











SOS Children's Villages Tanzania  
P.O Box 13196, Arusha.  
[www.sos-childrensvillages.org](http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org)  
A loving home for every child

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

### PLUMBING INSTALLATION SYSTEM, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PHOTONS AND SOLAR WATER HEATERS & SOLAR PANELS

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is a local non-government organization affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care and protection organization that provides orphaned and destitute children with a permanent home and educational opportunities. Established 60 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International the umbrella organization currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs the SOS Children's Village Programme which has two main arms, i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991 and implements its programs in the following locations Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Iringa.

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania invites qualified contractors to bid for the Plumbing installation systems' renovation service for its seven houses and supply & installations of photons solar water heaters and solar panel at Ngaramtoni Urban within Arusha District Council as per the specifications/Bill of Quantities (BOQ), shown on Table No. 1 below:

**Table No. 1: Detailed Specifications/Bill of Quantities (BOQ),**

ITEM	DESCRIPTIONS	QTY	UNIT
<b>A</b>	<b>DEMOLITION</b>		
A1	Hacking of block wall and removal of all leakage plumbing system materials	1	Lump sum
A2	The plumbing installation system of seven (7) houses	7	No
<b>B</b>	<b>TOWER TANK</b>		
B1	Masonry block 230x460x150mm thick	23	No
B2	12mm diameter reinforcement	17	Pc
B3	8mm diameter reinforcement	3	Pc
B4	SIMTANK 2000ltr	1	No
<b>C</b>	<b>SOLAR WATER HEATER</b>		
C1	Supply and Installation of Photons solar water heater of 300ltr including its tank 300ltr, 2 collector panel, frames and its connector	16	No
C2	Solar Panel including all necessary utensils 5W	8	No

**Note: All Interested Contractors should request for Complete Bills of Quantities (BOQ) through the email address [peter.joseph@sos-tanzania.org](mailto:peter.joseph@sos-tanzania.org). The deadline for the request of BOQ shall be on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 14:00 hrs**

#### Requirements:

- A duly completed and signed price offer in Tanzania shillings VAT inclusive;
- Bidder should submit a certified copy of the valid Business license, Contractors Registration Certificates, Certificate of Incorporation, VAT/TIN Registration Certificates and current Tax Clearance Certificate;
- Bidder must submit/indicate experience in carrying out similar Works;
- Bidder must indicate Warranty Period of the installed Photons Solar Water Heaters and Solar Panels;
- Bidder should indicate completion time upon submission of their priced bids; and
- Bidder should state their terms of payment.

#### Opening of Bids

At the indicated time and place, the opening of Bids shall be carried out by SOS Children's Villages Tanzania, Arusha. SOS CV reserves the right to conduct the opening of Bids in Public or not.

#### Submission of Bids:

One original hard copy plus two copies of the same should be enclosed in a plain envelope marked **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF WATER SYSTEM & PHOTONS WATER HEATERS**. Bids must be submitted physically to SOS Children's Village of P.O Box 13196 Arusha on or before **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 14:00 EAT**. Late Bids, bids not received and opened shall not be accepted irrespective of circumstances.

**Note: No tender document will be issued; all inquiries be addressed to [National.Office@sos-tanzania.org](mailto:National.Office@sos-tanzania.org)**



## REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR MINISTRY OF WATER ENERGY AND MINERALS

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES FOR ECONOMIC REGULATION EXPERT - INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT.

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ  
CTF LOAN NUMBER: TFOB5747-TZ  
CTF GRANT NUMBER: TFOB5660-TZ

Assignment Title: Economic Regulation Expert  
Reference No. TZ-MOWEM-319364-CS-INDV

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through the United Republic of Tanzania, has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

#### Objective

The Economic Regulation Expert will be required to establish a comprehensive economic regulation framework that will facilitate sustainable development of the electricity sector and enable achievement of Zanzibar's power sector goals. He/She will support ZURA to establish systems, procedures, and standards based on industry best practices to facilitate effective economic regulation of the power sector. This will include, among others, determining appropriate tariff setting mechanisms and applicable charges for various users who are connected or are connecting to the system.

#### Scope of assignment

The Economic Regulation Expert will be embedded within ZURA for three years duration and be required to provide direct support to the Authority to perform the following duties:

- Establish a robust economic regulation framework for Zanzibar's electricity sector, including principles, systems, procedures, and standards required for effective economic regulation and facilitate its implementation.
- Establish a systematic process for determining and reviewing electricity tariffs (revenue requirements of regulated entities) and tariff structures for the sector, including terms for purchasing both domestically generated and imported power.
- Monitor the regulated entities' economic and commercial performance as well as their compliance to terms and conditions stipulated in their licenses and power purchase agreements from an economic perspective.
- Develop and maintain financial models for the sector and end-users and establish a database necessary to periodically update the models.
- Prepare financial and commercial performance reports for the electricity sector on a quarterly and annual basis.
- Develop and maintain Zanzibar's electricity demand/supply forecasts for the short, medium, and long term.
- Support ZURA to comply with its roles during preparation of Zanzibar's Integrated Resource Plan including reviewing and approving relevant assumptions and deliverables.
- Analyze and advise on the investment requirements for Zanzibar's electricity sector and quantify their impact on the tariff path in the short, medium and long term.
- Establish the appropriate economic regulation framework for promoting renewable energy development in Zanzibar.
- Support ZURA to work closely with the Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals and provide input into determination of an appropriate market structure, and policy and regulatory frameworks to promote private sector investment in Zanzibar's electricity sector.
- Undertake regulatory research and policy analysis for the electricity sector by among others coordinating preparation of cost-of-service studies, generation of data, statistics and information on the electricity sector and coordinating development of policies and strategies to increase electricity access in Zanzibar.
- Undertake research in new technologies capable of playing a critical enabling role for renewable energy and energy efficiency integration and facilitate adoption of digital technologies and grid modernization to improve performance, efficiency and flexibility.
- Prepare terms of reference for engaging consultants to undertake studies, monitor implementation of consultancy contracts including review and approval of deliverables.
- Represent ZURA in designated industry fora at national, regional, and international levels, including activities of the regional energy regulatory associations.
- Provide hands-on training to ZURA staff during execution of the above tasks and recommend to ZURA Management relevant training opportunities offered by national, regional and international institutions that are beneficial for ZURA staff in the department of economic regulation.

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals now invites eligible expert to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

The expert should have at least the following qualifications and experience:

- Master's Degree in Economics, Quantitative Economics, Econometrics, Finance, Statistics or Business Administration.
- At least ten (10) years' working experience in the electricity sector as an economic regulation expert, of which at least five (5) years should have been in senior management capacity.
- Demonstrable knowledge of electricity sector issues and utility operations in Africa or similar conditions, including the economic, financial, and legal regulatory aspects.
- Previous experience in power sector economic regulation in Sub-Saharan Africa will be an added advantage.
- Superior data management, modelling, analytical and research skills.
- Excellent report writing and presentation skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations Nov 2020 (Fourth Edition), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultant** set out in the Procurement Regulations.

**(The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be Obtained the assignment can be found at the following link; <https://www.zanzibar-energy.com/energy-sector-library/> then on the institution please select Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals. Or upon asking through Email: ([proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz](mailto:proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz) and copy to [saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz](mailto:saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz))**

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hour, **07:00 to 03.30pm East African Time**.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below: (Both hard copy along with soft copy by **1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 10:00**).

Ministry of Water Energy and Minerals  
ZURA building 5th floor,  
Procurement Unit, Room No. 502.  
Attn: Saleh Said Suleiman (Project Coordinator)  
P.O. Box 1569 Zanzibar  
Maisara, Zanzibar  
Tel: +255 776 858555  
E-mail: [proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz](mailto:proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz) and copy to [saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz](mailto:saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz)

**Note: Submission of Softcopy only will not be considered in opening ceremony and any difference in hard and soft copy, the information in hard copy will be used for evaluation.**











# Six fallacies and truths about China's epidemic control-II

BEIJING

Life is returning to normal and mobility is rebounding as China's COVID-19 prevention and control has entered a new stage -- a boon for world economy.

However, some Western media ignore the facts, choosing instead to apply double standard and even spread misinformation, while making unwarranted accusations against China's epidemic fight, confusing the public and misleading the world as a consequence. However, in the face of facts and data, these lies are evident and untenable.

#### FALLACY 4: "PATIENTS GOING SHORT OF MEDICINE AND TREATMENT"

The truth is: Chinese medical institutions at all levels are taking all the necessary measures to increase resources and personnel. The reality is that they are busy but functioning smoothly.

The First Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, has received over 140 critically ill COVID-19 patients in recent days.

"Many doctors continued working and caring for patients while they themselves were ill, and we are going all out to save every severe patient," said Yu Kaijiang, president of the hospital.

The hospital has increased the number of intensive care beds from 132 to 143, and has actively sought ventilators from various channels, with a group of 60 nurses working shifts to cope with the surge in COVID-19 patients.

As of Dec. 25, 2022, the number of fever clinics in second-grade hospitals and above had reached 16,000 in China, and the number of such clinics in grassroots medical institutions totaled 41,000.

China is one of the largest producers of fever medicines, and its total production capacity is sufficient to meet demand.

The daily output of ibuprofen and acetaminophen, two key antipyretic analgesics, had reached 202 million tablets and 190 million tablets, respectively, by the end of 2022, said Wang Jiangping, vice minister of industry and information technology.

"We quickly adjusted the variety of drugs we produce, increased the output, and went all out to ensure the market demand of antipyretic and analgesic drugs such as ibuprofen and aspirin," said Kou Zuxing, deputy general manager of Shandong Xinhua Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., based in the city of Zibo, Shandong Province.

As the world's leading producer of ibuprofen materials, the company's tablet capacity has been raised threefold, while its ibuprofen production has climbed to more than 10,000 tablets a minute.

The total number of beds in second-grade medical institutions and above in China is 5.616 million, and the utilization rate of beds has fluctuated around 60 percent recently. The total number of intensive care beds in China has reached 150,000, meaning there are 10.6 beds per 100,000 people. The country has a reserve of 70,000 adaptable intensive care units (ICU).

As for the equipment used to treat COVID-19 patients, there were 151,100 hemodialysis units,



Staff members pack medicines at a pharmaceutical company in central China's Hunan Province, Dec. 19, 2022. (Xinhua/Chen Sihan)

19,700 continuous renal replacement therapy units, 2,300 extracorporeal membrane oxygenation machines, and over 192,000 invasive and non-invasive respirators in second-grade hospitals and above as of late December.

"Overall, China has adequate medical resources, including beds and equipment, to meet the demand of patients in critical condition," said Jiao Yahui, head of the Bureau of Medical Administration under the National Health Commission (NHC).

China will put more effort into tracking the spread of the epidemic,

strengthen coordination between cities and regions, and upgrade and expand relevant resources to meet people's medical demands, Jiao said.

#### FALLACY 5: "DARK COVID WINTER FOR VILLAGERS"

The truth is: China has made rural areas a focal point in the country's current COVID response, boosting medical capacities and providing timely support.

The country's 23,000 county-level medical institutions, 35,000 township hospitals and 599,000 village clinics have formed a closely collaborative

and efficient health protection system so that rural patients can enjoy tiered, timely and convenient medical services.

Rural doctors visit local households to provide medical support in Jiwei Town of Huayuan County, central China's Hunan Province, Dec. 29, 2022. (Photo by Jian Biao/Xinhua)

"At present, medicines for fever and cough relief have been prepared, which can meet the needs of the whole village for two months," said Fu Xiangpeng, a doctor from the mountainous Liguanying Village in Zhenxiang County, southwest China's Yunnan



Staff members pack medicines at a pharmaceutical company in central China's Hunan Province, Dec. 19, 2022. (Xinhua/Chen Sihan)

Province. "People with mild symptoms can go to village clinics to get drugs, and medicine will be sent to the elderly people with difficulties."

Jiao Yahui, the NHC official, said that drug supply must be ensured in rural areas and cover the Spring Festival travel rush period or even longer. More importantly, severe cases should be transferred to at least county-level hospitals.

Jiao said that counties and towns had been ordered to prepare standby vehicles to transport severe patients as quickly as possible. Internet hospitals and roving medical teams have also ramped up rural medical capacity.

#### FALLACY 6: "OFFICIAL COVID DEATH TOLL UNRELIABLE"

The fact is: China has always published information on COVID-19 deaths and severe cases in the spirit of openness and transparency.

The global criteria for judging COVID deaths are divided into two categories. Some countries count only cases of people who tested positive for COVID-19 and died of respiratory failure induced by the virus. Other countries count all the deaths as COVID deaths as long as the deceased had tested positive for the virus in the past 28 days.

Since 2020, China has been adopting the first criterion, counting a death from respiratory failure caused by the novel coronavirus after a positive COVID-19 test as a COVID death.

China has also published cases in which the patients were infected by novel coronavirus but the direct causes of the death were underlying diseases. In such cases, the causes of the death were attributed to underlying diseases.

China canceled mass nucleic acid tests following the adjustments to its COVID response policy, making it very difficult to obtain accurate data on the infection caseload in the first place. This is the normal de facto situation in other countries.

Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist of the China CDC, pointed out that there is a calculation method called "excess death" in the field of public health, which can evaluate possible underestimation. Regarding the "excess death" that may be caused by this wave of epidemic, the team is already doing the relevant work and will release the results later.

China's war against COVID-19 is still underway, and victory shall come for the 1.4 billion Chinese people. The fallacies and their fabricators will prove to be wrong.

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Abu Dhabi uses drones to plant one million mangrove seeds as part of climate pledge

By Jennifer Bell

**A**BU Dhabi's Environment Agency (EAD) has used drones to plant one million mangrove seeds across the emirate.

The mangroves - planted at different locations across the Al Dhafra region - is part of the first phase of a drone mangrove plantation project supporting the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative, state news agency WAM reported Thursday.

The process involves using drones to scan the topography of the area to create a 3D map. Then the most efficient planting pattern for that area is calculated using algorithms. Drones are then loaded with germinated seeds and dropped from the sky.

The process is faster and cheaper than hand-planting as it removes the need for intense labour and sapling transportation. It is also cost-effective as it reduces the overall price of mangrove planting, eliminates the need for mangrove nurseries and associated costs, and facilitates reaching remote and difficult areas.

The Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative was first announced in February 2021 during Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge's visit to the UAE, where he met with Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed, Member of Abu Dhabi Executive Council and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive



Office, at Jubail Mangrove Park.

The initiative supports Abu Dhabi's plans to establish the emirate as a global hub for research and innovation in support of the conservation of mangroves and focuses on the

importance of mangroves for carbon sequestration to combat climate change.

It also aids the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment's target, announced during COP26 in

Glasgow in 2021, which unveiled a nationwide plan to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030.

Dr Shaikha Salem al-Dhaheeri, Secretary-General of EAD, said that the UAE began mangrove plantation in

the 1970s under the guidance of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder of the UAE, and also known as the country's first environmentalist.

He commenced mangrove plantation along the coasts of the islands and mainland of the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The Eastern Mangrove plantation was the inception of the first mangrove plantation programme in Abu Dhabi.

She said: "Even though the world's mangroves are declining due to natural and human challenges they are facing, Abu Dhabi has a different story to tell as the plantation of mangroves has continued in the UAE at large and in Abu Dhabi in particular, in a slow but steady manner."

"A prime example is our latest project of planting one million mangrove seeds via innovative drone technology. This project is one of several programmes run by the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative to support the UAE's pledge to plant 100 million mangroves in 2030."

## WB report paints dire picture of global economic outlook because recession looms

BY TALA MICHEL ISSA

**G**LOBAL economic growth is slowing sharply due to elevated inflation, higher interest rates, reduced investment and disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, a new World Bank report showed.

The report, published on Tuesday, has painted a dire picture of the global economy, with the prospect of a recession looming on the horizon.

The report warned that if any new adverse developments happen, including an unexpected spike in inflation, an abrupt increase in interest rates, a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic, or escalating geopolitical tensions, the global economy could face another recession. If this happens, it would mark a historical first in more than 80 years, as it would be the first time that two global recessions have occurred within the same decade.

Global economy faces tougher year in 2023, IMF's Georgieva warns

The global economy is projected to grow by 1.7 percent in 2023 and 2.7 percent next year. The global economic landscape is predicted to experience a pervasive decline, with projections for 2023 revised to a downward trajectory for nearly all advanced economies, and a significant majority of emerging and developing economies.

The crisis facing development is intensifying as the global growth outlook deteriorates," World Bank Group President David Malpass (pictured) said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Emerging and developing countries are facing a multi-year period of slow growth driven by heavy debt burdens and weak investment as global capital is absorbed by advanced economies faced with extremely high government debt levels and rising interest rates. Weakness in growth and business investment will compound the already-devastating reversals in education, health, poverty, and infrastructure and the increasing demands from climate change," Malpass added.

The outlook for per-capita income expansion in emerging and developing economies is expected to be less favorable over the next two years, with estimates averaging at 2.8 percent. This

represents a marked decrease when compared to the preceding decade's average of 3.8 percent.

As the global economy continues to navigate the challenges posed by the ongoing economic crisis, certain regions are expected to be disproportionately affected. Sub-Saharan Africa, which constitutes 60 percent of the world's extreme poor, is projected to witness a starkly slow growth in per-capita income over the period of 2023-24. The estimated average of 1.2 percent has the potential to exacerbate poverty rates in the region rather than alleviate them, serving as a reminder of the pressing need to focus on inclusive and equitable economic policies in order to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty.

The outlook for advanced economies is fraught with uncertainty, as projections indicate a significant decline in growth, from 2.5 percent in 2022 to a mere 0.5 percent in 2023. This slowdown is a historical precursor of global recession, the World Bank warned.

The US is forecast to witness a decline in growth to 0.5 percent this year - a staggering 1.9 percentage points lower than prior estimates, marking the weakest performance since 1970, outside of official recessions.

Similarly, the euro-area growth forecast has been revised downwards to zero percent - a 1.9 percentage point reduction. Even China is now predicted to experience growth of 4.3 percent in 2023 - a 0.9 percentage point reduction from previous forecasts.

Excluding China, World Bank projections suggest that growth in emerging markets and developing economies will experience a slowdown, from a rate of 3.8 percent in 2022 to 2.7 percent in 2023. This reflects a confluence of factors, including a marked decline in external demand, compounded by the challenging economic conditions of high inflation, currency depreciation, constrained access to financing and other domestic headwinds.

"Subdued investment is a serious concern because it is associated with weak productivity and trade and dampens overall economic prospects. Without strong and sustained investment growth, it is simply impossible to make meaningful progress in achieving broader de-



velopment and climate-related goals," said Ayhan Kose, Director of the World Bank's Prospects Group.

"National policies to boost investment growth need to be tailored to country circumstances but they always start with establishing sound fiscal and monetary policy frameworks and undertaking comprehensive reforms in the investment climate."

As the world continues to grapple with the economic aftermath of the pandemic, the World Bank's new data forecasts a bleak reality for emerging and developing economies. By the end of 2024, their GDP is expected to

be roughly 6 percent lower than what was previously anticipated before the pandemic's onset. Although global inflation is expected to moderate, it will remain above pre-pandemic levels.

The report offers a comprehensive assessment of the medium-term investment growth prospects for emerging and developing economies. The research predicts that over the 2022-2024 period, gross investment in these economies will likely grow at an average rate of 3.5 percent - a significant decline when compared to the preceding two decades.

The World Bank also suggested a range of

policy options that could help to bolster investment and drive economic recovery in the affected economies.

Policymakers in small states can improve long-term growth prospects by fostering effective economic diversification and enhancing government efficiency.

The report called on the international community to provide sustained support through official assistance, particularly in the areas of climate change adaptation and debt sustainability, to assist these small states in weathering the economic challenges.

# WATUMISHI HOUSING INVESTMENT IPO OVERSUBSCRIBED BY 173 PC

By Guardian Reporter

**W**atumishi Housing Investment (WHI) Faida Fund Initial Public Offer (IPO) has been oversubscribed by 173 percent after raising 12.95bn/- more than targeted 7bn/-.

Announcing the IPO results yesterday, WHI Chief Executive Officer Dr Fred Msemwa (pictured) said the proceed will be invested in debt instrument (60 percent), especially on primary markets of 20 ad 25 years Treasury bonds, while the remaining 40 percent invested on money markets.

"The purpose of the IPO was to invite Tanzanians to invest Faida Fund, the collective investment scheme targeting 7bn/- as an initial investment," said. "This is the highest achievement in the history of financial market, particularly the previous collective investment scheme."

The initial investment

for the fund was 10,000/- and subsequent investment of 5,000/-. However, there was no limit on the maximum amount to be invested.

The IPO of the open ended scheme was opened on November 1 last year and closed on 31st December, 2022

He said the oversubscription explains the high level of public trust on WHI. A total of 3,800 people have been enrolled on the fund of which 872 have so far invested through mobile phones.

According to the IPO results, more than 90 percent of investors were individuals and the remaining share was minors and institutional investors.

"We take this trust by ensuring that we meet the expectations of our investors, capital markets regulator and the government," he said.

He said the use of digital technology through Government e-Payment Gateway (GEPG) has helped

such achievements because of smooth transaction with no transaction charges and investors are recognized soon after purchasing units.

"As we speak now more Tanzanians are continuing to invest as at January 11 this year, the amount has so far reached 13.5bn," he said.

The unit price of the fund during the IPO was 100/-, but Dr Msemwa asserted that the value has increased to 100.54/- as at January 11, this year.

"We want to reach more Tanzanians to participate in financial markets through digital technology, mainly mobile phones," he said.

Dr Msemwa said the fund will also operate on growth mode to enable investors to grow their invested fund in long term by using their dividends to purchase more units.

Following the announcement of the IPO results, the official launch of the fund will be held on Saturday this week by

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. The opening of repurchase operation will be held on April 1st this year.

Speaking during the IPO results announcement, official from CRDB Bank Plc, the custodian bank of Faida Fund Hemed Masumae said this is the seventh collective investment scheme to be managed by the bank in Tanzania.

"We have high level expertise of managing collective investment scheme with efficient systems for such schemes," he said.

"Our obligation was to offer public awareness and facilitation of the investment through our 255 branches and 25,000 agents spread across the country."

He said CRDB bank will manage all Faida Fund investment transactions as well as conduct payment to the fund's investors as well as provide advisory services.



## World Bank to expand access to affordable housing in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI

The World Bank has approved a \$15 million in credit from the International Development Association (IDA), its programme for the poorest countries, to help expand access to affordable housing in Djibouti where rapid population growth and urbanization have made it harder to own a home.

The project aims to expand the mortgage market to low-income households by widening the scope of an existing partial credit guarantee fund to mortgage loans, supporting housing microfinance and by converting rent-to-own contracts into mortgage loans.

It will introduce innovative financing solutions to enable poorer households to build their own homes, while also supporting policy reforms to lower construction costs.

Self-constructed homes will have to meet certain building standards to ensure resilience against climate-induced floods and fires.

"The lack of available finance has been a major bottleneck for lower income families who want to own their own home. This new credit, along with financing from private banks, will help people to build better lives for their families and communities," said Boubacar-Sid Barry, World Bank Resident Representative in Djibouti.

"Not only does a home offer security, it also provides collateral that can be leveraged to build other economic opportunities, which in turn lead to a rise in income," he added.

Since the 1960s, Djibouti's population grew around 4.2 percent each year and this rapid growth led to greater urbanization, with more than 78 percent of Djibouti's population currently living in urban areas. This trend put increased pressure on the housing market, with low-income households largely shut out of the mortgage and home-building sector.

"What's important about this project is that solutions for the housing crisis are coming largely from the private sector, which is more sustainable in the long run and eases pressure on public funding," said Caroline Cerruti, World Bank Senior Financial Sector Specialist.

The partial credit guarantee portion of the project (US\$7 million) is expected to mobilize around US\$70 million in private capital from banks to finance mortgages for homes, and about 2,000 low-to-middle income households are expected to benefit from affordable mortgage loans partially guaranteed by the guarantee fund.

Some 450 poor households are expected to have access to finance to build homes themselves, and the project will also try to bridge the gender gap for mortgage finance and self-constructed homes.

The new credit complements other World Bank Group projects that are already addressing affordable housing issues in Djibouti. Another project, the Djibouti Integrated Slum Upgrading Project, works on land titling and other supply issues

# Global mining boom set to accelerate in 2023

LONDON

As energy companies worldwide expand their renewable energy portfolios, in a bid to ensure their longevity in the global green transition, an increasing number of firms are investing heavily in metals and minerals to support their green energy output.

More extensive mining for metals and minerals is vital for an eventual shift away from fossil fuels to renewable alternatives; with the demand for lithium, zinc, and other resources growing rapidly as electric batteries and renewable energy technologies become more commonplace.

The industry grew in many parts of the world in 2022, and this trend is just beginning, with several major mining developments planned around the globe for 2023.

While the metals and minerals industry experienced growth in 2022, it was also hindered by price swings, high production costs, and ongoing supply chain disruptions.

An end-of-year report from Fitch Solutions suggests that the mining and metals industry will be more stable in 2023 as these challenges settle.



Although the ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict will likely cause longer-term energy insecurity, which will affect inflation levels worldwide.

The ongoing global financial crisis means that metal prices could be slightly lower in 2023, but the commodities market is expected to achieve greater price stability. The metals and minerals market is expected to grow steadily over the next decade, as demand continues to rise in line with the adoption of renewable power and related technologies.

Disruptions to mining caused by the pandemic are gradually being overcome and activities are expected to pick up across several global locations over the next decade. The Surface mining market is expected to achieve a value of \$39.7 billion by 2030,

with a CAGR of around 3.20 percent.

China continues to be the world's biggest consumer and producer of most minerals and metals. Its 'zero-Covid' policy, which has only recently been lifted, had a detrimental effect on the supply and demand of these resources in 2022, with greater stability expected for the coming year.

Demand in China is expected to pick up in line with the re-opening of several key industries, although this could be challenged should another break-out of Covid take place.

Several countries are developing new policies around mining and the security of their metals and minerals markets. This is largely in response to the greater nationalization of these resources, as seen in Mexico, and

the pressure to decrease reliance on certain world powers, such as Russia, for the supply of high-demand metals and minerals.

Some of these policies include the US's Inflation Reduction Act, the U.K.'s Critical Minerals Strategy, and several Lithium triangle agreements between Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile. Many countries are establishing roadmaps to ensure the development of strong supply chains, as some metals and minerals remain scarce and can only be mined in specific regions of the world.

An analysis from S&P Global foresees supply constraints across critical commodities as early as 2024, due to the anticipated sharp uptake of electric vehicles (EVs), the shift to renewable energy technologies, and related transmission and distribution requirements.

Due to concerns about the scarcity of metals and minerals needed to support a green transition, governments worldwide are likely to offer greater funding and incentives for new mining developments, to ensure the necessary supply to meet the growing global demand.

In the case of nickel, Indonesia is increasing its supply to meet the rising demand, which is

expected to delay the anticipated deficit until 2026. Nickel is a vital component in batteries, and the demand for nickel for use in batteries is expected to increase from 71 percent in 2021 to 176 percent in 2026.

The S&P analysis also demonstrates how the global demand for lithium and cobalt will likely outstrip supply by as early as 2025 or 2026.

While the supply of iron ore and zinc is expected to remain stronger than demand. However, copper demand is expected to rise more rapidly than new mining projects become operational.

Discussions around mining for a green transition being at odds with the environmental degradation and destruction of ecosystems associated with this mining will continue in 2023 as new projects emerge.

Worldwide efforts to decarbonize will see the demand for metals and minerals increase sharply over the next decade, as governments and energy firms accelerate plans for renewable energy operations. In addition, ESG will likely be a major consideration in the development of new projects, paying greater attention to the effect of mining on the local environment.

# Dubai real estate market records AED1.8bn

DUBAI

Wednesday's property deals included 461 sales transactions worth AED1.43 billion, 89 mortgage deals of AED350.12 million and 15 gift deals amounting to AED55.11 million, data by Dubai's Land Department (DLD) showed.

The sales included 424 villas and apartments worth AED1.14 billion and 37 land plots worth AED292.67 million.

The mortgages included 64 villas and apartments worth

AED229.73 million and 25 land plots valued at AED120.39 million.

The Dubai real estate market has been on a bull run for the last several months, with transactions recording a jump of 61 percent since 2021, exceeding AED240 billion in 2022, according to a recent real estate agency report.

The growth is attributed to a maturing market and intention for people to stay in Dubai for longer as well as an increase in demand for villas and town-

houses.

The report said investors were being offered a wider range of options as increased demand is projected to outperform supply in the coming year.

The Dubai Land Department recently announced a new strategic plan for further development of the sector, in line with the national agenda to build a better economy while ensuring consistency with current and future global developments and practices.



# NEW YORK SUPER-PRIME REAL ESTATE HITS A WALL

## NEW YORK

In the last half of 2022 the market for homes priced at \$10 million and more fell precipitously in New York and South Florida, according to a new report from the brokerage Serhant.

"The second half of the year was more affected at the super-prime level than most people initially believed," says Garrett Derderian, Serhant's director of market intelligence.

"The big takeaway is that this year the market is going to slow considerably, and it could be one of the slowest years in the super-prime market in the last decade."

The report analyzed \$10 million-plus sales and signed contracts in Palm Beach, Miami, New York and the Hamptons. While it was already clear that last year's market success was largely a holdover from 2021's banner year, the Serhant report emphasizes just how far, and how fast, demand has fallen for super-luxury properties in some of the wealthiest parts of the country.

Judging by sales numbers, 2022 was even better than 2021 for super-prime sales. But contracts signed are often considered more representative of a market's strength than sales, which can carry over from previous years.

(Once a contract is signed, it can take months to close, particularly in a new development.) "On a high level, when you look at sales figures, they're very strong," says Derderian. "But when you look at contract activity you start to see a drop-off."

In fact, in the first half of 2022, signed contracts for condos and co-ops in New York City priced at \$10 million or more were down a modest 15% from the previous year; in the second half they plummeted 68%. Townhouses in the city were similarly affected, with contracts falling 41% year over year in the first half and 58% in the second.

Miami's decline was nearly as precipitous. There, signed contracts fell 27% year over year in the first half of 2022 and 60% in the second half. In the Hamptons, where inventory has remained tight, contracts declined 23% in the first half of the year and then accelerated their slide, dropping 39% in the second.

Only Palm Beach was comparatively steady, with signed contracts down 6% year over year from January to June and then 28% from July to December. "In South Florida there's the belief that prices are peaking, so there's a pullback in sales," Derderian says. "Still, there's limited inven-

tory, so well-priced homes, particularly ones that are turnkey and ready to move in, are selling."

Indeed, sales prices in the \$10 million-plus tier have remained resilient, according to the report, particularly in South Florida, where the median sales price increased 3% year over year in Palm Beach and 2% in Miami. The Hamptons saw even better median sales growth—8% year over year, according to the report.

But in New York, even accounting for 2021 contracts that closed in 2022, the median price for condos at the \$10 million-plus level declined 2%; for co-ops it fell by 15%, from just over \$14 million to

just over \$12 million. The condos sold, which represented the bulk of New York transactions in this highest-price tier, got smaller—the average size fell to just over 4,000 square feet, down from more than 4,500 square feet the year before. But that's not the cause of the price slide: Price per square foot fell, too.

"Pricing has certainly come down, which differentiates New York City from other markets," Derderian says. "When buyers at this level smell blood, especially during uncertain times, they tend to strike. So super-prime is usually one of the last tiers to collapse but the first to recover."

## Nigeria roads in tertiary educational institutions

### LAGOS

The Federal Government is constructing no fewer than 83 internal road projects across the nation's tertiary educational institutions.

Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola, stated this yesterday while handing over 1.8km internal roads at the Federal University, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State.

Fashola said the ministry had intervened and handed over 64 road projects in various tertiary federal institutions as at March 2022, 18 projects ready to be handed over, while attending to 19 roads in similar institutions across the country.

According to him, this is consistent with their progressive ideal of improving the human condition as well as critical intervention to support education.

His words: "The gap of our infrastructure needs is steadily being bridged by a gradual process of repairs, renewal and construction on major highways and it has reached the schools."

"During the construction, about 33 skilled

and unskilled labourers were employed in the process, contributing to the job creation initiative of the Federal Government."

Represented by the Federal Controller of Works, Kebbi State office, James Bugu, the minister hopes that the school will ensure the asset is used properly and not abused.

The Vice Chancellor, Federal University Birnin Kebbi, Prof. Muhammad Zaiyan-Umar, thanked the Federal Government for its support to the university with series of interventions through Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), National Universities Commission (NUC) and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Zaiyan-Umar also thanked President Muhammadu Buhari for timely release of funds for all project interventions to the university. He pointed out that the road would beautify the environment, ease movement to the new senate building, faculties, sports complex and student hostels among others.

By Guardian Reporter,

Dodoma

SELEMANI Jafo, the minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), yesterday joined the Exim Bank and media stakeholders on a tree planting exercise in Dodoma in efforts to make the capital city green, as part of the celebrations for the Zanzibar Revolution.

The trees which look at combating challenges of climate change were planted at the now popular Dodoma's Machinga Complex.

The tree planting initiative at the complex was fully sponsored by Exim Bank and coordinated by Habari Development Association as part of the association's plan to plant 6,000 trees in different areas of the Capital city, including the infamous Mirembe Hospital and Uhuru Primary School through the initiative.

Speaking immediately after planting trees at the busy Machinga Complex, Jafo said that his ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders was well planned to use the 59 years anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution to plant trees in different areas of the country.

"As we are serious in our commitment, we are delighted to see that our friends from Exim Bank have decided to compliment the government's efforts, and on behalf of the government I

## Stakeholders mark Zanzibar Revolution by planting trees to make Dodoma city green



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Selemani Jafo (R) looking on as Exim Bank's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Shani Kinswaga (2nd R), the bank's Marketing and Communications Manager Stanley Kafu (C) and the Executive Secretary of Habari Development Association Executive Bernard Mwanawile (L) planting trees at the Machinga Complex market in Dodoma yesterday as part of the celebrations for the Zanzibar Revolution. The tree planting initiative at the complex was fully sponsored by Exim Bank and coordinated by Habari Development Association. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

wish to express my sincere appreciation to the bank...keep it up!" he mentioned.

According to the minister, the country was going through different challenges including climate change thus causing scarcity of rains that have eventually caused food shortage in the country, water services and reliable electricity, something that has derailed the country's economy.

He however insisted that the government was implementing different development projects

seeking to avert impacts of climate change including reducing production of charcoal, drilling small and major dams, apart from the ongoing Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP).

Shani Kinswaga, Exim Bank's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) said that his bank was always supporting the government's efforts in looking for measures to avert all effects of the climate change by coming up with different strategies including its popular

programme dubbed: 'Exim Go Green Initiative' by intensifying awareness tree planting campaigns via all branches from across the country.

"This is the third time our bank has been running this exercise within three years and our target is to plant 20,000 trees in different areas of the region," he noted.

Bernard Mwanawile, Habari Development Association Executive Secretary said that his association was determined to plant 1 million trees in

Dodoma as he paid tribute to different institutions that were supporting efforts by his association including Exim Bank Tanzania.

Mwanawile said already, Exim Bank had supported the exercise and that so far 16,000 trees had been planted via the support of the bank only.

Veronica Tarimo, Machinga Complex Manager pledged to ensure that all business persons and other stakeholders operating at the market were protecting the planted trees.

## Alliance One hands over health, computer items to Morogoro hospital



By Staff Reporter, Morogoro

Morogoro district commissioner Albert Msando has received three modern computers and health facilities from Alliance One Tobacco valued 8.8mn/- to support the Morogoro regional referral hospital to conduct orthopaedic operations.

Speaking during the facilities handing over ceremony, Msando thanked the company for accepting the request to cut down the challenges and of shortages of health equipment at the hospital, which caused the region to depend such services from other hospitals including the Muhimbili National Hospital.

"For example, I was told that the hospital had 98 patients whom depended on such services and only 56 were referred to Muhimbili National Hospital and the remaining didn't access such services, so they had

no other option, but using traditional and alternative medicines," he said.

He said after being informed by the hospital management on over the shortages, he wrote to Alliance Tobacco to request for the support, which they promptly accepted.

He said on top of the requested health facilities, the company also donated three computers and two printers for use by the police department in Morogoro district.

In other development, Msando urged the hospital management and the Police force to have the better use of the donated items.

On his part, the Alliance One Human Resources Director Blasius Lupenza said the donated facilities to the community was part of the company's corporate social responsibility policy targeting water, health and educa-

tion in its areas of operations.

Citing examples he explained that during the Covid 19 pandemic, the company donated various facilities to the government departments to protect them against the pandemic.

He said the company also conducted maintenance of police vehicles including buying new tires and other mechanical works.

On his part advocate John Magoti the company chief spokesperson said the company as a good corporate citizen is implementing its social responsibility support to the sixth phase government led by Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure that people are cordially accessing better social services.

The Morogoro Regional Medical Officer Dr Daniel Nkungu thanked Alliance One Tobacco for the support, saying the facility would greatly reduce the

dependence of such services to other hospitals.

Dr Nkungu said before receiving such facilities, many patients have had to wait for three days to one week for operation and sometimes they had to borrow facilities from Dodoma Region referral hospital to operate patients.

On his account, the Police Officer the district of Morogoro, SSP Samson Cornel called for bodaboda riders to religiously observe road safety signs and requirements and thereby to reduce unnecessary accidents.

"Kindly observe health and safety rules and while riding that motor vehicle of yours, otherwise your lives are in jeopardy immediately as soon as you jump on it," he observed.

Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania is one of the leading tobacco merchant and processor in Tanzania.

Morogoro DC Albert Msando (L) hands over an orthopaedic set donated by Alliance one to Morogoro Regional Medical Officer Dr Daniel Nkungu (R) as the company's Human Resource Director Blasius Lupenza (2L) and company's Chief Spokesperson John Magoti (R) looks on.

## CONSTRUCTION

# DAR STRUGGLING AT THE REGION'S TEA EXPORT MARKET

By Francis Kajubi

**T**ANZANIA has traded the least amount of tea packages at this month's East African Tea Export Auctions compared to last year's traded amount.

According to the market results of the auction held on January 3rd and 4th this year, Tanzania offered 820 packages of tea which is equivalent 39,096 kilograms down from 1,260 packages which is equivalent to 65,980 kilograms it offered in January 2022.

Results show that of the 820 packages it offered at the market, 400 packages were successfully sold which is equivalent to 17,120 kilograms. Last year's auction Tanzania offered 540 packages which was equivalent to 26,664 kilograms.

The first sale of this year opened with fair demand at irregular levels for the total of 220,070 packages which is equivalent to 14,708,900 kilograms in the market with 25.53 percent of it being neglected.

The first auction saw a total of 161,168 packages sold during the two auction days which is equivalent to 11,079, 287 kilograms.

According to the results, Kenya led the list of the East African countries by offering a larger quantity of tea. Kenya offered 175,160 packages which is equivalent to 12,015,526 kilograms. Of the offered packages, Kenya sold 124,058 packages which is equivalent to 8,826, 572 kilograms.



Uganda came second in the list where it offered 33,620 packages which is equivalent to 1,952,182 kilograms. Of the offered packages, 28,720 packages were successfully sold, an equivalent of 1,676,555 kilograms.

Rwanda took the third position with an offer of 9,030 packages, an equivalent

of 613,704 kilograms. Rwanda successfully sold a bunch of 7,310 packages, an equivalent of 497,620 kilograms. Burundi was ahead of Tanzania by offering 1,440 packages, an equivalent of 88,392 kilograms.

The auction results further show that of the total 220,070 packages offered,

there were 118,240 packages that went unsold.

There were 75,440 packages of dust grades that ended up unsold. This is equivalent to 5,617,237 kilograms and 31.76 percent of the total unsold tea. On secondary grades, 26,390 packages which is equivalent to 1,320,728 kilo-

grams went unsold. This forms 11.14 percent of the total unsold.

The auction results stated that on buyers' appetite, Egyptian Packers showed more support with Pakistan Packers, Bazaar, Afghanistan, Yemen and other Middle Eastern countries active but at lower levels.

Kazakhstan and other CIS states lent selective activity to the UK while Russia maintained participation at the auction. Sudan showed reduced enquiry while Iran was quiet. Local Packers were less active while Somalia maintained interest at the lower end of the market.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) highlights on the national accounts performance for the third quarter 2022, crop production grew at a slower rate of 2.7 compared to 6.8 percent in the corresponding quarter in 2021.

The slow in growth was due to unfavorable rainfall received in areas of the production during the period of July to September 2022. However, Tea is not among the major crops that contributed to this growth. Major crops that contributed to the growth were Banana, Cassava, sweet potatoes, beans and pulses.

The Central Bank's Monthly Economic Review for December states that traditional goods exports increased to \$760.9 million from \$628.8 million at the end of November in 2021. The growth was mainly supported by the rise in exports of cotton, cashew nuts, sisal and tobacco.

## Programme to addressing South Africa's critical housing shortage

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's first and only multisector residential investment and development conference and exhibition has been launched in response to the country's massive housing shortage and high urbanisation rate, according to the organisers.

Hosted by SmartXchange (a division of Commerce Edge South Africa), this event will bring together the entire residential value chain to share knowledge, collaborate and do business. Expanding on the pressing need for this gathering, SmartXchange chairperson and CEO Debbie Tagg says: "South Africa has a massive housing shortage and one of the highest urbanisation rates among emerging economies across the world. 63% of South Africans are already living in urban areas and this will rise to 71% by 2030. By 2050, eight in 10 people will be living in urban areas. There are currently more than 3 300 informal settlements in South Africa," Tagg states.

The Social Housing Regulatory Authority (SHRA) which administers the government's social housing program is targeting the delivery of 18,000 social housing units by 2024. Social housing is effectively the rental equivalent of gap housing and directly addresses the accommodation needs of the "missing middle" who are unable to access mortgage facilities through the government assisted FLISP programme.

Marius Muller, managing director of specialist social housing company SoHo Properties, is quoted as saying that the provision of social housing has become a critical element in alleviating the housing needs of the country and transitioning a large portion of the population from rental accommodation towards home ownership.

"On the student accommodation front, there is currently a conservatively estimated capacity gap of 500 000 beds," Tagg notes. "In the last two years (2020, 2021), NSFAS spent an average R11.9 billion per annum on student accommodation funding. At least 420 000 students each year are in university and TVET accommodation. Out of this, approximately 43% was for institutional residences and 57% was for private accommodation."

Tagg stresses that there is a growing imperative to galvanise social and affordable housing in order to produce

the vast quantity of accommodation needed to alleviate the shortages.

The inaugural Residential Investment & Development Conference will see government agencies, asset managers, operating entities, investors, brokers, banks, consultants, and service providers come together to unpack new opportunities in the social and affordable housing, student, retirement, co-living and multi-family residential spaces.

The event will feature practical case studies, roundtable discussions and keynote presentations from global and local experts and thought leaders. Tagg says that the conference will benefit all levels of audience. She explains that the event's key objectives are to enable private role players to achieve "housing for all"; to slash the development cost in the South African economy; to boost the state's capacity to fast-track project approvals and policy implementation; to formalise the industry value chain and eco system; to unlock equity and debt funding; and to mitigate risk by unpacking and examining risk and pricing models.

The first Residential Investment & Development Conference will take place on 12 and 13 July 2023 at Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg. Current event partners include SoHo Properties, iKhaya Future House, Enza Construction, Triple 3 Group, Take Shape Property Management, Venator, EnPointe Properties, Property Wheel, SAACPP, GreenStuff, SA Building Review, SA Business Integrator and SA Profile.

"Enza Construction is proud to be a partner to this prestigious event. Our commitment is to deliver the best in housing so that all people are able to live in decent places that they call home," says Enza Construction's CEO Rowan Crowie. Enza has been a key player in the housing space for over two decades, building affordable social housing throughout South Africa.

"This locally driven event representing the challenges and opportunities of the entire residential value chain is one that should not be missed by anyone involved in any aspect of residential investment and development. It offers an invaluable opportunity for cross learning between stakeholders, and a critical platform for government and private sector stakeholders to engage and collaborate in order to overcome key challenges," Tagg concludes.



LG Electronics Global CEO William Cho makes remarks during the 2023 LG World Premier press conference held on the sidelines of CES 2023. He shared LG's vision for Innovation Designed to Make Customers' Lives Better. The company's 2023 and beyond strategy features a strong offering of customer-centred innovations to build a better life for all and care for the environment. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## LG unveils 2030 sustainability blueprint strategy

NAIROBI

LG Electronics has rolled out its 2023 blueprint aimed at creating innovation for a better life and ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Running under the slogan Life's Good, the blueprint was made public by LG electronics Global CEO William Cho during the LG World Premier press conference held on the sidelines of the ongoing CES 2023 exhibition.

It features a strong offering of customer-centered innovations to build a better life for all, and care for the environment which is anchored on its 2030 ESG blueprint dubbed better life plan, and its Better Plan blueprint that seeks to build accessibility, and easy use of LG's products and services by the disabled and elderly.

Speaking while rolling out the company's vision, William Cho affirmed the company's commitment to take on new challenges in 2023 and beyond despite any uncertainties, noting that, "LG has known and truly believed that the answer is always with the customer. The start and end of all innova-

tion are our customers, and it is with these innovations that we aim to put a smile on their faces".

To provide new value to its customers, Cho highlighted upcoming ground-breaking customer-centered innovations in its home electronics and appliances such as the LG OLED, which has changed customers' viewing experience completely. He noted that the company is actively working with partners to introduce various new interactive services through LG TVs, including the online educational platform MasterClass, workout app MaxPro and metaverse service Sansar that will expand the customer experience and enable TV users to redefine the viewing experience. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, LG OLED continues to set the industry standard for picture quality and unprecedented customer experiences.

Cho also spoke about LG ThinQ UP, a new category of 'evolving' home appliances offering unique upgradeability and personalization options. The premium lineup includes revolutionary products like the

LG refrigerator with MoodUP™, which can change color to suit users' tastes, mood, or kitchen décor.

While emphasizing the company's focus to create a better future for all, Cho reiterated LG's commitment as a responsible corporate citizen to realize a sustainable future. He mentioned the company's promise to increase the accessibility and easy use of LG's products and services by the disabled and elderly. This, as guided by feedback from LG's 'Disabled Advisory Group' - in operation since 2021 and comprised of members with varying abilities and accessibility experts - the company is continuously introducing barrier-free products that can be conveniently used by all.

"Our goal is to eliminate barriers at every stage of the customer experience. This will include developing product manuals that incorporate audio and sign language guides, distributing braille stickers for appliances, and operating sign language counseling centers among others," said Cho.

To complement this, LG currently runs the Global

IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC) which, since 2011, has empowered more than 4,000 youth to build skills in technology to eliminate the digital divide for persons with disabilities.

To make a positive impact on people's lives and the planet, LG electronics revealed its plan to put people and the planet first which is at the heart of the new Better Life Plan 2030, LG's global framework for Environmental Social and Governance that defines core ESG tasks and ESG led management. On the environment agenda, LG aims to use 600,000 tons of recycled plastic by 2030 in its production process, an act that signifies its commitment to lead the way in environmental sustainability and climate action. Over the next 7 years, LG plans to collect and recycle another 4.5 million tons of e-waste. In the same breadth, LG expects to reduce carbon emissions by 20 percent in its 7 major product categories through energy efficiency, even as it aims to complete its transition to renewable energy by 2050.

## WORLD

# Prince Harry hits out at press over reports of Afghan killings

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Prince Harry has hit back at "hurtful" responses to his record-selling memoir, saying he was particularly upset by the "lie" he had boasted that he had killed 25 people in Afghanistan when serving as a military helicopter pilot.

In his book "Spare", King Charles's younger son recounts his two tours of Afghanistan, first as a forward air controller in 2007/08 and again in 2012, when he was a co-pilot gunner in Apache attack helicopters, and the

number of people he had killed.

British newspapers, heavily criticized in the book, and some senior former British military figures have attacked his decision to make public the figure of those he had killed, saying it could put him and others at risk of reprisals.

Speaking to US chat show host Stephen Colbert on "The Late Show", he said the press had spun his words to take his disclosure out of context, and that he had included the material to reduce the number of suicides by military veterans.



Pedestrians pass a display in the window of a book shop in London on Tuesday. AP

"Without doubt the most dangerous lie that they have told is that I somehow boasted about the number of people that I killed in Afghanistan," he said.

"I made a choice to share it because having spent nearly two decades working with veterans all around the world, I think the most important thing is to be honest and be able to give space to others to be able to share their experiences without any shame." On Tuesday, the publisher of Harry's book said it had become the UK's fastest

selling non-fiction book ever and its intimate personal revelations about his life and other royals, and his accusations about how they had worked with a hostile press, have dominated the British media for days.

The English language edition of "Spare" sold more than 1.43 million units in all formats and editions in the United States, Canada and the UK on the first day of its publication.

"I'm not going to lie the last few days have been hurtful and challenging," Harry said.

## Uganda declares end of Ebola outbreak

KAMPALA

UGANDA on Wednesday said the Ebola Sudan Virus outbreak in the country has ended after no new case was reported over a period of 42 days.

The World Health Organization (WHO) requires that for a country to be declared Ebola-free, it should spend 42 days (two 21-day incubation cycles of the virus) without any new cases reported.

Minister of Health Ruth Aceng made the announcement in the Central Region district of Mubende, which was the epicenter of the outbreak that was first reported on Sept. 20, 2022.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a joint statement congratulated Uganda and its partners for the robust and comprehensive response to combat and defeat the virus.

"Uganda has shown that Ebola can be defeated when the whole system works together, from having an alert system in place, to finding and caring for people affected and their contacts, to gaining the full participation of affected communities in the response," said Ghebreyesus.

WHO Regional Director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti said Uganda's long experience in responding to epidemics allowed the country to rapidly strengthen critical areas of the response.

"With no vaccines and therapeutics, this was one of the most challenging Ebola outbreaks in the past five years, but Uganda stayed the course and continuously fine-tuned its response," said Moeti.

According to the WHO, this Ebola outbreak was caused by the Sudan Ebola virus, one of six species of the Ebola virus, against which no therapeutics and vaccines have been approved yet.

In efforts to stop the possible spread, Uganda worked with the WHO and other partners, including vaccine developers, to identify candidate therapeutics and vaccines for inclusion in trials. Three candidate vaccines were identified and over 5,000 doses of these arrived in the country, according to the WHO.

"While these candidate vaccines were not used during this outbreak, they remain the contribution of Uganda and partners to the fight against Ebola," said WHO Representative in Uganda Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam.

"The next time the Sudan ebolavirus strikes, we can recognize the robust cooperation between developers, donors and health authorities, and dispatch the candidate vaccines."

The WHO said although the outbreak in Uganda has been declared over, health authorities are maintaining surveillance and are ready to respond quickly to any flare-ups.

Neighbouring countries remain on alert and are encouraged to continue strengthening their capacities to detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks, the WHO added.

## Saudi Arabia plans to use domestic uranium for nuclear fuel

RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia plans to use domestically-sourced uranium to build up its nuclear power industry, energy minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman (pictured) said on Wednesday.

He added that recent exploration had shown a diverse portfolio of uranium in the Gulf Arab state, the world's top oil exporter.

Saudi Arabia has a nascent nuclear program that it wants to expand to eventually include uranium enrichment, a sensitive area given its role in nuclear weapons. Riyadh has said it wants to use nuclear power to diversify its energy mix.

It is unclear where its ambitions end, since Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in 2018 that the kingdom would develop nuclear weapons if regional rival Iran did.

"The kingdom intends to utilize its national uranium resources, including in joint ventures with willing partners in accordance with international commitments and transparency standards," Abdulaziz bin Salman said.

He told a mining industry conference in Riyadh that this would involve "the entire nuclear fuel cycle which involves the production of yellowcake, low enriched uranium and the manufacturing of nuclear fuel both for our national use and of course for export".

Fellow Gulf state the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has the Arab world's first multi-unit operating nuclear energy plant. The UAE has committed not to enrich uranium itself and not to reprocess spent fuel.

Atomic reactors need uranium enriched to around 5 percent purity, but the same technology in this process can also be used to enrich the heavy metal to higher, weapons-grade levels.

This issue has been at the heart of Western and regional concerns about Iran's nuclear program, and led to the 2015 deal between Tehran and global powers that capped enrichment at 3.67 percent.

The pact unraveled after then-president Donald Trump exited the deal in 2018, and efforts to salvage the agreement have stalled since September.



## International companies confident in China's innovation vitality

LOS ANGELES

AT the recently concluded 2023 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, many multinational companies showed great interest in China's innovative products and solutions and expressed optimism about China's innovation vitality.

The world's premier tech show, which concluded over the weekend with more than 3,200 exhibitors from over 170 countries and regions, drew hundreds of Chinese companies, including well-known brands like TCL, Lenovo and Hisense, as well as startups. Oliver Zipse, chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG, said the German auto giant would continue to deepen cooperation with its Chinese partners due to China's market and strong innovation capability.

In an interview with Xinhua and several other Chinese news outlets during the CES, Zipse said BMW is motivated to cooperate with its Chinese partners for two reasons.

One is the market, as China

has already been the largest market for BMW; the other is innovation since BMW's development strategy could only be realized with inspiration and innovation from China.

"A lot of things happening in the tech world are starting in China and then are being extended to the world," Zipse said, citing BMW's i7 Series, the latest electric luxury sedan launched in China in December, as the best example. "The future of the BMW Group is very clear: digital, electric and circular."

The future of the BMW Group also lies in the growth and the further development of our footprint in China. Because China is the frontrunner in all three strategic areas," he said.

"I'm glad to see our strategic directions perfectly match the national policies of China." More and more multinationals consider China one of the important production bases, sales markets and research and development (R&D) centers.

According to Zipse, BMW has established the largest



People visit the 2023 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, the United States, Jan. 8, 2023. (Photo by Zeng Hui/Xinhua)

R&D and innovation team outside of Germany, with centers in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang, and Nanjing. Currently, BMW has about 3,200 employees in China that engage in innovation-related work involving R&D, digitalization, electrification and other fields.

Jim Misener, senior director of product management for U.S. tech giant Qualcomm Technologies, also expressed his optimism about China's electric car innovation.

Misener said that China is

leading the world in C-V2X (cellular vehicle-to-everything) technology development, mainly due to its government support and mature policies. "We always point to China when we talk to U.S. policymakers." The C-V2X technology holds the potential to deliver transformational benefits in road safety and enhance environmental sustainability. At the 2023 CES, Chinese companies impressed global exhibitors with innovative products and solutions, illustrating their emphasis on

R&D investment and technology upgrades.

iRest, a massage equipment company based in China's southeastern Zhejiang Province, showcased different types of massage chairs, attracting a long line of visitors.

Liu Shijian, iRest's manager of the exhibition department, told Xinhua the company is committed to technology innovation and has introduced artificial intelligence in its 3D intelligent manipulator, which is the core technology of its massage chairs and can better assist programming and offer a personalized experience for consumers.

China's machinery and electronics industry has strong resilience, relatively complete industry chains and efficient supply chains, Shi Yonghong, vice president of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products, told Xinhua.

Shi added that China has been the world's largest exporter of mechanical and electrical products since 2009.

Xinhua

## Iranian, Russian presidents discuss expanding economic cooperation

TEHRAN

IRANIAN President Ebrahim Raisi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Wednesday discussed the expansion of economic cooperation, particularly in the energy and transportation sectors.

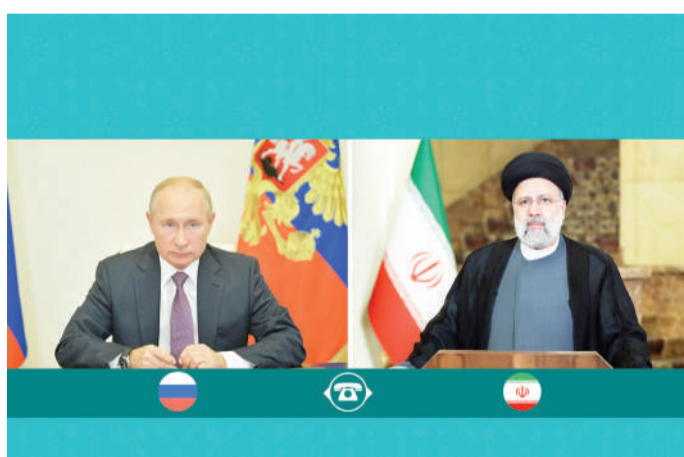
In a phone call on Wednesday evening, Raisi said the constant expansion of economic cooperation between Tehran and Moscow, especially in the transportation and energy sectors, will help establish useful relations between the two nations and regional countries, according to the website of the Iranian

president's office.

The two sides also exchanged views on enhancing political cooperation as well as regional and international issues of common interest.

He said Iran has always stressed the necessity of promoting regional convergence, noting that only through cooperation and coordination, regional problems, such as those in the Caucasus region and Syria, can be resolved.

The Iranian president also highlighted efforts to solve Syria's problems within the framework of the Astana process -- launched in 2017 at the initiative of Iran, Russia and Turkey, noting that Tehran



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (L) and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin

has always warned against the detrimental presence of foreign powers in the region.

Shifting to the war in Ukraine, Raisi voiced Iran's readiness to play an "active

and constructive" role to help end the conflict and establish peace in the European country.

Putin, for his part, described as "very useful" the enhancement of all-out economic cooperation between Russia and Iran, adding expanding the two sides' capacities and cooperation in different fields, including the areas of transportation and energy, will be in the interests of the economies of entire Eurasia.

He welcomed Iran's initiative to help secure peace in Ukraine, calling for further coordination to resolve Syria's problems within the framework of the Astana process.

## China endeavours to promote high-level development of its relations with Central Asian countries

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing recently during the latter's state visit to China.

The two heads of state announced the elevation of the China-Turkmenistan relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership, reached important consensus on advancing the building of a China-Turkmenistan community with a shared future, and witnessed the signing of agreements on cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and cooperation in other fields.

This marks China's success in establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership, advancing the building of a community with a shared future for mankind at the bilateral level, and

signing BRI cooperation documents with all five Central Asian countries.

With similar visions and goals as well as intertwined interests, China and Turkmenistan have achieved fruitful results in exchanges and cooperation in multiple fields and at all levels, and seen their bilateral friendly ties grow from strength to strength under the strategic guidance of the two countries' heads of state.

The two countries' decisions to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership, continuously deepen bilateral cooperation across the board, and build a China-Turkmenistan community with a shared future is expected to push forward the development of their bilateral relations at a higher level.

Building a China-Turkmenistan community

with a shared future is an endeavor that enables the two sides to further deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, better accommodate each other's concerns, and reinforce their everlasting friendship on the basis of mutual respect, candor, mutual trust, and mutual benefit.

The two sides should support each other on issues concerning their core interests and respect each other's pursuit of a development path suited to their own national conditions.

It is important for the two countries to synergize their development strategies at a faster pace, make full use of such mechanisms as the China-Turkmenistan Cooperation Committee, and continue to expand the breadth and depth of cooperation, in order to create underpin-

nings for bilateral relations with tangible cooperation outcomes.

The two sides should deepen cooperation on law enforcement, security and biosecurity, and jointly crack down on the three forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism, to build strong security shields for the development of both countries.

The two sides also need to increase exchanges in various fields and at all levels, advance people-to-people cooperation, and strengthen the emotional bond between their peoples, so as to consolidate the popular and social foundation for the sustained and sound development of bilateral ties.

These efforts are conducive to the two coun-

tries' national development and rejuvenation and can help improve the well-being of their people.

The further elevation of the China-Turkmenistan relationship mirrors the high-level development of the relations between China and Central Asian countries.

Thirty-one years ago, China took the lead in establishing diplomatic ties with Central Asian countries, opening the door to bilateral exchanges and cooperation. Over the past 31 years, China and Central Asian countries have blazed a new trail of good-neighborly friendship and win-win cooperation, and set a good example of fostering a new type of international relations.

People's Daily



# Five keywords of China's COVID response

BEIJING

THREE years into its arduous fight against COVID-19, China is making headway toward restoring vitality to the lives of over 1.4 billion people.

People across the country are preparing for the annual travel rush and reunion with their loved ones, restaurants and eateries are reopening, and business representatives are booking charter flights to Europe and beyond in search of new business opportunities.

With China now entering a new phase of COVID response, the normalcy of hustle and bustle is trickling back to the world's second-largest economy.

Under the leadership of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, China has achieved economic and social development over the past three years, while protecting the lives and health of the Chinese people to the greatest extent.

The miracle can be decoded into five keywords: "fight," "prevention," "coordination," "optimization" -- with the goal of returning to "normalcy."

Behind those five words is the CPC's people-centered philosophy, which has led the Chinese to the light of hope and will continue to guide the country through future challenges.

## FIGHT: THE SPIRIT OF RESOLVE AND COURAGE

A typical morning in Wuhan always starts with a bowl of hot dry noodles.

"It is the taste of home," said Zhao Lei, a 27-year-old Wuhan resident who often enjoys the noodles at a street stand or an outdoor restaur-

rant.

For Zhao and many others in the central Chinese city, these moments of peace are like the rainbow after a storm. They would not have had the pleasure of enjoying this traditional noodle dish in such a leisurely fashion, had an uphill battle not been won against the fast-spreading novel coronavirus.

The Chinese phrase for "anti-epidemic" contains the character "kang," meaning "fight" or "combat." In China, this word has been spoken to muster nationwide courage and solidarity to fight invaders, devastating floods or calamitous earthquakes.

It was used again when an epidemic erupted in Wuhan about three years ago. Initially identified as a pneumonia with an unknown cause, COVID-19 soon became, in Xi's words, the fastest spreading, most extensive and most challenging public health emergency the country had encountered since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Under the leadership of the CPC, China declared war against the virus to protect lives, with Xi stressing that people's lives are "heavier than Mount Tai" and must be protected "at any cost."

The CPC's approach to tackling the raging pandemic was resolute. Through dozens of meetings of the central Party leadership, the Party mobilized the entire country to support the battle in Wuhan and the province of Hubei.

Unprecedented and brave steps were taken in China. Wuhan suspended all outbound trains and flights to slow down virus transmission. Gyms and exhibition centers



were converted into temporary wards. Doctors and experts raced against time to improve the diagnosis and treatment of the previously unknown disease.

Strong central leadership ensured the orderly supply of water, electricity, heating, telecommunications and other essential materials and services for over 1.4 billion people, in the face of a fierce onslaught from the epidemic.

The nation's solidarity can be seen clearly in its anti-virus battle. Tens of thousands of medical workers rushed to the front line, postponing weddings, cutting short their time with their families, and even sacrificing their own

lives.

Among these medical workers was Zhang Dingyu, both a patient and a doctor. Zhang had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), yet he saved the lives of many patients as the head of the Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, one of the major battlefields during the Wuhan epidemic.

"I tried to run faster to save time and more patients," said Zhang, who was often seen staggering between hospital wards.

The heroic medics were not fighting alone as the nation pulled together in its anti-virus drive. Tens of thousands of workers constructed the Leishenshan and Huoshenshan hospitals in just two weeks. Hundreds of millions of people answered the government's call to remain in their local areas during the Spring Festival over the past three years.

China was also not fighting alone in the battle against COVID-19. The Chinese people still remember the planes carrying aid materials from Russia, the decision by Pakistan to donate entire inventories of masks, and the 30,000 sheep sent by Mongolia as a token of support, among the many acts of friendship and solidarity from other countries.

As the world's largest developing country, China also extended helping hands to other countries, even when it was still reeling from the domestic outbreak. So far, China has sent teams of medical experts to 34 countries to fight the pandemic, and has offered over 120 nations and international organizations 2.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

China's communication with the world has been timely and candid. On Jan. 9, 2020, one day after Chinese experts initially identified the novel coronavirus as the cause of the epidemic, China informed the World Health Organization (WHO) about the epidemic, sharing its initial progress in pathogen identification.

On Jan. 12, 2020, China submitted to the WHO the genome sequence of the novel coronavirus. China's plans for treatment, as well as epidemic control and prevention, were also published for other countries to review.

Placing lives above all, national unity, heroism, selflessness, respect for science and solidarity with the international community -- these values have all been etched into China's spirit in its fight against the pandemic, and will be a national psyche to inspire many future generations. **To be continues**

## Extra non-oil and gas revenues help Russia in solving required issues, says Putin

NOVO-OGAREVO

EXTRA 200 bln rubles (\$3 bln) of non-oil and gas revenues of Russia enable the country to solve required issues, President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday at the first meeting with Cabinet members in this year.

"We know additional budget revenues, associated exactly with non-oil and gas revenues and not with oil or with gas ones, [stand] at 200 bln rubles provisionally. This provides us with an opportunity to solve all tasks we set for development and for matters being current yet very serious and important," the head of state said.

Sovereign development should be achieved contrary to any pressure from the outside, the Russian leader said. "We certainly need to achieve [resolution] of issues related exactly to sovereign, independent development in the near future, contrary to any external pressure and threats," Putin added.



## India's most polluted city sees 3rd coldest wave in 23 years

NEW DELHI

INDIAN capital Delhi, which was deemed the country's most polluted city in 2022, witnessed the third worst cold spell in January in the past 23 years, according to government reports.

The report based on an analysis of Central Pollution Control Board data, which states that Delhi was India's most polluted city in 2022, was prepared by the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Tracker, a joint project of Climate Trends and Respiration Living Sciences designed to track India's progress in achieving clean air targets.

"Based on an analysis of air quality monitoring data, the national capital of Delhi ranked the most polluted in 2022, with an annual average PM 2.5 concentration of 99.71 micrograms per cubic meter. However, Delhi's PM 2.5 levels improved by over 7 percent compared to 2019," India's Clean Air Tracker said.

However, it still remains way below the desired level.

The government's flagship NCAP targets to reduce pollution by 20-30 percent by 2024 as compared to 2017 levels.

The program for better air quality in 122 cities was launched in 2019.

"Most cities in the top 10 most polluted list of 2022 are from the Indo-Gangetic Plain, demonstrating that real and long-term solutions lie in an airshed approach to addressing the need for better Air Pollution management in the region beyond Delhi," the tracker said.

The analysis was released on



Commuters ride past an anti-smog gun spraying water to curb air pollution amid heavy smog conditions in New Delhi on Nov 4, 2022. AFP

Tuesday to mark four years of the launch of the NCAP.

Meanwhile, RK Jenamani, who is also the India head of the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre, warned of a second cold spell in the Indian capital city beginning on Jan 14.

"Delhi experienced a cold wave from the night of Jan 3 till the morning of Jan 9. During these five days, the average temperature hovered around 2-4 Degrees Celsius. This was the third coldest spell in the Indian capital in the past 23 years," Jenamani told Xinhua.

"Earlier, in 2006 we had the lowest tempera-

ture of 1.9 Degrees Celsius for four days, and then in 2013 we had a similar cold wave for seven days."

Delhi has been witnessing intense cold conditions for over two weeks as the temperature dipped to as low as below 1 degree Celsius in some areas around the capital city, according to local media reports.

People can be seen shivering in the cold outdoors and sitting around bonfires to protect themselves from the cold. Over 50 cold-related deaths have been reported in Kanpur city in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

## Russia's proposal to provide platform for talks between Baku and Yerevan stands – diplomat

MOSCOW

THE proposal of the Russian Federation to provide a platform for Armenia-Azerbaijan talks on a peace treaty remains in force, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a commentary issued yesterday.

"If Armenian partners are really interested in solving the outlined problems within the framework of the comprehensive implementation of trilateral agreements at the highest level, then instead of engaging in scholasticism, it is necessary to continue joint work. Russia's proposal to provide a platform for Armenian-Azerbaijani talks on a peace treaty stands," the diplomat said.

Zakharova (pictured) recalled that a meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani top diplomats on the peace treaty was scheduled for December 23, 2022 in Moscow, and the two leaders agreed to it.

"Everything was prepared for it. But it was the Armenian leadership who at the last moment cancelled the arrival of its Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan.

This hindered the discussion not only of the peace agreement, but also of other pressing issues of Armenian-Azerbaijani normalization, including the situation around the Lachin corridor," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at a January 10 press conference that Yerevan was ready to sign a document on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework of Russia's proposals.

Commenting on this statement, Zakharova noted that it was difficult to assess the Armenian side's position when official Yerevan's statements on the same issue differed significantly.

"During the aforementioned press confer-

ence, the Armenian Prime Minister spoke both about the intention to sign a document based on Russian proposals and at the same time about the preference for some kind of 'comprehensive solution' to the conflict promoted by the West," she recalled.

According to Zakharova, Yerevan's agreement to base the peace treaty with Baku on the Alma-Ata Protocols of 1991, which was enshrined in the statement on the results of the summit in Prague in October 2022, radically changed the logic of the negotiation process.

"The Alma-Ata Protocols confirmed the inviolability of the borders that existed between the republics of the Soviet Union. At that time, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

Of course, this fact is very difficult to ignore in the peace process between Baku and Yerevan," the diplomat summarized.



## Chinese enterprises give helping hand to Nigeria in developing digital economy

A REPORT recently released by the GSMA, an international association of mobile operators, indicated that by the end of 2021, more than 500 million people had subscribed to mobile services in Sub-Saharan Africa, representing 46 percent of the population.

There will be 613 million total subscribers by 2025, representing 50 percent of the region's population, according to the report titled "The Mobile Economy Sub-Saharan Africa 2022." Nigeria, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Kenya will account for more than half of the new subscribers, the report said.

With a total population of more than 210 million, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa. The country has a young population and the median age is around 18 years, boasting enormous potential for consumption. Regarding digitalization as an important tool for boosting the economy, the Nigerian govern-

ment has taken a series of measures to advance digitalization.

In August 2019, the Nigerian government rolled out the National e-Government Master Plan, starting to implement the Nigeria Digital Governance Foundation Building Project 2020-2026. Two months later, Nigeria's Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy got a new name - the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy. This change showed that Nigeria started to take intensified efforts to promote the digital economy.

In March 2020, Nigeria unveiled the National Broadband Plan (2020-2025), putting relevant telecom infrastructure projects on the list of the nation's key

infrastructure projects. In June 2022, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurated the Presidential Council on Digital Economy and E-government, pledging to improve the ability of the government to develop, apply, and deploy digital technologies, improve efficiency and transparency of the government and promote business facilitation.

High costs and poor accessibility to broadband Internet services and mobile Internet devices used to hinder the development of Nigeria's digital economy. In recent years, many Chinese smartphone brands with competitive prices and quality started to enter the Nigerian market,

driving the development of the local digital economy.

According to government data, smartphone shipments in Nigeria reached about 8 million in 2022, with Chinese brands among the top-ranked brands in terms of market share. Transsion Holdings, a China-based smartphone manufacturer, accounted for about 60 percent of the market share of Nigeria in 2022, and other Chinese smartphone brands including Xiaomi, OPPO, and Vivo together accounted for about 20 percent of the market share.

Ikenna Emeuwu, a Nigerian media professional, introduced that as a vital part of the digital economy, smartphones account for

more than 84 percent of the total Internet connections in Africa.

Chinese enterprises have made smartphones affordable for more African citizens. Statistics from the Nigerian Communications Commission showed that by June 2022, there were more than 150 million mobile Internet users in Nigeria, and the Internet penetration rate stood at around 70 percent.

In recent years, Chinese enterprises have assisted Nigeria in speeding up the construction of communication infrastructure. Chinese telecom giant Huawei has helped Nigeria design and build the "galaxy backbone network," which underpins the communications network that

has been basically established in Nigeria. The 5G network deployed by Huawei in Nigeria will further improve Nigeria's network infrastructure.

Chinese enterprises have actively invested in Nigeria's Internet finance, shopping, movie, and music sectors, firmly supporting the development of the country's Internet industry.

Stephen Oni, an Internet media entrepreneur in Nigeria, expressed that after entering Lagos, the economic hub of Nigeria, which is also known as Africa's "Silicon Valley," Chinese enterprises have helped the city become the most invested market for startups in Africa where many renowned local Internet enterprises have emerged, helping Nigeria's digital economy move toward prosperity.



Mtibwa Sugar's forward, Onesmo Mayaya (R), dribbles past Ruwu Shooting center-back Aidan Nchimbi when the outfits took on each other in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

## Big guns eye success as 2022/23 NBC Premier League resumes

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FOOTBALL enthusiasts in Tanzania will, from this weekend, be in for a treat given this season's NBC Premier League is expected to be back in action after having been brought to a halt briefly.

Simba SC, one of the top-flight title challengers, made a trip to Dubai, United Arab Emirates for a weeklong camp ahead of the resumption of the showpiece, as well as Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) and CAF Champions League group stage.

The Msimbazi Street squad's decision to pitch camp in the UAE has proved the side is operating professionally.

Simba SC has gone outside the country for the third time this season to give its players chance to prepare adequately.

The club's new head coach Roberto Oliviera will have a good time preparing his players in the approach he wants.

Although time is not enough, the coach will somewhat be in the right environment to seek stability in the outfit.

It is a new page for Simba players and the Brazilian coach. This trip happens immediately after his arrival. Before him, there was local coach Juma Mgunda who took over from Serbian coach Zoran Maki.

Under Maki's tutelage, Simba SC went to Egypt for a pre-season training camp and later went to Sudan where it was invited by the country's Premier League squad, Al Hilal, for international friendlies.

The players have already realized that traveling outside to pitch camp happens when foreign coaches are hired.

Such an approach proves that footballers are in a good position to excel when they are trained by foreign coaches.

Many local soccer enthusiasts believe that foreign coaches are better than local coaches, but the truth is that the former is not the best.

Once foreign tacticians are hired by local clubs everything changes, starting from the training camp, equipment, payment of allowances, and salaries.

Footballers, as is the case for other people, like good life and, since players are accorded good treatment when the foreign coaches are brought to clubs, the footballers will continue to do well under the gaffers.

It is though different once the clubs are finding it difficult to operate, considering they are forced to be frugal and the situation hardly attracts high-profile local and foreign players to the clubs.

Foreign coaches are not ready to work if the players are not paid on time, and the tacticians do not want to see the challenges facing players not resolved by the clubs' leaders.

This is the method used to help foreign coaches do well. I will not be

surprised to see a rejuvenated Kibu Denis, who has lately been on the receiving end of the majority of Simba SC's followers' criticism, doing extremely well for the squad.

Goal-getter Habibu Kyombo may have also been criticized a lot by Simba SC fans and all the criticism aimed at the forward will equally be directed to his coach Mgunda, given the fanatics believe the gaffer did not know the right way to use him.

The rest of the Premier League outfits have equally resorted to valuing reinforcement ahead of the tournament resumption this weekend, which turns out to be the 20th round of the showdown.

With 10 games remaining before the season climaxes, every team is aware that not much time is spared for the particular squad, so collecting maximum points remains the order of the day.

It had been a quiet period at all venues across the country as the league was put on hold to pave way for the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup which will come to an end in Zanzibar today.

Tanzania Prisons, Mbeya City FC, Mtibwa Sugar, and Geita Gold FC are the ones that have so far suffered heavy losses in the top flight's 19 duels played.

Mbeya's Tanzania Prisons failed to impress when they suffered a humiliating 7-1 loss to Simba SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, making it the biggest defeat at this stage of the league.

For the Msimbazi Street side, the victory continued to make them superior in marksmanship, as they have overall netted 47 goals, a bigger number of goals scored in the top flight lately.

They are now 10 goals clear over their closest challengers, Yanga, who have scored 37 goals, while Azam FC takes third place with 33 goals in the bag.

Another Mbeya-based squad Mbeya City FC went down 6-1 to Azam FC at the Azam Complex Stadium in the city, it was the former's first major upset in league matches between the two sides.

Furthermore, Simba SC hammered Geita Gold FC 5-0 and thereafter notched a similar win over Mtibwa Sugar to continue with a record of scoring more goals, the Msimbazi Street side, as a result, turns out to be invincible when it comes to pumping in goals.

According to the available schedule, on January 13, Kagera Sugar will host KMC FC at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro with both teams having suffered a loss in their previous fixtures.

On January 14, Geita's Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School Stadium will be a venue for a duel between Geita Gold FC and Dodoma Jiji FC, whereas Namungo FC welcomes bottom-placed Polisi Tanzania at Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi.

## Pugilist Karim Said 'Mandongga' props up boxing promotion in Tanzania - II

By Correspondent Ernest Mwamwaja, Morogoro

It was not until 'Mandongga' appeared in the scene that the scale immediately shifted in favour of boxing. It is so common today to hear people proudly taking 'Mandongga' as their nickname.

His branded punches and slogans have also added the number of vocabularies people use in their unofficial communication.

People's admiration to 'Mandongga' is so strong that it exhibits a sense of sustained attachment.

Strong enough to make people spare time and effort to constantly follow him in the media.

It is not surprising therefore that by the end of 2022 'Mandongga' was a boxer with the highest following in social media, particularly Instagram.

The volume of traffic in his accounts also seemed to surge with the timing of his fights.

For example, his official Instagram account had attracted some 142,000 followers a week prior to his fight against Mbelwa in Morogoro but on November 26 which was just a day after the fight, he had accumulated 151,000 followers.

This is a net increase of around 9,000 followings in a time space as short as one week.

And by the time 'Mandongga' was up against Tarimo in Arusha, his following had further grown to more 165,000, which is an increase of 14,000 following from his previous fight, only one month prior.

'Mandongga's' impressive social media performance in the year can also be looked at the amount of content shared.

If we assume that he actively became present in social media only after his loss to Christopher Magambo in March, it is hard to believe that had already shared over 210 Instagram posts by November in the same year.

By comparison this is the



Tanzania's professional Middleweight boxer Karim Said, alias 'Mandongga'.

number of posts that is nearly at par with prominent boxers who have already been active on Instagram for more than five to ten years.

Although 'Mandongga' will not be picked a star for his boxing skills his performance in social media was way stronger than all other professional boxers in the country, from all weight divisions. This is indeed a remarkable achievement.

While 'Mandongga's' span of fame is considerably short he has already shown a such strong commitment to philanthropic values.

He was in many occasions seen encouraging youths to continue chasing their dreams of becoming professional boxers in the future.

As a role model he would also offer tips for healthy, law-abiding and responsible living to his fans.

As this was hardly enough he even went a step further to begin a process of opening up his own promotion company whose goal is to bring more opportunity to the youth living in the challenging environments.

There is no doubt that this ambition must have been inspired by his own life history. In 2022 there was the biggest number of international boxing bouts that were organized in cities other than Dar es Salaam.

While this must first be accredited to the boxing promotion companies involved, it is still fair to say that 'Mandongga' has had a considerable contribution in

making this initiative a success.

Firstly, 'Mandongga' is the only boxer to have competed in all fights ever organized in these regions, that is, Morogoro in March, Ruvuma in July, Mtwara in September, Morogoro in November, and finally Arusha in December. No any other boxer in the country has had such one-hundred percent appearance.

Although 'Mandongga' never had the chance to fight for a main card in any of these events, he was always slotted for the bouts just preceding the main or co-main card bouts.

If anything, this justifies how his fame successfully placed him in positions far superior to most younger boxers in their prime.

'Mandongga' pulled huge crowds whenever he went, hundreds of people among them women, children, and even the elderly were seen at the gates of airports or making long lines in the streets waiting for an opportunity to see him on close range.

As Minister Hussein Bashe nicely summarized the feelings of many, people's interest in boxing had a fresh spark from the rise of 'Mandongga' in Tanzania's boxing scene in 2022.

Contrary to earlier perception of the majority, 'Mandongga's' achievement inside the boxing ring was hardly something to be totally dismissed.

Many were convinced that his first two Technical Knockout defeats, one against Christopher Magambo and another from

Shaban Kaoneka, had rather left him with one option, to be an entertainer than a boxer.

But, they could hardly be more wrong. It soon turned out that the two defeats were nothing more than a learning opportunity.

This is a man who hardly finds excuses for his failures, like a true champion, he gets up from the knockdowns, dusts himself off and prepare to become stronger.

This attitude has helped him bounce back with two consecutive Knockout victories in his last two matches.

Even when measured on pure boxing skills 'Mandongga' is one of a few boxers who exhibited tremendous level of improvement in a short period of time.

When he defeated Mbelwa on November 25 in Morogoro, veteran boxer and the sport's analyst, Ibrahim Mgendera, admitted that 'Mandongga' has quickly changed to become a totally different boxer.

He is not just entertaining he also shows people what they deserve to see in the ring. He is well trained, he comes to the ring with a game plan and has an IQ to execute it.

He paces speed to his advantage, he knows when to attack and how to neutralize aggression of the opponent. It is worth watching him fight.

As I noted at the very beginning of my submission, development of sport that is as complex as boxing takes collective efforts of a number of players.

Boxing in Tanzania would hardly have come this far if there was no visionary leadership, financial commitment made by sponsors, skills and experience of organizers, and effort of the media houses.

It also equally relied heavily on the quality of trainers and training facilities, as well as dedication of individual athletes.

But while this is a collective effort there should always be that one individual who has done noticeably more than the rest.

Given what he managed to do as a person, it is fair to finally say that 'Mandongga' truly deserves a nod of appreciation from responsible authorities for his exceptional dedication to the sport in the year 2022.

## Salum should get comprehensive legal assistance, says Rage

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER Simba SC Chairman Ismail Aden Rage has asked for more calmness and a proper way of reconciliation in the saga involving the contract issue of Yanga's midfielder Feisal Salum to protect the image of both parties.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Legal and Players Status Committee stated on January 7 ruling the case in favour of Yanga stating that Salum is still the outfit's legal player.

The committee announced its decision after listening to the complaints submitted by Yanga leadership, accusing Salum of escaping from the team camp and requesting to terminate the contract without following procedures.

Rage said TFF should call Salum and ask him where he wants to play his football, after having been reported to have admitted that he no longer has love and dedication for Yanga.

He said that the midfielder is still young, and he should get comprehensive legal assistance, instead of facing punishment as the statement issued by the committee revealed.

The veteran football administrator noted: "Salum should be called and explain which



Ismail Aden Rage

team he wants to play for. He is a young player and should be helped according to the principle of fair play."

"I once encountered a saga like this during my days as the Chairman of Simba SC with a player, Mbuyi Twite," he pointed out.

"I completely signed the player, but he was signed by Yanga as well, and what happened

was that Twite chose to play for Yanga, and we were paid our money."

"Yanga paid us and gave us compensation money, you cannot cling to a player who is not ready to serve you," Rage noted.

The TFF Legal and Players Status Committee started hearing Yanga's complaint against Salum on January 6, with each side being represented by lawyers.

On January 7, the committee stated that the federation is recognizing the midfielder as a legitimate Yanga footballer.

Salum is linked with a move to Azam FC although the Chamazi-based side is silent on the matter as the club waits for the footballer to finish his legal issues with Yanga and possibly sign him as a free agent.

## Potter: Chelsea is football's 'hardest job'

LONDON

GRAHAM Potter claims he has the hardest job in football as injury-ravaged Chelsea struggle to live up to expectations following Todd Boehly's takeover of the Premier League club.

Potter's side are languishing in 10th place in the top flight despite Boehly authorising a spending spree on new signings that has reached almost £350 million (\$425 million) since the end of last season.

Hired to replace the sacked Thomas Tuchel in September, former Brighton boss Potter is beginning to hear calls for his dismissal just four months later.

Blues fans added to the pressure on Potter during Sunday's woeful 4-0 FA Cup third round defeat at Manchester City when they sang the names of Tuchel and former owner Roman Abramovich.

Add an ever-growing injury list that has denied Potter the services of stars including N'Golo Kante, Ben Chilwell and Reece James and it is perhaps not surprising the Chelsea manager ranks his job as the toughest in the sport.

"I have the utmost respect for the previous ownership and what they achieved and what they did. It's fantastic," Potter told reporters ahead of Thursday's west London derby at Fulham.

"But, unfortunately, they're not here anymore. It's a new ownership, everything's changed pretty quickly.

"Lots of things went and you have to try to build it up again. But, in the meantime, you've still got Chelsea, you've still got the demands and the expectations.

"I think this is probably the hardest job in football. Because of the leadership change and because of the expectations and, rightly, where people see Chelsea."

- 'Change is challenging' -

Potter was boosted by the signing of Portugal forward Joao Felix on loan from Atletico Madrid for the rest of the season.

But the 47-year-old understands the need for immediate results to stave off further sack talk, so he held a meeting with senior players Cesar Azpilicueta, Thiago Silva, Jorginho and Mateo Kovacic on Tuesday in an attempt to calm the crisis.

"They were honest, articulated their concerns well, their positivity, their responsibility. I think we are in a place where we can move forward," Potter said.

"The reality of where the club is in terms of establishing itself as a well-run football club, functioning well in a really competitive environment, maybe we're not quite there yet.

AFP

## Scandal-hit French FA boss Le Graet forced to step down

PARIS

FRENCH Football Federation president Noel Le Graet has been forced to stand down just weeks after France's defeat in the World Cup final, following a series of controversies, the body said on Wednesday.

The decision was taken following an emergency meeting of the FFF in Paris.

"Noel Le Graet, in agreement with the FFF executive committee gathered today in Paris, has chosen to step down from his role as president until the completion of the audit performed by the sports ministry," the federation said.

Le Graet, whose mandate was due to run until 2024, had faced calls to resign after what he admitted were "clumsy remarks" about Zinedine Zidane's potential interest in coaching the French national team.

The 81-year-old, who has been president of the FFF since 2011, had said in an interview with radio station RMC on Sunday that he "wouldn't even have taken his call" when asked whether Zidane, a World Cup winner as a player and an all-time France great, had rung him to express an interest in taking over as coach from Didier Deschamps.

Deschamps, who led France to World Cup glory in 2018 and oversaw their run to last month's final which they lost on penalties to Argentina, last weekend signed a new contract to stay as France coach until 2026.

Speaking on Wednesday at an event in Nice, Deschamps admitted Le Graet's comments about Zidane had been "inappropriate".

That storm followed a series of accusations of mistreatment by employees at the FFF, which led to the French government launching an audit of the federation and Le Graet being summoned to attend a hearing.

Le Graet denied those accusations, but on Tuesday his behaviour again came under the spotlight with a female football agent making further accusations of unwanted sexual advances by the veteran administrator in an interview with sports daily L'Equipe.

France's sports minister, Amelie Oudea-Castera, made clear that she wanted action taken against Le Graet when she called on the FFF's executive committee to "take responsibility" when speaking to reporters on Monday.

With committee members taking the view that Le Graet's position had become untenable, he has been replaced on an interim basis by Philippe Diallo, a vice-president of the organisation. AFP

# AP Interview: How Arsenal reconnected with its fans

LONDON

ARSENAL, one of the most storied teams in English soccer, has endured some turbulent times since it last won the Premier League title 19 years ago.

Now, sitting at the top of the table with a young and exciting team, it feels unrecognizable to the club that sparked such vocal criticism from its own fans over that period.

"In the 12 years I've been here it has never been as hard as it is to get a ticket," Arsenal chief executive Vinai Venkatesham told The Associated Press in an interview. "It has never been as loud at the stadium and we have never had as many seats full as we have at the stadium. And if you are trying to get a ticket at the moment they are like gold dust."

It wasn't so long ago that the mention of banners at Arsenal would have signalled the latest protest from an increasingly divided fanbase.

Some supporters even took to hiring planes to fly giant messages that called for former manager Arsene Wenger to be removed during the latter days of a 20-year reign that delivered 10 major trophies.

On Wednesday, there was a totally different feel as Arsenal presented eight new banners that will adorn the exterior



FILE - Arsenal players celebrate after their teammate Thomas Partey scored his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur, at Emirates Stadium, in London, England, Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022. Arsenal has revealed new artwork that will be displayed on the exterior of the Emirates Stadium. (AP Photo)artwork that will be displayed on the exterior of the Emirates Stadium. (AP Photo)

of its Emirates Stadium, replacing its existing artwork and aiming to "transform the north London skyline and redefine the club's home as a cultural landmark."

The collection, which will be in place for at least 10 years, celebrates Arsenal's greatest achievements, players and managers. However, it is the promise of what lies ahead that is driving the feel-good factor around the club.

"This season for us is about progress, is about moving the club forward. We want to get back in the Champions League, competing in the biggest competition that exists," Venkatesham said. "There is positivity around the club because we feel we are heading in the right direction, but we've got a long way to go to achieve what we want

to achieve. We are at the start of that journey. I think we should be feeling positive because we are making some traction. There's no one here getting carried away. There's no one here getting above their station."

Venkatesham's caution is understandable given what Arsenal has endured since it last called itself England's finest.

On its way to its last title in 2003-04 it became the first and only team in English soccer's modern era to go undefeated in a league campaign, earning it the nickname of the "Invincibles."

Since then, however, it has watched as Chelsea, Manchester United, Manchester City and Liverpool dominated the Premier League at various times.

Arsenal, meanwhile, has been in decline. It has not qualified for the Champions League since 2016.

Its fans have been increasingly vocal in venting their anger, with the rise of social media providing a toxic platform at times.

As recently as last season their disillusion could be heard and seen inside the Emirates, with three straight league defeats at the start of the campaign prompting some to call for Arteta to be fired.

The most humbling of those was a 5-0 rout by Man City on Aug. 28, 2021.

"I remember that date. It is seared in my memory. I know where I was, where I was sitting. It was a long journey home," Venkatesham said. "If you'd have asked

me then what we felt, we felt we were on the right path. I know the first three games of the season we were under intense pressure, but we had great belief in Mikel, we had great belief in (sporting director) Edu, we had great belief in what we were trying to do in terms of our recruitment strategy and the types of players we were going to bring in. But can I say that sitting here having played three, lost three, bottom of the league, having a two-week international break was a pleasant time? It wasn't, but we were all absolutely together."

Roll the clock forward and that patient approach, as well as the club's faith in Arteta, has paid off.

Arsenal is five points clear of City at the top of the table, having lost just one game all season.

"Mikel is a hugely impressive individual," Venkatesham said. "From the first moment a group of us spent some time with him, it was clear that he was going to develop the right type of culture at the football club, it was clear that he could represent this football club both on and off the pitch in the right way and it was clear to our technical staff and to Edu, whose opinion was very important on this, that Mikel had a fantastic tactical brain and it felt like he could be the type of modern coach that could take the club from where it was to where

we wanted him to take it to."

He says the connection between Arsenal and its fans is about more than just what is happening on the field.

The new banners are an example of how the club is reaching out to supporters, who were consulted over the design and content of the artwork led by Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller, artist Reuben Dangoor, and graphic designer David Rudnick.

The "Invincibles" are featured as well as the Champions League-winning Arsenal women's team.

There is a banner of Arsenal's former stadium Highbury, while fans and supporters' groups from around the world are also featured.

Legendary players, managers and their families were also consulted.

"For me, probably the thing I'm most proud about at the moment is the connection of the whole Arsenal family. Ex-players, staff, fans, club, management, it just feels like everybody is really together," Venkatesham said. "It is a good example of what the club is all about at the moment. That sense of community, all of us together and the bond, at least in the 12 years I've been at Arsenal, I can't think of a time when it has ever been stronger."

AP

## Joao Felix brings buzz to Chelsea but underlines haphazard nature of ownership

By Jack Rathborn

THE lure of Joao Felix proved too much for Todd Boehly. One last splash to prove his worth before seemingly handing the keys at Chelsea to one of the most extensive and deep recruitment teams ever assembled in European football.

The Portuguese forward has rarely displayed the consistency to justify Atletico Madrid's staggering €126m (£112.9m) outlay from 2019, yet that is precisely why such a precocious talent is even available.

The allure of Felix was clear weeks ago, as Manchester United and Arsenal, a neater fit for his intrinsic control and movement, pondered their own loan offers.

Yet both clubs balked at the mere suggestion of a fee north of €10m for the privilege of just six months of service.

As Mikel Arteta has the Gunners sitting pretty at the top of the Premier League, now glowing after a painful rebuild, and Erik ten Hag continues to bolster his authority at Old Trafford ever more, Chelsea's desperation ended the prospect of a bidding war.

With a hint of the previous era, to never relinquish a season, there should not even be a temptation to make such an aggressive move in this market. While the ambition is there, it is clear Boehly is willing to stomach a lean spell in exchange for a more sus-

tainable model. Which is why, despite Felix's youth, this deal makes little sense and further obscures the blueprint behind what the new ownership hopes to create.

Despite an awful run of form, Graham Potter is trusted to oversee a long-term vision, especially with the recruitment team now finally in place, including Christopher Vivell, Paul Winstanley, Laurence Stewart and Joe Shields.

Chelsea fans may be clouded by confusion at Felix's arrival though, a wonderful talent, yet not somebody who will fill one of the gaping holes hindering immediate progress under Potter.

Neither a physical No 9, who can operate as a reference, or a pacy wide man able to stretch teams and create space for others through the middle. To play devil's advocate slightly, Felix may well ensure more players of the same ilk on the pitch at the same time.

A deft touch and capable of sudden movement into space, Felix shares some traits with Mateo Kovacic and Mason Mount, which could spark a more fluid attack from midfield into the final third.

Yet, without an option to buy, Felix's arrival is shrouded in short termism, particularly with the imminent summer arrival of Christopher Nkunku from RB Leipzig. The dynamic and exciting French for-

ward can serve as a cornerstone to this rebuild, yet another daunting outlay for Felix, should a permanent move materialise, will surely prevent other more pressing issues being addressed.

Greater urgency to secure a deal for Felix may stem from Raheem Sterling and Christian Pulisic's immediate health after hobbling off against Manchester City.

Relishing a central role with a partner, even as split strikers, would suit Felix and, probably, Kai Havertz. Yet Potter would likely lose control in midfield with a traditional 4-4-2 shape, or rely heavily on Reece James to firstly stay fit and then inject a threat from wider areas if a back three is utilised.

Felix's temporary release from the shackles of Diego Simeone ought to provide joy to the neutral though.

Felix's stint on the bench earlier this season brought a run of nine substitute appearances in 10 games before the World Cup. It has been a common theme, with just 55 La Liga starts from a possible 130 games now, prompting 'Cholo' to deliver a public message to his player in October: "As soon as he returns to performing well in training, he works, he recovers his goalscoring, which

we will need, he will play. But while I am here, it goes by performances. That is why other teammates are playing. It remains clear that every time he was good, he played."

A January departure has therefore been a long time coming, even if temporarily, given chief executive Miguel Angel Gil Marin's comments last month: "The relationship between him and the mister [Simeone] is not good, nor is his motivation."

Having idolised Kaka, you can see that same joy the Brazilian would often bring when gliding across the pitch in the red and black of AC Milan, even intermittently in the red and white stripes in La Liga. Now, under Potter, there is at least scope for a more expressive role.

Even if Mikel Arteta's more stable set-up might have suited Felix better, you could imagine a reluctance from the Spaniard to immediately disrupt a well-established pecking order at the Emirates. While the appeal of a glamorous Champions League tie for Chelsea against Borussia Dortmund may also have proved decisive.

Felix has produced just four goals and three assists this season, but dig a little deeper and Potter should be excited by his potential. He has

delivered 0.59 non-penalty expected goals + assists per 90 minutes which ranks him 11th in LaLiga, according to FBref.

Furthermore, you can see Felix's potential to provide inspiration to a stuttering Chelsea attack that has provided just five goals in eight games. Felix's goal creating actions (passes, dribbles and drawing fouls) per 90 minutes sits at 0.69 this season, ranking him seventh.

With no option or obligation to buy, this is clearly a roll of the dice by Chelsea and Felix, who can use this opportunity to ensure more clamour for a permanent move this summer. Only Boehly and the co-owners at Clearlake Capital will know how precious a top-four finish this season is. But a gap of 10 points to Manchester United and Newcastle, who have played a game more, with 21 matches remaining is not an insurmountable one.

So while Felix may well provide short-term respite for Potter and co, his mere presence highlights the haphazard nature that currently surrounds the club's strategy.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# Oliveira opens up on rewarding Kibu Denis

## SPORT

### AP Interview: How Arsenal reconnected with its fans

PAGE 19



Roberto Oliveira.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**S**IMBA SC head coach, Roberto Oliveira, has explained the reasons for handing a gift to the club's striker Kibu Denis after the outfit's recent training in the United Arab Emirates.

Denis has become part of the players that have failed to win the hearts of a host of Simba SC members and fans this season as the latter feel that the attacker is hardly a threat to opposing outfits' defenses whenever he gets a chance to play.

The Brazilian gaffer said: "When we are in the camp, we always do intense training, so when a player does well, you should congratulate him by giving him a

gift, that's what I did."

Oliveira revealed: "I have bought the prize as a coach, and my goal is to continue motivating all of my players so that they commit them-

selves from training to the Games that will face us."

"I need to see us playing competitive football and every player has the motivation to do well every time I give him a chance," the gaffer added.

"I will continue to hand over gifts to the players so that they will increase their efforts in training and in competitive games to get good results," Oliveira stated.

The Brazilian gaffer moreover clarified his statement in which he revealed that he needs a strong, tall striker that can score goals, and some followers as a result started having doubts about Bocco's position.

He said he did not mean that Bocco is not capable of fighting for Simba SC, and many people may have understood the tactician differently, especially with the instructions he issued to the club leaders.

He said that the goalgetter has great potential and he has found that the footballer can fight for the team by making the most of his experience.

The coach pointed out he has though asked for another player to be regis-

tered to play Bocco's position to bring competition for a place in the first team.

"I have observed Bocco for these few days and I am convinced that he is one of the best players and has a lot of experience due to playing for a long time," the tactician stated.

Oliveira revealed: "But always to be the best you should have a competitor who will challenge you to fight hard, so I have asked the leaders to make improvements in that area by registering another player who will challenge Bocco."

Simba SC has camped in Dubai, preparing for the second phase of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League as well as the 2022/23 CAF Champions League group stage.

The Tanzanian side will play two friendly games against Dhafr FC of UAE and CSKA Moscow of Russia.

In Simba SC's friendlies, the side will start playing the first against Dhafr FC today at 5:00 pm EAT.

The Msimbazi Street squad is, on Sunday, expected to lock horns with CSKA Moscow, also shaping up in Dubai.

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

**EATV THURSDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 WEEKEND MOVIE (I)  
13:30 Kaji za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
14:30 Ujuzi (I)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Ubongo Kids (I)  
16:00 Zota Kuntu  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNews  
18:30 Bongo Hits  
19:00 EATV SWA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (I)  
21:00 NIRVANA  
21:30 TOP 10  
22:00 Zota Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SWA 1

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**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Kilimanjaro Premium Lager calls on runners to register for 2023 marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

MAIN sponsors of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon have called on participants to register in time as there is limited time left for the biggest athletics event that is slated for next month in Moshi.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, made the call in Dar es Salaam while commenting on preparations for this year's event.

"We are calling on participants to register on time through Tigo Pesa by dialing \*150\*01# or through www.kilimanjaromathon.com as entries are still open but the organizers will close as soon as they are full even before the February 6, 2023 deadline," she noted.

According to Pamela, early registration will give the organizers ample time to prepare in terms of the essentials like water on the route, security, and first aid.

She said Kilimanjaro Premium Lager is all set and has currently embarked on a campaign dubbed 'Tatu Zetu Kwa Gwara Yako', where one gets to buy three 375ml Kilimanjaro Premium Lager for only 5,000/-.

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager has been the main sponsor for the Kilimanjaro International Marathon since its inception in 2003. Other sponsors include Tigo- 21km Half Marathon, Grand Malt- 5 km Fun Run.

Water table sponsors include TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, Total Energies, and official suppliers GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel, and CMC Automobiles.

Meanwhile, organizers of the prestigious event have announced that in line with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa's directive last year, the event will now be known as the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon.

This, according to the statement, will ensure more participants from outside the country who will also engage in tourism activities like scaling Mt Kilimanjaro and visiting the Serengeti and Ngorongoro national parks and the Zanzibar Islands.

Currently, according to the organizers, the event attracts participants from more than 55 countries worldwide.

The organizers said the event has met all the criteria of an international marathon among them is distance officially measured to World Athletics standards, electronic timekeeping, and dope testing of selected athletes on finishing.

Other criteria are athletics officials to monitor the event, police, and security en route, sufficient water, and liquids en route, medals and T-shirts, official photography and video production, televised throughout Africa and on Youtube, online pre-entry and payment, race number collection and running vest collection in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Moshi pre-event and liability insurance.

This year's event will be held on February 26, at the Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) Stadium.

## Annadil Burhani cricket outfit thumps Upanga SC in Gymkhana Shield tourney

By Guardian Reporter

QURESH Karimjee and Mufaddal Seifuddin showcased their batting prowess as Annadil Burhani Club commanded a seven-wicket white-wash of Upanga Sports Club in this season's CelloRuby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament's match which took place in Dar es Salaam early this week.

Annadil Burhani has thus kept on pushing for a place in the showdown's knockout stage, with the club now sitting third in Group B after notching a victory in two outings and losing three ties.

Upanga Sports Club ended with 77 runs all out in 19 overs once the club had an opportunity to take the crease first in the low-scoring duel.

There was not much to write home about during the outfit's innings, given the squad's cricketers could hardly last long at the crease.

Top-order batsman Hardik Patel, Arjan Rabadiya, skipper Kishen Kamania, Ashish Kamania, and Vikram Rathore were so far the cricketers with two-digit figures.

Patel and Rabadiya ended with 15 runs apiece, Kishen notched 14 runs, and fellow batsmen Ashish and Rathore made their way back with 11 runs apiece.

Opener Patel cracked three fours in his stint but his attempt to improve his side's



Annadil Burhani's cricketers pose for a picture before taking on Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in this season's CelloRuby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showdown tie held in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CRICKET CLUB

score was foiled by Upanga Sports Club's bowler, Mur-taza Shk Kaderbhai.

Fellow opener Kishen made his way back within the opening three overs, leaving the batting outfit with 16 runs after 3.3 overs.

They were again pegged back with an early dismissal of one of the key players, Rathore, whose dismissal left the squad with 43 runs after seven overs.

Kaderbhai had a field day with the ball for the fielding outfit, commanding a four-

wicket haul and conceding six runs in four overs. His exploits ultimately won him the Player of the Match award.

He was ably assisted by Firoz Hatim Dahodwala and Huzaifa Akberali in keeping Upanga Sports Club's batting unit in check.

Dahodwala had a three-wicket haul, giving away eight runs in four overs, and Akberali ended his bowling stint with two wickets for 25 runs and an economy rate of 6.25.

With a modest target of 78

runs in their sight, Annadil Burhani's cricketers did not waste time, getting down to a successful chase in 14.4 overs whilst dropping three wickets.

Quresh Karimjee and Mufaddal Seifuddin master-minded Annadil Burhani's quest for victory with solid batting.

Seifuddin, coming in as the opening batsman, was the cricketer with the most runs having posted 28 runs, and Karimjee put the game beyond Upanga Sports Club's

reach with his 26 runs not out.

The outfits battling it out in this season's showpiece have been placed in groups A and B.

Group A consists of Caravans Cricket Club, GP, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLP-SC), Pak Stars, Union Sports Club, and Gymkhana Cricket Club.

Aruti Aces, Upanga Sports Club, Aga Khan SC, Annadil Burhani Club, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), and Lions Cricket Club have been put in Group B.

The ongoing edition is sponsored by CelloRuby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petroleum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and Pepsi.

CelloRuby's Magic and Co has moreover sponsored a special cash prize to be handed over to batsmen scoring centuries and wicket-takers posting hat-tricks in the showdown.

This season's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club on November 6 last year.

The jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skipper in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries are in store for cricket followers in the city that will watch the tournament's ties during weekends.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

DON'T BE TOO SUPERSTITIOUS BUT TODAY IS FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup>

AND I AM WEARING BLACK!

