inclusive Plan in the country as provided by Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) for 2022.

He said the Five Year National Nutrition Plan stresses in involving the private sector to participate in all steps in the planning and implementing issues on nutrition, as well as the involvement of the people themselves.

"The nutrition issue is crosscutting; it involves all stakeholders in the entire concept in changing eating habits that abides by nutrition basics, hence there must be the documents for the Five Year Nutrition Plan that will be easy to be understood by the people to implement," he said.

He added that the PM Office has a big responsibility to ensure the country's nutrition issues by monitoring the First Five Year Nutrition Plan before starting the Second one.

"This meeting has been of great benefit to participants and stakeholders in attendance by knowing which stakeholders who are supposed to monitor these issues, hence it has been an important opportunity for the PMO's Management, especially to heads of departments who are overseeing these issues," Kihwele added.

For his part, Senior TFNC Researcher Luitfried Peter said 3.3 million women of 15 to 49 years of age are faced with acute shortage of blood which is cited as a big challenge.

"In East African countries, the level of stunting is 31 per cent, while WHO recommends the level to be under 20 per cent, hence we still have a great job to do to attain this level that would ensure every person is in good health," he said.

TFNC Acting Director for Policy and Planning, Geoffrey Chiduo said 15 regions lead in stunting with more than 30 per cent.

"The issue could not be food production, but it mainly concerns the understanding of nutrition issues, including the types of foods fed to the children," he added.

**“The issue could not be food production, but it mainly concerns the understanding of nutrition issues, including the types of foods fed to the children”**

# Villagers in Mbeya connected to national electricity grid 61 yrs late

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

VILLAGERS in Mbonile village - Ulenje Ward in Mbeya district, Mbeya region have expressed their happiness after the village had been connected with the national electricity grid since the country's independence in 1961.

They have been walking more than 10 kms to look for maize milling machines in neighbouring villages, thanks to the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) through Rural Energy Agency (REA) lighted up the village with electricity.

Speaking over the weekend soon after REA lighted up the power in

their area over the weekend they said that the new initiative is expected to open more investment opportunities in the village including those who are interested in milling machines.

One of the village residents, Zainabu Richard expressed her happiness saying: "We're currently enjoying the electricity in the village by having a maize milling service just closer to our homes and getting other essential services within the area."

Before, she said: "We used to walk long distances from our village to other villages such as Maadilisho and Irambo to get milling machines services and thanks TANESCO has brought us

electricity now we are grinding maize here."

Another villager, Gervas Kembo said people in the area are now encouraged to install electricity in their homes, urging the government to continue to improve infrastructure-health facilities and dispensaries so that medical services are available near their areas.

Ulenje Ward Councilor Eng. Boniface Njombe thanked the government for bringing the electricity service closer to villagers' homes and that the availability of the service has facilitated entrepreneurial activities, noting that women have been busy with different

economic activities, compared to the past when power wasn't there.

TanESCO regional manager, Eng. Mathia Solongo said among the organization's strategies is to provide electricity to the people, stressing that through REA, the corporation continues to supply electricity to all rural areas that have not been reached by the service at a guide price of 27,000/-.

"Our goal as TanESCO is to ensure that every day we connect 200 electricity customers in Mbeya region and that we plan to increase efforts to increase the workforce to supply electricity on time," said Eng Solongo.

# Foundation embarks on campaign to help government in the fight against COVID-19

By Guardian Reporter

A non-governmental organisation, Henry Jackson Foundation Medical Research International (HJFMRI) has embarked on a campaign to support government in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic in Njombe region.

The initiative according to the foundation's Managing Director David Maganga was part of the national Uhuru Torch race launching which took place in Njombe over the weekend.

"We have working on a campaign to fight HIV/Aids and other diseases in the southern highlands regions but now we are expanding our work to emphasizing the need for covid-19 vaccine uptake," he said.

He said the foundation plans to work with government in combating HIV/Aids and Covid-19 in regions of Mbeya,

Songwe Katavi, Rukwa and Ruvuma.

"We decided to use this opportunity especially the Uhuru torch race to introduce a campaign against Covid-19 in Njombe," he said.

He said the foundation was operating with funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which has facilitated construction of testing laboratories in referral hospitals in some of the hospitals.

The head of research for the foundation Dr Emanuel Bahemana said the foundation was working on 47 military centres across the country including Zanzibar.

"Through the programme to combat HIV/AIDS we have also embedded instruments to fight covid-19 so that the war can go together," he said.


Other organizations that have

pledged support to the initiatives includes FHI360-EPIC, National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Baylo Tanzania, MDH and Mbeya Referral Hospital

**“We decided to use this opportunity especially the Uhuru torch race to introduce a campaign against Covid-19 in Njombe”**

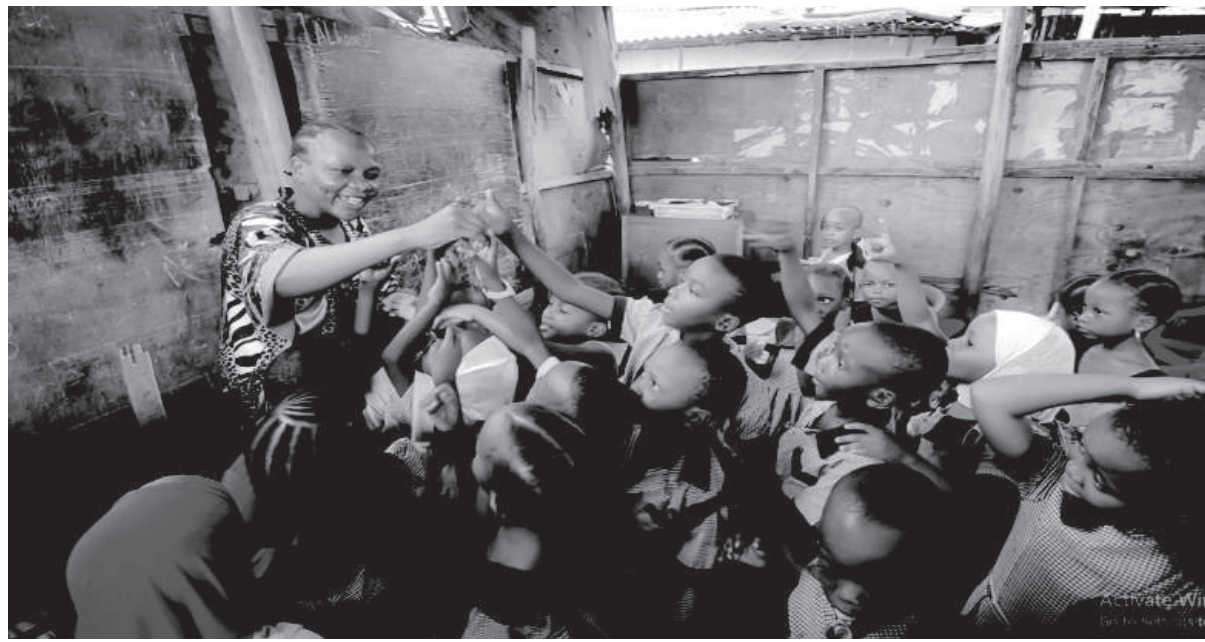


Vicky Ford (R), the UK's Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, views Serengeti Breweries Ltd products during her visit to the firm's plant in Moshi municipality yesterday. Left is the plant's manager, Alice Kilembe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



**EXCITING CONSULTANCY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)**

Baseline Study and Programme Design for a new market systems oriented programme to support private provision of ECD/E Daycare in low income high density areas of Dar es Salaam



Children in Crossfire is an Irish-based international NGO whose purpose is to respond to the rights and needs of young children caught in the crossfire of global poverty and injustice. Children in Crossfire Tanzania focuses on increasing access to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) supporting children's developmental needs and giving them a chance to reach their fullest potential. For more information go to: [www.childrenincrossfire.org](http://www.childrenincrossfire.org)


Children in Crossfire Tanzania currently implements ECD programmes with a particular focus on early learning. We are piloting a new programme to support improved quality and equitable access to ECD/E daycare in high-density low income areas of Dar es Salaam City (Dar). The private market for ECD/E daycare in Dar is thriving especially in the informal economy. Children in Crossfire is looking to develop the outline of a potential social franchise model that supports these ECD/E daycare centres to improve the quality of early learning provision, support more sustainable profitable business models, and meet minimum regulatory requirements.

We are looking for a consultant team that brings together experience and expertise for a joint consultancy to design and conduct a **baseline assessment** as part of a repeated cross sectional study to analyse changes to target populations over time, and to facilitate the **programme design** using a market systems development approach to support quality and equitable access to private ECD/E daycare provision in low income Dar.

A detailed **Terms of Reference** can be downloaded from: <https://www.childrenincrossfire.org/stay-connected/join-our-team> The Terms of Reference sets out the scope of work, deliverables and timelines; as well as the required experience and qualifications of the consultants, and tendering procedures and selection criteria.

A proposal should be submitted by email to Children in Crossfire at: [jobstz@childrenincrossfire.org](mailto:jobstz@childrenincrossfire.org) with the subject line: "Proposal - Dar Urban ECD Programme". A short cover letter should indicate the candidate's availability to undertake the assignment within the proposed timescale. Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

The closing time for receipts of applications is midnight **Tuesday 19 April 2022, local time in Tanzania.**





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## Transfer teachers only if conditions are conducive

WHILE regional administrations are furnishing data on completion of schools and starting of classes almost immediately especially at the start of the past month, all is not well with those who are seconded, or transferred, to those schools. Many of them don't quite relish leaving more comfortable urban surroundings in particular, as they have more excess staff than rural locations, so their complaints may not just relate to the state of infrastructure. Yet with that background other discomforts inch up anger sharply.

Reports say that a large number of teachers in Mbeya Region have appealed to the government to allocate them work stations whose infrastructures have been completed, citing low work performance and likely poor results when the opposite is the case.

While we can't speak for each of the new schools involved, chances are that the buildings outlay and specific facilities were in the course of being completed, as at any rate there are procedures and standards that must be met for a school to open its doors. Errors though are possible, and those who are sent there a bit too early start looking like victims, not just civil servants.

At the same time there are habitual discomforts arising from non-procedural transfer of teachers without prior payment of leave and transfer allowances for the disturbances involved, or even the costs of breaking up habitation to go elsewhere. At one point in the past the president told

civil servants not to take up transfers without such requirements being met, in which case teachers asked to join the new schools whose construction is just getting finished are unlikely to be an exception. They need to have their dues met 'without ifs or buts' as otherwise they are not likely to have the right working morale there.

A meeting of the Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) for the region has lately underlined that teachers allocated to new schools often face hardships, like being compelled to teach students in classes whose construction is incomplete. With visibly uncomfortable surroundings, plenty of what is taught during such periods is likely to be lost, as the children battle the elements, including dust or stress when it is time to help oneself, that concentration fails. So when teachers say this leads to poor performance it isn't an overstatement, though it depends on how long that state of incompleteness remains the case, say for months.

There is a habit with a range of administrators at all levels that they work in view of the next inspection, so when they report that a school has already started working they know authorities are going to be relaxed about facilities, etc. Those unfinished aspects start being listed as items for the next financial year as if they weren't budgeted for in the first place, and when it comes to toilets, this became a nationwide disaster. Teachers' houses may also be unfinished and funds are already used up, such that these items that are supposed to be there by the time teachers are transferred take two more years to be available.

## Reconciliation, repulsing instinct anchor International Day of Conscience agenda

SETTING aside an international day for the exercise of personal conscience about public issues, and trying to communicate about the same in public or among restrained groups may at first look somewhat futile, it is common knowledge that people will usually act on the basis of what is in their interests, but as human beings have regard for those who matter to them, as well as public approval of what each one of us does in this or that regard, conscience is an unavoidable element in how we relate in making decisions. It is what can be described as the weak force in physical terms, interests being primary; still it matters a lot.

A United Nations chronicle says that the International Day of Conscience falling on April 5 each year was designed to promote a culture of peace with love and conscience. Realists will say that this is altogether easier said than done, as individual needs or expectations clash at each moment in life, for instance streets look beautiful when lined up with glittering frames, but they are in ferocious competition with one another as to what customers wish to buy, from whom and at what price. Often the disaster of one is the relief of another, what psychologists call a 'zero sum game', where all gains and losses amount to zero.

The UN chronicle all the same underlines that the commemoration is based on the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the vital 1948 pronouncement of a set of values that make the world

livable, and often times have checked aggressive tendencies within countries and among nations. It states that disregard and contempt for human rights has resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of humankind. The most intense such act was for the past century the Nazi genocide where six million Jews and some other groups that the German fascist authorities detested were put to the gas chambers scattered in various places in war-torn Europe, severally in Poland, Ukraine, Germany, etc.

It is evident that even now barbarous acts are being perpetrated, and internally, each country has to use this day of reflection to look at its own barbarous acts committed over the past 70 years, or 60 years of African independence, etc. We usually do not address these issues directly as it amounts to 'taking the skeletons out of the closet' but it is important that we reflect upon the issues involved. At times silent advances are made, for instance when former secretary general Yusuf Makamba tells incoming CCM vice chairman Abdulrahman Kinana that it isn't time for taking revenge.

Conscience is chiefly about rejecting revenge and extending a hand of reconciliation as essential to all of us being safe, having a happy country. Just what each country can do at a given time can't be said for sure, but all progress towards a situation where conscience matters more than group interests, eclipsing archaic rituals, outmoded state preferences.



## Transitional justice in the DRC: How UN has put it in a drawer

By Luc Henkinbrant

ON December 20, the United Nations Security Council extended the mandate of its mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), for one more year. But the resolution adopted makes no mention of any task actively involving it in the implementation of transitional justice. In this opinion piece, the author argues that the UN and the military courts have swept the 2010 Mapping Report under the carpet, while abuses against the population continues.

The now famous "Mapping Report" published in October 2010 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), listed 617 serious "incidents," most of which constituted mass crimes committed between 1993 and 2003 on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) which were pre-qualified as crimes against humanity, war crimes and even, in the case of the massacre of thousands of Hutu refugees, possible genocide. A decade later, almost none of these international crimes have been prosecuted, whether by a Congolese court, an international criminal court, or on the basis of universal jurisdiction.

None of these crimes has given rise to any work of remembrance or truth-seeking mechanism worthy of the name. None of the individual victims and none of the victimized communities have been granted reparations, individual or collective, material or symbolic. There has been no guarantee of non-repetition through a reform and clean-up of the security sector. In short, none of the main mechanisms of transitional justice have been put in place in the DRC, despite the massive presence of the United Nations there for more than 20 years.

In the preface to the report, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the time Navanethem Pillay noted that it "looks to the future by identifying several paths that Congolese society can take to come to terms with its past". She stated that "although it is primarily up to the government of the DRC and its people to define and implement an approach to transitional justice, they must be able to count on the support of the international community in this regard", and she asked the United Nations to "fully support the human rights stocktaking exercise undertaken in the country by the OHCHR".

More than 11 years later, where do we stand?

"A report is gathering mould"

In December 2018, during his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege said: "A report is gathering mould in an office drawer in New York. It was drafted following professional, thorough

investigations into war crimes and human rights violations perpetrated in Congo. This investigation explicitly names the victims, the places and the dates, but leaves the perpetrators nameless. (...) What is the world waiting for to take this into account?" Lacking a response to his question, the Nobel Peace Prize winner was left proposing in June 2021, a note of "Advocacy for a holistic national strategy for transitional justice in the DRC".

It is disturbing to note that Security Council Resolution 1991, adopted a few months after the publication of the Mapping Report, is completely silent on the follow-up that should be given to it. The resolution speaks in vague and general terms only of "promoting lasting reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of Congo by continuing the fight against impunity". It is not surprising that the United Nations, through MONUSCO, the UN Joint Human Rights Office, the UNDP, etc. is only developing a minimal transitional justice programme in the DRC.

"A sham justice system"

Of the 617 "incidents" listed in the Mapping Report, only two, the so-called Milobis incident and the Ankoro incident, were prosecuted before Congolese military courts. The paragraphs devoted to the Ankoro case are worth reading. "A careful reading of the decision suggests a lack of impartiality and independence," says the report. To the point that "this trial was considered by national NGOs and victims to be impunity, using a sham justice system set up to shield the defendants from prosecution".

This court case (as well as many others in recent times) illustrates the urgent need to remove the jurisdiction of military courts to prosecute alleged perpetrators of international crimes. Their serious shortcomings and weaknesses are detailed at length in the report: "One of the major weaknesses of the judicial system in the DRC has always been the lack of independence of the courts and tribunals from the executive, legislative and administration structures of the State. Interference and interference in judicial matters by political and military authorities is common and well known". The Mapping Report recalls the principles of the United Nations, one of which states that "in all circumstances, the jurisdiction of military courts should be set aside in favour of the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts to conduct inquiries into serious human rights violations".

Since then, Congolese military tribunals have continued to receive support from the United Nations and international NGOs, and have pursued a "prosecutorial strategy" focusing on cases primarily of sexual violence,

with the automatic (and often abusive) characterization of acts of violence as crimes against humanity or war crimes. There is an urgent need to stop being naive or complacent. The result that political and military authorities expect from these military justice proceedings is purely "for show". In reality, the hidden but real objective of these trials or, in many cases, of these parodies of trials, is to mask the complete or almost total inaction of Congolese justice on the prosecution of international crimes.

It would be ridiculous to pretend that the total lack of independence and serious shortcomings in terms of the right to a fair trial denounced by the 2010 Mapping Report have since disappeared as if by magic or through a slew of so-called "capacity building" programmes. All this makes it incomprehensible and even shocking that the United Nations and several international NGOs (TRIAL International, RCN/Justice & Democracy, Avocats sans frontières, Physicians for Human Rights, etc.) continue to support the military justice system, which, in contradiction to legislative changes, continues to exercise a virtual monopoly on the prosecution of international crimes.

Truth-seeking and reparations on hold

Despite the recommendations of the Mapping Report, the UN has supported almost no serious initiative to investigate the truth about the mass crimes committed during the ten-year period covered by the report. The few truth-seeking activities supported by UN agencies focus on the more recent past of mass crimes committed in Kasai.

This approach prioritizes non-judicial transitional justice mechanisms, with a real risk that this will be at the expense of judicial mechanisms and guarantees of non-repetition, such as the security sector clean-up process. While welcoming some progress, such as the adoption of a provincial edict creating a provincial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission in Central Kasai, the Congolese Society for the Rule of Law, in its many reports and communiqués, points out that "the three priority cases (Mulombodi, Nganza and Tshisuku) referred to [the military prosecutor] are inexplicably slow".

The Mapping Report also makes numerous recommendations on reparations, concluding that a compensation fund would be an appropriate mechanism. But here again, the technical assistance provided by the specialized agencies of the United Nations has been terribly inconsistent. How else can one explain the fact that the only government initiative is a very recent and questionable draft ministerial decree "establishing the statutes of a public

institution called the National Fund for Reparations to Victims of Sexual Violence and Other Serious Crimes in the Democratic Republic of Congo"?

Institutional reforms and guarantees of non-repetition

In 2010, the Mapping Report noted that, as in the justice sector, reforms of the security forces, particularly the police and the army, had been undertaken at the beginning of the transition in the DRC. But it added: "However, it is regrettable that transitional justice has not been taken into account in any way in these processes", which would have allowed for vetting measures aimed at ensuring that "state officials who are personally responsible for gross human rights violations, in particular those in the army, security services, police, intelligence services and judiciary, should no longer exercise their functions within state institutions".

The United Nations is well aware of the individuals potentially targeted by these measures. While the identity of the alleged perpetrators of some of the crimes listed in the Mapping Exercise is not mentioned in the report, it has been recorded in a confidential database of the project submitted to the High Commissioner for Human Rights. There is also a second database. This is the database of the MONUSCO Profiling Unit, which is responsible for examining the past actions of members of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) concerning respect for international humanitarian law and human rights in the context of the UN's "due diligence policy" and provision of UN support to non-UN security forces.

It is understandable that these databases are used as part of the "due diligence policy". It is far less understandable that they are not used in a vetting process to ensure that senior FARDC officers who are alleged to have committed gross human rights violations are no longer able to remain in post. It is even less understandable that these two databases are not used to launch criminal proceedings against them.

Non-assistance to people in danger

One can only note the shocking apathy of the United Nations with regard to the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms in the DRC and bitterly regret that transitional justice is largely absent from the "strategic documents" that guide its action in this country. We would cite, among others: the Security Council resolutions adopted since the publication of the Mapping Report; the Joint Justice Reform Support Programme (2020-2024), in which only two lines and a footnote are devoted to transitional justice; and the MONUSCO withdrawal plan, in which transitional justice mechanisms are not even mentioned.



# Leadership in South Africa's organised labour movement imploding

By Roy Mahlaka

**S**OUTH Africa's organised labour movement has been rocked by leadership ructions and petty factional battles at a crucial time when the country's workforce is facing growing threats of unemployment, and pay rise negotiations are set to start soon in several sectors of the economy.

The leadership of the South African Federation of Trade Unions (Safu) has been thrown into a tailspin in recent weeks after the labour federation's secretary-general Zwelinzima Vavi was temporarily stripped of his powers and placed under suspension.

Four other leaders have also been suspended by Safu's national executive committee (NEC) for bringing the federation into disrepute by not following proper processes when they suspended Vavi.

Those suspended and accused of usurping the powers of the Safu NEC when they ousted Vavi include the federation's president Mac Chavalala, second deputy president Thabo Matsoso, national treasurer Motshwari Lecogo, and deputy general secretary Moleko Phakedi.

Vavi, a prominent trade unionist and former Cosatu general secretary, has become the public face of Safu since its launch in April 2017, with the help of trade union affiliates including the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) and many others. Vavi, Numsa and other trade unions were disgruntled and wanted to form a new and alternative labour movement (Safu) after their expulsion from Cosatu owing to their push for Cosatu's breakaway from an ANC-led alliance. So, Vavi's suspension from Safu - after helping to launch it five years ago and growing its membership to about 800,000 - is significant.

## Safu battles have economic implications

Safu's leadership ructions come at a time when questions are being raised by labour observers about whether the role of trade unions and federations in the jobs market and the broader economy is helpful or harmful.

Trade unions and federations are often accused of endorsing practices that prohibit job creation and promote an inflexible labour environment for workers and employers. The Safu leadership squabbles also come at a time when various sectors of the economy, including the platinum mining and bus passenger industries, are set to start pay rise negotiations for workers in April. The Safu leadership squabbles might be a distraction during wage negotiations, resulting in workers not securing fair wage adjustments or having their rights protected in a broken



economy.

Mamokgethi Molopyane, a labour and policy analyst, says the kerfuffle at Safu underscores the "outright struggle for control" of the federation, suggesting that the top brass is not prioritising worker interests but focusing on personality clashes. "Leaders are too preoccupied with advancing self-interest including ascending and positioning themselves for deployment," says Molopyane.

Labour analyst Michael Bagrain says an environment characterised by a weak economy and a high jobless rate creates "financial trauma" for trade unions and federations because if more workers are out of jobs, they no longer pay membership fees to union bosses. "Such financial pressures intensify any leadership squabbles and create a split

in the union movement, as seen in Safu. Such cracks in union circles are concealed if the economy is improving and growing. But the economy is currently bleeding, and factional troubles are becoming greater and clearer," he says.

## Reason(s) for Vavi's suspension

The official Safu position is that Vavi has been temporarily ejected because he was charged with "alleged violations of the [Safu] constitution, breach of administration and finance policy and disrespecting/undermining constitutional structural decisions and resolution".

Vavi has been accused by the now-suspended top brass of abusing Safu's credit card to the tune of R65,000 for his personal interests. Vavi has released a document detailing more than

80 questionable transactions on Safu's credit card, which were used as the basis for his suspension.

The document reveals that Vavi spent money on airtime, mobile data, Gautrain rides, e-hailing service Bolt, tollgate charges, groceries, Adobe software, advertising on Facebook for the live streaming of Safu press conferences, and technology accessories including a power bank and earphones at the iStore.

Vavi has denied all allegations of wrongdoing, describing the charges against him as "deliberately vague, spurious, wild and unsubstantiated allegations". He has also taken umbrage with the process of his suspension, saying the Safu constitution gave its national executive committee, rather than office-bearers, the power to suspend him. He also says his suspension was procedurally flawed because he wasn't allowed to state his case about the transactions.

## Vavi didn't respond to DMI68's many requests for comment

A Safu insider says that if Vavi was going to be nailed on one thing it would be his "lavish lifestyle", which is creating tensions in Safu circles.

"Vavi lives quite a lavish lifestyle. He has a driver and is often chauffeured in a fancy car. He's probably the most expensive person in Safu," says the insider. The insider also adds that Vavi is "respected and liked in Safu circles because he unites people and he is passionate about worker rights".

## Zwelinzima Vavi vs Irvin Jim

The reason behind Vavi's suspension is not clear but there is a lot of speculation surrounding it. This year is a big year for Safu, as the federation will be electing new leaders during its national congress scheduled for May.

Vavi is believed to be campaigning for re-election as the secretary-general. Those against his re-election argue that Vavi has become the face and personality of Safu, creating a "danger of workers not being able to separate an organisation from an individual or creating personality politics", says the federation's insider.

Speculation is rife that Numsa general secretary Irvin Jim is allegedly behind Vavi's suspension from Safu and is campaigning to ruin Vavi's bid for re-election.

TimesLIVE has reported that there has been a falling-out between the two trade unionists over the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party (SRWP), a worker party that was founded by Numsa in 2018 and later contested the 2019 national elections. SRWP, which is seen as Jim's pet project in the realm of politics, had a poor showing at the elections and failed to secure a seat in Parliament.

Jim has reportedly been pressuring Vavi to endorse the SRWP and adopt the party into Safu's fold. But Vavi has resisted such pressures and, as punishment, Jim has allegedly influenced his suspension from Safu. But Jim has rejected such suggestions, saying Safu is an independent federation, adding that he and Vavi are free to hold different political opinions. "Safu has a very clear position on political parties. The federation is independent and has not aligned itself with any political party," says Jim.

## Vavi and Jim are seen to be on opposite sides of politics

Vavi is a critic of the ANC, former president Jacob Zuma and the Radical Economic Transformation (RET) crowd within the ANC. Meanwhile, Jim is perceived to be less critical and is thus often seen to be aligned with the RET crowd, which he disputes in a published Numsa press statement.

"There are others, who are politically bankrupt, who peddle the ridiculous claim that the Numsa leadership is working 24/7 with the RET faction of the ANC. How can the Numsa leadership be said to be negotiating a return to Cosatu, but at the same time it is also being accused of trying to impose SRWP on Safu, and at the same time it's a member of the RET?" Jim has questioned.

"This is the work of divisive wedge drivers who are tip-toeing in the shadows and who are working night and day to divide Numsa and to liquidate the federation Safu."

DMI68

# China builds solid wall of defence against COVID-19 to protect people's lives

By Zhong Sheng

**T**HE Omicron variant of COVID-19 is spreading fast globally. Some U.S. media outlets recently sighed in articles that the pandemic is "still killing 1,200 Americans a day," worrying there might be "another surge." However, in a cynical tone, they said the Chinese mainland the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are having a "bad year", just to smear China's pandemic response policies and achievements, and even defame China's political system.

Such a narrow and evil view is a total disregard of facts. It turns the pandemic into a tool and weapon out of ulterior political motives.

Facing the pandemic unseen in a century, the Chinese government has always put the Chinese people and their lives in the first and highest place. It has tailored science-based and targeted pandemic control policies according to the spread of the pandemic and the features of the virus, so as to maximumly safeguard people's lives and health, maintain a normal pace of work and life, and ensure the safety of industrial and supply chains.

China is in a leading position globally in economic development and pandemic control, which fully demonstrates the strong ability of the country to control the virus and the obvious advantages of the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the socialism with Chinese characteristics.

On the contrary, as the world's largest economy and a country that boasts rich and advanced medical resources, the U.S. has seen rounds of serious COVID-19 resurgence, setting new records in a number of indexes, such as newly confirmed cases, hospitalized cases and children's infections. Nearly a million people have died in the country because of the pandemic.

The unscientific, unequal, and irresponsible pandemic response led by the White House, prejudices held by political parties, as well as the reckless dissemination of fake information have traumatized the credibility of the U.S. government, and the rights to life and health of Americans, whose trust in their government has been "bankrupt."

This clearly shows who's the top scorer and who's the underachiever in terms of pandemic response.

Facing the highly transmissible Omicron variant, the HKSAR experienced a drastic surge in newly confirmed cases and was put in a grave situation.

At the critical moment, the HKSAR government acted responsibly and launched a tough battle to safeguard people's lives and health under the assistance from the Chinese central government.

Expert teams and nucleic acid testing teams were quickly established and dispatched to Hong



A medical worker takes a swab sample from a resident for nucleic acid test at a COVID-19 testing site in Pudong District, east China's Shanghai, March 28, 2022. Xinhua

Kong. A Fire Eye Laboratory, nucleic acid testing vehicles, and quick testing kits were immediately put into use. The first makeshift hospital of Hong Kong was built within a week, and another six with 20,000 beds in less than a month. New waterways were constantly opened for material supply and freight trains were designated to carry assistance materials from the mainland to the HKSAR.

The people in the Chinese mainland, sharing the concerns of their compatriots in Hong Kong, assisted the special administrative region with the fastest speed, highest intensity and widest coverage, to ensure the implementation of the assisting policies of the central government. It has significantly enhanced the Hong Kong citizens' resolution and confidence in fighting and defeating the virus, and basically contained the rising trend of the pandemic in Hong Kong. The ongoing battle against the pandemic in Hong Kong vividly mirrors the institutional advantages of China.

However, some U.S. media outlets are always making a fuss about the resurgence in Hong Kong, distorting the meaning of "dynamic zero-COVID approach." They said China should relax its pandemic control measures and choose to "coexist with the virus", but this only reflects their evil intentions.

Hong Kong is a city with high population density and high passenger mobility, and it's also bothered by an aging society. "Laid-back" approaches will only make the virus spread faster there and seriously threaten the lives and health of the Hong Kong citizens, thus crushing the hope of restoring normal economic and social operation.

The Guardians recently pointed out that "We all want the disruption and anxiety to stop, but we won't achieve that with policies that pretend the pandemic is over when it isn't. It said to stop the pandemic, we must learn to spot and contain worrying outbreaks.

China's pandemic control practices fully prove that the "dynamic zero-COVID approach" is science-based, necessary, effective and feasible. It is something that must be done by a major country with more than 1.4 billion people, as well as an obligation of a responsible government and society. It puts into practice the people-first philosophy and contributes to the world's efforts to fight the pandemic.

According to a recent poll published by Hong Kong-based think tank Bauhinia Institute, over 65 percent of the Hong Kong citizens believe that the "dynamic zero-COVID approach" is in line with the general interests of the Hong Kong society, and

more than 80 percent are supportive of the goal raised by the expert team dispatched by the central government to reduce the numbers of deaths, critical cases and infections. The poll also indicated that over 80 percent of the Hong Kong citizens are more confident in defeating the virus because of the central government's assistance.

After directing a documentary recording Wuhan's battle against the pandemic, British director Malcolm Clarke said he and his team have witnessed the invincible state strength of China during the pandemic. He said in China, the whole nation fights as one when it wants to achieve something, which is incredible when measured with Western standards.

Over the past two years and more, China's institutional advantages and powerful state strength have withstood the test of the pandemic, and will keep contributing to the country's fight against the virus. China will build a solid wall of defense against COVID-19 with utmost confidence and achieve a final victory. The U.S. media and politicians that are always defaming China, sowing discord, mongering panic and singing the blues are destined to be disappointed again.



# School feeding now the world's largest social safety net

**W**HEN Canada and Nepal are used in the same sentence it's usually because the former is supporting development efforts in the latter. Not when it comes to feeding children at school.

Worldwide 388 million students, or 1 in 2 schoolchildren, received at least one meal or snack per day at school before the COVID-19 pandemic in what the World Food Programme (WFP), quoting the World Bank, calls the world's "most extensive social safety net."

Nepal is in a unique position because it is poised to completely take over school feeding from the WFP, which still serves some remote areas of the South Asian country, by 2024. Canada is also being watched because it is just now taking steps to create a centrally-managed programme, the last G7 country to do so, to buttress current patchwork provincial initiatives.

Motivations for governments to launch school feeding programmes vary, but are not solely linked to socioeconomic status, says Donald Bundy, Professor of Epidemiology and Development and Director of the Global Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK.

"Nearly all countries view the programmes as providing a safety net for the most in need," writes Bundy in response to email questions. "Many view the programmes as contributing to the creation of good health and education, and thus human capital. A substantial group recognize the local economic value to the agricultural sector. A small but increasing number view the contribution to environmental sustainability as important."

When Covid-19 hit and schools shut their doors, roughly 370 million students in 161 countries went without education and a meal or snack, "suddenly deprived of what was for many their main meal of the day" says WFP's report State of School Feeding Worldwide, 2020.

In response, governments, development agencies, donors, academia, the private sector, UN agencies and civil society organizations launched the global School Meals Coalition. Its main goals are to restore by 2023 the school feeding programmes lost worldwide because of the pandemic and, by 2030, to launch new ones to feed the 73 million students globally who lacked school meals before Covid-19.

So far, 60+ countries have joined the coalition, including Nepal but not Canada. Its success will depend on the choices that governments make, says Bundy. "Since Covid has affected economies, there has been a contraction of fiscal space which makes getting back to the original situation more difficult... It would seem that countries are prioritizing this investment in their future generations, as indicated by the creation of the coalition, but this has yet to be seen in practice."

Nepal demonstrated its commitment to school feeding before Covid-19. From 2017 to 2020 the school meals budget almost quadrupled (from \$20 million to nearly \$70 million), and external funding fell from \$4.2 million to \$2.8 million in 2020, according to the WFP report.

Interestingly, there have been no evaluations in Nepal of the impact of school feeding on students' nutritional status, says WFP. The country's School Sector Development Plan (2016-2022) calls for "midday meals in schools to reduce short term hunger among schoolchildren, and address micronutrient deficiencies through multi-fortified foods and diversifying the food basket, including with fresh and locally produced foods."

While Nepal has drastically cut malnutrition in children under five in recent decades, pro-

gress has slowed in the past few years. For example, the 36% rate for stunting (too short for age) in 2016 was greater than the developing country average of 25% and the Asia average of 21.8%.

Today the government's diya khaja (midday meal) programme covers 71 of 77 districts and WFP is scheduled to hand over operations in the remaining districts (which are already co-funded by Kathmandu) by 2024.

While media reports highlight examples of problems, such as schools handing out dry food to students instead of cooking a hot meal and possible corruption in handling money, reactions at schools recently visited in Nepal's Far West Province were mainly positive. Officials, teachers and parents stressed attendance had risen, and that pupils were remaining for the entire school day instead of leaving for lunch and staying at home.

Ten local food menus—based on seasonally available foods in particular regions and designed to meet nutritional targets—were credited for the change. "Students are more satisfied now because the meals change daily. With the WFP system there was only one item," says Headmaster Dev Bahadur Chand at Nani Gad Basic School in Baitadi District.

Chand was the only person we spoke to who was satisfied with the programme's budget of 15 rupees (US\$0.12) per meal per child (20 rupees in five remote districts). Others said that while the amount could cover food costs it didn't leave enough to pay a cook or fuel and transport fees.

At the Nepal Government office that manages the burgeoning programme, the Centre for Education and Human Resources Development (CEHRD), Director Ganesh Poudel acknowledges that issue. "Each child is allotted only 15 rupees; this is the main challenge. This amount is very low—prices are increasing day by day and there are management costs. How can we survive? We have very limited resources," he says in an interview in his office.

The other major challenge, says Poudel, is human resources. "Nearly one million people are involved in preparing and delivering the school meal programme, directly and indirectly. Some will cook, some will manage, some will pay... How can we prepare them? It requires



Students having lunch at Shivbhawani Primary School at Deulekh, Bajhang in Nepal.

a big amount of money and preparation."

While WFP will no longer implement a school feeding programme from 2024, it will remain a partner in the effort, says Nepal Representative and Country Director Robert Kasca. Today, it's working with the government to upgrade physical and human resources for school feeding in Nuwakot district, a two-hour drive from Kathmandu. Kitchens are being renovated, menus developed and an SMS-based system tested to monitor how the Rs15 allocation is spent.

"Our plan in the next five years will be to try to replicate it around the country," says Kasca. "If we only do it in Nuwakot it's not going to automatically happen around the country. We need to do it in many more places to start gaining momentum."

In Canada, the issue is not launching more school meals programmes but getting the central government to play a guiding role, says Debbie Field, Coordinator of the Coalition for Healthy School Food. Why now? "Basically every

country in the North comes up against a new crisis, which is the crisis of fast food and the crisis of health problems related to an industrialized food system," says Field.

"First and foremost for me, it is a crisis of food and the way in which parents of all incomes are really struggling to feed their children healthy food." Compared to 1948, when the federal cabinet last discussed school meals, "we have a vast difference of women's participation rates in the workforce and a complete shift in our school day—most schools have a half hour a day for lunch," adds Field.

In a written response to questions, Karina Gould, Canada's Minister of Families Children and Social Development, wrote that the school food policy being developed would "provide access to healthy, diversified and balanced food as a matter of equity, which is essential to addressing food insecurity, reducing the risk of chronic disease and enabling every child to reach their full potential."

Thirty-five percent of publicly-funded schools in Canada offered a programme in 2018-2019, covering 21 percent of students, from junior kindergarten to Grade 12, found a recent survey. But coverage varied immensely, with one province covering at least 90 percent of schools another just 10 percent.

Field says she is expecting the government to announce C\$200 million in the upcoming budget to develop the framework for the eventual programme. But her coalition wants some of that money allocated to existing programmes in the provinces and territories. Eventually, says Field, the central government should provide \$2.7 billion, or half the cost of a universal programme, with the provinces and territories contributing the rest.

"We want (the central government) to take a leadership oversight role and provide a federal framework that will allow for development of the best school food programme in the world. We want them to be visionary... and they're responding well to this idea."



Lunch time at Janajagriti Basic School in Dhangadhi, Nepal. Credit: Marty Logan

IPS

## 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	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



# How African countries benefit from Sino-Africa cooperation

By George Muntu

CHINA began to co-operate with Africa in three separate periods. The first period of China-Africa relations officially began after the formation of the People's Republic of China in 1949 until the economic revolution of 1978.

During this period, China became more involved and focused on helping African countries fight for independence from colonialism.

The second phase of China-Africa cooperation began in 1978-2000, when the first Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was held. During this period, China focused more on economic cooperation with African nations.

The third period of China-Africa cooperation began in 2000 until now. This period, however, focused more on establishing mutually beneficial trade partnerships and to promote sustainable development to building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era.

At this time, China has focused not only on political and economic cooperation, but also on social and cultural relations.

In all those period, China has been assisting African countries in the fight against poverty by financing the construction of critical and strategic infrastructures that have helped boost the economy and bring development to the continent. Since the creation of the People's Republic of China in 1949, China has been and continues to give Africa greater and unique importance while continuing to provide them with financial assistance and

low interest loans for the construction of major development projects.

Although China at that time was relatively underdeveloped, however, it provided extensive assistance to emerging Africa countries. A well-known example from the early 1970s is the TAZARA railway project which connected the copper belts in Zambia with the port of Dar es Salaam.

China's relations and cooperation with African countries have been widely criticized by Western leaders that, China has no real intention of helping them but wants to seize their resources and promote neo-colonialism. However, their accusations completely contradict the reality of the facts about China's motives towards Africa.

The fact is that China's emergence as a major trading partner with African countries has helped to address many of the barriers that have been hindering their developments. Some of these thresholds are; lack of access to credit, lack of markets, low profits caused by price monopolies imposed by western companies, lack of professionalism and expertise etc.

All of these factors, along with western interference policy have been a major obstacle for the development of Africa countries.

In less than 20 years since China's emerged as one of the world's biggest economy, it has been able to provide African countries with loans and financial assistance that have helped build infrastructure and major development projects which has stimulated economic growth in the continent. All loans which are provided by China



to Africa countries for infrastructure construction have helped significantly reduce infrastructure shortages in the continent.

Apart from loans, China is continued to provide various financial and technical aids to all African countries for construction of development projects. Many of China's financial aid to Africa has been directed to the construction of key projects such as, hospitals, schools, football stadiums, libraries, conference halls, agricultural exhibition centres, etc.

All of the infrastructures built with Chinese aids, have widely helped to solve many social problems and benefits many Africans. On top of that, China has also been sending its specialists and doctors to treat patients in African countries.

These Chinese specialists and doctors have helped to treat many patients and provide medical training to locals. For example, in Tanzania alone, Chinese doctors who have volunteered to provide medical care have managed to treat more than 15 million patients in the country accord-

ing to a statement issued by the Chinese embassy.

It should be noted that, any bilateral relations must be mutually beneficial. In that sense, China also must and need to benefit from Africa. However, China's biggest benefit from its relations and cooperation with African nations is to liberate them economically and build their production capacity.

China firmly believes that, Africa's economic success is its success too. To ensure that such success is achieved, it has continued to help African countries build roads, railways, power facilities, medical facilities, sports venues and schools.

It is therefore our duty as Africans to pay tribute, to protect and respect its interests and support it in the whole issue of Taiwan, East and South China Sea.

It should also be noted that, China like other Western nations and the United States, needs Africa's raw materials for its industrial needs, however, China does not need it for free but for a win-win situation. Thus, we should give it a priority in accessing all the resources it needs from Af-

rica as long as it buys at a profitable price.

We should also remember that, the emergence of China as Africa's biggest trading partner has not only benefited many African countries but also helped to open up new markets as well as reducing commodity price monopoly set by western countries.

As China's influence on key international issues grows, it needs closer cooperation with African countries in order to fully engage them in global affairs.

To achieve this, it needs close cooperation with those countries so that it can defend their interests and help them achieve their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and AU Agenda 2035-2063.

# As Ukraine war hikes prices, global south farmers struggle to find fertiliser

RIO DE JANEIRO/CHENNAI/DURBAN

A Wheat farmer in India, the owner of a sugarcane farm in Brazil and a grain producer in South Africa—thousands of miles apart, the three men face the same challenge: protecting their incomes from the fertilizer shortage caused by the war in Ukraine.

As the conflict enters its second month, its effects are being felt by farmers around the globe, with the international price of key soil nutrients from Russia and Belarus soaring to record high last month.

Russia, which invaded Ukraine on February 24, is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of fertilizers. Russia and Belarus combined accounted for more than 40% of global exports of potash last year, for example.

Russia's military action and sanctions imposed by Western governments in response have increased crude oil and natural gas prices, disrupted global freight and impacted the supply and cost of fertilizers for farmers in developing countries.

While large agribusiness companies have stockpiles of fertilizer, small-scale farmers in India, Brazil and South Africa have been left high and dry in the short term, as many cannot find fertilizer to buy at all, irrespective of price.

The crisis threatens the livelihoods of those who survive from the land - but it could also be an opportunity for farmers to adopt more sustainable methods of keeping their soil fertile.

"It has been a nightmare for me, having to queue up endlessly to buy fertilizers," said Shiv Ram Singh, a rice and wheat farmer in central India's Madhya Pradesh state.

"(I) wake up in the middle of the night because someone has an extra sack they are selling on the black market," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

In Brazil, Fábio Castro runs a medium-sized, mechanized sugarcane farm of 1,111 acres (450 hectares) in the southeastern state of Sao Paulo.

Despite the larger size of his operation, the impact he faces has been similar to Singh, who owns just 4 acres.

As in India, Brazil's small and medium-scale farmers only buy fertilizer when they need it, rather than in bulk; since the conflict started, Castro cannot get sellers to quote a price.

"It's no longer a question of price -

its logistics, delivery," he said. "They have no idea if they'll have the product to deliver."

Last July, riots and looting rocked South Africa, catalyzed by the arrest of former President Jacob Zuma for corruption. But as grandmothers and children raided grocery stores, it became apparent the chaos was also fueled by hunger.

Now, South African farmers warn a fertilizer shortage could yield similar results, with hunger levels expected to soar.

"The cost of fertilizer is already 60% higher than it was two months ago," said Neo Masithela, national chairman of the African Farmers' Association of South Africa (AFASA).

South African grain farmer Victor Teboho recently visited his local co-op to buy fertilizer, but was told none was available despite bags of it visible on the shop floor.

Those supplies had long been bought by others, leaving farmers like Teboho fretting about his recently planted soy, maize, beans and wheat.

The crisis has sent countries scrambling for solutions.

In India, the government is expected to spend a record 1.55 trillion rupees (\$20.64 billion) in subsidies to farmers and fertilizer firms this fiscal year to avoid shortages and keep prices affordable.

In Africa, the African Development Bank (AfDB) aims to raise \$1 billion from emergency support facilities, concessional loans and donor governments to boost wheat, maize, rice and soy yields on the continent and stave off a food crisis.

In Brazil, far-right President Jair Bolsonaro has pushed for a bill to allow mining on indigenous lands, which he argued would make Brazil self-sufficient in potash, a mineral that is an essential fertilizer ingredient.

The move was propaganda by Bolsonaro mainly to rally his voter base, as the bill is unlikely to become law, said Raul do Valle, a director at WWF Brazil, calling the bill "criminal."

Brazil's Senate will almost surely sit on it, he added.

Brazil has enough potash reserves outside indigenous lands and just needs to develop them, said André Guimarães of the Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests and Agriculture, a group of companies and individuals lobbying for a low-carbon economy.

"But this is not a solution for now," he said, adding that developing potash mines would take five to 10 years.

For some, the fertilizer crisis is a chance to tackle social issues in the agricultural sector and explore greener alternatives to mineral and chemical-based fertilizers. South Africa is battling what economists call "two agricultures", signifying the economic and resource divide between largely white commercial and Black subsistence farmers.

Boosting production by poorer Black farmers through better infrastructure, farming equipment and government subsidies, could help avoid a food system collapse, said AFASA's Masithela.

"Some of the crisis must be seen as an opportunity," he said. Research trials in Eastern Cape Province show farmers can yield huge tonnages from wheat fields due to good natural soil health after land has been left fallow for a while, he noted.

In India, experts are calling for a fair and equitable distribution of available fertilizer supplies.

Failing to do so could exacerbate an already difficult situation for Indian farmers, the majority of whom have land holdings of less than 5 acres.

"If input costs increase, farming becomes unsustainable for small and marginalized farmers," said Suresh Garimella, a senior research associate at the Society for Social and Economic Research, warning the crisis will only grow as farmers prepare to sow their autumn crops in June.

Singh, the wheat farmer, said he might switch to organic fertilizers as a long-term alternative.

"It will take me three or four years to go completely organic. In the meantime, I am hoping there is some regulation in the market and the (fertilizer) supply improves," he said.

In South Africa, Teboho said some farmers were also thinking of using animal manure instead of chemical fertilizers.

Enriching the soil with organic nutrients could lessen dependency on foreign markets and also be good for the environment, farming experts said, as they are less energy-intensive to produce than mineral-based fertilizers

from Russia.

Brazil previously had a history of using locally produced organic fertilizers, but many techniques were lost in the last 20 years as dependency on imported fertilizers grew, said Guimarães from the climate, forests and farming coalition.

"There are solutions with relatively low costs," he said. But even if simple, they require public investment and technical assistance, which are currently lacking, he added.

Like Singh, sugarcane farm owner Castro has considered alternatives but has yet to commit to anything new. "We've reached a point where we can't make a mistake," he said. "For us, it can be fatal. It's a heavy word, but it's realistic: we can go broke."





# Youth icon's fight for rights among India's destitutes

LUCKNOW

**P**OOJA Shukla, (25), a socialist candidate, has lost her maiden elections to the provincial parliament in Uttar Pradesh (UP), India. But Shukla is no loser.

A day after the results were announced on March 10, Shukla was back to a rousing reception in her constituency in North Lucknow to thank her supporters for polling 1,04,527 votes for her.

She was with the people again on March 18 on Holi, the festival of colour held annually to celebrate the end of winter and in anticipation of new beginnings.

Shukla told the IPS that she was hoping to win. Of course, she is disappointed, but electoral defeat would not stop her from continuing her struggle to get economic and social justice for the people of her constituency.

Although Shukla belongs to the upper caste community of Brahmins, she has worked hard to develop a personal connection with a cross-section of those who live in North Lucknow, one of the city's nine constituencies. Lucknow is the capital of UP, the country's largest, but economically and socially, it is one of its least developed states. More than 400,000 voters are registered in North Lucknow, nearly half of whom are impoverished women.

The constituency is home to Muslims, upper-caste Hindus and thou-

sands of impoverished people belonging to communities who have been living for decades in makeshift shanties, often on the bank of open drains. Some are daily wage earners, and others are without paid work.

Shukla won hearts because she has knocked on every door in North Lucknow and continues to spend time with citizens.

"I have visited every single home in every single neighbourhood in North Lucknow. I will continue to do so as I really care for members of all communities that reside within my constituency," Shukla adds.

This first-time contestant had faced Dr Neeraj Bora, a seasoned politician from the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), a right-wing party. Despite the formidable challenge, Shukla was leading on the day the votes were counted. She was ahead before her rival finally defeated her by 33,985 votes until noon.

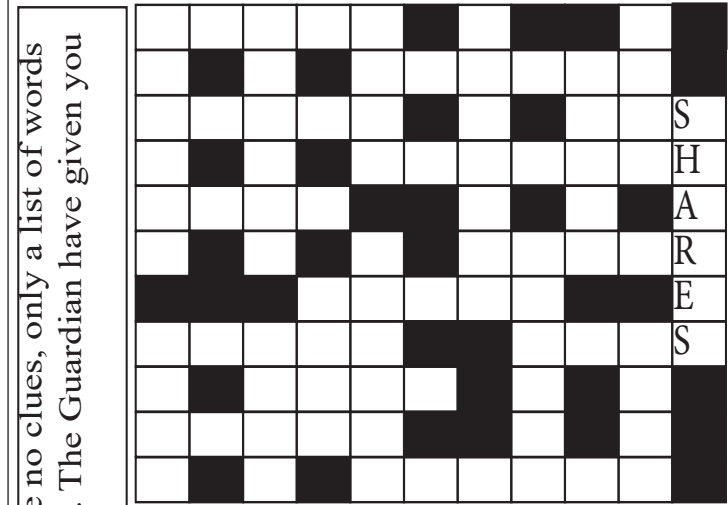
Out of 403 seats in the UP-state parliament, the socialists won 111 seats. The Samajwadi Party (SP) of socialists came a distant second to BJP's 255 seats, but the party has emerged as the largest opposition party in UP.

This was a golden opportunity to strengthen democracy by converting the numbers won by the SP into a viable opposition to the ruling party, Shukla believes. A well-meaning, vocal opposition is needed, she says, when the ruling party seems to want to wash its hands of all its social responsibility in favour of outsourcing businesses and privatising even essential services like education, health,



Pooja Shukla may have lost an election, but the 25-year-old activist is determined to ensure the poor are catered for and women are protected.

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 259 00--



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

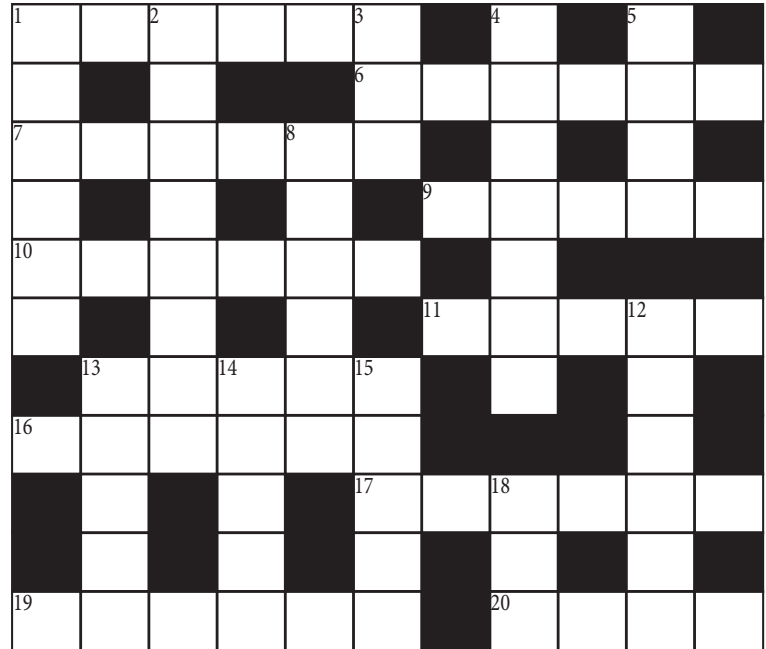
- 3 Letters: ASS,
- 4. Letters: YULE, MASS, OMEN, WASH, PASS, SPAN, REEF, HEED, TRAP,
- 5 Letters: MONEY, SKILL, DAILY, MAYOR, HAMAS, WATER, SHADE
- 6 Letters: MOSCOW, NOISES, UGANDA, SHARES, ASMARA, CAREER, REMAIN
- 7 Letters: SANGOMA, ENGLISH,

**WORD-FIT**

RE A D Y S C O P E  
 E T A R L A A  
 S A H A R A S A M E  
 T E A Y A H P  
 S N A K E I R A Q  
 M A S T E R E A S T  
 G I T A R K I  
 F A N A P A I P  
 I C F R O S T  
 M A S H E R H A Y  
 E O W L N

**CROSSWORD**

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



- CLUES: Across**
1. Tanzania's Capital
  6. Nation created in 1948
  7. Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Christ
  9. turn away
  10. Second largest city in Tanzania
  11. step in a process
  13. mischievous person
  16. skilful
  17. large round citrus fruit
  19. sell goods by going from place to place
  20. utter words
- Down:**
1. images seen while you sleep
  2. a place far away
  3. the mixture of gases surrounding the earth
  4. personal, secret
  5. beloved
  8. consisting protein that is produced by a living organism
  12. an off break bowled with an apparent leg-break action
  13. a surface which is higher on one side than the other
  14. keep away from someone
  15. demonstrate by evidence
  18. a donkey

and employment opportunities.

"Democratic values strengthen when the opposition to the ruling party is strong," says Shukla, who believes that elections are held to elect representatives who will provide affordable homes, education, and health facilities to voters.

Shukla feels that socially conscious people don't have to be Marxists to dream of justice in society. The desire to want to see all citizens cared for fairly and equally by the state is a desire of all decent human beings.

Shukla was the youngest candidate in the polls, nursing a constituency that is a sprawling, chaotic cluster of college campuses, traffic jams, markets spilling from every corner and rows of slums with open drains that overflow and swallow up lives during rainfall.

Her dream is to invite educationists to open model public schools for the majority of the poor people in her constituency. She wants low-cost houses for the poor and free health services. She says that time is on her side. She will find many more opportunities to contest elections.

"To win elections is important for me as I want to be a lawmaker and make sure that people-friendly legislation is passed in parliament to protect the interest of the most vulnerable in the country," Shukla says.

Until she makes it to parliament, she plans to work tirelessly to raise literacy in her constituency and lower the poverty rate. She wants clean drinking water, cleaner drains, and better roads. Women's safety is her priority, as is a regular and fair wage for the many communities of artisans like potters and weavers.

Shukla has witnessed the police lathi-charge citizens who dared to ask the government for jobs. Social activists have been jailed, kicked around, and beaten in lockdown for participating in protests and questioning the government in UP. There are countless incidents of gruesome crimes perpetrated against women.

Most political parties want women's votes but are reluctant to share power with them. Therefore, politics in UP today is a constant struggle for any woman who joins the male-dominated world of politics. Shukla's biggest strength is her belief in herself.

The daughter of a small property dealer, Shukla, learnt to be fearless from Beena, her mother. At first, Beena wanted her to marry a suitable Brahmin boy. However, the constant cry to marry died down after she decided to contest the elections.

Her parents suggested that Shukla choose a more re-

spectable profession like teaching instead. The parents were pained when she was jailed in 2019, and countless criminal cases were filed against her for participating in street demonstrations.

Shukla is the eldest of three sisters, and she feels responsible for her siblings. The family reminded her she was a role model, but she refused to give up her politics. Her determination to remain engaged in public life is less frowned upon now. At least her immediate family members and neighbours are supportive. She is no longer considered a black sheep within the Brahmin community that sees itself as exceptionally respectable.

Shukla has been in the limelight since 2017 when she and fellow students waved black flags at the motor convoy of those in power. She was part of a group of students protesting against the use of Lucknow University funds for a political party event.

She was angry when jailed for protesting peacefully. After 20 days in jail, the University refused her admission for postgraduate studies. Shukla started a hunger strike and forced the University to allow all the students to continue their studies.

Today she is a youth icon. She has emerged as a leader and a role model not just for her siblings but for thousands of other youngsters, students, women and some male members of society.

Shukla says that she stands for a democratic, secular and inclusive India. How will she realise her dream in the cutthroat political culture where all that matters is power and money?

There is no substitute for commitment and hard work, she says with a smile.

IPS

**RADIO One** **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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 12:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 01:00 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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One** **Radio One**





Companies are paying a high price to stay in Russia

Page 14



Russian bondholders remain on alert even as payments flow

Page 14



Fashion startup raising funds at \$100bn value

Page 15

## World shares trends mixed as calls mount for more Russia sanctions



### BANGKOK

GLOBAL shares were mixed Monday, with European stocks mostly lower after a day of gains in Asia.

Paris, Frankfurt, Tokyo and Hong Kong rose. London was little changed. Shanghai was closed for a holiday. Oil prices advanced while U.S. futures slipped.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the country will include international investigators in a probe into alleged atrocities against civilians by Russian troops. Ukraine reported the bodies of at least 410 civilians were found in areas outside the capital Kyiv after Russian troops pulled out last week.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, joined a growing chorus of international criticism of the alleged atrocities, saying the 27-country bloc "will advance, as a matter of urgency, work on further

sanctions against Russia."

Additional sanctions could impact energy and other markets, adding to uncertainties.

Germany's DAX lost 0.7pc to 14,344.48 and the CAC 40 in Paris declined 0.6pc to 6,646.42. Britain's FTSE 100 edged 0.2pc higher to 7,552.03. On Wall Street, the future for the S&P 500 lost 0.1pc while that for the Dow industrials shed 0.2pc.

On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 0.3pc while the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.4pc. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.3pc and the Russell 2000 of small caps gained 1pc.

Shares in Hong Kong-traded Chinese companies surged Monday after regulators in Beijing said they plan to revise rules regarding access of overseas regulators to full audits of companies that have shares listed in overseas markets.

The Chinese financial magazine Caixin reported that China proposed the revisions of rules restricting shar-

ing of financial data of offshore-traded companies to help resolving a long-standing dispute with the U.S. that could result in more than 200 Chinese stocks being kicked off American exchanges. It would remove a requirement that on-site inspections of overseas-traded Chinese companies mainly be conducted by Chinese regulators, Caixin said.

"Signs of a potential compromise to keep Chinese stocks listed in the U.S. may aid to relieve some of the delisting fears, which is one of the factors weighing on Chinese equities" in the past year, Jun Rong Yeap of IG said in a commentary.

Shares in video platform Bilibili soared 10.5pc in pre-market trading. Meituan's shares gained 7.4pc, search engine Baidu jumped 7.8pc and e-commerce JD.com surged 5.7pc.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 2.1pc to 22,502.31 after Chief Executive Carrie Lam said she would not seek a second term as the terri-

tory's top official.

Lam's five-year tenure has been marked by huge protests, a security crackdown and an overwhelming COVID-19 wave. Her successor will be picked in May and the city's security chief during the 2019 protests is among the possible choices.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 gained 0.3pc to 27,736.47. The Kospi in Seoul rose 0.7pc, to 2,757.90. Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.3pc to 7,513.70, while India's Sensex jumped 1.9pc to 60,411.20.

Wall Street benchmarks rose Friday after healthy report Friday on the U.S. jobs market eased worries over the recovery from the pandemic, though it also reinforced the likelihood of more interest rate hikes.

Stronger employment may give the Federal Reserve more leeway to raise interest rates to beat down price increases sweeping the country. The Fed has already raised its key overnight rate once, the first such increase since 2018. Following Friday's jobs report, traders increased bets that the Fed will raise rates at its next meeting by double the usual amount.

The Fed is due to release minutes from its last meeting on Wednesday.

Oil and gas prices have been rising as demand recovers from the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia, a major oil and gas producer, has raised the risk that sanctions and export restrictions might crimp supplies.

A barrel of U.S. crude oil gained 67 cents to \$99.94 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Monday.

It dipped 1pc on Friday to \$99.27. Early last month, when disruptions to crude supplies were at their height, it briefly touched \$130.

Brent crude, the international standard for pricing, picked up 52 cents to \$104.91 per barrel.

In currency dealings, the dollar was unchanged at 122.61 Japanese yen. The euro fell to \$1.1027 from \$1.1042.

## AGRA, USDA partner to improve food and agricultural systems for farmers

By Guardian Reporter

AGRA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enhance the agricultural transformation in Africa to create jobs, boost trade, strengthen resilience, and transform economies.

Through the MOU, AGRA and USDA intend to collaborate across several areas including: coordinating research on seed, soil and water technologies; training to ensure farmers have the capacity to be effective producers; enhancing each other's existing programs and activities.

The work aims to benefit Africa's smallholder farmers, their families and the food and agricultural systems. AGRA and USDA under the MOU plan to promote the adoption, application, and uptake of science and technologies and enhance African farmers' access to markets and participation in trade.

AGRA's Board Chair, H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, said this is a significant partnership that aims to further improve smallholder farmers' potential.

"USDA has a wealth of experience in the agricultural sector and together, we will further address the issues around food and agricultural systems that will enhance people's livelihoods.

Together we will respond to national and regional food security and trade priorities. I'm confident that our collaboration will accelerate employment, trade and strengthen resilience across the African continent."

"We are pleased to sign this MOU with AGRA to support inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa, enhance economic success for African farmers, improve food security and climate change adaptation and preparedness, and increase regional and international agricultural trade," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We hope this partnership between USDA and AGRA will lead to increased tools available to farmers everywhere, but par-

ticularly on the African continent, to sustainably increase agricultural production."



Smallholder farmers will significantly benefit by leveraging USDA's expertise, commitment, and support for Africa's agricultural sector and AGRA's existing research, knowledge and network in Africa. The combination between two great agricultural-focused organizations will see a significant impact to smallholders across Africa. AGRA and USDA will seek to provide farmers access to USDA's extensive work on plant and crop breeding; its tools, technology and data that will make food and agricultural systems more resilient under climate change; and its new technologies and resources to improve food safety and reduce food loss and waste.

Young men and women in agriculture and agribusiness are critical for the sustainable future of the industry and much of the continent. A critical element of the MoU will see the partnership promote involvement of young men and women along the entire value chain using the partnership's wealth of knowledge, resources, and experience in incorporating youth in the food and agricultural sector.

The MoU shines light on the importance of more funding for agriculture in Africa to ensure African countries can sustainably feed people across Africa.

USDA continues to invest and raise the profile of the issues surrounding agriculture in Africa, especially in the build-up to COP27 in Egypt late in 2022.

## CFAO Motors took over Mitsubishi Fuso dealership In Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

CFAO Motors Tanzania has announced that it has taken over the local Mitsubishi Fuso dealership.

CFAO Motors Tanzania Managing Director Mr Francois Bompard said "I am happy to share with you this new chapter in the life of CFAO Motors Tanzania. We started a few weeks ago the distribution of FUSO, very well-known brand and so close and complementary to Mercedes Benz trucks range."

He said Mercedes Benz took over Mitsubishi Fuso Trucks and Buses (known as MFTBC) about 10 years ago and fully integrated its production to its own range of vehicles.

"Today we are very happy to be able to provide any kind of trucks from 3.5 to 40 tonnes and provide you, our clients, and prospects, with very high quality of vehicles and of course performing organisation for spare parts and after sales" he said.

"We understand that trucks investment requires a total support from the FUSO dealership, to provide you with the best uptime. The CFAO strategy is to provide a full support for spare parts availability, training programme and workshop if needed. The aftersales teams are already in place and able to answer your needs."

To complete the offer on vehicles, CFAO Motors say it started to work with banks and financial institutions to facilitate the access to credit, rental and leasing solution for all its clients.

"I also want to add that this partnership between FUSO and CFAO is one



more step in the existing strong relationship between the two groups," he said

Other CFAO subsidiaries are already working with FUSO in different African countries like Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Kenya and Mauritius.

DAIMLER FUSO representative Mr Dhananjay Chavan said, "Daimler Trucks is a standalone company, offering various Trucks and Bus

Brands across the globe. CFAO has been a very important business partner of Daimler Trucks, for business of Mercedes Benz and FUSO Trucks and Buses, in several markets across Central Africa."

"As you know, CFAO Tanzania is our partner for Mercedes Benz business for almost 70 years. Today, it's one more step towards strengthening our relationship, with start of Fuso business in Tanzania. Many

congratulations to CFAO team for same," he said.

Chavan said with this partnership, they can support customers even better, with increased range of product portfolio starting 3.5t till Heavy duty trucks, coming from MFTBC Japan and Daimler India, under Brand Fuso.

This will also act as one stop solution for all customer need, including Aftersales.

## A hundred firms pull \$45bn of deals since war in Ukraine

By Jacqueline Poh

AT least a hundred companies worldwide have delayed or pulled financing deals worth more than \$45 billion since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

These include initial public offerings, bonds or loans and acquisitions. U.S. equity market deals were the worst hit by global volatility in the first quarter as a crop of firms postponed listings, while Japanese and European debt markets also suffered from delays.

The disruption comes as the conflict roiled funding markets, hurt investor appetite for risk and increased uncertainty over growth, interest-rate hikes and supply chains. The pulled deals mean the feast in fees that bankers experienced last year may be about to turn to famine.

"Volatile markets have meant that it has been harder to execute deals," said Marco Baldini, head of EMEA bond syndicate at Barclays Plc. Sales of high-grade bonds plummeted as the war in Ukraine unfolded, but in a promising sign "volumes have picked up significantly as we head into Easter," he said.

About 50 companies have shelved their IPO plans since late February,

of which almost 30 were U.S. listings, including the likes of Bioxytran Inc., Crown Equity Holdings Inc. and Sagimet Biosciences Inc. It's difficult to estimate the total value of the delayed IPOs, as most of the transaction sizes haven't been revealed.

The most prominent delays with disclosed amounts came from Asia and Europe. Lam International Ltd. postponed a primary listing of its food unit on the London Stock Exchange that would have valued the business at 13 billion pounds (\$17.1 billion), while Chinese conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group Co. put on hold a planned Hong Kong IPO of its shopping mall unit that was targeting to raise about \$3 billion.

"Many plans for fresh offerings are likely to be shelved until a measure of more calm returns," said Susannah Streeter, senior investment and markets analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown Plc. "Timing is everything for an IPO."

Mergers and acquisitions have not been left unscathed, with around 10 deals valued at more than \$5 billion stalled since the war. That's left global M&A down 15% in the first three months of the year to \$1.02 trillion, the lowest tally since the third quarter of 2020, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.



# Companies are paying high prices for staying in Russia



**W**HEN the US, UK and EU slapped sanctions on Russia's banking system, Egor Bondarov faced a conundrum. The owner of a small 3D-printing business, Bondarov moved from Russia to the US 10 years ago but still employs a Russia-based designer.

No longer able to pay his employee via his normal Russian bank account or through Western Union, Bondarov instead resorted to cryptocurrency, transferring digital coin to a Chinese crypto exchange, which could then be moved into his Russian bank account to pay the designer.

"So far it's the only way... I don't want to abandon him. He has a kid, a family," said Bondarov, noting that all of the designer's other foreign employers had severed their contracts with him.

One month into unprecedented sanctions against Moscow, small businesses and multinationals alike are scrambling to adjust, devising creative solutions to keep money flowing in and out of the country and grappling with complex decisions about whether to suspend business until geopolitical tensions cool or leave Russia entirely.

The sanctions in response to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine have cut Russia off from the global financial system. They have frozen hundreds of billions of dollars worth of Russian assets and targeted some of the country's biggest lenders, making it significantly more complicated for western companies to do business there and pay their Russian employees.

Faced with rising pressure in their home countries, many western multinationals voluntarily suspended, curtailed or closed their operations in Russia.

Visa and Mastercard have stopped processing foreign purchases from Russians, Apple and Google have halted mobile payments there and the local outlets of McDonald's and Starbucks are shuttered.

The Yale School of Management, which is tracking the exodus, estimates that more than 450 companies have pulled back or pulled out. They range from Accenture, which laid off 2,300 employees in Russia, to Johnson & Johnson, which this week said it would suspend sales of personal care products while maintaining supplies of medicines.

Yale's list of companies "digging in" runs to more than 40 brands, however, from Koch Industries to Korn Ferry. It has attracted widespread attention, including from Ukrainian officials who have accused some on the list of making "blood profits".

Some companies that had come under pressure for maintaining their operations are reconsidering. Ball Corporation, a US can and bottle manufacturer, pledged last week to "honour [its] obligations" in Russia. On Monday, it changed tack, saying it would sell a business that contributed 4 per cent of last year's revenues.

Advisors said the decision of how to respond had been more painful

for some businesses than others.

Companies from hoteliers to food manufacturers "feel they have a responsibility to their employees and consumers in Russia", said Constantine Alexandrakis, chief executive of Russell Reynolds. A survey of business leaders by the headhunting firm found that two-thirds of those with operations in Russia had not shut them down.

"It's one thing if you're Gucci selling handbags. They can already see credit cards have been turned off and high-end shopping isn't going to take place anyway," said another adviser to multinationals. Companies with meaningful manufacturing operations in Russia were in a significantly more difficult position, following Putin's threat that Moscow could nationalise businesses and assets left behind by western companies.

"If you've got a huge asset there, do you want it taken over by the Russian government?" the person asked.

Dale Buckner, CEO of security firm Global Guardian, which has evacuated more than 2,000 of its clients' employees from Russia, said it had also been running "retrieval missions" to extract equipment that clients feared could fall into the state's hands.

Buckner said he was working with eight companies on Yale's list, many of which also feared for the security of their digital assets, including servers in Russia that could expose them to cyber attacks. Clients were now cutting off some Russian employees' access to their digital data, he added, asking: "are they sympathetic to the company or sympathetic to Russia?"

Some western service groups have found buyers for their Russia businesses, including Cushman & Wakefield, the property adviser which announced such an agreement this week.

Others, though, are running into roadblocks as they try to orchestrate buyouts by local management, as many of the Russian lenders that might have financed such deals have fallen under western sanctions, while many US and UK law firms no longer feel comfortable structuring the agreements.

While most firms have found ways to keep paying Russian employees despite the restrictions on sending money to some of Russia's biggest lenders, many are struggling to get cash and other assets out of the country.

"If you have cash assets, you're basically fucked. There is no simple way of getting them out," said the CEO of one firm operating in Russia.

Such concerns are preoccupying executives at a moment when many of them are concluding that there will be no quick return to the Russian market.

Amir Aghdai, CEO of the dental supplies business Envista Holdings, told a conference on Tuesday that the company faced "tremendous" challenges in maintaining its \$100m-a-year business in Russia.

# Ten tips for cutting your non-essential spending

By Makala Green

for anything more expensive?

## 1. How to track what you spend

If you're not sure where your money is going, you can spend hundreds of pounds a month without even realising it. If you track your spending, you're more likely to consider purchases more carefully. Doing this for at least three months is typically the first step to effective budgeting because it indicates what you need to cut, but it's good to continue in the long term. Write everything down in a notebook, create a spreadsheet or use an app - try Emma, Monzo or Money Dashboard - to boost your awareness and mindfulness on spending.

## 2. Making a budget that works

Living to a budget limit is not fun but it's a good way to start controlling your spending. If you don't want to account for every pound and penny, use a simplified approach such as the 50-30-20 rule: keep 50 per cent of your income for essentials, 30 can go on fun things, and set 20 aside for savings. If you are really struggling, you need to give every pound a job and don't even let £1 escape. Make a detailed budget specifying how much you will spend and save. By allocating a budget for your enjoyable expenses, you are more likely to avoid overspending.

## 3. Top ways to avoid credit cards

Credit cards can give you false hope, making you believe you have enough money to spend, even when you don't. Don't get rid of your cards entirely, as they can help you develop and maintain a good credit history, and with large purchases they can ease your cash flow - as long as you pay off the balance straight away, before you're charged interest. But to avoid temptation, make your credit cards inconvenient to access. Remove them from your purse or wallet and keep them at home. Also, avoid saving their details on websites so you can't unconsciously spend. Go to settings on your phone or computer and remove all your payment history.

## 4. Install a 48-hour rule for purchases

Force yourself to delay for two days before buying things. It helps you make sure that you really need what you're buying and won't regret it, plus you can use that time to ensure you would get the best price for your money. Waiting 48 hours should be the minimum; the more you spend, the longer you should wait. How about two days for items below £100; five days for anything up to £500, and a week

## 5. Have no-spend days

A couple of days each month, aim to spend on nothing other than absolute essentials, such as food or basic living supplies - or if you're really committed, have a no-spend day each week. You could also challenge yourself to see how many no-spend days you can have each month or how long you can keep them up - competing with your partner or friend to see who can save the most. They not only save you money but can help adjust your mindset over the long term, so you're not just buying new things all the time.

## 6. Make better use of offers

There are some things you have to buy; the trick is to reduce spending while doing so. Be more active in seeking first-time purchase offers on websites, delay big purchases until sales are on, and be more flexible in what you buy to make the most of whatever is discounted in your supermarket that day.

## 7. Unsubscribe from tempting emails

Signing up for email offers from your favourite store may seem smart, especially if you get discounts, but they make you want to buy things you wouldn't have seen otherwise. Avoid temptation.

## 8. Always shop with a list

To avoid impulse purchases, make a list of items you need to buy - and stick to it. A shopping list is common when popping to the supermarket, but it's even more important when shopping online and facing targeted ads. Even if you're buying one new jacket for work, write it down and don't be swayed by other things you see.

## 9. Avoid shopping when you're hungry

You're probably aware that shopping at the supermarket on an empty stomach attracts you to impulse items. Well, a similar thing happens online. Researchers found that a department-store shopper who was hungry spent up to 60 per cent more on non-food products than shoppers who weren't starving.

## 10. Control emotional spending

It's easy to buy something you don't need or even want when you're stressed-out, bored or unhappy. But we also spend a lot when we're happy: what did you buy yourself the last time you got a promotion, passed a test or hit a milestone age? There's nothing wrong with deserved treats, as long as you can afford them. While avoiding emotional spending indefinitely is probably unrealistic, avoid it wherever possible.

CURRENT NEWS

# Russian bondholders remain on alert even as payments flow

MOSCOW

INVESTORS in Russia's sovereign bonds are looking further down the horizon as Vladimir Putin's government navigates the fallout of international sanctions in order to stave off default.

A carve-out in U.S. measures against Russia has allowed overseas bondholders so far to receive payments on the nation's foreign-currency debt, even as restrictions complicate the process. Yet it's unclear how long that can last.

While it's possible the exemptions could be extended by U.S. authorities, focus is shifting to a showdown at the end of May - especially as Moscow's reserves shrink and the economy suffers.

Holders of the nation's bond due on Monday are, of course, still on alert for a payment of more than half a billion dollars - an amount that's set to be

Russia's biggest debt-stress test since its troops invaded Ukraine last month.

But some angst over the risk of imminent default has receded after the government bought back almost three-quarters of the once-\$2 billion security using local currency.

Now, some investors are staring down the last week in May, when a key U.S. exemption to sanctions is scheduled to expire and Russia faces another round of dollar coupon payments.

"Russia has the capacity and willingness, and up until now, technical issues haven't prevent it from making payments," said Damian Sassower, chief emerging market credit strategist for Bloomberg Intelligence. "But at some point there's so many hoops to pay creditors that, at some stage, you think: What do you think Russia's willingness to pay is going to be?"

The current exemption, which allows U.S.-based entities and investors to receive Russian debt payments, is set to expire on May 25 unless extended by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the body that oversees U.S. sanctions.

A senior Treasury official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said no decision has been made on the May 25 deadline. The official noted that the general license allowing routine debt payments was issued to mitigate the impact of the sanctions on Western institutions and individuals, adding that the U.S. has an interest in avoiding doing damage to Western banks.

Of course, damage has already been done in the price of the bonds. Russia's sovereign dollar notes are down 72% so far this year on average, according to data compiled from a Bloomberg index, with some maturities trading below



20 cents on the dollar. Risk premium has also skyrocketed to above 3,400 basis points over U.S. Treasuries, JPMorgan Chase & Co. data show, well above levels considered distressed.

If the U.S. rule isn't extended and payments are unable to reach bondholder accounts, Russia would be at risk of its first foreign default since the Bolsheviks repudiated debts in 1918. That puts the spotlight on

coupons owed on May 27 for bonds maturing in 2026 and 2036.

"Post-May 25, the assumption still has to be that OFAC doesn't allow any further payments, resulting in a default," Morgan Stanley's Simon Waever wrote in a note to clients on March 18, when reports of the first wartime coupon reached some bondholders' accounts two days after it was due. The exemption "could be extended, yet for this to happen it would need a significant move toward deescalation."

Developments on the ground in Ukraine and between Russia and the nations it's deemed "unfriendly" will also be critical, with a reversal in sanctions appearing unlikely without large changes. Europe and Russia remain at odds over gas payments, while President Joe Biden's administration is channeling further military aid to the government in Kyiv.

Grace periods on some Russian corporate bonds have already expired without the money reaching creditors. In one case, Citigroup's scrutiny prompted Russian steelmaker Severstal to run out of time to pay interest on a foreign-currency bond.

The U.K., in a similar vein as the U.S., has also announced its own set of exemptions for financial institutions to facilitate bond-payment flows. These will last until June 30, unless extended. For investors, the worry is that sanctions meant to hamper Russia's economy and access to financing could turn around to hit them.

"I think those exemptions will be provided for as long as needed," said Cristian Maggio, head of portfolio strategy at Toronto Dominion Bank in London. "It may even be on a case-by-case basis rather than having a blanket exemption. Every single payment will have

to be examined and exempt which is going to make things more complicated, which is going to increase tensions in markets. It's going to make people more anxious because it brings an additional dimension of risk to this story."

The clock may also be running out for Russia's ability to keep up with payments, regardless of sanction exemptions.

Russia's central bank said on Thursday its foreign-currency and gold reserves plunged to just \$604.4 billion as of March 25, the lowest level since last August. It marks a \$38.8 billion plunge since a February peak, underscoring the drain for Russia since it began the invasion. While it's unclear exactly where Russia has been pulling funds to service its foreign debt payments so far, dwindling reserves may be a sign that its long-term debt sustainability is becoming more challenging.



# Fashion startup raising funds at \$100bn value



**BEIJING**  
**C**HINESE fast fashion e-commerce startup Shein is weighing a funding round at a valuation of about \$100 billion, according to people familiar with the matter.  
 The online retailer is in talks with potential investors including General Atlantic to raise about \$1 billion, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private. Achieving the \$100 billion

mark would make it the third most valuable startup in the world, after ByteDance Ltd. and SpaceX, according to data provider CB Insights.  
 Shein responded last May to media reports on its fundraising and whether it would go public, saying in a statement that it was valued at several billion dollars and it had no plan for an initial public offering in the short term.  
 Deliberations are ongoing and details such as the size of the fundraising and valuation could still change, the people said. Representatives for Shein didn't immediately respond to requests for comment outside normal business hours. An official for General Atlantic declined

to comment.  
 Shein has become a juggernaut thanks to a combination of supply-chain savvy, data-driven clothing design, and tax loopholes in the U.S. and China that came to the fore during the trade war. Last year it overtook Amazon.com Inc. in downloads of shopping apps on U.S. stores.  
 The company has operations in Guangzhou, Singapore and Los Angeles, according to a recent press release. It offers more than 600,000 items to customers in over 150 countries. The startup's backers include Tiger Global Management, IDG and Sequoia.

# Why is financial literacy of essence for children?

By Mandar Marathe

WITH the dynamics of the world changing so fast, financial literacy for young children has become an essential aspect of life.

Young kids do not learn the important things until you tell them they are essential. Especially in the case of money, they need to know from an early age how to manage money. With the dynamics of the world changing so fast, financial literacy for young children becomes an essential aspect of life. Teenagers are always very impatient to have a lavish lifestyle on their earnings, and they are eager to stand on their own feet and use their money to have a luxurious standard of living.

Financial literacy for kids does not only mean spending it wisely, but it also suggests the habit of saving or investing.

Schools these days are inculcating many exciting programs to teach money-management skills to students apart from academics. To understand more about their finances and how the economy works, schools have also added financial literacy to the list. Apart from the schools, as parents, one of your essential priorities should be making children learn the importance of money and teaching them to use it wisely. Now we all know the difficulties of teaching children or helping to inculcate habits in them. So to make this task more accessible, we have listed out a few points which would help your children have an easy understanding of money-management.

Times of financial crisis teach us money management and the efficient use of money. It is essential to make teenagers financially literate to help use their hard-earned money judiciously and be aware of money matters.

Money is central to our day-to-day life, we transact not only for education but what we eat, clothes we wear, technology we use and much more. Even if you do not mention money in front of your teens, they are picking up on watching you anyway.  
 Talk to them about how hard it is

## Importance of Financial Education to Kids

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to earn money and manage expenses. Help them realize that the most reasonable use of funds is using the existing funds to make more of it, through savings or investing.

We deal with money-related matters everyday. It is all around us. Hence, financial literacy can be taught everywhere - For example, while shopping, you can teach your children the difference between wants and needs.

You could also take this opportunity to help them understand what credit or debit cards are and/or how cash works and is used while purchasing something. You can also help them understand purchase receipts that contain cost as per item received and other important details.

Help your children understand expenses and that income and savings play a big part in it. Teach them that it is essential to save first and adjust the expenses

accordingly. Help them get into a habit of keeping some part of their pocket money as a saving in their piggy bank and set a goal. For example, in case they need a new novel to read, you can teach them how to put aside some cash every week to reach the cost of the novel and then go out and get them. This will not only help them realise the value of saving but will also help them feel a sense of independence when it comes to money-management.

It is essential to help your children realize that earning money is not that easy but requires hard-work like working for a living, going to the office or more. You can start by teaching them how you as a family earn and help them understand the meaning of a salary. This way, you can help them understand the importance of money which in return would help them become aware that money needs to be used judiciously as it needs to be earned.

# How to start investing money as a teenager

By G. Brian Davis

TEENAGERS have a massive advantage over everyone else when it comes to building wealth: time for the investments to compound.

Unless you're investing for upcoming college tuition, you don't need to worry about volatility in the stock market or your other investments. You have plenty of time before you need to pull money out of your investments for retirement or other long-term financial goals.

Which means you can invest aggressively for maximum returns. Let older people worry about every dip and stock market correction - for you, they just mean a chance to buy stocks "on sale."

## 1. Stocks

If you buy no other type of investment as a teenager, buy stocks. Since its inception, the S&P 500 has yielded an average annual return of around 10%. You can have your brokerage account (ideally a Roth IRA) open in a few short minutes, and start investing in stocks with as little as \$10.

Stocks also make it easy to diversify. With the click of a button, you can buy a mix of U.S. and international stocks, small and large companies, and stocks from industries ranging from health care to technology to banking and beyond.

## 2. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)

An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a fund that owns many different stocks. Or, for that matter, many different bonds, or REITs, or precious metals, or commodities, or any combination of the above.

For example, you can buy shares in an ETF that mimics a stock market index like the S&P 500. These "index funds" own shares in all companies represented in that stock index, so one share of the fund gives you ownership of every company in the index.

When you open an account with a robo-advisor, they ask you a few questions to determine your ideal investment portfolio (called your asset allocation). Then they typically propose a series of ETFs, and if you approve their suggested portfolio, they automatically spread your money into those ETFs for maximum diversification and returns.

## 3. Mutual Funds

Like ETFs, mutual funds own many different stocks or other asset types.

But ETFs, as their name suggests, trade in real time on stock exchanges. Their share prices move up and down throughout the day based on what investors are willing to pay for them.

Mutual funds reset their value at the end of each day, and tend to be more actively managed by a fund manager than ETFs. That makes them more expensive as a general rule because the fund itself charges more each year.

As a teenager, stick with passively managed ETFs unless you have a compelling reason to buy a specific mutual fund.

## 4. Real Estate

You probably don't have the time, money, or expertise as a teenager to invest directly in properties. Many older adults don't either. But that doesn't mean you can't invest in real estate.

From real estate investment trusts (REITs) to real estate crowdfunding platforms and beyond, you have many ways to invest in real estate. With each one, you can add another stream of passive income. Try Fundrise and Groundfloor as great starting investment options that require only modest investments to participate.

Real estate comes with different advantages and disadvantages than stocks. In many ways they complement each others' strengths and weaknesses perfectly, which is why I invest in both stocks and real estate for the long term.

## 5. Bonds

A mainstay of retirees' portfolios for their stability, you don't need bonds in your portfolio as a teenager.

In the 21st century, interest rates have remained perpetually low. Which makes bonds a low-return, low-risk investment appropriate for retirees but not young people who can stomach higher risks for higher returns.

## 6. Micro-Investing Apps

While not an investment in and of themselves, micro-investing apps offer an easy way to automate your savings and investments.

Each has its own unique spin, but most work like this: When you spend money, they round up the cost to the nearest dollar and invest the difference. So if you spend \$12.50 on lunch out, they round up the cost to \$13 and move \$.50 into your savings or investment account.

**G. Brian Davis is a real estate investor, personal finance writer, and travel addict mildly obsessed with FIRE. He spends nine months of the year in Abu Dhabi, and splits the rest of the year between his hometown of Baltimore and traveling the world.**



# Reviewing the lay of the land in China

By Jeremy Stevens

IN its quest for ensuring macroeconomic stability, Beijing is targeting growth of 5.5% for 2022, seemingly having abandoned the medium-term objectives such as de-risking and deleveraging.

Encouragingly, China has managed rather fair macroeconomic data in both January and February, implying achievable GDP growth for Q1:22.

This is significant because a big miss would mean that achieving an already ambitious growth target for 2022 would require far more heavy lifting from both fiscal and monetary policy.

A rising tide of voices argue that monetary policy needs to more forcefully aim at easing domestic conditions, propagating an acceleration in credit expansion.

However, so far, policymakers have been reluctant, and credit growth slowed in February. We foresee an even larger deviation in domestic monetary conditions, heightening the risk of capital outflows, which, in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have been considerable.

Many expect more easing for the property sector. To date, the primary focus has been to stabilise the developers by ensuring the completion of the stock of started projects and secure these projects' respective supply chains.

However, dealing with the pipeline of existing projects is one thing, but does little to deal with the slump in new projects, and this will hurt local government finances, and, despite some reductions in mortgage rates, home sales, along with land sales and floor space started, have slumped.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



## WORLD

## Pakistani president dissolves national assembly after opposition's no-confidence motion rejected

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTANI President Arif Alvi on Sunday dissolved the country's National Assembly, or the lower house of the parliament, on the advice of Prime Minister Imran Khan after a motion of no-confidence by joint opposition against Khan was declared unconstitutional.

The session to vote on the no-confidence motion was convened on Sunday morning, during which the country's Minister of Information Fawad Chaudhry said that the motion is an "effective operation of regime change by a foreign government," which has joined hands with the local parties to topple the Pakistani government through the no-confidence motion.

Chaudhry said that the Constitution asks every citizen of Pakistan to be loyal to the country rather than a foreign power, questioning the constitutional validity of the motion brought on the directives of a foreign power, amid the chants of "the friend of the United States is a traitor" from the government benches.

Approving Chaudhry's argument, Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri, who was chairing the session, rejected the no-confidence motion, citing article 5

of the Constitution that "no foreign government is allowed to conduct regime change operations against an elected government."

Following the rejection of the motion, Khan said in a televised address to the nation that he has sent an advice to the president to dissolve the National Assembly, calling for an interim government before going for fresh elections. "Today, the deputy speaker foiled that agenda by rejecting no-confidence motion... A conspiracy was being hatched... The nation will not let such kind of conspiracies succeed," Khan said.

The prime minister said that the Pakistani public will now use its right to choose its government through elections, adding that no foreign power should be allowed to make decisions through conspiracies.

"I want to tell my nation to start preparing for elections and not let any foreign power decide the future of Pakistan." The no-confidence motion was moved by an alliance of major opposition parties of the country, which claimed to have 177 member representations in the National Assembly, five votes more than the required to de-seat the prime minister.

On March 27, while addressing a pub-



A man watches news channels broadcast a live address to the nation by Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, in Islamabad, Pakistan on March 31, 2022. AP

lic gathering in Islamabad, Khan mentioned receiving a letter on March 7, a day prior to the filing of the motion in the National Assembly, from a Pakistani ambassador to a "powerful country" stating that the ambassador was informed about the motion even before it was moved, and warned of consequences if the country failed to de-seat Khan.

Khan later revealed that the United States showed displeasure when he visited Russia in February, telling Pakistani officials, in official communication with them, of regime change through the no-confidence motion.

A meeting of the National Security Committee on March 31 also took notice of the foreign attempt to topple the government and an official demarche was made through official channels to the U.S. embassy in Pakistan, Khan said.

Reacting to the government's move to call for early elections following the dissolution of the assembly, the leader of the opposition in the lower house Shahbaz Sharif

said that the rejection of the motion by the deputy speaker of the National Assembly is unconstitutional.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, chairman of the opposition Pakistan Peoples Party, said that the government has violated the Constitution by not allowing voting to take place.

The opposition alliance refused to accept the dissolution of the National Assembly and submitted a petition to the Supreme Court of Pakistan, pleading to review the ruling given by Suri, set aside the prime minister's advice to the president to dissolve the National Assembly, and that parliament session should be summoned again to conduct voting on the no-confidence motion.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Pakistan took a suo-moto notice of the ongoing situation in the country, with Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial holding an important meeting with their fellow judges to deliberate on the current political and constitutional crisis evolved after the opposition's no-confidence motion was rejected.

## China-Europe cooperation gains steam by embracing green partnership

BEIJING

OFFSHORE construction of a wind farm is complicated. It is often described as a "moon landing" mission. That is even more so in the Mediterranean, one of the world's busiest waterways.

Yet the Italians' determination coupled with Chinese expertise are starting to turn the Southern European nation's dream for clean electricity into reality.

### WIND OF COOPERATION

A massive wind turbine installation vessel is on standby 24 hours a day off Taranto port in southern Italy, where engineers are about to witness the birth of the Mediterranean's first offshore wind farm. When fully operational, Beleolico could power 18,500 households.

With Chinese expertise, the construction of the wind farm is nearing completion. It is ready to tell a story of how the tie-up of Chinese renewable technology and Europe's ambitious green targets can make a difference.

And when the wind blows across turbine rotor blades off the Puglia coast -- the "heel" of Italy's boot -- the wind farm can generate zero-emissions electricity to power tens of thousands of local families.

Italy is not the only European country that is working with China to generate power through wind. In a dense mountain forest in western Croatia, the country's largest wind farm, built by a Chinese company, has begun operation. It promotes greener, local growth and could persuade more environmentally-oriented young people to stay behind and develop their hometowns.

That wind of renewable energy cooperation is impressively valuable and essential as the headwinds of protectionism and confrontation are swirling hard. That is why leaders of China and the European Union (EU) have stressed once again their shared commitment to promoting common development and jointly tackling such planetary challenges as climate change at their Friday's virtual gathering via video.

### SHARED GREEN FUTURE

These wind farm cooperation projects are possible thanks mostly to the common pursuit by China and the EU in green development, a key component of "Xiconomics" put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping and guiding China's high-quality growth.

Following Xi's economic thought, China has built the world's largest wind and solar power capacity, with an increase in new installation outpacing any other country in the world. In 2021, China sold more than 3.5 million new energy vehicles, ranking first globally for the seventh consecutive year.

While China is delivering on its promise of carbon neutrality set for mid-century, the country is synergizing its development strategy with that of the EU to generate new driving forces in an already dynamic partnership.

About 800 km away from Taranto port, China's Shanghai Electric Power Company Limited is using its expertise in wind, solar and hydrogen power on Malta's Gozo Island, which could become the EU's first carbon-neutral island.

Horst Loechel, a professor at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, stressed the importance of green cooperation between China and the EU.

This "template for cooperation" in green energy is of great significance for the world, said the professor.

"We shall see more and more joint efforts in technology invention, adoption, and commercialization," said Xiong Yu, a professor at the Surrey Business School in Britain, while talking about the prospects of China-EU green cooperation.

"The collaboration will be from strength to strength and can obviously impact the world," he said, adding that "it will greatly improve the trust and partnerships in many other areas between the two regions."

### PARTNERSHIP OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE

Eight years ago, during a visit to the EU headquarters in Brussels, President Xi proposed that the two sides foster a partnership for peace, growth, reform and civilization.

During a meeting with President Charles Michel of the European Council and President Ursula von der Leyen of the European Commission via video link on Friday, Xi urged greater synergy between their development strategies and complementarity between China's new development philosophy and paradigm and the EU's trade policy for open strategic autonomy.

The new development philosophy, featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, was put forward by Xi in 2015 and has since piloted China's growth and strengthened its trade links with other countries.

China-EU trade has no doubt reaped from such a vision. In 2021, bilateral trade between China and the EU was worth over 800 billion U.S. dollars, a new all-time high, up 33 percent from eight years ago. Two-way investment last year exceeded 270 billion U.S. dollars.

The EU became China's second-largest trading partner last year. In the first two months of 2022, it overtook the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to grab the top spot, indicating the huge potential for the two-way trade.

Xinhua

## Palestine calls for global initiative to fill political vacuum

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh on Sunday said there is a need for an international initiative to fill the current political vacuum in light of Israel's destruction of the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state.

An official statement said that Shtayyeh made the remarks during a meeting with the Swiss envoy to the Middle East Wolfgang Amadeus Brullhart.

During the meeting held in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Shtayyeh accused the Israeli government of accelerating settlements building, confiscating land, and demolishing Palestinian homes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

According to the statement, Shtayyeh said that "it is necessary to compel Israel to abide by international law and respect the signed accords and treaties," adding that international law "must be indivisible and applicable everywhere and to all."

The Palestinians are looking forward to having a different approach from the international community towards finding a serious and quick solution in dealing with the



Palestinian Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh speaks during a joint press conference with Libya's interim prime minister in the Libyan capital Tripoli, on Feb 14, 2022. AFP

Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Israeli settlement is the thorniest issue in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and one of the main reasons for the disruption of the last round of direct peace negotiations between the two sides in 2014.

In the June 1967 Middle East war, Israel occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which are claimed by the Palestinians, and has controlled them ever since.

Since then, the Palestinians have been seeking self-determination in a bid to establish a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Agencies

## Sudan's Al-Burhan urges UN mission's neutrality on national political crisis

KHARTOUM

CHAIRMAN of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan on Sunday called on the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) to keep the same distance from all parties amid the ongoing political crisis in the country.

His remarks came during a meeting with the head of UNITAMS Volker Perthes in the capital Khartoum, where Al-Burhan (pictured) questioned the scope of a recent UNITAMS briefing on Sudan to the UN Security Council (UNSC), according to a statement by the sovereign council.

"The briefing did not cover all situations in the country and not include the positive indicators that occurred on the ground,"

Al-Burhan was quoted as saying. Perthes, for his part, said his briefing was based on the information and reports prepared by his office in Khartoum, according to the statement.

The UN envoy, however, voiced readiness to review any inaccurate information contained in the report submitted to the UNSC.

The meeting came a day after Al-Burhan warned that if the UN mission goes beyond its mandate or interferes in Sudan's internal affairs, Perthes could be expelled.

In last week's briefing to the UNSC, Perthes cautioned that the deteriorating economic, humanitarian and security situations in Sudan were due to the absence of "a functioning government" since October 2021 and the "violent repression" against



the protesters demanding civilian rule. On Jan. 10, the UNITAMS launched an intra-Sudanese political process to end the country's political crisis.

Perthes has since been in consultations with Sudanese political parties and civil forces in the country.

Recently, the African Union joined the UN efforts seeking to reach a political settlement in Sudan. Sudan has been suffering a political crisis after Al-Burhan, general commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces, declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, 2021 and dissolved the Sovereign Council and the government.

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

Xinhua

## China makes substantial progress in building giant 'power bank'

A COMPRESSED air energy storage project in Jintan district, Changzhou city, east China's Jiangsu province, has turned a salt cavern located at 1,000 kilometers underground into a giant "power bank" that can store 300,000 kWh of electricity in an energy storage cycle, which is equivalent to the amount of electricity consumed by 60,000 residents a day.

The project uses electric energy to compress air into the salt cavern during off-peak hours, and releases the compressed air to drive turbo-expander for power generation when demand for electricity increases.

The above-mentioned compressed air energy storage method is one of the new ways to store energy, which refers to energy storage means except

for pumped hydro energy storage, including energy storage systems using lithium-ion battery, flow battery, flywheel, compressed air, hydrogen (ammonia), and thermal (cold) energy storage technologies.

An energy storage facility can be considered as a giant "power bank" that is loaded with electricity during times of optimal wind and solar conditions or low demand for electricity and deliver electricity to a power grid during times of low power output from wind turbines and solar panels or high demand for electricity.

Such "power banks" can not only complement unstable photovoltaic

and wind power generation and increase the proportion of renewable energy sources in power generation projects, but also improve the flexibility of electric power systems by helping with frequency regulation and peak shaving in coordination with fossil fuel power plant, nuclear power plant, or other types of power plants using conventional energy sources.

Besides, new-type energy storage facilities, which feature short construction period, simple and flexible site selection and strong regulation ability, can well suit the needs of new energy development and utilization projects.

China aims to steer new types of energy storage from the initial stage of commercialization to a stage of large-scale development by 2025, when the country will be able to carry out large-scale commercial application of relevant technologies, according to a recent plan on the development of new types of energy storage during China's 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) released by Chinese authorities.

While new-type energy storage facilities mainly helped with frequency regulation as auxiliaries of fossil fuel power plants in the past, they will play an independent role in the mar-

ket, as the plan pointed out.

The country will promote the market-oriented and orderly development of new types of energy storage and give full play to the decisive role of market in resource allocation, said the document.

"After their independent role in the market is recognized, new-type energy storage facilities will be able to independently take part in activities including connection to power grid, distribution of power, and settlement of transaction along with the introduction of electricity price policies, which will help accelerate their marketization process," said Chen

Yongchong, head of the energy storage technology research team of the Institute of Electrical Engineering under Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Safety is considered the bottom line in the development of new types of energy storage in China. The country will strengthen prevention of safety risks in the development of new types of energy storage, define clearly the responsibilities of various parties for ensuring the safety of various links of the industrial chain, establish and improve technical standards and systems for management, monitoring, and evaluation for the field, in a bid to guarantee the safety of the construction and operation of new-type energy storage projects, according to the plan.

People's Daily



## Macron does not rule out new sanctions against Russia over situation in Ukraine's Bucha

PARIS

FRANCE will discuss with its EU partners the introduction of new sanctions against Russia over the situation in the Ukrainian town of Bucha near Kiev and does not rule out restrictions on the supplies of Russian oil and coal, French President Emmanuel Macron told the France Inter radio station yesterday.

"What happened in Bucha demands the introduction of a new series of sanctions. We plan to coordinate efforts with our European partners, in particular, with Germany," he said.

Responding to a question about the EU's readiness to reject the oil and coal deliveries from Russia, the French president said that "restrictions in this sphere would be particularly painful."

He hopes that this issue will be discussed at the EU level in the near future. "I think that with regards to oil and coal we can move forward and we should move forward in terms of sanctions," Macron said.

On April 3, the Russian Defense Ministry refuted the Kiev regime's accusations of an alleged massacre of civilians in Bucha.

The military agency said that the Russian Armed Forces left Bucha on March 30, while "the evidence of crimes" emerged only four days later, after Ukrainian Security Service officers had arrived in the town.

The ministry stressed that on March 31, the town's Mayor Anatoly Fedoruk confirmed in a video address that there were no Russian troops in Bucha.

However, he did not say a word about civilians shot dead in the street with their hands tied behind their backs.

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address that in response to a request by the heads of the Donbass republics he had made a decision to carry out a special military operation in order to protect people "who have been suffering from abuse and genocide by the Kiev regime for eight years."

The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans of occupying Ukrainian territories. Following this, the US, the EU, the UK and a number of other countries announced the introduction of sanctions against Russian legal entities and private individuals. *Xinhua*

## 6 dead, 12 wounded in mass shooting in US city Sacramento

LOS ANGELES

The Sacramento Police Department confirmed Sunday afternoon that six adults were killed and 12 other people were injured in a mass shooting occurred early morning in Sacramento, the capital city of the US state of California.

At a press conference, Sacramento Police Chief Kathy Lester said that the shootings broke out after a large fight in downtown and killed three men and three women. But she did not release any details about the suspect or a possible motive.

Nearby buildings were hit by gunfire and a stolen handgun was recovered at the scene, Lester said, adding that the investigators suspected that multiple shooters were involved in the tragic incident.

According to her, police patrolling the area heard gunfire at about 2 am. When police arrived at the scene, they found a large crowd gathered on the street and began lifesaving measures to multiple victims on scene, however six victims were pronounced deceased at the scene.

In video showed by local KCRA 3 news channel, some strong young men grappled with each other first in a street then sound of gunfire could be heard in background. As the crowd of people running through the street, screams could be heard as they ran to safety.

KCRA 3 said they counted 76 gunshots in this video and called the incident as the fatalist shooting in the city's history.

Lester also issued a plea to the public at the press conference, asking for witnesses or anyone with recordings of the incident to contact police.

Gun violence has been on the rise across the United States in the past few years, a trend fueled by multiple factors, from the economic and social disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to the unrest during the 2020 elections, as well as a surge in gun sales.

More than 17,000 people have died or been injured due to gun violence in the country so far this year, during which America has seen at least 110 mass shootings, according to a database run by the nonprofit research group Gun Violence Archive.

## US won't agree to Afghanistan joint statement

THE Extended Troika Meeting on Afghanistan, attended by special envoys of China, the United States, Russia and Pakistan on Thursday, failed to issue a joint statement, Sputnik News reported on Saturday, quoting unidentified sources.

Sources told Sputnik News that the four sides had agreed on a draft joint statement. However after the meeting the White House wouldn't agree to issue a joint statement because of what has been done by one of the members of the extended Troika "somewhere else other than Afghanistan", the report quoted the sources as saying. All other members of the extended Troika expressed their disappointment and dissatisfaction, the report said.

The Extended Troika Meeting on Afghanistan was held in Tunxi, Anhui province on Thursday. Before the meeting, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a collective meeting with Special Envoy for Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China Yue Xiaoyong, Russian Special Presidential Representative for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov, the US State Department's Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West and the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Afghanistan Affairs of Pakistan Mohammad Sadiq. *Xinhua*

# Airstrike hits oil processing plant, fuel depot in Ukraine

KYIV/MOSCOW/BERLIN/ALGIERS

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict continued yesterday as relevant parties are holding a new round of peace talks via video to discuss draft agreements between the two countries. Following are the latest developments of the situation:

The Russian military struck an oil processing plant and a fuel depot in Ukraine's southern Black Sea port of Odessa, Maksym Marchenko, head of the military administration of Odessa region, said Sunday in a video message posted on the official Telegram channel of the Odessa City Council.

There were no casualties in the airstrike, Marchenko said, without giving further details.

Earlier on Sunday, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said during a briefing that the Russian Armed Forces have destroyed an oil refinery and three storage facilities for fuel and lubricants near Ukraine's Odessa with high-precision sea- and air-based missiles.

### Russia refutes Bucha killing accusation

The Russian Defense Ministry



A woman cries while waiting along with others for distribution of food products in the village of Motyzhyn, Ukraine, which was until recently under the control of the Russian military on Sunday. AP

on Sunday refuted Kyiv's accusation of alleged killing of civilians in the settlement of Bucha in Ukraine's Kyiv region.

"All photographs and video materials published by the Kyiv regime, allegedly evidencing some kind of 'crimes' committed by Russian military personnel in the city of Bucha, Kyiv region, are another provocation," the ministry said in a statement.

It said that during the time the settlement was under control of the Russian forces, not a single local resident suffered from any violent actions, adding that "all Russian units

completely withdrew from Bucha on March 30".

### Roscosmos to stop cooperation

Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos would not cooperate with countries supplying weapons to Ukraine, Director General of Roscosmos Dmitry Rogozin said Sunday via his social media channel.

He said Roscosmos stopped joint projects with Western countries for moral and ethical reasons, and would not have any cooperation with countries that provide weapons and political support to Ukraine.

Earlier, Rogozin said that Roscosmos would soon submit proposals to Russia's leadership on ending cooperation on the International Space Station with the United States, Canada, European countries and Japan.

### Germany, allies to decide further Russia sanctions

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Sunday that Germany and its allies will in the next few days decide on further measures to sanction Russia.

Also on Sunday, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock called for tightened sanctions against Russia.

During a TV interview, German Minister of Defense Christine Lambrecht noted that the European Union should talk about putting an end to gas supplies from Russia.

### Ukraine sees sharp trade decline

Ukraine's imports and exports decreased significantly in March, the country's Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said on Sunday.

Ukraine's imports dropped from \$5.9 billion in February to \$1.8 billion while exports were down to \$2.7 billion in March from \$5.3 billion in February.

Due to the blockade of ports, Ukraine's agricultural exports were particularly affected, according to the minister.

"The start of sowing and the work of the state to restore logistics are the basis of stabilization of the economy," the minister said.

### Foreign ministers to meet in Moscow

Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra will pay a visit to Moscow accompanied by his counterparts from Jordan, Sudan, Iraq and Egypt and the Secretary General of the Arab League to discuss with Russian officials the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Algerian Foreign Ministry said Sunday in a statement.

The delegation will later meet with the Ukrainian side in Warsaw, the statement added.

## Sweden to offer 4th COVID-19 jab to people aged 65 and above

STOCKHOLM / NEW YORK / ADDIS ABABA

SWEDEN will give a fourth shot of COVID-19 vaccine to people aged 65 and above to boost their defences against the disease, the health agency said yesterday.

"For people aged 65 and over, it is now four months since the previous vaccine dose, and the protective effect of the vaccine diminishes over time," the Health Agency said in a statement.

Sweden had previously offered a fourth jab to people aged 80 or older.

Sweden abolished almost all restrictions in early March. It is hard to gauge the level of spread in Sweden as large-scale testing has ceased, but the number of patients requiring intensive care is the lowest in 18 months.

### Africa

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa reached 11,343,461 as of Sunday evening, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said.

The specialized healthcare agency of the African Union (AU) said the death toll across the continent stands at 251,297 and some 10,697,502 patients have recovered from the disease so far.

South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya are among the countries with the most cases on the continent, said Africa CDC.

South Africa has recorded the most COVID-19 cases in Africa with 3,722,065 cases, followed by Morocco with 1,163,012 cases as of Sunday evening.

In terms of the caseloads, southern Africa is the most affected region, followed by the northern and eastern parts of the continent, while the central Africa is the least affected region, according to the Africa CDC.

### Kenya

Business activities across various sectors in Kenya are gradually returning to pre-COVID-19 levels following the lifting of most restrictions, the Central Bank of Kenya said in a survey of chief executives released on Saturday.

Most of the businesses, said the apex bank, have experienced growth in quarter one of 2022 as compared to the previous quarter as demand rises.

"There has been increased demand due to seasonal factors, especially for professional services, and diaspora activities supporting the real estate sector," said the bank.

The chief executives, according to the regulator, remain optimistic that



The national Swedish flag waves on top of a commuter ferrie on Feb 4, 2022, during the ongoing coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. AFP

the growth would be sustained in the subsequent quarters due to the easing of the COVID-19 containment measures, continued government spending on infrastructure, anticipated favorable weather conditions and continued recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

### Roche

Roche said on Monday the US Food and Drug administration granted priority review to its Actemra/RoActemra for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalised adults.

"If approved, Actemra/RoActemra would be the first US FDA-approved immunomodulator for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalised patients," Roche said in a statement, adding that more than 1 million people hospitalised with COVID-19 had been treated with Actemra/RoActemra worldwide since the beginning of the pandemic.

### UK

A renewed surge of COVID-19 in Britain has forced airlines including easyJet to cancel hundreds of flights in recent days as staff sickness levels soar.

England dropped all its coronavirus restrictions earlier this year, including a legal requirement to self-isolate when testing positive and the need to wear masks in public places.

Cases started to surge in Britain near the beginning of last month and by the end of the March 26 week, one in 13 people were believed to be positive with the virus,

the highest figure since the pandemic began.

While hospitalisation levels are well below previous peaks in 2020 and 2021, companies are reporting disruption to services, including at airports.

EasyJet cancelled more than 200 flights at the weekend and said around 60 would be cancelled on Monday. British Airways also made a small number of cancellations on Sunday and said the issue was affecting airlines and airports in general.

EasyJet said it had appointed standby crews to soften the impact, and said when cancelling routes it would consolidate flights where it had multiple options.

Racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths are likely to worsen if the US Congress does not approve billions in new pandemic funding soon, major US news portal Politico has reported.

Due to a lack of support from Congress, the White House has no choice but to scale back or suspend programs that provide free testing, treatments and vaccinations, which will disproportionately affect the tens of millions of uninsured Americans, a majority of whom are people of color, said the report based on its interviews with public health experts, lawmakers and health officials.

In the early days of the pandemic, the federal government decided to make COVID-19 interventions available to everyone free of charge, which temporarily helped level the playing field in a nation where access to health care

## Taliban bans drug cultivation, including lucrative opium

KABUL/PESHAWAR

THE Taliban announced on Sunday a ban on the cultivation of narcotics in Afghanistan, the world's biggest opium producer.

"As per the decree of the supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, all Afghans are informed that from now on, cultivation of poppy has been strictly prohibited across the country," according to an order from the Taliban's supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada.

"If anyone violates the decree, the crop will be destroyed immediately and the violator will be treated according to the Sharia law," the order, announced at a news conference by the Ministry of Interior in Kabul, said.

The order said the production, use or transportation of other narcotics was also banned.

Drug control has been one major demand of the international community of the Islamist group, which took over the country in August and is seeking formal international recognition in order to wind back sanctions that are severely hampering banking, business and development.

The Taliban banned poppy

growing towards the end of their last rule in 2000 as they sought international legitimacy, but faced a popular backlash and later mostly changed their stance, according to experts.

Afghanistan's opium production - which the United Nations estimated was worth \$1.4 billion at its height in 2017 - has increased in recent months, farmers and Taliban members told Reuters.

The country's dire economic situation has prompted residents of south-eastern provinces to grow the illicit crop that could bring them faster and higher returns than legal crops such as wheat.

Taliban sources told Reuters they were anticipating tough resistance from some elements within the group against the ban on poppy and that there had been a surge in the number of farmers cultivating poppy in recent months.

A farmer in Helmand who spoke on condition of anonymity said that in recent weeks prices of poppy had already more than doubled on rumours the Taliban would ban its cultivation. But he added that he needed to grow poppy to support his family.

"Other crops are just not profitable," he said.



Afghan farmers harvest poppy in Nad Ali district, Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 1, 2022. AP



# SPORT

## Statistics set to decide fate of Simba SC players during free agency

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IF a Tanzanian soccer fanatic takes a close look at Simba SC, he or she will find popular performers with contracts set to expire at the end of this season.

Most of them are key players in the squad and it will cost Simba SC a lot of money to keep the local performers as well as foreign players.

Simba SC could spend more than 200m/- to retain existing footballers let alone bring new players to the squad.

Here is a quick verdict on how I analyze the players and their contribution to the squad.

### Aishi Manula

Due to his prolific performance for years, Simba SC will see to it goalie Manula gets a new contract.

He is the number one goalkeeper for Simba SC and the senior national team, Taifa Stars.

Both sides have invested heavily in him by offering him the opportunity to honour many international matches and he is now joining a group of experienced goalkeepers in Tanzania.

Simba must fight to keep Manula because if they lose him it will take time for their goal-keeping department to settle down for another goalkeeper.

Africa has a shortage of experienced goalkeepers. If Simba SC refers to how hometown rival Yanga struggled to find a permanent goalkeeper, there were times when the latter had goalkeepers who were rotated weekly.

### Joash Onyango

As is the case for Manula, where will the club easily find an experienced central defender to fill Onyango's boots?

But more is that his combination with Henock Inonga is working well. Sometimes central defenders are a matter of further combination.

Onyango had good coordination with Paschal Wawa, but when the former was assigned to play alongside Inonga, he elevated his game.

It would not be a good idea for Simba to find another central defender to form a combination with Inonga.

One never knows how strong that combination will be. Onyango must be given a new contract as soon as possible. He is one of the best central defenders in the country.

### Rally Bwalya

Zambian midfield maestro Bwalya is a huge test for the Msimbazi Street outfit.

Talent is there in Bwalya but he has never stepped up for Simba as he was expected to.

Even after the departure of Luis Miquissone and Clatous Chotta Chama many people expected Bwalya to efficiently replace the duo but he did not live up to expectations.

Bwalya plays soft football, has no speed, has no quick decision but also has failed to either score as many goals or deliver as many assists as was thought.

When Simba dominates the match then Bwalya becomes one of the outstanding performers.

When Simba is under pressure then Bwalya is nowhere to be found.

If Simba finds another good midfielder in the attacking zone then it can leave Bwalya.

If he needs a lot of money to sign another two-year contract I think Simba can first take a look at the demand and look the other way.

Simba cannot be blamed by its fans for leaving Bwalya.

### Meddie Kagere

Two-time Mainland Tanzania Premier League top scorer, Kagere, is among Simba SC players on exit, but if an individual wants to make a list of three strikers to be retained by the club then Kagere must be present.

The attacker could be the number one striker at the club after John Bocco had a poor season, with Chris Mugalu suffering from a long-term injury.

Simba SC can leave Mugalu but not Kagere. Bocco has the advantage of being a local player, but, if the officials want to add a foreign striker and then part ways with one, I think Kagere is the one who can be given a chance, not Mugalu.

I understand that Simba plans to add one foreign striker and it would not be good for them to have four top-ranked strikers. If one striker has to leave I think Mugalu will be the one.

### Hassan Dilunga

Squad player, Dilunga, is one of the local players who have been vying for a place in the starting 11 alongside Jonas Mkude, Shomari Kapombe, John Bocco, Mohamed Hussein, and Manula.

Dilunga deserves a new contract. The footballer is a local performer.

He does not cost as much as foreign players do but there is no room for him to play in the squad, considering that Simba boasts of a lot of options in the front row.

### Bernard Morrison

Ghanaian winger, Morrison, is a performer that will bother many Simba members when negotiating foreign players to be left. He will divide the fans and the leaders.

Morrison's talent is clear but with him, as is the case for Bwalya there is something that has yet to be achieved by the winger.

Simba will fear that if it leaves Morrison then he will return to his previous side, Yanga, and start harassing the former.

However, his numbers since joining Simba will not go unnoticed.

There are several matches in which he showed good showing but then switches off in the next few matches.

Morrison, who craves playing for his country's national team, has no reason to bother Simba, given that in the middle of the season he used to showcase misconduct as he did at Yanga.

If Simba finds a viable alternative to Morrison abroad they may part ways with him. The point is to find just the right alternative.

Simba should moreover keep in mind that its wingers Peter Banda and Ousmane Sakho will be entering their second season in Tanzania and maybe more accustomed.

Right now the duo is already in good form and next season they will hopefully perform better.

### Thadeo Lwanga

Software engineer by profession, Lwanga, stayed out for a long time and is now back on the pitch.

The combative defensive midfielder has his unique style in the team and is a player that Simba should keep whilst take some precautions from now until the end of the season.

The Premier League defending champion has to check if Lwanga has continued to be the same player or otherwise.

Sometimes players stay out too long and their game is affected and they do not return to being as good as they used to be.

If the Ugandan defensive midfielder returns to his original quality then Simba should give him a new contract.

He knows how to smell danger and break opposing outfits' attacks.

It is an important quality that Lwanga's twin on the pitch, Jonas Mkude, does not have.

If Lwanga does not return to his original quality his position may be filled by someone else.

### Chris Mugalu

Congolese striker Mugalu is in a hot seat. If Simba gets a dangerous striker with good goalscoring numbers I think they can leave Mugalu and stay with Bocco and Kagere.

Simba can hardly take another striker without leaving one of these strikers.

The Msimbazi Street side can hardly have four popular senior strikers in the club.

If it happens who should be left? I think Simba will leave the position of one foreign striker at the club.

Simba will therefore have to leave Kagere or Mugalu. No doubt the answer for many is Mugalu.

“

One never knows how strong that combination will be. Onyango must be given a new contract as soon as possible. He is one of the best central defenders in the country.

## SPORTS

# Simba SC produces a virtuoso display to forge ahead in CAF Confederation Cup

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

THE setting was the ultra-modern Benjamin Mkapa stadium as Simba SC welcomed USGN in a make-or-break clash that would determine whether the Msimbazi Street outfit would be able to forge ahead to the CAF Confederation Cup's quarterfinals or not.

With a unique atmosphere in the air, the match felt like more of an eagerly awaited final than an ordinary group clash even before the ball had been kicked.

As things turned out, the first half was a barren stalemate as both teams canceled each other out to the dismay of the Simba fans in attendance.

The second half, though, proved to be an entirely different kettle of fish as the encounter came truly alive.

Kanoute notched up a goal to hand Simba the lead which opened the floodgates as three more goals were scored by full-time to complete a resounding 4-0 triumph for Simba SC.

Indeed, Simba SC's performance was a bona fide masterful display, and their victory was a crystal clear statement of intent that they mean business in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Switching gears now, we have already witnessed a whole host of sporting tournaments in the present year despite the fact that it is still relatively early days in the year.

Indeed, apart from viewing the Taifa Stars in eye-catching action, we have as well witnessed the 20th-year anniversary of the ever-burgeoning Kilimanjaro Marathon.

Dishearteningly though, one sport which we have seen precious little of on the home sporting patch is tennis.

This then prompts the question: why have there been arguably so few tennis tournaments in the country this year?



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Sadio Kanoute (3rd R), shoots past Niger's Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale players when the outfits locked horns in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup's Group D match that took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

One dearly hopes that the present stagnation in tennis is ephemeral and not permanent.

Sticking with tennis, it has long been an unfathomable and disappointing reality that African tennis players have rarely stamped their authority on the international tennis landscape.

Historically, South African tennis icons have been the continent's saving grace where blazing the glory trail in global tennis is concerned.

Certainly, one can recollect the South African tennis star Wayne Ferreira, who outstandingly and elegantly entered into the men's top ten rankings on the global stage during the 1990s.

In addition, we have already witnessed the emergence of fellow South African tennis great Kevin Armstrong, who has been pulling off amazing displays in this, the 21st century.

But as earlier stated, no other African country has produced tennis stars of the calibre that is required in international men's tennis.

However, the silver lining in this dark cloud stems from African women's tennis where a certain Tunisian hotshot Ons Jabeur has been causing quite a stir in international women's tennis.

Indeed, Jabeur rose from obscurity to prominence last year when she became the first African woman ever to achieve the herculean task of entering into the women's top ten rankings on the global tennis landscape.

Indisputably, Jabeur's top ten ranking counts as one of the most tremendously exemplary sporting feats in African history.

Nevertheless, the gigantic conundrum facing continental tennis administrators is: who will follow hot on the heels of Jabeur to take giant strides in global women's tennis?

Indeed, this is a massive headache for African tennis officials that will hopefully be resolved soon so that more African tennis players can spring to stardom off the back of Jabeur's inspirational and hugely successful showings.

## On the prowl? Tiger arrives at Masters, unsure of playing

AUGUSTA, Ga.

A COMEBACK unlike any other for Tiger Woods might start at the Masters.

Just over 13 months since Woods damaged his right leg so badly he said doctors considered amputation, Woods arrived at Augusta National on Sunday afternoon and warmed up on a range where there were more photographers than players.

Woods hit balls for about 20 minutes and then got in a cart and headed to the course, which is closed Sunday afternoon to everyone except players and caddies.

Already a star attraction, the hype over the five-time Masters champion is higher than ever after a violent single-car crash that looked as though it might end his career.

Still to come is the decision on playing. In a tweet Sunday morning announcing he was coming to Augusta to resume preparations for the Masters, he said it will be a "game-time decision" whether he competes.

The Masters does not have a firm deadline to commit like regular tour events. It is an invitation tournament, and players typically notify the club only if they do not plan to play.

Tea times are published Tuesday.

"Knowing Tiger the way I know him, if he wasn't totally like ... pretty much feel he has a chance to win, he wouldn't tee it up," Mark O'Meara said. "The thing about Tiger Woods is usually when everybody thinks he can't do something, that's when he does it." If Woods decides to play – he played 18 holes at Augusta National five days ago – it would be his first competition against the world's best players since Nov. 15, 2020, when the Masters was moved to autumn because of the pandemic.

Photographers and media waited at the far end of the viewing area on the range near the caddie house to see when he would arrive. Woods showed up on the other end, shaking hands with defending champion Hideki Matsuyama.

Kevin Na and Billy Horschel were among those who came over to shake hands or hug him. Also on the range were Sungjae Im, Mackenzie Hughes and Jason Kokrak. Sunday afternoon before Masters week is a quiet time



Tanzania's Simba Sports Club footballers are pictured shortly before the kickoff of the squad's CAF Confederation Cup Group D tie against Niger's Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

most years. Just not this one.

Woods was recovering from a fifth back surgery when on Feb. 23, 2021, two days after he presented the trophy at the Genesis Invitational that he hosts at Riviera, he crashed his SUV over a median on a suburban coastal road in Los Angeles and down the side of a hill.

Police estimated he was going at least 84 mph in a 45 mph zone.

Doctors said Woods shattered tibia and fibula bones in his right leg in multiple locations. Those were stabilized by a rod in the tibia, while a combination of screws and pins were used to stabilize additional injuries in the ankle and foot.

Woods said he spent three months immobilized in a makeshift hospital bed set up in his Florida home. Only then he could start moving around on crutches, and eventually he was able to walk on his own.

Woods won the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines in 2008 with a double stress fracture and torn knee ligaments in his left leg. He made it back from a scandal in his personal life to become No. 1 in the world again.

Nothing was more amazing than three years ago at Augusta National when he won a fifth green jacket after four back surgeries that made him fear he might never walk again.

That he is even contemplating playing in this Masters is remarkable in its own right. If he

can, questions are sure to shift to whether he can win.

A week before Thanksgiving, he posted a three-second video hitting one shot with two words: Making progress. Two weeks later at the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, a holiday event Woods hosts, he was on the back end of the range at Albany hitting drivers.

The first big surprise came two weeks later when he played the PNC Challenge, a 36-hole scramble on a flat Florida course. Woods was allowed to ride in a cart, a point he made when there were gushing observations about the state of his game. He and his son finished second when John Daly and his son birdied the last hole.

"It's going to take a lot of work to get to where I feel I can compete against these guys and be at a high level," Woods said that day.

Addressing the condition of his right leg in February, Woods said it's "altered" and that "my right leg doesn't look like my left, put it that way."

The importance of the practice round last week was for Woods to make sure he could walk 18 holes on the undulating terrain of Augusta National and still be able to recover in the days that followed. That he was returning Sunday was a good sign.

Can he win again? That would be considered more improbable than his last Masters victory.

In his last competitive round at Augusta National, he made the highest score of his career – a 10 on the par-3 12th hole by hitting three balls in Rae's Creek – only to birdie five of the last six, including the last four in a row.



# Jon Batiste tops Grammys; Silk Sonic soars, Rodrigo crowned

LAS VEGAS

OLIVIA Rodrigo made an impressive Grammy debut, Silk Sonic claimed two major awards and Jon Batiste had the most stunning victory of the night winning the top prize at Sunday's Grammy Awards.

Batiste won five Grammys Sunday including album of the year for "We Are" pulling off an upset in a loaded category filled with tough competition from Rodrigo, Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift and the combined talents of Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga. After his win, the multi-genre performer honored the artists he beat, telling the audience that "the creative arts are subjective. Be you."

"I just put my head down and I work on the craft every day," said Batiste, who won for his song "Cry," the video for "Freedom" and his work with the Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross on the soundtrack for "Soul."

Silk Sonic – the all-star union of Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak – took home awards in all four categories it was nominated in, including record and song of the year. Both were exuberant as they accepted the honor toward the end of the ceremony.

The wins in both major categories put Mars on the brink of history: He became the only artist along with Paul Simon to take win record of the year three times. He tied the record for most song of the year wins with two.

"We are really trying our hardest to remain humble at this point," .Paak said. "But in the industry, they call that a clean sweep!" later adding "drinks is on Silk Sonic tonight!"

Rodrigo's win for best new artist put her in esteemed company including Carly Simon, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Tom Jones, the Beatles and Billie Eilish.

A veteran of the "High School Musical" series, she became the breakout music star of 2021, leading with her massive viral hit "Drivers License" and following with the single "Good 4 U" and the aching album "Sour," which took best pop vocal album.

"This is my biggest dream come true," she said after her best new artist win.



Jon Batiste, winner of the awards for best American roots performance for "Cry," best American roots song for "Cry," best music video for "Freedom," best score soundtrack for visual media for "Soul," and album of the year for "We Are," poses in the press room at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, April 3, 2022, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo)

She thanked her parents for supporting her dreams, which at one point involved being an Olympic gymnast and quickly veered toward music.

"I want to thank my mom for being so supportive for all of my dreams, no matter how crazy. I want to thank my mom and dad for being equally as proud of me for winning a Grammy as they were when I learned how to do a back walk."

The win came after the night's festivities briefly grew somber when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the gathering with an update on the war and numbers including children injured and killed. "Our musicians wear body armor instead of tuxedos," he said. "We are fighting Russia, which brings horrible silence with its bombs. The dead silence. Fill the silence with your music."

He ended by saying: "Tell the truth about the war on your social networks, on TV. Support us in any way you can, but not silence. And then peace will come to all our cities."

John Legend then performed "Free" with Ukrainian exiles including singer-actress Mika Newton and poet Lyuba Yakimchuk.

Silk Sonic opened the ceremony in Las Vegas with their high-energy, infectious mix of retro soul and funk by performing their "777." They returned to the stage a short time later to collect the song of the year trophy for "Leave the Door Open."

Both Mars and .Paak jumped out their seat, threw up their hands and danced to their song.

"We'll be singing this song together for the rest of our lives," Mars said to .Paak Host Trevor Noah introduced the duo's opening performance by saying they were singlehandedly bringing back the 1970s, "which might explain the inflation."

Doja Cat and SZA gave an emotional speech after winning best pop duo-group performance for "Kiss Me More." Cat told SZA that she's "everything to me" and the "epitome of talent" as she tried to hold back tears. "This is a big deal," Cat said after she darted to the podium after using the bathroom. SZA beat her by a few seconds despite climbing onstage on crutches with the help of Lady Gaga.

"I feel like me and SZA are similar in the way that we both grew up with

spiritual backgrounds," she continued. "But she was perfect for this song."

It was a family affair from cousins Baby Keem and Kendrick Lamar, who won best rap performance for their song "Family Ties." Lamar won his 14th Grammy and the first for Keem, who said "nothing could have prepared me for this moment" after stepping out onstage to claim his trophy.

By the time the show started on CBS, Batiste had already taken home four Grammy Awards, including his first ever, during a pre-telecast ceremony.

"I am so grateful for the gifts that God has given me and the ability to share that for the love of humankind," Batiste said after collecting his music video award for "Freedom." "We just wanted everyone to see it. Any depression, any bondage or any darkness that was over your life is completely removed by just the love and the joy of the video."

Chris Stapleton won his third Grammy for best country solo performance for "You Should Probably Leave."

Tony Bennett extended his record as the artist with the most traditional pop vocal album honors with 14 wins with "Love for Sale," a duet album with Lady Gaga.

Dressed in all black, BTS took the stage with a flirty moment between V and Rodrigo before the group performed their hit single "Butter." They made an appearance after one of the members tested positive for COVID-19. All seven of the members – Jin, Jimin, V, RM, J-Hope, Suga and Jungkook – acted as if they were secret agents dodging neon-blue lasers, dancing with smooth choreography before going into a brief rap portion of the song.

Foo Fighters won three awards Sunday, but were not in attendance to pick up their trophies following the recent death of drummer Taylor Hawkins. An extended tribute to Hawkins played before the show's In Memoriam segment honoring artists and music industry figures who've died.

Eilish paid homage to Hawkins during her performance by sporting a black T-shirt with his image. She stepped onstage in an upside-down house along with her brother Finneas before walking into a downpour to perform the title track from her "Happier Than Ever."

TJ Osborne, who came out as gay last year, fought back tears as he and his brother accepted a Grammy during the pre-telecast show for the Brothers Osborne song "Younger Me." He noted the song was inspired by his coming out.

"I never thought that I would be able to do music professionally because of my sexuality. And I certainly never thought I would be here on the stage accepting a Grammy after having done something I felt like was going to be life changing and potentially in a very negative way," Osborne said.

"And here I am tonight, not only accepting this Grammy Award with my brother, which I love so much, but I'm here with a man that I love and he loves me back" he said. "I don't know what I did to be so lucky."

The ceremony shifted in January from Los Angeles to Las Vegas because of rising COVID-19 cases and the omicron variant, with organizers citing "too many risks."

AP

## Saweetie, Haddish lead Grammys red carpet in pink, sparkle

NEW YORK

BRIGHT pink and all-over metallics were the fashion stories of the Grammys red carpet led by Saweetie in fuchsia Valentino and Tiffany Haddish in sparkling one-shoulder Prada as the music crowd did Las Vegas proud with a show of wild, whimsical and meaningful looks.

Saweetie's full skirt and bra top were paired with long matching gloves. Billy Porter, always a fashion standout, also went with fuchsia in a trouser look that had a sheer button-down shirt and long ruffled cape from Valentino.

Justin Bieber, in clunky platform Crocs and a baggy Balenciaga gray suit a few sizes too big, wore a fuchsia beanie on his head as walked with his wife, Hailey, in white Saint Laurent. Count Chrissy Teigen in the pink camp as well.

"The color of the season I hear is fuchsia," Porter told E! His look was straight off the runway.

Saweetie was a twofer on the carpet, changing into an Oscar de la Renta black gown with a silver piece covering one breast.

Lady Gaga chose classic Hollywood in black-and-white velvet Armani Prive. She dripped in Tiffany & Co. diamonds that included a short statement necklace as she hit the carpet just before the televised awards. Her hair was swept into an updo.

Haddish stunned in a fitted one-shoulder gown, and Carrie Underwood went full ballgown with sparkle in the top with sash and a full skirt of sunset orange. Mickey Guyton rocked an ombre long-sleeve silver and gold fringe flapper sparkle dress by Ashish, shimmering for the cameras.

Brandi Carlile toted about 40 pounds of hand-cut crystals on a multicolored Hugo Boss tuxedo jacket with stripes of the same crystals on the trousers and waist.

"I'm finally morphing into Elton John, which is my dream," she said.

Olivia Rodrigo waved and smiled in a black sheath gown from Vivienne Westwood, who included purple sparkle trim worn with rocker chokers. She was joined in black by Billie Eilish in a Rick Owens trench coat turned cape, lug soul



Chrissy Teigen, left, and John Legend arrive at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, April 3, 2022, in Las Vegas. (Photo: AP), April

boots on her feet.

"Olivia Rodrigo in her black opera gloves and black sheath floor length was giving me Morticia Addams in a totally hip way. Very mature and lady like for her," said Holly Katz, a stylist and host of the Fashion Crimes podcast. "A similar Pressiat corset dress was worn by Halsey that had the same vibe. This is a trend for the long and lean but will always be a classic dress style for decades to come."

Katz was not a fan of Eilish's look. "As far as the 'unfashion' trends go, let's all hope that Billie Eilish doesn't get her curtain dress trend to trickle down. We would have one too many fashion blobs on the streets." Eilish changed later into a Willy Chavarría

T-shirt with a photo of the late Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins on the front for her performance on stage. It had his name on the back.

All seven members of the sensation BTS, meanwhile, wore custom Louis Vuitton suits with sneakers in a range of colors from bright white to muted blue.

"BTS made dressing like a boy band look genuinely cool. It's a feat that at one point seemed impossible. More power to all of them – and to Louis Vuitton – for that," said Jonathan Evans, Esquire's style director.

H.E.R. paid homage to Aretha Franklin in an embellished orange and yellow ombre look, and fashion favorite Cynthia Erivo was in sparkling silver and gray from Louis Vuit-

ton. H.E.R. wore a custom winged kaftan jumpsuit from Dundas. It was chiffon and embellished with a golden beaded and sequin phoenix motif.

Sofia Carson wore an elegant Grecian gown from Valentino with a long sheer cape that swept over the carpet as she walked. And Lil Nas X didn't disappoint in embellished white Balmain with butterflies at the chest and on the sleeves, sky high platforms on his feet.

Jon Batiste went full sparkle in a Dolce & Gabbana suit with yellow and black touches honoring his hometown, New Orleans.

"These are New Orleans Saints colors. I wanted to bring home with me on the carpet," he said.

Megan Thee Stallion went in another direction in an animal print dress with an oh-so-high slit from Roberto Cavalli. The lining was a contrast animal strip, an unusual touch. Dua Lipa was a study in straps sporting long blonde hair. Her Versace gown was adorned with straps and gold hardware.

Lady Gaga was high on the fashion list for Katz.

"Unexpected, old Hollywood glam that shows her more feminine, traditional side. Very different from her edgy persona we are all used to. Don't be surprised to see this dress trickle down in many knockoffs soon to come," she said.

Among early walkers was Li Saumet from Colombia's Bomba Estéreo, who covered her face with a helmet-like mask. Cheri Moon of the 1 Tribe Collective children's group went all out in full

gold, complete with a huge architectural collar. Victoria Evigan smooched her husband, Jason, in a peach and yellow dress with "Love is the Weapon" at the back.

Alisha Gaddis, with comedy on her resume, paired her shiny, minty gown with a head piece of high, golden branches. Elle King was resplendent in a red bell-bottom trouser suit with swinging bell sleeves and an ultra-wide brim hat to match. Black Coffee, the DJ from South Africa, paid homage to his friend Virgil Abloh, wearing a pair of the late designer's sneakers before his win for dance/electronic music album.

King, a new mom, was thrilled to be wearing Christian Siriano.

"I just trusted him. He knows how to dress all types of bodies and I really celebrate that in him," she told The Associated Press. "I just wanted to feel powerful."

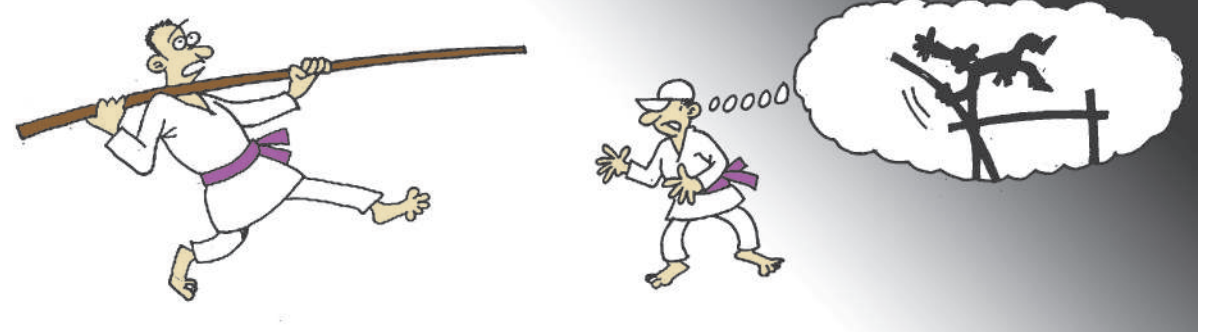
Michelle Zauner of Japanese Breakfast smiled for cameras in a mini dress of bright yellow ruffles from Valentino, while Doja Cat, her hair accentuated in spikes, wore an ice blue Atelier Versace crystal embellished sheer look.

As for the men, there was plenty of ornate, brocade jackets and suits in the early bunch.

"It's the sort of thing that can look genuinely fantastic when executed carefully," Evans said.

Leon Bridges lent a nod to his native Texas in a cream tuxedo look embellished with embroidery and a touch of blue bonnets.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





The Guardian

www.gppmedia.com

# SPORT

Jon Batiste tops Grammys; Silk Sonic soars, Rodrigo crowned

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga's midfielder, Khalid Aucho. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Yanga midfielder to miss Premier League match against Azam FC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's Ugandan midfielder Khalid Aucho is likely to miss the outfit's NBC Premier League match against Azam FC, which will be played at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The midfielder, who signed for Yanga earlier this season after leaving Egypt's Misr El-Makasa, is said to be at risk of missing the game following a hamstring injury that sidelined him for weeks.

Yanga's assistant coach Cedric Kaze has said that Aucho is on the verge of missing out on a game against Azam FC after suffering a hamstring strain.

Kaze said their technical bench had received recent reports of the midfielder appearing in the Uganda national team "The Cranes" camp.

He added that while Aucho is in danger of missing the game against Azam FC, the club's technical bench is delighted to see some of the footballers that had been nursing injuries return to action.

The footballers are fullback Kibwana Shomari and attacker Chrispin Ngushi who played in a previous friendly duel against Mafunzo FC of Zanzibar, which took place last in Dar es Salaam week.

The tactician revealed: "Our midfielder Aucho was called up to the Uganda national team as he did not recover well and after training with his national team yesterday he injured himself in the same area."

"And the national team has not given him tests to know his problem so today (last weekend) he will return to the country and be tested to find out the extent of his problem."

"He will be our second key player in the team to miss the next league game against Azam FC, another is Feisal Salum who has been given a two-week break due to a knee injury," Kaze added.

Yanga is shaping up to face Azam FC, with the Jangwani Street squad leading the Premier League standings with 48 points from 18 games.

The top-flight leader boasts of an 11-point gap with defending champion, Simba SC, which sits second with 37 points after taking part in 16 games.

Azam FC is positioned third with 28 points collected after the team had played 18 games so far.

## Simba SC will keep on dreaming, vows head coach Pablo Martin



Simba SC head coach, Pablo Franco Martin. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

COACH Pablo Martin says his squad Simba SC deserved all three points after their emphatic 4-0 victory over Nigerian side Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale to qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup quarter-final on Sunday night and can keep on dreaming.

Simba entertained Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in one of the CAF Confederation Cup final Group D duels.

Speaking after the victory, an elated Pablo said his side intends to keep on dreaming of continental glory despite facing the tough fixtures ahead after making the last eight.

Simba who finished second behind Morocco's RS Berkane will face one of the teams that finished top of their groups.

The sides include the Democratic Republic of Congo's TP Mazembe, South Africa's Orlando Pirates, and Libya's Al Ahly Tripoli.

Martin noted: "I congratulate the players, the club, and especially the fans. It was amazing to have the support of so many fans on that important day at this time, very late with problems to come here and go back

home after the game and go to their jobs tomorrow. I think this victory is theirs."

"I am really happy because of the achievement, you probably don't know many things but these months have been very tough for us."

"We faced many difficulties, to be honest, I think ASEC Mimosas and RS Berkane could even better teams than us in terms of budget, players, experience, and their potential to play in Europe."

"Despite that, we have qualified for the quarterfinal so I think this is a huge achievement. We will now face the first qualified team, it is probably going to be a big rival but we want to continue dreaming and let us see how far we can go in this competition."

"We were in control of the game from the beginning. The

first 30 minutes were amazing and the only problem we had was the same that we are having the whole season."

"We missed clear chances to score but the way the team played was amazing. They created a scoring chance in the last 15 minutes of the first half and it probably decreased our confidence."

"In the second half we didn't play as well as the first half but we were much more clinical. We started finding spaces, creating the same chances but converting them and that's why the result was huge and I think well deserved."

The Tanzanian representatives will discover their quarterfinal opponents today as well as who they could potentially play in the semi-finals.

## ZFF suspends Isles Premier League for one month

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's Zanzibar Premier League (ZPL) has shortly been suspended due to the holy month of Ramadan, with the league remaining with only five rounds before climaxing.

Last week there were 25th round matches, with KMKM leading the top-flight, collecting 57 points, confronting Yosso Boys, Kisiwani took on Machomane FC lately in the relegation zone.

Yosso Boys is sitting 14th with 12 points, Kisiwani with 10 points, and Machomane FC with just nine points after 24 matches.

A statement from the Isles Premier League Board noted that the league will return on May 13 after the end of Ramadan.

The ZPL Board Chief Executive Officer Hashim Salum said: "For us, the holy month is very prestigious and we have to respect it, so the league must stop for everyone to observe the month and it will continue on May 13 with five matches left for each team."

Taifa Jang'ombe FC head coach, Omary Hamis Othman, whose team ranks eighth in the standings with 39 points said for this period there will be no program his team will embark on.

Othman disclosed: "We will return to practice 15 days before the end of the fasting, we are doing this to give chance for our players to be able to practice their faith simply without involving physical exercises."

Ame Msimu, KMKM head coach, said: "We will give the players two weeks off from training, and then we will continue with the training program, as we have to fight considering the league is tough and we are not guaranteed a chance to defend the title."

"Some players have claimed that being out of action for too long will affect their current performance and rhythm therefore we have decided to give them only a 14-day rest so as they can cope with fasting before resuming camp."

This season Zanzibar was represented by KMKM in CAF Champions League, in which the side was eliminated from the continental showdown's first preliminary round by Libya's Al Ittihad FC with a 4-0 aggregate defeat.

Al Ittihad FC walloped KMKM 2-0 at the latter's home turf in the first leg, the Libyans later emerged victorious via the same margin at their home venue.

EATV

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 5SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

TONIGHT  
@ 9:00



Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

