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Finance ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba (R) and Switzerland's Ambassador to Tanzania, Didier Chassot, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday showing documents on a US\$18 million (equivalent to 44.4bn/-) agreement they had just signed. The pact is with respect to supporting the financing of the second phase of the poor household rescue programme (PSSN II) implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf). Photo: Finance ministry

Govt plans to allow private operators on railway lines

By Guardian Reporter

A MENDMENTS to the Railways Act to allow private operators on railway infrastructure are being mooted to allow greater use of railway services by firms based in neighbouring countries.

Prof Godius Kahyarara, the Transport ministry permanent secretary, said this at a meeting of permanent secretaries of member states of the central corridor transit transport facilitation agency.

Top transport sector executives from Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania and Democratic of Congo (DRC) attended the meeting, where the meeting convenor said that this arrangement will stimulate enhancement of quality in

“The sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is focused on ensuring that the transportation sector contributes more to the national income, which is why there have been deliberate efforts to improve the sub-sector, including the infrastructure and laws governing it,” he declared.

services and increased national income. He said the government welcomes public-private partnerships in operating the railway infrastructure, projecting that if well undertaken, rail transportation eases the movement of products from the various countries, boosting development prospects.

“The sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is focused on ensuring that the transportation sector contributes more to the national income, which is why there have been deliberate efforts to improve the sub-sector, including the infrastructure and laws governing it,” he declared.

The government is pursuing initiatives to improve the sector, he stated, noting that there is already a project to repair MV. Umoja, a cargo vessel, with refurbishing 22 wagons already completed and will start operating from Mwanza port to Port Bell, on the other side of the lakeshore in Uganda.

Christine Niragira, his Burundi counterpart, hinted on the note that if the member countries strengthen their roles in the railway sector, it will provide room for larger cargo to be transported, diminishing wear and tear on highways and thus reducing maintenance costs, raising incomes.

Malawi and Zambia were added to the central corridor member states to bring the membership to seven, at the start of the two day meeting to further stimulate relations and trade ties.

TASAF donor partners ink \$20.3m grant

By Henry Mwangonde

A US\$20.3m (50.13bn/-) grant agreement was yesterday signed with the Irish and Swiss aid agencies for the second productive social safety net (PSSN II) Programme supervised by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

Dr Natu El Maamry Mwamba, the

“Switzerland is convinced that this ongoing second phase of the PSSN programme can and will have an even greater impact. It has been developed based on the lessons from the past, while continuously adapting and improving its efficiency and effectiveness”

Finance ministry permanent secretary, said that the agreement provides that Switzerland will provide \$18m and Ireland offer \$2.3m as additional support by the two countries, as Switzerland earlier

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Tanzania, Uganda sign \$28.8m fibre optic deal

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA and Uganda have signed a \$28.8m (71.7bn/-) agreement for connecting the country with the fibre optic cable network known as the National Information and Communication Technology Broadband Backbone (NICTBB).

Nape Nnauye, the Information, Communication and Information Technology minister yesterday witnessed the signing of the pact, between the Tanzania Telecommunications Co. Ltd (TTCL) and the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U).

The pact lasting 15 years enables fibre optic connection at the Mutukula border in Misenyi District, Kagera Region by sub-

marine cable, taking Uganda to a higher state in its communications sector capacity.

With the fibre optic facility, Uganda will take a critical step in bridging the digital divide and enable vastly bigger numbers of the population to get connected and use the benefits that digital space provides, he stated.

Connecting the country will dramatically reduce the cost of transmission of broadband data whose cost is eventually borne by the last mile consumer, he asserted.

Tanzania has already extended its backbone to Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia, emerging as a hub for ICT infrastructure and connection solutions in the region, he said.

Construction of the Tanzania-

Mozambique link is in its final stages with the work projected to cost \$1m for power and transmission equipment plus the fibre, he elaborated.

Dr Chris Baryomunsi, the Ugandan ICT and National Guidance minister, said the two countries share the vision of fibre optic connection throughout the region.

The agreement facilitates eventual reduction of the cost of doing business in Uganda by 50-percent when completed, hence enhancing job creation in various sectors of the economy.

“This is an achievement for the East African Region, we will now be able to connect with other countries such as South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),” he added.

Tanzania profiling critical minerals for strategic meet

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA will join a high-level line-up of speakers at the upcoming Critical Minerals Africa (CMA) 2023 summit in Cape Town, organised by Energy Capital & Power, a South African investment platform based in the Atlantic coast city. The consulting firm said in a statement issued yesterday that Tanzania will be represented by Dr Steven Kiruswa, the Minerals

deputy minister next month, where observers believe the gathering will affirm Tanzania's position as a critical minerals hotspot. CMA 2023 is slated for October 17th to 18th where it will, among other things, explore the potential of Tanzania in the critical minerals market, with intent to connect investors and project developers with

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It's oranges aplenty at Dar es Salaam's Buguruni mixed-goods market, as captured earlier this week, the going wholesale price per orange standing between 40/- and 75/- on average - largely depending on size and quality. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



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Tanzania profiling critical minerals for strategic meet

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minerals prospecting regulatory agencies. As the demand for green energy sources and transition minerals soars, Tanzania has drawn global interest on exploitation of its critical mineral resources, which local planners say will enhance chances of increasing mining sector contributions to GDP to 10 percent by 2025.

In April, the government signed contracts totalling \$667m with three Australian companies to mine graphite and rare earths, while seeking to strengthen ties with Australian service firms in the mining, machinery and technology services for the metal substances. Tanzania is an established mining market and the third-largest gold producer on the continent, home to vast deposits of critical and industrial minerals including rare metals, coal, uranium, tanzanite and other gemstones. Also on the agenda will be the regional impact of an accord with the US set out in March involving a \$500m trade deal for export of goods and services in infrastructure, energy

security and power generation. The pact involves the US supporting the construction of a minerals processing plant by LifeZone Metals, to process and export battery grade nickel to the US using low-emission technology, from 2026. Reports say that the mining sector accounts for more than half of the country's total exports, a significant portion of which comes from gold, with world-class deposits around Lake Victoria. As a result, opportunities for mining investors span the entire value chain, from resource extraction to the processing of precious metals and gemstones, production of iron ore and steel, and increased electrification of mining regions. In addition to abundance of minerals, Tanzania features a geostrategic location with direct trade routes to Asia and six landlocked East African countries, along with a stable operating environment supported by its admission to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the statement added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects a passing-out parade shortly before closing training for Immigration officers at the Kubaga Immigration Training Academy in Mkinga District, Tanga Region, yesterday. Photo: PMO

TASAF donor partners ink \$20.3m grant

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disbursed \$17.1m while the Irish authorities had granted \$2.1m. She said that PSSN II is aligned with Vision 2025 (TDV-2025) effective up to the next general election and is currently being implemented through the third five-year development plan, 2021/22 - 2025/26. It is further aligned with SDG number 1 which seeks to end abject poverty by 2030 and

the African Union agenda 2063 envisaging poverty free, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Total provision for PSSN II is projected at \$883.32m, where family members from poor households are assisted to attain social and economic uplift in a durable manner by September 2025. PSSN II was launched in February 2020 after closing of PSSN I in December 2019, focusing on reducing poverty and

improving human capital, she said, noting that the programme boosts income-earning opportunities for targeted poor households, ensuring schooling and health protection for their children. It seeks improved consumption, households being engaged in income generating activities, school enrolment and health seeking behaviour for children along with access to community assets and services, she stated. PSSN has enabled students from

beneficiary households to access secondary and higher education whereby in 2022, students who received 100 percent higher education loans from the Higher Education Students' Loans Board included 2,950 supported by PSSN II arrangements, she elaborated. Didier Chassot, the Swiss ambassador, said that the first phase of the PSSN programme had remarkable results for the poor population of Tanzania. "Switzerland is convinced that

this ongoing second phase of the PSSN programme can and will have an even greater impact. It has been developed based on the lessons from the past, while continuously adapting and improving its efficiency and effectiveness," he said. Irish Ambassador, Mary O'Neil said the partnership with Tanzania was 60 years old now, focused on women empowerment, poverty alleviation and peace promotion.



Russia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Andrey Avetisyan, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the recent capacity building conference for youths from 27 African countries held in his country. Story on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Jum

South Africa launches new HIV prevention approach

South Africa

A new HIV prevention method - a vaginal ring diffusing an antiretroviral drug - will soon be launched in South Africa, one of the world's most AIDS-affected countries, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS announced yesterday. Three organizations involved in the fight against AIDS in South Africa have ordered 16,000 rings, which should be available in the coming months, according to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Inspired by those used for female contraception, the silicone vaginal ring gradually diffuses an antiretroviral, dapivirine, and must be changed every month. "We are convinced that this new ring can have a revolutionary impact on the prevention of HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus, which destroys the body's immune defenses),"

explains Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund, in a press release. The ring is an alternative to other preventive treatments, or pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which have revolutionized prevention against the AIDS virus in recent years. These other treatments involve taking one pill a day or receiving one injection a month, methods which are not necessarily suitable for all those targeted, explain South African prevention organizations. "Women need access to a range of safe and effective solutions, including the dapivirine ring, so that they can adopt the one that suits them best," stresses Ntombenhle Mkhize, President of the AIDS Foundation of South Africa. By 2023, women and adolescent girls will account for 53% of infections worldwide, according to UNAIDS. South Africa still has 13.7%

of HIV-positive people, one of the highest rates in the world. But more than 5.4 million of an estimated 8.2 million infected people are taking antiretrovirals - one of the world's largest HIV treatment programs, which has dramatically reduced mortality. Recent clinical trials have shown that the dapivirine vaginal ring, a device approved by the World Health Organization (WHO), can reduce the risk of seroconversion - going from HIV-negative to HIV-positive - by 35%. "We hope that many other countries will follow South Africa's lead", added Peter Sands of the Global Fund. In addition to South Africa, the device has also been approved and launched in several other African countries, including Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Biteko urges top officials to visit citizens, attend to their concerns

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Energy Minister, Dr Doto Biteko has asked leaders at various levels to make regular visits to people's areas and listen to their concerns.

He made the statement on Thursday at Nyakanazi village, Biharamulo District, Kagera Region, on his way to Ngara District where he is expected to switch on electricity in villages.

While in Kagera Region, The Deputy Premier will also attend a meeting of Energy Ministers from Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda - countries that are involved in implementation of the Rusumo Power Project that will generate 80 megawatts.

"My fellow leaders, let's leave the offices and visit people where they are, it doesn't make any sense if a leader stays in office while people's problems are not solved," said Biteko, adding that

President Samia Suluhu Hassan wants people's challenges resolved and that citizens should not wait for her to raise concerns in regard to service provision. Biteko insisted on government leaders at all levels to ensure proper expenditure of funds for citizens to get the right services. He said improvement of services to Tanzanians would also improve their welfare.

The Deputy Premier instructed the Rural Energy Agency (REA) to

make sure the Kabulaishoke area in Nyakanazi village is connected to the national grid.

He made the directive following complaints from local leaders that villagers are eagerly waiting for the services.

Responding, REA Director General Eng. Hassan Saidy promised the Deputy Prime Minister that the contractor - Nakuroi Company will start work in the area early next month.

Biteko ordered the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) to come up with a strategy to connect power to the people in Biharamulo District especially in Nyakanazi village. He said improvement of the Nyakanazi power station would facilitate distribution of electricity to other areas.

The Deputy Prime Minister also inspected the Nyakanazi power station which will receive electricity from the

Rusumo power project through a 220 kV line and distribute it to various parts of the country.

While at the station, Biteko has addressed young Tanzanians who are working at the Nyakanazi power station assuring them that the generated power is meant for distribution to Tanzanians in various areas including Biharamulo, Geita, Shinyanga and Kigoma regions.



Mariamu Juma (2nd-L), a pupil at Laloi Primary School in Bahi District, receives the Uhuru Torch yesterday from an official with this year's edition of the Uhuru Torch Race, Atupokile Elia. The torch was entering Dodoma Region from Singida Region to continue with the annual cross-country event. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

EAC members urged to embrace digital technology to improve healthcare delivery

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) partner states have been urged to adopt digital technologies including telemedicine, health apps, wearable devices and artificial intelligence to improve healthcare delivery and disease management.

Prof. Wallace Bulimo, the deputy director of data and statistics at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) said that digital technologies offer innovative solutions to improve healthcare access, especially in remote or underserved areas while strengthening management of both communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

He was giving a keynote address titled "Harnessing Digital Technologies for Preparedness and Response to Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases: Navigating the Cutting Edge" at the three-day 9th East African Health and Scientific Conference at the Kigali Convention in Kigali, Rwanda.

Prof. Bulimo said that the adoption of digital technologies was changing disease patterns with a shift in the disease burden globally.

"Over the years, there has been a shift from communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as leading causes of death. We have seen the emergence of novel infectious diseases, like COVID-19, highlights the on-going threat from infectious agents," Prof. Bulimo said.

He noted: "Statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicate that cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) caused 17.9 million deaths in 2019, that is, 32 percent of all deaths worldwide. CVD mortality has also increased. Ageing populations, sedentary lives, and bad diets have caused this trend. The Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 reports that CVDs cause 19 percent of global deaths," he don said.

Prof. Bulimo further said that in 2019, 63 million persons aged 20-79 had diabetes globally, adding that the number would reach 700 million by 2045.

"Global cancer cases are growing, with 19.3 million in 2020. By 2040, 28.4 million new cases are expected. The Global Cancer Observatory (GCO) reported over 10 million cancer deaths in 2020. Rising death rates are caused by

population expansion, ageing, and carcinogen exposure," he said.

On communicable diseases, Prof. Bulimo said that TB remains a global health issue, adding that TB is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide, with 10 million new cases in 2019.

The spread of infectious pathogens has been facilitated by weak healthcare systems, low vaccination rates, population increase, urbanization, and climate change," even as he warned that Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) might kill 10 million people and cost \$100 trillion by 2050.

The global impact of AMR includes human health, agriculture, food security, and increases hospital stays, treatment expenditures, and mortality.

The WHO reported 770,085,713 cases and 6,956,173 fatalities as of 30 August 2023. Pandemic has stretched healthcare systems, affected economies, and fostered global preparedness and response.

The data further scientist said that to address the recurrence of infectious illnesses and battle AMR, a multidisciplinary approach is needed, combining mitigation and prevention strategies including strong healthcare systems, prevention and responsible antibiotic usage.

Prof. Bulimo said that to better manage both communicable and non-communicable diseases there was a need for advanced solutions, especially advanced diagnostic tools for early detection and monitoring.

"Personalized medicine is also critical because individualized treatment approaches are increasingly important to address the heterogeneity of diseases. Innovative prevention methods, including vaccines and lifestyle interventions, are also crucial to reducing disease prevalence," the scholar said.

Prof. Bulimo said that research and innovation was also a necessity as continued investment in medical research is essential to understand evolving diseases and develop effective interventions. There is also a need to leverage technology such as genomics, artificial intelligence and telemedicine to enhance disease management," he added.

On using artificial intelligence to manage diseases, Prof. Bulimo said that machine learning has transformed disease detection in various ways including improved image analysis, faster diagnosis, early detection and consistency.

Govt loses 9bn/- over lack of accountability and transparency in procurement systems

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has lost over 8.77bn/- in the 2022/2023 financial year due to lack of accountability, transparency and integrity in some 12 public institutions, the Public Procurement and Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has stated.

In its 2022/23 evaluation report on public institutions, handed to the Ministry of Finance yesterday, the authority also stated that 132 out of the 864 institutions did not use the Tan-

zania National e-Procurement System (TANePS).

TANePS offers a secure, interactive, and dynamic environment for carrying out procurement of all categories, complexity, or value.

The system supports various public procurement procedures including user registration, tender notification, tender preparation and submission, online tender evaluation; contract awarding, creation and management of catalogue, creation and management of framework agreements and

auctions and payments.

Speaking after receiving the report, Deputy Minister for Finance, Hamad Hassan Chande said this is a violation of the law and that the government would not tolerate it any further.

He directed all the public institutions to start using the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) as from 1st, October, 2023 without failure, also directing all the responsible security organs to follow up on the matter.

"I therefore direct that serious dis-

ciplinary measures be taken on whoever deviate from the call to use the procurement system" he said, adding that the permanent secretary in the ministry to ensure it is done.

PPRA Executive Officer, Eliakim Maswi on his part appealed to all government institutions to ensure that they register with the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) system before October, 2023.

NeST came into effect from July 1, 2023 and is meant to increase transparency and accountability in the

public procurement.

Maswi said that all public institutions will be required to have registered and start using the system by October 1, 2023, and there will be no excuse whatsoever for failure to register.

"I appeal to all government institutions to register in the NeST system because from October all procurement activities will be conducted through this system" he said.

In 2023/24 the government has set aside 40.4bn/- for PPRA budget,

whereby 20bn/- will be used to ensure smooth operation and enhanced efficiency of the NeST.

Maswi noted that the first phase of the construction of the NeST system has been completed, which covers e-registration and e-tendering, saying it will transform PPRA to a proactive institution.

This phase involved setting up the module for user registration, services and products (e-Registration) and the driving and managing the procurement process module (e-Trending).



Motorbike taxi riders find shelter under the Kijazi Interchange at Ubungu in Dar es Salaam yesterday following a morning drizzle in parts of the city. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Tanzanians urged to adopt healthy lifestyles to ease growing burden of NCDs

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIANS have been encouraged to change their lifestyles so as to prevent spread of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including the increasing heart diseases.

Minister for Health, Umyy Mwalimu made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the commemoration of the World Heart Day held at Dar Group Hospital of the Jakaya Kikwete Heart Institute (JKCI).

The World Heart Day is observed on September 29 every year to raise awareness about heart disease and preventive measures that can help prevent cardiovascular diseases.

Umyy said that it was high time for Tanzanians to wake up and change their lifestyles to conquer the NCDs which involve adopting healthy food, conducting regular exercises, refraining from excessive use of alcohol as well as smoking cigarettes.

"As days go by, the rate of heart diseases goes up, especially high blood pressure, this is one of the challenges which deprives me of sleep, there is a need for every Tanzanian to think about heart health, protecting it as it is the engine of life," she said.

She said that people should also reduce consumption of sugar, oil and shisha, instead take more fruits and vegetables to stay healthy.

She noted that research has revealed that only three percent of Tanzanian adults eat fruits and vegetables, saying that this situation is a great warning, thus needing people to change for the better.

The Minister said that heart disease treatment was also high up to 10m/- for a heart valve replacement surgery alone, so Tanzanians should invest their time protecting their hearts.

"Tanzania is blessed with all types of vegetables, let us all

eat vegetables as much as we can. But experts also have a role to educate us on how to cook these vegetables because many people fail to do it well," she added.

Reports also show that there is a big increase in heart patients in Tanzania where in 2017, there were 2.5 million patients and in 2022 reached 3.4 million, most of them suffering from high blood pressure.

Umyy elaborated that diabetes and high blood pressure are the fastest growing diseases increasing from one percent in 1980 to nine percent in 2020.

She encouraged high blood pressure patients to properly consume their medicines so as to avoid heart diseases, diabetes, kidney and stroke.

She said the sixth-phase government has invested significantly in bringing effective equipment and expert doctors so as to help address the challenges.

Dr Angela Muhozya, JKCI acting executive director said cardiac diseases are increasing by 25 percent every month and those who come for check-ups at the institute, 35 to 50 percent are found with the challenges.

"We serve 2,000 patients quarterly per year, including our branch at the Dar Group Hospital which also attends over 500 patients at the emergency department," she said.

Tanzania Cardiac Society (TCS) President, Dr Robert Mvungi said the commemoration of the day went along with a medical camp which will be held at the hospital as well as a 'health walk' with an aim to create awareness and a sense of commitment in battling heart diseases.

He said that among all the deaths from different diseases in the country, 13 percent are due to heart diseases.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs including heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease, are responsible for almost 70 per cent of all deaths worldwide.



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Wishes to invite sealed bids for its annual tenders for supply of various goods and services required.

Interested eligible firms are requested to collect the tender documents from:

Hyatt Regency Dar es Salaam – The Kilimanjaro
 Mr. Godwin Chambala – Tel +255 715 991 586
 Email: godwin.chambala@hyatt.com
 At Hyatt Regency Dar es Salaam – The Kilimanjaro, Kivukoni front, Dar es Salaam

Park Hyatt Zanzibar
 Mr. Daniel Ngalomba - Tel +255 777 106 283
 Email: daniel.ngalomba@hyatt.com
 At Park Hyatt Zanzibar, Stone town Zanzibar.

All our existing service providers are required to participate alongside prospective service providers in order to be reviewed and considered.

The tender duration is **30 days** and closes on the **31ST October 2023 at 5 P.M.**

Tender bid documents to be collected from 2 Pm to 5 PM, Monday to Friday

CATEGORY OF TENDERS	
1. Dairy Items	11. General supplies.
2. Fish & Sea Food	12. Charcoal supply
3. Meat & Poultry	13. Sweets & Bakery items
4. Soft Drinks & Juices	14. Cartridges and Stationary items
5. Wines	15. Fumigation Services
6. Spirits and Tobacco	16. Internet Services
7. Beer	17. Security Services
8. Fruits & Vegetables	18. Printing & Graphic Designing
9. Groceries	19. Exterior glass Cleaning Services
10. Hotel Flower Supply	20. Luggage Scanner Maintenance

Hyatt Regency Dar Es Salaam -The Kilimanjaro and Park Hyatt Zanzibar reserves the right to accept or reject the lowest or any bid in whole or in part.



Pedestrians pictured yesterday literally snaking through a practically stagnant traffic jam along the Mbezi Luis stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

East African Crude Oil Pipeline set to unlock EA potential by January 2024

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project has reached 25 percent of completion while still at mobilization stage with full swing implementation to start in January, 2024.

EACOP is a pipeline project that will transport oil produced from Uganda's Lake Albert oilfields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania, where the oil will then be sold to world markets.

EACOP Project Coordinator from the Tanzania Petroleum Development Cooperation (TPDC), Asiati Mrutu said since Tanzania owns 15 per cent shares in the crude oil pipeline project and that it is required to inject \$308 million into the project.

Speaking on the project progress, Mrutu said EACOP has been completed by 25 per cent, noting that has contributed a total of 193.06 million US dollars (483.63bn/-) towards the implementation of the 1,443km East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project as of September 26, this year.

He said the shareholders in the EACOP are affiliates of the three Upstream joint venture partners (the Uganda National Oil Company, TotalEnergies E&P Uganda and CNOOC Uganda) together with TPDC are supposed to inject 40 per cent of the project total cost.

Shareholdings are TotalEnergies (62 per cent), UNOC and TPDC (15 per cent each) and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) eight percent and the remaining 60 percent will be loaned from the financial institution.

TotalEnergies as of September 26 has dis-

bursed 797.84 million US dollars, while UNOC contributed 193 million US dollars and a Chinese CNOOC has paid 102.95 million US dollars.

The project, which will cater across eight regions of Dodoma, Tanga, Singida, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Kagera and Manyara, has compensated and relocated 9815 people out of 9898 residents who paved the way for project implementation.

"We have paid more than 34.89bn/-and constructed more than 293 houses for the people and the remaining 83 residents who have not been paid due to various reasons including family issues and whereabouts of owners," he said.

The EACOP is implemented in compliance with international financing standards including International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 5 which requires Project developers to provide alternative housing in case of physical displacement

The crude oil pipeline construction will be in three lots, the first one from Uganda to Mutukula border, then from Mutukula to Singida and the final one from Singida to Chongoleani in Tanga.

He mentioned some of the economic benefits as taxes collection, job creation, skills and technology transfer and enhancement of the trade between Uganda and Tanzania.

During the construction phase the pipeline will create more than 3616 employment opportunities for both skilled and semi-skilled professionals.

In addition, casual workers will be involved in the construction phase of the project, sourced locally from each district.

Russia to address food insecurity by supplying free wheat

By Carlos Banda

THE Russian government has pledged to address the global food crisis instigated by the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine by supporting less developed economies with free supply of wheat.

This is to compensate for the three percent of the Ukrainian grain that was exported to Africa.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Russian Ambassador

Andrey Avetisyan said that Russia is ready to look into opportunities for reviving the Black Sea initiative so as to meet the demand of grain and fertilizers by the global south, citing a joint project between Russia, Turkey and Qatar.

"The joint project by Russia, Turkey and Qatar to deliver one million tonne of grain from Russia so that it can be processed in Turkey and then delivered to the poorest countries for free is also worth mentioning especially

considering that it matches, more or less, food shipments under the Black Sea Initiative to the neediest countries over a one-year period," said the Ambassador.

Ambassador Avetisyan said Russia is currently increasing the export of grain since the harvest in the former soviet power this year reached over 50 million tonnes of grain and they are expecting an increase next year which will provide an opportunity to share the food with those who are

in need in the world.

He also added that his country will continue exporting its food and fertilizers to help stabilize global food prices and improve their availability.

"We will continue exporting its food and fertilizers which will have a stabilizing effect on global prices and enhance the availability of such products. We will also persist with our efforts to supply our products for free to those who need them. As

for the three per cent of the grain that actually reached Africa during the period when the Ukrainian part of the deal was in force," he explained.

Despite his mention of the mega project, the Russian envoy insisted that his country is ready to revive the Black Sea Initiative but on terms that the sanctions imposed against Russian companies dealing with fertilizers and agricultural products.

Among the African countries men-

tioned as recipients of Russian fertilizers include Malawi and Kenya which received shipments of 20,000 tonnes and 34,000 tonnes respectively, citing the intention to send 23,000 tonnes to Zimbabwe and 34,000 tonnes to Nigeria.

He added that a shipment for a total of 200,000 tonnes of Russian wheat will be on their way to Somalia, the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali and Eritrea before the end of the year.

Agri-business investment for showcase in upcoming Investment Forum in Italy

By Getrude Mbago

AGRICULTURAL stakeholders from various parts in the country met in Dar es Salaam yesterday to discuss and agree on potential agri-business investment opportunities to be showcased in the upcoming Investment Forum in Rome, Italy from October 17 to 20, this year.

The stakeholders expressed readiness to take advantage of the 2nd Hand in Hand Investment Forum (IF) 2023 which will bring on board prospective investors from 31 countries across the globe.

Speaking during the meeting, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Mwelil said: "The agricultural sector in Tanzania has continued to be instrumental in boosting the national economy and bringing development to our citizens."

He said: "We are keen to support stakeholders' consultation and foster policy dialogues through public private partnerships to support the acceleration of agrifood systems in the country."

According to him, the upcoming Investment Forum in Italy will serve as a platform for Tanzania to present its investment opportunities to investors, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and donors, with the central focus on the investment potential in national agriculture and food value chains, as outlined in the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

He said the forum is conducted under the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative which is conducted in many countries but in Tanzania is executed collaboratively by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) aimed at empowering Tanzania's agriculture sector.

"The HIH initiative is not only government-owned but also government-led, with a specific emphasis on three agricultural value chains: Sunflower, Wheat, and Soybean. These priori-

ties align with the objectives outlined in the Dakar 2 Compact and Building a Better Tomorrow Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA)," he said.

Areas of intervention have included developing value chains for priority commodities, building agro-industries and efficient water management systems, introducing digital services and precision agriculture, reducing food losses and waste, and addressing climate challenges and weather risks.

FAO Representative in Tanzania, Dr Nyabenyi Tipo said the initiative is designed to support nationally led programs that address key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including eliminating poverty (SDG1), ending hunger and malnutrition (SDG2), and reducing inequalities (SDG10).

"Together we can achieve a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous agricultural sector, one that holds the promise of prosperity for all," she said.

Since the launch of the Initiative in 2019, an economic and financial analysis of these value chains was done with technical support from FAO. The analysis recommends increased investments in seed multiplication, storage, and processing facilities for these priority value chains.

Furthermore, a dedicated geospatial platform for the country has been developed to allow the private sector, development partners, and government counterparts to make informed investment decisions. This complements ongoing efforts to strengthen the farmers' registration system and improve access to digital agricultural information and related services provided by the Government.

During the four-day event forum, ministers and representatives from the participating countries will have the opportunity to present their country's prioritized investment plans and detail opportunities in those areas where the Hand-in-Hand Initiative supports the government to reduce poverty and hunger.



Sengerema district administrative secretary Cuthbert Midala (R) pictured at Lubungo village earlier this week inspecting classrooms and offices built jointly local residents and Sotta Mining Company Ltd. To his right is the firm's chief financial officer, Isaac Lupokela. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Kepha Muiruri

Kenya tea farmers set for record 44bn/- bonus

SMALLHOLDER tea farmers are set for a record 44.15bn/- final pay out from next week for their supplies for the financial year ended June 30.

The Kenya Tea Development Agency (Holdings) Limited (KTDA) is expected to release the amount popularly known as a bonus to an estimated 600,000 farmers affiliated with its 54 factories over the next two weeks beginning Monday.

This bonus will be paid alongside payments for green leaf

supplied this month.

The bonus pay out is expected to lift farmers' total earnings for the year by 7.6 percent to an all-time high of Sh677 billion from 62.89bn/- at the same time last year.

The growth in earnings to farmers is largely attributable to improved tea prices in the international market where the average tea selling price was recorded at 341/- per kilogramme(kg) in the period from 311/- previ-

ously.

Tea farmers are expected to earn an average of Sh59.02 for every kilo of green leaf sold from 50.18/- last year- marking a 17.6 percent increase in the average total earnings per kilo.

"This year's total pay out to smallholder farmers is attributed to increased sales volume, prudent cost management, and a favourable foreign exchange regime. Further, increased sales of orthodox tea this year have

contributed to higher earnings for farmers with 10 million kilogrammes of orthodox tea having been sold this year from 11 factories that are processing the tea up from three million kilograms last year," KTDA Holdings Limited Group Head of Corporate Affairs Ndiga Kithae told the Business Daily.

Nevertheless, the improved earnings for the sector have been achieved against a nine percent decline in green leaf

production.

Green leaf production in the year ended June for instance eased to 1.145 billion kilogrammes from 1.254 billion kilogrammes in 2022, marking the lowest output for the sector since 2019.

Lower tea production is partly attributable to drought conditions and depressed rainfall which dominated farm output resulting in the contraction of the agriculture sector last year

by 1.6 percent.

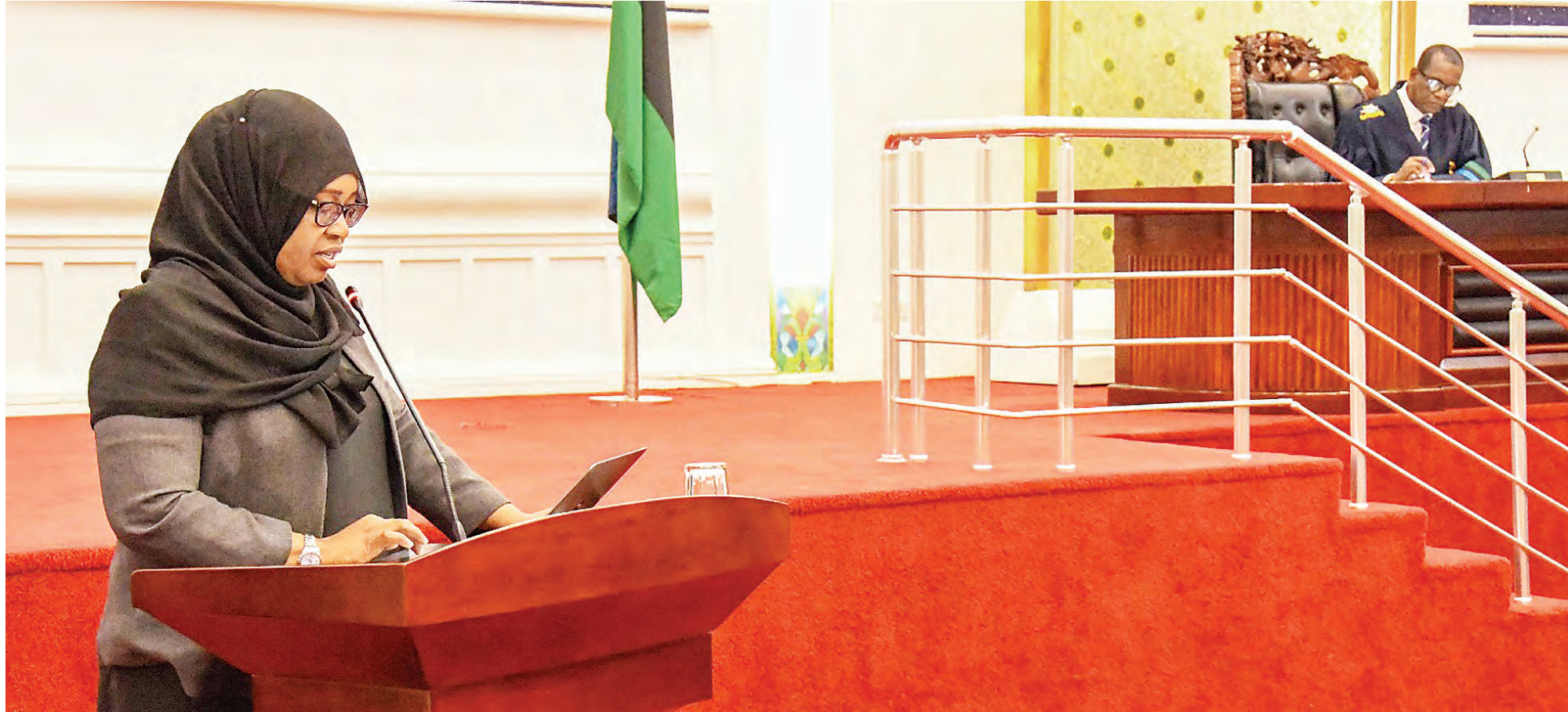
Agricultural production was affected by the drought conditions in 2022 with tea production for instance falling to 535,000 tonnes from 537,800 tonnes in 2021 according to data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Production was hardest hit in the Kiambu region which features factories in Kambaa, Kagwe, Gacharage, and Nduti as output declined by 15.2 percent.

Equally output in the Kericho and Bomet region contracted by 14.3 percent while production in the Kisii and Nyamira region fell by 8.5 percent.

Farmers in the Kericho/Bomet region will pocket the bulk of the green leaf pay out or 16.1bn/- after supplying 305.4 million kilograms of tea in the cycle.

Small-holder farmers served by factories in Kapkoros, Tirgaga, Olunguruone, and Motigo will split some Sh4.9 billion from the total payout marking the highest payment by sub-region.



Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, Minister of State (Finance and Planning) in the Zanzibar President's Office, contributes to debate in the Zanzibar House of Representatives at Chukwani in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Sudan reports 11 dengue fever deaths in 8 states

KHARTOUM, Sudan

SUDAN has reported more than 1,000 dengue fever cases, with 11 deaths in eight states.

"The total number of reported cases of dengue fever exceeded 1,000 cases, with 11 deaths," the Health Ministry said in a statement.

"The state most affected by the disease is Gedaref State, due to the density of mosquitoes and the lack of herd immunity," it said.

"Cases of dengue fever were recorded in eight states in 2023, compared to 12 states in 2022," it added.

The World Health Organization said an outbreak of cholera and dengue fever had been reported in eastern Sudan, where thousands were taking shelter as fighting raged between the army and the Rapid Support Forces in the nation's capital of Khartoum and other cities.

The health sector has been hit with a series of crises as a result of the conflict that has been ongoing since April.

More than 3,000 people have been killed, tens of thousands injured and more than 5 million have been displaced, with most of the violence concentrated around the capital.

AfDB launches guidelines for African policymakers ahead of COP28

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank Group has launched country-by-country economic reports to guide African policymakers ahead of the 28th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP28).

The new Country Focus Reports (CFRs) provide analysis and policy recommendations to strengthen countries' active participation at COP 28, which takes place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from November 30th to 12th December. The theme of the reports is 'Mobilising private sector finance for climate and green growth in Africa'.

The reports foster policy dialogue on macroeconomic performance and

outlook and provide insights on mobilising private sector and natural capital finance to drive the continent's climate resilience and green growth policies.

Chief Economist and Vice President of the African Development Bank Group, Prof Kevin Urama, said they would help evoke "sound, practical and implementable policies" to enhance private sector financing for climate change and green growth.

"As countries prepare for COP28, the reports provide each African country with independent, verified analysis and recommendations for evidence-based negotiations during the global conversation on climate finance and green transitions," Urama said.

Urama noted: "Expanding private

sector participation in green growth markets requires several policy interventions, including strengthening the capacity to develop long-term green growth strategies."

He added that this includes the development of appropriate regulations and incentives, supporting project preparation and development, and developing more robust capital markets to support easy entry and exit for domestic and global investors.

"It will require greater use of blended finance, the use of de-risking facilities at scale, and the development of platforms that allow the private sector to invest in a portfolio of green projects, rather than individual projects, to diversify and manage risk," Urama said.

The African Development Bank's Acting Director of Country Economics, Ferdinand Bakouf, said the country focus reports 2023 build on the African Economic Outlook 2023, which was launched in May, and the subsequent Regional Economic Outlooks launched in July. He said: "The report detailed country-level analysis and policy recommendations will impact policy design and future projects and programmes in African countries."

The reports contain several short, medium, and long-term policies to accelerate African countries' economic growth and build resilience to shocks. They provide governments and potential investors with up-to-date, accurate data to inform policy and investment

decisions. With climate change identified as one of the most pressing existential threats to Africa's inclusive growth and sustainable development, this year's country reports explore opportunities to leverage private sector resources and natural capital to close the climate finance gap. This, in turn, will support the transition to inclusive, strong, and sustainable green growth.

Through these continental, regional, and country-specific reports, the African Development Bank Group seeks to reduce the information imbalances that result from generalising about countries across a very diverse continent.

The document highlights how governments can strengthen macroeconomic performance and outlook and

catalyse private sector and natural capital finance to support climate action and green growth initiatives in the country. These include green bonds, debt for climate swaps, green banks, blended finance, carbon markets, and several other innovative financing instruments.

The African Economic Outlook (AEO) 2023 and the Regional Economic Outlooks reports highlight the resilience of several African economies despite a series of compounding shocks in recent years: the COVID-19 pandemic, persistent impact of climate change, global conflicts, financial market volatility, rising debt vulnerabilities, and more. The Country Focus Reports give more specific insights for each African country.

'Tanzania's natural resources boast ready market potential'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Minister of Minerals, Dr Steven Kiruswa, has said Tanzania is one of the countries with abundant mineral resources including Rare Earth Elements (REE) that are currently needed globally for production of different types of energy sources and technologies.

The strategic minerals according to him include Lithium, Nickel, Cobalt, Manganese and Graphite.

He was speaking at a Summit on the Security of Strategic Minerals in Paris, France on Thursday. The summit discussed important issues regarding the minerals whereas participants shared experiences as well as how to participate in stimulating the management and sustainable distribution of the minerals.

He said that due to the current trends in technology, they need different types of strategic minerals of which a good number of them are available in Tanzania.

"Most of the strategic minerals needed for the transition to clean energy are found in large quantities in Tanzania. These include the important resources of Graphite, Nickel, Cobalt, Lithium, Rare Earth Elements (REE), Copper, Manganese, Zinc and Aluminium," he said.

Kiruswa said that due to the presence of the resources, Tanzania is one of the important stakeholders in the Clean Energy Transition Strategy due to the fact that it has a significant stock of the rare earth minerals.

The Deputy Minister highlighted that one of the important things that countries need to do is to come up with a strategy on how these minerals will be supplied, improvement of market transparency, acceleration of innovation and processing technologies

as well as promotion of sustainable and responsible development practices.

He used the platform to invite investors in the country, adding Tanzania is one of the countries in Africa with political stability.

"Tanzania is well connected with good road networks that make all regions and districts accessible. Another great advantage of investing in Tanzania is the presence of the upcoming modern Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) which is being constructed from the Port of Dar es Salaam to landlocked countries—Rwanda, Zambia, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)," he said.

The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Msafiri Mbibo, Assistant Commissioner of Minerals from the Mine Development Department, Terence Ngole, acting Director of Data from the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST).

The meeting was also attended by ministers, businessmen, investors, international institutions and representatives from civil society organizations from different countries in the world.

The Tanzanian delegation held talks with stakeholders of the mining industry from various countries including India on how Tanzania and India can cooperate and exchange knowledge in the mining sector.



Tanzania is well connected with good road networks that make all regions and districts accessible



Global Education Link director Abdulmalick Mollé (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting documents to Innocent Kingom, one of the students expected to travel abroad for studies soon through arrangements facilitated by the agency. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TanESCO ordered to complete Ubungo power station repairs

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE government yesterday ordered the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) to spend two hours to complete maintenance of the Ubungo I Thermal Power Station which stopped producing power thus bringing dismay to customers.

The State-owned power util-

ity was also given six hours to find a stable alternative solution to block regular power cuts at the station so as to reduce the power shedding.

Ubungo I has six working power machines of which each machine produces 43 Megawatt but due to the technical fault that occurred to the other machine, power production is

managed by the remaining five machines.

Deputy Minister for Energy, Judith Kapinga made the directives in Dar es Salaam when she visited Ubungo I and II power stations.

"There are also six other power machines at Ubungo II that have not been working for a long time, therefore technicians

must make sure that they complete maintenance of all the machines on time so as to increase production of power," she said.

The deputy minister also urged TANESCO to have bold short, mid and long-term strategic plans for conducting maintenance of the machines to be sure of stable power production of supply. "For the short-term

maintenance, TANESCO must have bold plans to make sure that they complete repairing machines within the scheduled time frame, as well as for the mid- and long-term maintenance. Our aim is to see Tanzanians have reliable electricity," Kapinga added.

Judith further said that the Ubungo II power station also

has three machines where only two are working where she wanted experts to repair it.

She said that recently, President Samia Suluhu announced the end of power blackout shall take six months to end, therefore the ministry of energy was putting into place lasting solutions to end power blackout. She added that the ministry is

following closely and step by step the maintenance of the machines so that electricity conditions are improved.

Tanzania produces about 1,900 megawatt through hydro-power, natural gas, solar and heavy furnace oil, with various units and individuals using diesel generators or biomass privately generated own power.



Confederation of Tanzania Industries executive director Leodegar Tenga briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo (TIMEXPO 2023) scheduled to be held in the city from October 4 to 6. He is with CTI membership and services director Neema Mhondo (R) and Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) Trade Promotion director Fortunatus Mhambe. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt out to raise capacity building for maternal and child health coordinators

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Mbeya

THE government is currently seeking support from the World Health Organization (WHO) for capacity building to maternal and child health coordinators and facilitate early diagnosis of newborns with hearing disabilities.

Rasheed Maftah, Director, Disability Unit in the Prime Minister Office-Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with disabilities, made the remarks when launching a forum on inclusion of people with hearing disabilities in health yesterday in Mbeya Region.

According to him, the decision was part of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives to come up with guidelines to eliminate challenges that people with hearing impairment face.

Maftah said that in her meeting march 16th last year, the Head of State directed the Ministry of Health to inaugurate the guidelines of early diagnosing children born with hearing disabilities and how to take action.

He said once children are early diagnosed with disabilities, intervention can be done on time to rescue the challenge including placing hearing instruments.

"We call on WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to build the capacity of maternal and children health coordinators across the country on how to early diagnose children born with hearing disabilities challenges," he said. He said when the child is born and found with hearing challenges, inter-

vention must be taken on time to rescue or solve the challenges.

The director said the ministry is also seeking further support capacity building to all regional welfare officers across the country.

Coordinator community Health Services-Treatment Unit at the Ministry of Health, Dibogo Raymond said that so far, a total of 87 sign language interpreters have been trained in all Regional Referral Hospitals as an effort to bridge communication gaps.

"The Ministry of Health is working out a major challenge deaf people face in their daily to day activities including seeking healthcare to get services without obstacles," he said.

He said sign language is a very important tool for people with hearing impairment and rights to enable them to communicate with other people in the community. The Tanzania Association of the Deaf (TAD) "CHAVITA" Chairman Celina Mremba said that lack of sign language interpreters is one of the big challenges they encounter when performing their duties.

She mentioned places where they face big challenges when seeking their rights such as in police posts and in courts. She called on the government to ensure its institutions have sign language interpreters to bridge communication barriers to offer equal rights.

The chairman said that as a result most deaf people lose their rights when seeking support in police and courts.

Over 200 industrial players to participate in this year's Tanzania international manufacturers' expo

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MORE than 200 local and foreign industrial players have confirmed to participate in the Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo (TIMEXPO 2023) scheduled for next week in Dar es Salaam.

The Expo is organized by Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) in collaboration with Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade).

CTI executive director, Leodegar Tenga told reporters yesterday that Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango is

expected to grace the event which will start from October 4th to 6th 2023.

Tenga said the event will culminate with the 17th President's Manufacturer of the Year Award (PMAYA) to be held on October 6th in Dar es Salaam.

PMAYA is CTI's flagship event that is usually graced by the President in her capacity as CTI patron.

"PMAYA competition is one avenue that challenges corporate companies to improve the quality of products and services to the public, we are proud of the support that we

have received from the sponsors as well as for recognizing the role the Industrial sector plays in the economic growth of Tanzania," he said.

He said this year's exhibition boasts a number of exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge products and services from local and international industrial players.

Tenga added that the event will host a multitude of international companies looking to introduce and expand their operations, products, and services in Africa.

He said the Expo will be a valuable platform for manufacturers (local

and international) to showcase their industrial prowess, build partnerships, and discover opportunities.

"We are honoured to have the Vice President at this prestigious event, his presence will provide a great opportunity for manufacturers to interact with the government and discuss ways to improve the industry" said Tenga

He said the Expo will feature two breakout sessions adding that the first panel discussion moderated by Ambassador John Ulanga will feature conversations "The State of Tanzania Manufacturing Sector, followed by

discussion on "Nurturing Business Growth in Tanzania", a topic that will be moderated by Donald Nsanyiwa, a senior executive at consulting firm.

Fortunatus Mhambe who is the Director of Trade Promotion at TanTrade, said the focus sectors for TIMEXPO are suppliers of industrial chemical material, suppliers of industrial machines, suppliers of industrial technologies and agricultural equipment.

Others are steel manufacturers, suppliers of industrial construction structures, industrial service providers, financial institutions, capital

ventures and parts suppliers.

"Tanzania's manufacturing sector is on the rise, and TIMEXPO is the epicentre of this growth. It's a stage where we proudly showcase our capabilities to the world," said Mhambe, adding that TIMEXPO is a pivotal moment for Tanzanian manufacturers and the nation's economy as a whole.

"The expo's open and inclusive nature, along with the vast array of opportunities it presents, are set to drive growth, innovation, and collaboration within the manufacturing sector," he said.

Angola plans to train 38,000 healthcare professionals by 2027

LUANDA

THE Angolan Ministry of Health (MINSa) has announced a plan to transform healthcare in Angola by training 38,000 healthcare professionals, according to reports.

The training will cover healthcare professionals at every level, including doctors (3,000), specialist nurses (4,000), diagnostic and therapeutic technicians (3,000), nursing technicians (9,000), information technology specialists (1,000), as well as hospital support (9,000) and general workers (9,000).

The total healthcare workforce in Angola, currently around 96,000 people, will increase by nearly 40 percent under the new plan.

The World Health Organization recommends one doctor per 1,000 inhabitants, a metric Angola falls well short of with only 8,000 doctors for a population of 34.5 million.

The 3,000 doctors trained under the new plan are still insufficient to meet this metric, but will nevertheless bolster MINSa's aim of improving the performance of primary and secondary health units and expanding universal primary healthcare coverage. Angola's national health system comprises around 2,000 units, including central hospitals (8), provincial or general hospitals (32), municipal hospitals and health centres (228), and health posts (1,453).

Authorities announced on Tuesday that a severe drought in the Amazon rainforest may affect around 500,000 Brazilians by the end of the year.

According to reports, historically low river levels

have left many struggling to access essential supplies including food and water, as waterways are the principal means of transport in the region. Fishing, key to subsistence in many riverside communities, has also been impacted by the drought.

Two weeks ago, the northern state of Amazonas declared a state of emergency in response to the prolonged drought and launched a US\$20 million response plan. The state's civil defense agency announced the distribution of food and water supplies, as well as personal hygiene kits.

The main river port for the Amazon basin, Manaus, recorded the Rio Negro's water level at 16.7 metres on Tuesday, a year-on-year drop of around 6 metres. The river recorded its lowest levels in a century back in October 2010, sitting at just 13.6 metres after a severe months-long drought in the Amazon basin.

The El Niño climate phenomenon began in June this year, bringing a marked shift in rainfall patterns in Brazil that authorities anticipate will make the drought in the Amazon more severe and long-lasting. The record 2010 drought came at the tail-end of El Niño, the cumulative effect of two unusually dry southern winters.

Wilson Lima, governor of Amazonas, met with federal officials in the capital city of Brasilia on Tuesday.

At that time, 15 Brazilian municipalities were in a state of emergency while 40 others were in a state of alert. Lima assured constituents that different levels of government will "coordinate measures in support of the people living in the affected municipalities."



Kiteto legislator Edward ole Lekaita addresses residents of Sunya ward in Manyara Region on Thursday while on a routine inspection tour of development projects. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

'Operationalisation of SADC standby force in crisis remains a cornerstone for regional peace'

By Guardian Reporter

THE systematic organisation of exercises within the region is an established practice, with positive signs in conflict situations which can be avoided and overcome if the collective will of the member states prevails.

Inspector General Gouveia João Sá Miranda in the Ministry of National Defence, and Homeland Veterans made the remarks recently at the official opening of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Standby Force Logistics Training

Exercises", in Luanda, Angola.

He underlined that over the centuries, the world has experienced complex political, economic, and military events that have had a negative impact on humanity.

He said, such events manifest themselves in different dimensions and always lead to crises, such as food shortages, epidemics outbreaks, population displacement, environmental contamination, ecological threats, and underdevelopment, amongst others.

The General Inspector outlined that opera-

tionalization of the SADC standby force, as a mechanism for intervention in crises situations, remain a permanent concern for the SADC region.

Brigadier Raymond Ndwandwe, Chief of Staff at SADC Secretariat outlined that the rationale for planning and executing military exercises is to prepare commanders and forces for operations in peace support activities, crises, and conflicts.

He highlighted that exercise such as LOGEX ensure that forces across the Alliance can work

together effectively whenever needed.

Through exercises like this, SADC Allied forces often come together to train, exercise, and learn from one another to enable it to effectively assume the continental Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) role for peace support operations as envisioned by the declaration of the 9th AU Special Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security on 4th June 2016, he said.

Brigadier Ndwandwe underscored that exercises such as LOGEX prepare SADC Standby Force, to handle events which range from the

effects of subversion and terrorism to grand military manoeuvre on a large scale, from the conditions of chemical warfare to the intricacies of tribal rivalries.

The exercise will focus on training the participants at tactical level logistics support to intervention operations, he said.

The exercise was attended by participants from 11 SADC member states, namely; Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kingdom of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Govt to raise awareness about rabies vaccination

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has said that it will continue taking robust measures to increase awareness as well as vaccination so as to fight the spread of rabies which is now becoming a health threat.

Rabies is a viral zoonotic disease with serious socio-economic impact. The disease is most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system of mammals, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death.

Worldwide, the annual human mortality from canine rabies is estimated to be 59,000 of which about 60 percent of the cases occur in Asia and 36 percent in Africa.

Acting Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination, and Parliament) Arbogast Warioba made the statement on Thursday here during the commemoration of the World Rabies Day.

He said that rabies is currently one of the major global public health challenges that leads to human death.

He called on Tanzanians to vaccinate their dogs and cats for the nation to be safe from the deadly disease.

"However, 30 to 50 percent of the disease's victims are children under the age of 15 because they are the ones who always like to stay near animals such as dogs and cats provoking them thus making animals bite them," he noted.

In addition, he said that in the period between January and August, 2023, a total of 20,005 people in the country were reported to have been bitten by domestic animals.

"More than 20,000 people have been reported to have been bitten by dogs in the past eight months, with Dar es Salaam region leading, followed by Dodoma, Morogoro and Arusha regions," he said.

Warioba said Dar es Salaam leads with 3,321 incidents, Dodoma 3,136 incidents, Morogoro (1,559 incidents) and Arusha (1,155 incidents) where the figures include citizens who received services in health centres.

"When rabies parasites enter a wound, they attack the nervous system starting from the wound area to the spinal cord and finally affecting the central nervous system (brain)," he explained.

He said in efforts to control the disease, the government has continued to provide education to the public, improve implementation of one health system, facilitate access to rabies vac-

ination services for both citizens and animals, especially dogs and cats.

"The government has participated in international processes that have enabled this year the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) to approve the anti-rabies vaccine to be included in the system of regular vaccines where the costs are expected to be lower," he added.

Dr Robert Kishimba from the Ministry of Health said apart from the efforts invested to eradicate the disease, there is still a big challenge which needs more coordinated measures to protect through vaccination animals such as dogs, cats and others.

He also said that the community should avoid dangerous behaviours of irritating dogs and cats as well as educating children not to play with dogs that they are not familiar with.

He insisted that rabies is more dangerous when it is in humans than in animals as statistics show that out of 1,000 people who contract this disease only five can survive.

Mazae ward livestock officer, Dr Kisimba Benjamin said rabies begins during rainy season with symptoms including dogs producing endless saliva, biting objects randomly, fear of water and losing consciousness.



Small traders block a Tengeru section of the strategic Moshi-Arusha road with their business tables on Wednesday evening, demanding that Arumeru District Council authorities rescind a levy rise order. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Over 100 cyclists to ride in Tanzania Heritage Tour in Arusha

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MORE than 100 cyclists will be racing within Arusha City and its suburbs on Sunday, in the 2023 instalment of the Tanzania Heritage Tour.

The City is once again hosting the annual bicycle racing event which this time however, seems to be targeting sports tourism promotion in the Northern City, through active events.

"We intend to make Arusha become a city of both sports and tourism," said the event organizer, Joel Senny, explaining that more than 100 riders are

expected to participate.

The Tanzania Heritage Cycling tour comes up on Sunday, the 1st of October 2023.

Senny has been organizing the Arusha-based cycling competition for over five years now in conjunction with the Arusha Cycling Association (ACA).

The organizer explained that this year's Bicycle racing is in preparation for an even larger multi-event sporting bonanza to be held in the Isles early next year.

The Zanzibar International Sports Festival which comes up on the Indian

Ocean archipelago in February 2024 and will involve various episodes

But for the forthcoming The Tanzania Heritage Tour, is as usual being conducted through the Tanzania Cycling Company, an outfit which deals with bicycle trade, maintenance and cycling sports.

The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Arusha will also participate in the event where the PCCB will use the occasion to disseminate knowledge and education about issues of campaigns against graft.

"We at PCCB will also contribute

some money in the form of prizes to be issued to the winners," stated Florence Mwita, the head of public education desk at the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Arusha.

The Heritage Tour Participants on the other hand, are graded depending on the type of bicycles they ride.

The first type is the Road Bike or Racing bikes machines whose riders in the male category will be covering a total of 150 kilometers.

Women participants using the Road Race bikes will ride for 100 kilometers.

Apparently, the same distance and

bike types will be used by older participants aged 47 years and above who will also cycle for 100 kilometers.

Previous events have covered up to 300 kilometers in the past.

In fact even the medals being issued to participants this year read '300 kilometers,' counting even the distance covered during practice.

Other cyclists will ride the usual Mountain Bikes or Crossroad bikes.

The racing starts at the Sanawari Traffic Lights Robots from where the cyclists are expected to ride to Raskazone Sakina, make an about turn and speed back

towards Tengeru through the expressway. At Tengeru the cyclists will make another turn, heading back to the city and repeat the taxiway run several times until they cover the set distances.

In order to accomplish the 150 kilometers, cyclists will be forced to make six circular trips, while those racing the 100 kilometers ride four times in total.

The prizes will be as follows; male cyclists will be awarded from the first to the tenth riders to complete the race, while both the women and aged racers' category will feature prizes from number one to six.



Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde (R) symbolically presents a motor vehicle to mining entrepreneur Nkwimba Anthony, who bought it at GF Trucks offices earlier this week in the course of the Geita mining exhibition. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Programme benefits 45,000 East Africans in 50 years

NAIROBI

THE German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has provided 45,000 different scholarships to the research community in East Africa since 1973 when it established an office in the region.

The scholarships have come in different formats, including funding for PhD studies, short term research visits to Germany, study in regional universities and support for conducting research at home.

Out of the total number, 18,000 scholarships have come from Kenya, which hosts the organisation's regional office for East Africa.

Ethiopia, the region's leader in terms of population with over 120 million people, has had the highest number of beneficiaries, South Sudan, the youngest country in the region, and Burundi, one of the smallest in the region, have benefited the least.

On the other hand, the organisation takes pride in having 11,662 alumni from the region, with Ethiopia leading with 3,884 beneficiaries, followed by Kenya with 3,545.

Tanzania and Uganda are next in line with 1,927 and 1,829 respectively, while Rwanda has had 304 recipients, Burundi 131 and South Sudan 43, as of September 2023, according to the DAAD.

The organisation defines alumni as individuals who have "verifiably received at least three months of individual funding from the DAAD".

At celebrations to mark 50 years of the programme's presence in the region, held in Nairobi recently, Dr Kai Sicks, the secretary general of the DAAD, said: "The alumni continue to work together with German partners and serve as anchors and an example of excellent relationship between Germany and this region."

"We are pleased and proud to have fostered over 50 years of distinguished careers in East Africa, namely in Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. There

are people with impressive experiences, encounters and stories that have triggered and are triggering lasting developments and impact in their countries," said the secretary general.

The DAAD's support to the region, he said, came in four categories of in-country scholarships which started in the 1960s even before the DAAD had established the regional Nairobi office, starting almost immediately after Kenya's independence in 1963.

The second-tier support came for individuals in the form of various scholarship programmes with stays in Germany.

Tier three involved the promotion of institutional cooperation between universities in East Africa and Germany and the establishment of the Africa Centres of Excellence.

Finally, the fourth-tier support is for the harmonisation process for the East African Common Higher Education Area which came into force in 2020.

The Centres of Excellence and institutional cooperation between universities in the region are some of the newest additions to the DAAD work that has been conceived in the last 15 years, Sicks added; the Africa leadership programme established in 2021 has emerged as one of the most popular schemes.

Established with the funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, the masters' programme also benefits the West and Central Africa region.

For East Africa, this year, it was on offer to nationals and refugees in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania or Uganda receiving over 1,400 applications for 40 positions available, Sicks disclosed.

The DAAD was committed to the improvement of the quality of education and research and to moulding future leaders and experts in Africa, he added, noting that opportunities for intensification of academic and political relations were boundless.

The German Corporation for International Cooperation and the DAAD had a great ally in the form of the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA), said IUCEA Executive Secretary Professor Gaspard Banyankimbona, who noted that the region had greatly benefitted from the support of the DAAD.

EU and WFP join hands in tackling hunger amid conflict in northern Mozambique

MAPUTO

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) welcomes a contribution of €8.6 million from the European Union (EU) to intensify efforts in addressing food insecurity among conflict-affected popula-

tions in northern Mozambique.

Over the past six years, the prolonged conflict in northern Mozambique has resulted in profound loss of lives and livelihoods, with a staggering number of families displaced from their homes. In 2022, the displacement reached a peak,

affecting over 1 million people.

Currently, more than 800,000 people displaced people continue to require humanitarian assistance to assist them in rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.

The generous contribution from the EU, via its Directorate-

General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), allows WFP to sustain the critical provision of food through cash-based transfers to 400,000 people, with a special focus on the most vulnerable individuals impacted by the conflict, as well

as to reach people in the most remote areas with the United Nations Humanitarian Aviation (UNHAS). "In the face of numerous obstacles and unprecedented financial challenges in delivering humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations, the contribution from the EU is vital

in order for WFP to continue to meet the growing food needs in northern Mozambique," stated Antonella D'Aprile, Country Director of WFP Mozambique.

She added: "The EU's support is essential in our collective mission to alleviate suffering and build a more resilient future for

the people of Mozambique."

The EU has been a long-standing and essential donor to WFP Mozambique operations having contributed over € 52 million since 2018 to help alleviate hunger and improve the lives of people affected by crisis.

China, Africa green energy agenda useful for Tanzania

WITH climate change challenges all but taking over from traditional premises of bilateral ties, discussions between various groups of stakeholders from African countries and China are taking a different path.

The focus of a recent conference in the Chinese coastal city of Shandong was on exploring paths to green and low carbon energy sources.

Kenya showcased its massive per cent renewable sourcing, a singular highlight that stood as a learning platform on how the transition can be done.

This dialogue was organised on the back of a more familiar theme, at the 2023 World Cities Forum expanded to include a regional leaders' summit, for 'creating a green vision together for a better home'.

Kenya's achievements were outlined in a keynote speech by Benjamin Cheboi, governor of the country's Baringo County, his remarks raising eyebrows for what it also said about Tanzania.

He said Baringo was a potential global geopark in Africa after M'Goun, a mountain in Morocco, and northern Tanzania's Ngorongoro Lengai. We don't always hear that.

Cheboi made remarks in that direction owing to Kenya's more extensive research on renewable energy sources within the country and at its territorial border points, Ngorongoro being especially noticeable as a geopark.

That doesn't necessarily mean that our technical search teams for geothermal generation of power are unaware of that potential, though, only that it illustrates how various African countries are speeding in the right direction.

However, it was not immediately clear how far any of our officials own diplomatic or other representatives were near the forum.

Interactive discussions on the energy

transition had a few lessons on organisation for us as well - for instance, how Chinese firm Chuanshan was licensed by the Kenyan government to harness diatomite resources in Baringo's Tiaty Sub-County.

That is an example Tanzania could elect to examine, particularly as to how local governments can join hands with firms licensed in renewable energy development to set up low-cost but reliable energy sources in those localities.

It would doubtless attract scores of investors interested in using other natural resources available in the area, on account of reliable power.

Our parliamentarians are in a good position to follow up on this matter as they have two contending facets of service, one being a national role where their loyalties are tuned to the public sector - and at times to the private sector.

They have a more basic loyalty in the rural areas and, if they discover the uses of reliable power supply instead of power cuts which will not be totally ended any time soon, they could think of something else. For instance, they could design usable rules with the likes of Ewura (Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority) for effective green power contracts.

Our neighbours lack the hydropower and natural gas sources that we are largely at ease with this side of the border, and they have been under considerable pressure to use geothermal and other renewable sources for most of their power needs - with much success in the transition.

We don't have to actually change from hydro-power and natural gas but only to develop independent auxiliary electricity generation that can be called into use at just about any moment of disturbance or weak flow.

It can be done if we play our part - alongside learning from the experience of the likes of China.

Moderate TCCIA hopes on local firms using AfCFTA

THE business community is slowly but noticeably starting to take notice of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) with its unexplored opportunities, with a psychological contest of sorts also taking shape.

It is an attempt to bring the continental trade zone into the traditional mindset of business lobbies, of whether it is profitable or not for local firms.

This has limited Tanzania's ability to trade in several zonal trade settings, mainly on account of what some viewed as relatively weak capacity for competition.

This explains, for instance, our withdrawal nearly two decades ago from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), our limited use the United States African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), our reticence over the East African Common Market.

We accepted the regional customs union protocol in part as goalposts can be repositioned each year, so there it is relatively safe. But this cannot be applied to AfCFTA, which is designed to be more durable.

The Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) is thus right in imploring Tanzanian manufacturers and exporters to increase the use of the continental trade zone.

The problem has sort of come up with the kind of assurances the agency has been issuing, among them the whole idea that doing so would create wealth, jobs, etc.

Trade areas don't create wealth but when a country in a trade area opens up, it can attract investors who set up projects that in turn create jobs and, then, wealth.

In that sense, the old argument that trade areas can impoverish a country to make it a zone for export destination of other countries proves true.

Accordingly, those at TCCIA and elsewhere need to look at how far Tanzania is attractive for investments. If they continue merely lobbying for the interests of their current members instead of thinking of in-

coming investors as potential members as well, they risk losing direction.

They would risk cultivating the feeling that it is all plain sailing in AfCFTA while leaving out the competition - with reality soon unsettling the narrative.

What needs to be grasped is perhaps that, in a free trade setting, countries do compete to lower taxes so that their goods have easier passage into neighbouring countries' markets.

However, that would imply a diminishing of public sector liabilities, not by cutting education and health expenditure or reducing civil service outlays but by removing constraints to investments plus private sector share purchasing in public firms to lessen the need for borrowing.

This is the key source of the rise in public debt, whose servicing at a later period can lead to unmanageable strains with the public, if the government imposes taxes meant to meet larger debt obligations. And if it fails to lower taxes, it might impede investors, slowing down job creation.

So, as outlined by TCCIA, it is true that the trade bloc stands to help Tanzanian firms win market outlets, boosting the country's foreign exchange earnings and showing that the trade bloc offers opportunities that just can't be ignored.

Notably, AfCFTA trading is conducted without tariffs, with a preliminary regional customs union having settled that aspect.

What needs to be grasped is perhaps that, in a free trade setting, countries do compete to lower taxes so that their goods have easier passage into neighbouring countries' markets.

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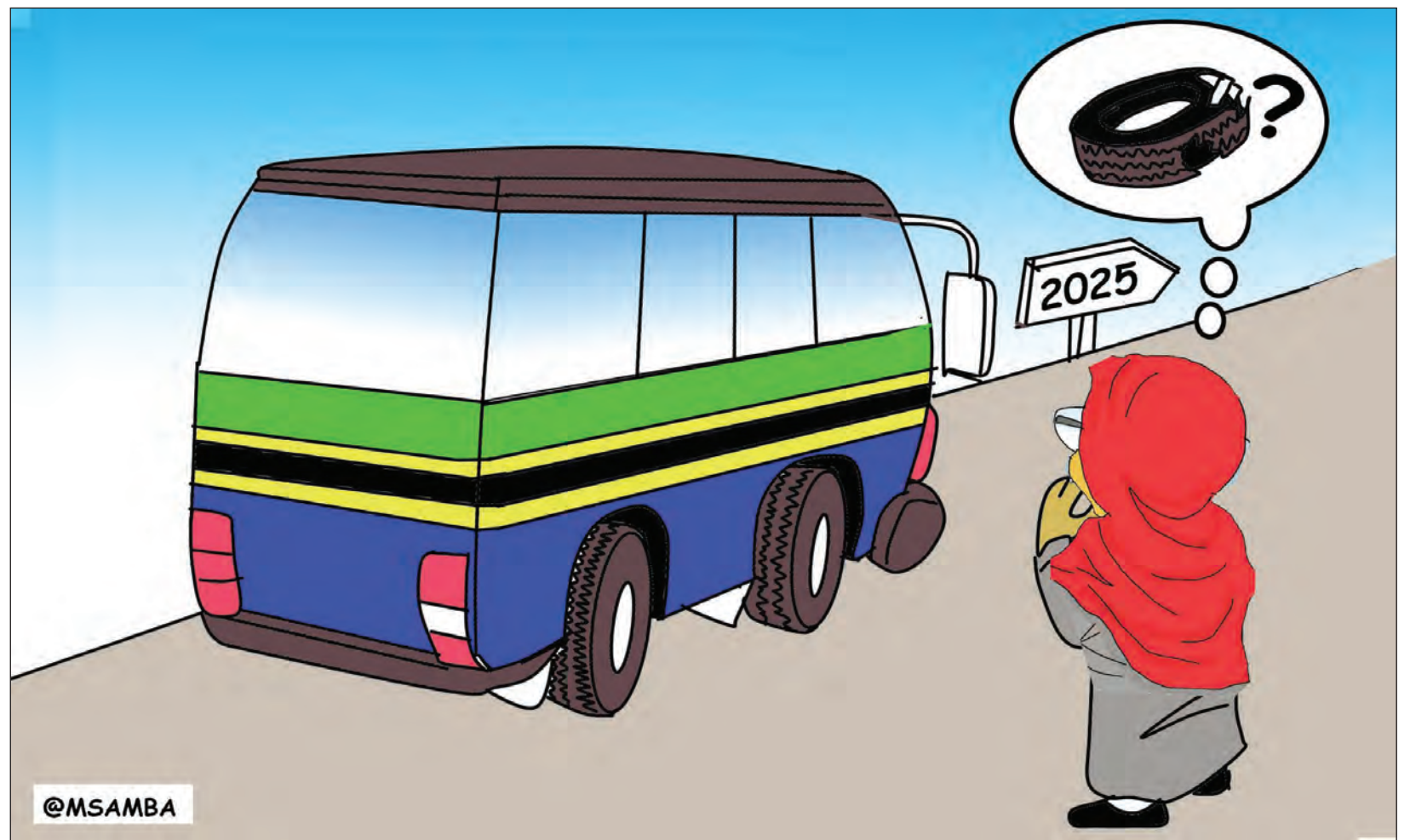
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Diversified revenue portfolio the best sustainability insurance for the media

By Anita Zielina

The media industry has a terrible tendency to believe in silver bullets - the belief that new revenue streams might emerge that are going to, single-handedly, save us.

Maybe it's just human nature that we, after more than 20 years of struggling to reinvent our disintegrating business models, have the unreasonable hope that there is one simple, straightforward solution to our problems.

Every year or so, a new hype cycle starts and someone declares that "XYZ is going to save the media industry". Usually, the "XYZ" in question is a cool, new, bright and shiny thing - what media executive P. Kim Bui termed "Shiny Things Syndrome".

Case in point: The iPad, video, Facebook Instant Articles, digital subscriptions or, very recently, foundation dollars and AI.

While all of these can be elements of a successful revenue strategy, history shows that placing all your bets on one horse is rarely a good idea.

Plus, all money comes with potential strings attached - advertisers can be iffy, funders intrusive and users demanding. The hype around shiny new revenue streams is usually noisy, fast and hard to ignore, and the fall when the illusion evaporates is usually rough.

So if there is no silver bullet, how might media organisations go about designing a sustainable business model? I explain an approach with the idea that actually derives from the world of Investment Banking and Finance.

In the world of finance, portfolio diversification is the practice of spreading your investments so that your exposure to any one type of asset (and therefore risk) is limited.

You build an investment pie that looks very much like a pie you would serve at a large family gathering - several almost equally sized slices, not one gigantic slice for yourself and crumbs for everyone else.

This practice is designed to help reduce the volatility of your portfolio over time: If one of the slices falters or disappears, your business, of course, is still going to suffer.

But chances are that you will survive, because there is a high probability that, aside from unexpected circumstances, market movements are rarely equally damaging to all kinds of revenue streams.

Ideally, you will be resilient enough to cross-subsidise the crumbling piece of pie through the still intact slices - at least for the time it takes the market to stabilise again and your business to grow new revenue streams.

Diversified revenue portfolios are not just for venture capitalists or large legacy newsrooms. I asked three thriving, entrepreneurial, community-oriented media businesses how

they think about, and deliberately plan for, revenue diversification - and which part of their diversified revenue pie they aim to grow:

Anita Li, Founder, The Green Line, Canada

"Diversified revenue streams are essential for The Green Line especially since we are a startup that's just over a year old. You never want to put all your eggs in one basket because that puts you at greater risk; if the stream that's generating the most revenue falters, you would be in trouble.

One great example of that is advertising revenue which, as most people know, has provided a lower and lower return for news outlets after they largely became digital.

On the flip side, diversified revenue streams also mean that you can take more risks when experimenting with a new, untested stream because you have others to fall back on in case it doesn't work out.

This is particularly critical for young publications that have not yet reached financial sustainability because even one unlucky circumstance can cause your ship to go down if you have not worked on diversifying your revenue streams.

I'm keen on growing The Green Line's events revenue. We have a unique community-based approach to events that fills in a market gap here in Toronto, which is where the publication is based.

Toronto tends to either have large-scale but generic corporate events or community-led but amateur grassroots events, so there is an opportunity for us to deliver events that are highly produced but still have that intimate, word-of-mouth feel.

We have also tested our events, both virtual and in-person of various sizes, so I am confident in knowing what has worked and what hasn't for The Green Line's target audiences."

Styli Charalambous, CEO and co-founder, Daily Maverick, South Africa

"Revenue diversification is critical to the sustainability of any medium to large news publisher. Now that we, like most industries, are so prone to disruption, it is essential to have meaningful revenue streams from different sources.

Diversification helps shield an organisation from some of the impact of unexpected shocks like Covid-19, where advertising took a hit. But it is not easy to achieve.

Diversification options are also heavily influenced by how you are funded, the political and competi-

tive environment and the skills you have at your disposal.

It often requires bringing in new skills or developing them from scratch, which is fraught with challenges and exploring unknown territories.

Another big potential pitfall is being drawn into revenue opportunities that don't align with the vision of the organisation. Chasing profits that are not aligned to, or supportive of, an editorial vision can impact the culture of the organisation and lead to other fallouts.

At Daily Maverick, we look at our revenue diversification efforts in three buckets: Philanthropy, commercial revenue and reader revenue. When we started our membership in 2018, we had hoped to get an even split of one-third for each bucket and to have two types of revenue within each bucket.

This "3-2-6" approach consists of three buckets, each with two subtypes of revenue offering six individual revenue streams.

For example, recurring memberships and once-off contributions were the two types of reader revenue and events and advertising would fall under commercial revenue.

Growing our membership base is at the heart of all our expansion plans, and we will focus our efforts on this and commercial revenue opportunities in the future, relying less and less on philanthropic support which can be volatile."

Sara Lomax-Reese, Co-Founder and President, URL Media, United States

"Diversified revenue is essential. Any media organisation that is focused on long-term sustainability and institution building must be invested in exploring multiple revenue streams today.

It requires creativity, tenacity and a deep understanding of your audience, their current media consumption trends and how these habits are evolving.

The media have morphed from "radio, TV, print" to an audience-centric approach to meeting people where they are with information that matters in their everyday lives. This broader definition also broadens your revenue options.

But revenue generation has also gotten much more difficult with advertising dollars being siphoned away from media organisations and dumped into the social platforms while consumer interest in news continues to wane.

We are in service to high-performing media companies that have trusted relationships with

their audiences but need more visibility and revenues to help grow to create more long-term sustainability.

We also have a thriving recruitment arm that sources mixed talent to help diversify newsrooms and other businesses struggling to meet DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) goals.

The third bucket of our current revenue mix is philanthropy. We have had success in securing several grants to help us launch and grow our network from an inaugural group of eight media organisations to now 21.

This has been absolutely critical to our success, providing us with sufficient runway to test and learn over the past two years so that we could figure out our business model and how we can best support our partners.

We are looking to grow our URL Direct product lines as an important part of our overall revenue diversification. Intellectual property, video and events are also part of our growth strategy over the next 12-24 months."

How to get started with revenue diversification

First, there is the need to stay focused. Smart revenue diversification doesn't mean throwing a lot of spaghetti at the wall to see what sticks.

Make sure that you pick one or two additional revenue streams you seek to start or grow rather than experimenting with many streams at the same time. You otherwise risk spreading your resources too thin and losing focus.

Secondly, you need to apply the Onion Principle, as you explore where to start: Your current main revenue streams are the inner core of the onion. As you venture out of that core exploring new business opportunities, pick something that is still close to it.

You want to make sure that you utilise existing strengths, skills, teams, your brand and your operational capabilities and build on them, rather than starting with a business opportunity that is super far off from your current operating model.

Thirdly, you need to keep marginal costs low. Err on the side of lower risk and work on keeping marginal costs low: If you build this new business opportunity, how much will it cost you (in time, money and sales time) to make it happen and to keep it going?

To start, decide on opportunities that are adjacent to your current business so that you can utilise your existing infrastructure and the added marginal cost (and therefore risk) to "produce" manageable new services and products.

** Anita Zielina is an RJI Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute (University of Missouri, US) columnist whose column analyses the changing landscape of media business models and showcases practical approaches to drive sustainability through revenue innovation.*

Marital rape illegal and legal, depending on jurisdiction

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at self-defence, the defence of another person and the defence of property in the context of Tanzania. Section 18 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022) in particular provides for the right of self-defence or the defence of another person or of property.

We said, the law provides exemption from criminal liability where a person defends himself or herself or defends another person against attack or defends property he or she lawfully possesses or the property of another person he or she also lawfully possesses against any act of seizure or destruction or violence.

However, section 18B states that in exercising the right of self-defence or in the defence of another person or in the defence of property, a person shall be entitled "to use only such reasonable force as may be necessary for that defence". Short of that, according to subsection (2), a person shall be criminally liable for any offence, resulting from excessive use of force in self-defence or in the defence of another person or in defence of property" and subsection (3) provides that any person who causes "the death of another person as a result of excessive use of force in defence shall be guilty of manslaughter."

Today, I invite you to briefly look at acts which may be ethical and illegal or may be unethical and legal. Three days ago, I attended a two-day training workshop on work-



place ethics. While the trainer was explaining what ethics is all about, he said sometimes an act could be ethical, but in the eyes of the law could be illegal or it could be unethical, but in the eyes of the law it could be legal. He then asked me if I could give an example of any act of such a nature. Before giving the example, I said what the law commands, permits and prohibits in one jurisdiction could be different from another and also it could be different from the ethical or moral point of view.

Then, I said to "rape" a girl or woman is unethical (morally wrong), but marital (spousal) "rape" is legal in some jurisdictions and illegal in others. Black's Law Dictionary defines rape as "The unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman by a man forcibly and against her will." Section 130(1) of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022) criminalises rape and section 130(2) stipulates under which circumstances a male person commits the offence of rape if he has forcible sexual intercourse with a woman. Let me mention just two of the circumstances.

Subsection (2) (a) states that a man commits the offence of rape with a woman who is not his wife, or if he were his wife she is separated from him and had sexual intercourse with her without her consent at the time of the sexual intercourse. Subsection (2)(b) states that a man commits the offence of rape with a woman who is not his wife with her consent where the consent has been obtained by the use of force, threats or intimidation by putting her in fear of death or of hurt or while she is in unlawful detention. Yet,

subsections (2) (a) & (2) (b) are silent about marital (spousal) rape.

The Sexual Offences (Special Provision Act) Act, 1998 under section 5 states that "section 130(2): It is an offence for a male person to rape a girl or woman under circumstances falling under any of the following description (e) with or without her consent when she is under eighteen years of age, unless the woman is his wife who is fifteen or more years of age and is separated from the man."

This means that in a marriage relationship and in the context of Tanzania the husband enjoys marital exemption (immunity) to the crime of rape. In other words, forcible sexual intercourse without spousal consent is legal.

Apart from this, the section continues stipulating other circumstances under which the offence of rape is committed (which are not covered in this column), but the reader may want to read them.

Matthews (2020) in his book "Philosophical Ethics: a guidebook for beginners" says "it fits in very well with some basic moral intuitions that many people share, namely that some things are just plain wrong. There are some things that we should just simply never do, no matter what the benefits of doing them may be. For example, many people would agree that things like murder, rape, torture and slavery are simply wrong." From what we have seen above rape is both illegal and unethical.

How about marital (spousal) rape? Is it a criminal offence? Is it unethical? Black's Law Dictionary defines mari-

tal (spousal) rape as "a husband's forcible sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent".

Section 9(1) of the Law of Marriage Act, 1970 (R.E. 2019) defines marriage as "the voluntary union of a man and a woman and is intended to last for their joint lives." If marriage is "the voluntary union...intended to last for [the spouses'] joint lives", can a husband force himself on her wife to have sexual intercourse with her without her consent and still be a non-criminal offence?

Yet, as we have seen, having sexual intercourse with a woman who is not your wife, you have separated or divorced without her consent is a criminal offence. How come then "forcible sexual intercourse" outside of marriage is a criminal offence, but inside of marriage is not a criminal offence?

Article 13 of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended until 2005) provides for equality before the law. Sub-article (1) states that: "All persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to protection and equality before the law." Sub-article (2) states that: "No law enacted by any authority in the United Republic shall make any provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect."

The World Bank Group's "Women, Business and the Law 2016: Getting to Equal" study on global findings suggests that "27 of the economies covered (16 per cent) exempt husbands from facing criminal charges for marital rape." The World Bank Group's Spotlight on the Commonwealth states that 35 per cent of Commonwealth countries give husbands immunity from prosecution for marital rape." Banerjee & Rao (2022) in their article "The Dark Shadow of Marital Rape: Need to Change the Narrative" say that "Marital rape has not been considered to be 'real rape' and hence stays hidden from the legal purview in spite of the adverse physical and mental health consequences."

In some jurisdictions in which marital (spousal) rape is not criminal (like in Tanzania), the husband is entitled to criminal exemption to forcible sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent. Yet, in the eyes of ethics, it is an unethical act (morally wrong) to force a woman or wife to have sex with her without her consent.

Procuring one's own miscarriage (abortion) or helping another person to do so is illegal in Tanzania (sections 150-152 of the Penal Code) and under certain circumstances it is unethical, yet in some jurisdictions across the world it is legal. It suffices to say that what is ethical is not necessarily legal and what is unethical is not necessarily illegal.

Today's proverb: "The fountain is clearest at its source."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

The Law and You



Common mistakes many CEOs make unwittingly

By Daniel Mshana

IT is no secret that measuring effectiveness of all chief executive officers of public enterprises is looming large. Perhaps, it is on the to-do list of the Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu who is mandated to oversee the operations of all parastatals in our country.

According to Mchechu, his office oversees 248 government entities, of which the government has more than 51 percent shares and another 56 entities in which it has less than 51 percent shares.

A thorough examination of these parastatals vividly shows that some are doing extremely well in their businesses while others operate below the desired performance level. That is why some are heavily dependent on government subsidies for many years.

As someone who has been keenly watching these parastatals since the days of the defunct Parastatals Sector Reform Commission (PRSC), I wish to draw attention of the Treasury Registrar to some common mistakes which many CEOs make unwittingly.

One of the biggest blunders that some CEOs undertake once they are entrusted by the president to oversee the running of certain enterprises is to immediately assume dictatorial authority and within a few weeks overhaul, demote, remove and transfer directors and managers they met on flimsy excuse that they were underperformers.

The move is aggressively undertaken even when the CEO did not find time to sit with those managers on face-to-face meetings and be thoroughly briefed on what they are doing and what are their ongoing programmes.

This has resulted in serious setbacks since managers' subordinates hold values and trust in their managers whom they know did their utmost best. CEOs must indeed take sufficient time to learn about their institutions before they rush to crucify anyone on whatever ground.

Attitude surveys are probably the most valuable method of assessing each manager. Methods of appraisal must be fair and well determined before removing anyone and sending a negative wave to the workers on the shop floor.



ence. You cannot manage an enterprise in isolation. You cannot start running all the key elements of productivity such as money, materials, equipment, employees, technology and so on, all alone. Some CEOs do not care about sharing their visions, missions and values with anyone. So you find majority of workers do not know where their company is going.

The challenge for CEOs in the 21st century is the recognition that shareholders, employees and customers (the people) are the most important asset. CEOs must develop a specific feature that they are running a customized workplace and not the old traditional headline that they are 'the bosses and no one can ever touch them'.

Managements should first elaborate their corporate strategies then motivate the workers to implement the same. Many CEOs are just bosses sitting at the top but experience and research have shown that some staff under them do not have trust in them because they do not share the vi-

sion. Some CEOs are extremely good in plundering and killing creativity at their organisations. CEOs who kill creativity do so either by failing to acknowledge innovative efforts or showing skepticism. It is true that not every new idea is worth consideration but in many public entities, some executives habitually demonstrate negative reaction to new ideas given by ordinary workers but thrive on those given by foreigners especially if they are related to a new project to be signed worth millions of shillings.

Top managers regularly undermine autonomy by continually interfering with processes and chang-

ing goals without consulting with experienced workers at the shop floor.

Another mistake some CEOs make is to refuse accepting change. That is why it is encouraging to see that under President Samia Suluhu Hassan, many public entities are being forced to change the way they do things. Change has become organizational reality; otherwise the company is bound run bankrupt or collapse.

CEOs must stand firmly as change agents so that they can improve their organisations' effectiveness. Another problem when change is accepted, some CEOs do not involve their employees in those chang-

es and as a result, they face a lot of resistance. Sensitization and communication are crucial in the change efforts.

Another obstacle is the general habit of some CEOs who deny their staff an opportunity to visit development programmes and projects on account of lack of funds. But the same people authorise millions of shillings on local and foreign travels which are sometimes irrelevant.

Numerous multinational companies have grown larger because they spend much money on employees' annual training to help develop new skills and gain more knowledge. Their new exposure helps to disseminate knowledge

across the organisation. Expertise, creative thinking and motivation are an individual's natural resources but they cannot be developed at an outstanding level if chief executives persistently deny their staff learning opportunities.

Entrepreneurial competence is very important. Enterprises, particularly the large ones, cannot survive in this era of rapid economic change, innovation and digital transformation unless their top leaders have entrepreneurial competence. Indeed, entrepreneurship in the public institutions is another subject that needs to be discussed separately since the same is crucial in

reducing operational challenges.

To sum up this topic, four key areas that deserve the attention of board of directors and CEOs proper experts and staff, good leadership and accountability through checks and balances, awareness and training so as to have a vigilant and professional workforce and strategic communication to build corporate reputation and disseminate policies for positive change.

The author is an independent media, PR and investment consultant based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0784 257 046.

Peru faces challenge of climate change-driven internal migration

By Mariela Jara

NEARLY 700,000 people have migrated internally in Peru due to the effects of climate change. This mass displacement is a clear problem in this South American country, one of the most vulnerable to the global climate crisis due to its biodiversity, geography and 28 different types of climates.

"We recognize migration due to climate change as a very tangible issue that needs to be addressed," Pablo Peña, a geographer who is coordinator of the Emergency and Humanitarian Assistance Unit of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Peru, told IPS.

In an interview with IPS at the UN agency's headquarters in Lima, Peña reported that according to the international Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, the number of people displaced within Peru's borders by disasters between 2008 and 2022 is estimated at 659,000, most of them floods related to climate disturbances.

In this Andean country of 33 million inhabitants, there is a lack of specific and centralized data to determine the characteristics of migration caused by environmental and climate change factors.

Peña said that through a specific project, the IOM has collaborated with the Peruvian government in drafting an action plan aimed at preventing and addressing climate-related forced migration, on the basis of which a pilot project will begin in October to systematize information from different sources on displacement in order to incorporate the environmental and climate component.

"We aim to be able to define climate migrants and incorporate them into all regulations," said the expert. The project, which includes gender, rights and inter-generational approaches, is being worked on with the Ministries of the Environment and of Women and Vulnerable Populations.

He added that this type of migration is multidimensional. "People can say that they left their homes in the Andes highlands because they had nothing to eat due to the loss of their crops, and that could be interpreted, superficially, as forming part of economic migration because they have no means of livelihood. But that cause can be associated with climatic variables," Peña said.

In a 2022 report, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) identified Peru as the country with the highest level of food insecurity in South America.

The Central Reserve Bank, in charge of preserving monetary stability and managing international reserves, lowered in its September monthly report Peru's economic growth projection to 0.9 percent for this year, partly due to the varied impacts of climate change on agriculture and fishing.

This would affect efforts to reduce the poverty rate, which stands at around 30 percent in the country, where seven out of every 10 workers work in the informal sector, and would drive up migration of the population in search of food and livelihoods.

"The World Bank estimates that by 2050 there will be more than 10 million climate migrants in Latin America," said Peña.

The same multilateral institution, in its June publication Peru Strategic Actions Toward Water Security, points out that people without economic problems are 10 times more resistant than those living in poverty to climatic impacts such as floods and droughts, which are increasing at the national level.

The country is currently experiencing the Coastal El Niño climate phenomenon, which in March caused floods in northern cities and droughts in the south. The official National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology warned that in January 2024 it could converge with the



View of the Rimac River as it passes through the municipality of Lurigancho-Chosica, in the Peruvian province of Lima. In this town, many families are still living in housing in areas at high risk, which is exacerbated during the rainy season that begins in December and has intensified due to climate change and the increased recurrence of the El Niño climate phenomenon. CREDIT: Mariela Jara / IPS

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) global phenomenon, accentuating its impacts.

El Niño usually occurs in December, causing the sea temperature to rise and altering the rainfall pattern, which increases in the north of the country and decreases in the south.

Reluctance to migrate to safer areas

Piura, a northern coastal department with an estimated population of just over two million inhabitants, has been hit by every El Niño episode, including this year's, which left more than 46,000 homes damaged, even in areas that had been rebuilt.

Juan Aguilar, manager of Natural Resources of the Piura regional government, maintains that the high vulnerability to ENSO is worsening with climate change and is affecting the population, communication routes and staple crops.

At an IOM workshop on Sept. 5 in Lima, the official stressed that Piura is caught up in both floods and droughts, in a complex context for the implementation of spending on prevention, adaptation and mitigation.

Aguilar spoke to IPS about the situation of people who, despite having lost their

homes for climatic reasons, choose not to migrate, in what he considers to be a majority trend.

"People are not willing overall to move to safer areas, even during El Niño 2017 when there were initiatives to relocate them to other places; they prefer to wait for the phenomenon to pass and return to their homes," he added.

He explained that this attitude is due to the fact that they see the climatic events as recurrent. "They say, I already experienced this in such and such a year, and there is a resignation in the sense of saying that we are in a highly vulnerable area, it is what we have to live with, God and nature have put us in these conditions," Aguilar said.

He acknowledged that with regard to this question, public policies have not made much progress. "For example after 2017 a law was passed to identify non-mitigable risk zones, and that has not been enforced despite the fact that it would help us to implement plans to relocate local residents to safer areas," he added.

The regional official pointed out that "we do not have an experience in which the State says 'I have already identified

this area, there is so much housing available here for those who want to relocate', because the social cost would be so high."

"We have not seen this, and the populace has the feeling that if they are going to start somewhere else, the place they abandon will be taken by someone else, and they say: 'what is the point of me moving, if the others will be left here,'" Aguilar said.

The fear of starting over

Some 40 km from the Peruvian capital, in Lurigancho-Chosica, one of the 43 municipalities of the province of Lima, the local population is getting nervous about the start of the rainy season in December, which threatens mudslides in some of its 21 ravines. The most notorious due to their catastrophic impact occurred in 1987, 2017, 2018 and March of this year.

Landslides, known in Peru by the Quechua indigenous term "huaycos", have been part of the country's history, due to the combination of the special characteristics of the rugged geography of the Andes highlands and the ENSO phenomenon.

In an IPS tour of the Chosica area of Pedregal, one of the areas vulnerable to

landslides and mudslides due to the rains, there was concern in the municipality about the risks they face, but also a distrust of moving to a safer place to start over.

"I came here to Pedregal as a child when this was all fields where cotton and sugar cane were planted. I have been here for more than sixty years and we have progressed, we no longer live in shacks," said 72-year-old Paulina Vilchez, who lives in a nicely painted two-story house built of cement and brick.

On the first floor she set up a bodega, which she manages herself, where she sells food and other products. She did not marry or have children, but she helped raise two nieces, with whom she still lives in a house that is the fruit of her parents' and then her own efforts and which represents decades of hard work.

Vilchez admits that she would like to move to a place where she could be free of the fear that builds up every year. But she said it would have to be a house with the same conditions as the one she has managed to build with so much effort. "I'm not going to go to an empty plot to start all over again, that's why I've stayed. I leave everything in the hands of God," she told IPS.

Very close to the Rimac River and next to the railway tracks that shake her little wooden house each time the train passes by lives Maribel Zavaleta, 50, born in Chosica, and her family of two daughters, a son, and three granddaughters.

"I came here in 1989 with my mom. She was a survivor of the 1987 huayco, and we lived in tents until we were relocated here. But it's not safe; in 2017 the river overflowed and the house was completely flooded," she told IPS.

Zavaleta started her own family at the age of 21, but is now separated from her husband. Her eldest son lives with his girlfriend on the same property, and her older daughter, who works and helps support the household, has given her three granddaughters. The youngest of her daughters is 13 and attends a local municipal school.

"I work as a cleaner and what I earn is only enough to cover our basic needs," she said. She added that if she were relocated again it would have to be to a plot of land with a title deed and materials to build her house, which is now made of wood and has a tin roof, while her plot of land is fenced off with metal sheets.

"I can't afford to improve my little house or leave here. I would like the authorities to at least work to prevent the river from overflowing while we are here," she said, pointing to the rocks left by the 2017 landslide that have not been removed.

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 UMJUAYYO 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

Stakeholders advocating enhanced transparency and accountability in funding climate change

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

CLIMATE change stakeholders from in and outside the country have called for transparency and accountability in climate change financing and its expenditure to facilitate effective mitigation measures.

They made the remarks in Arusha yesterday during the International Transparency and Accountability Conference (ITAC-2023) with a theme 'strengthened accountability for climate action'.

The conference was organised by the Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability in collaboration with the Vice President office with funding from the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and others.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Minister for Finance, Hamad Chande reminded communities and individuals to play their role in demanding transparency and accountability in climate financing.

Chande said despite the fact that Africa has an estimated 40 percent of world renewable energy resources only \$60 million which is 2 percent of \$3 trillion on renewable energy investments have come to Africa.

"Climate financing needs to grow in Africa and become more sustainable over a long period. This requires involvement of all segments of society including the public as well as the private sector", the Deputy Minister said.

Speaking during the conference, the Mennonite Church Bishop and Chairman of the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCJEIC) said that transparency and accountability are important in addressing the climate change challenges.

"This is a fundamental way to make sure the money which has been flowing from developed to developing countries are well disbursed and utilised", he said.

He elaborated that in developing countries there is a challenge of where the money goes, misallocation of the fund and corruption, while in developed countries the amount of funds which is disbursed is below what is committed.

The Bishop said transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation for climate change financing is mostly needed in order to address the existing challenges.

Earlier, NCA Country Director, Berte Marie said the church has been supporting faith actors in developing climate change actions that resonate with local needs and vulnerabilities.

"We have mobilized faith leaders across Tanzania, championing climate-smart agricultural practices and facilitating community climate adaptation committees, aimed at fostering conservation efforts, like tree planting, land use planning, and awareness raising," she said.

She added that NCA is proud to support faith-driven initiatives in Tanzania to counteract the adverse effects of climate change as in 2020 NCA commissioned a study on the multi-functionality of church and community-owned



From left, Ambassador of Norway to Tanzania, Tone Tinnes, Ambassador of Switzerland to Tanzania, Didier Chassot, and NCA-Tanzania Country Director Berte Marie Ulveterfollow address by Finance deputy minister Hamad Chande at the International Transparency and Accountability conference (ITAC-2023).

forests in Tanzania.

The study provided holistic strategies and methodologies to address existing forest management challenges, she said.

Given the influential status of faith actors in their communities, NCA have championed awareness, disseminated knowledge on climate change and environmental degradation and developed strategies to bolster climate resilience and support local solutions and actions.

The NCA has also recommended the enhancement of awareness campaigns highlighting the multifaceted benefits of forests, also the allocation of resources for implementation of community-based forest management is crucial to empower local communities especially women to participate effectively in sustainable management of forest.

"Reinvestment in conservation and prioritization of fundraising for climate financing is

indispensable, with an urge for the donor community and private sector engagement," said Marie

Climate change expert from Malawi, Chikondi Chabvuta said despite the fact that the poorest accounts for 50 percent of the world's population, its contribution to global emissions is only 17 percent.

Chabvuta said that diverting funds from tackling poverty to support the response to climate change is unjust and attributes the responsibility for action to the world's poorest, who have contributed least to the crisis.

Chabvuta explained that most climate finance reported by wealthy countries is taken directly from development aid budgets; this means less support for education, health, women's rights, poverty alleviation and progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Tanzania, Tone Tinnes said Tanzania had made some progress over the last decade in increasing public finance for climate change adaptation but the amount is not sufficient for reaching the fund needed to finance its climate targets.

Chairman of the Wajibu Board of Directors he Chairperson for WAJIBU board of Directors Yona Killagane stated that the conference is highly dedicated to explore opportunities and challenges associated with public financial accountability in climate change action.

Killagane said the event aims to identify effective strategies for strengthening accountability mechanisms in financing climate change at both national and international levels.

"The conference aims to address the science of climate change; climate change financing; climate change and fiscal risks; private sector engagement in gender-based climate change financing; and innovative mechanisms for climate change mitigation and adaptation," Killagane said.

Floods in eastern Libya displace over 16,000 children - UNICEF

TRIPOLI

THE deadly floods that devastated eastern Libya has displaced over 16,000 children UNICEF said on Thursday.

Many more are affected due to lack of essential services, such as health and safe water supply, the UN's children agency added. Storm Daniel swept across

cities including Derna, Al-Bayda, Soussa, Al-Marj, Shahat, Taknis, Battah, Tolmeita, Bersis, Tokra and Al-Abyar.

While the number of children among the casualties is still unconfirmed, UNICEF fears hundreds perished in the disaster, given that children account for about 40 per cent of the population.

In the hit region, out of 117 impacted schools, 4 were destroyed and 80 partially damaged. This means children risk further disruption to their learning.

Some of the displaced families are hosted in schools.

Waterborne illnesses are a growing concern due to water supply issues, significant damage

to water sources and sewer networks, and the risk of contamination of the ground water. In Derna alone, 50 per cent of water systems are estimated to have been damaged.

"UNICEF has been working with authorities and partners since the beginning of the tragedy to respond to the urgent needs of children and families

in the affected areas," said Adele Khodr, UNICEF Regional Director in the Middle East and North Africa, who has just returned from a visit to Al Bayda and Derna. Khodr also sounded the alarm on the psychological burden children bear.

UNICEF is revising its humanitarian response appeal of US\$6.5 million to integrate initial recovery efforts with a focus on education, health and water. To date, the body has received about 25 per cent of these funds.

UNICEF has been supported the children in eastern Libya "since day two of the crisis."

Sixty-five metric tonnes of relief supplies have been delivered to affected areas, including medical supplies for 50,000

people for three months, family hygiene kits for almost 17,000 people, 500 children's winter clothing sets, 200 school-in-a-box kits and 32,000 water purification tablets.

UNICEF has also dispatched mobile child protection and psychosocial support teams to help children cope with the emotional toll of the disaster.

includes banning nicotine and tobacco products on school campuses, prohibiting the sale of nicotine and tobacco products near schools, banning direct and indirect ads and promotion of nicotine and tobacco products near schools and refusing sponsorship or engagement with tobacco and nicotine industries.

Countries worldwide were highlighted in the publication as having successfully implemented policies that support tobacco and nicotine free campuses including India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Qatar, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine.

The new WHO guide can help create nicotine- and tobacco-free schools that help keep kids healthy and safe. Nicotine- and tobacco-free policies help to prevent young people from starting to smoke; create a healthier, more productive student body; protect youth from toxic chemicals in second-hand smoke; reduce cigarette litter; and cut cleaning costs.

WHO: Ban smoking and vaping in schools to protect young people

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has released two new publications - 'Freedom from tobacco and nicotine: guide for schools' and 'Nicotine- and tobacco-free school toolkit' to help protect children's health.

The tobacco industry relentlessly targets young people with tobacco and nicotine products resulting in e-cigarette use increasing and 9 out of 10 smokers starting before the age of 18.

Products have also been made more affordable for young people through the sale of single-use cigarettes and e-cigarettes, which typically lack health warnings.

Dr Ruediger Krech, Director of Health Promotion, World Health Organization said: "Whether sitting in class, playing games outside or waiting at the school bus stop, we must

protect young people from deadly second-hand smoke and toxic e-cigarette emissions as well as ads promoting these products."

Regulators in the US last month warned companies to stop selling illegal e-cigarettes that appeal to youth by resembling school supplies, cartoon characters, and even teddy bears.

The new guide and toolkit are step by step manuals for schools to create nicotine- and tobacco-free campuses, but it takes a "whole of school" approach - which includes teachers, staff, students, parents, etc.

The guide and toolkit include topics on how to support students to quit, education campaigns, implementing policies and how to enforce them.

The guide highlights four ways to foster a nicotine- and tobacco-free environment for young people that



includes banning nicotine and tobacco products on school campuses, prohibiting the sale of nicotine and tobacco products near schools, banning direct and indirect ads and promotion of nicotine and tobacco products near schools and refusing sponsorship or engagement with tobacco and nicotine industries.

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Nicotine- and tobacco-free policies help to prevent young people from starting to smoke; create a healthier, more productive student body; protect youth from toxic chemicals in second-hand smoke; reduce cigarette litter; and cut cleaning costs.

To protect people's health, WHO encourages all countries to make all indoor public places completely smoke-free in line with Article 8 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

SADC holds virtual Troika meeting to discuss Zimbabwe Election report

HARARE

ZAMBIA is the current SADC Troika Chair, convened a meeting to discuss the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) report on Zimbabwe's just ended disputed harmonised elections as well as other security challenges taking place in the region.

Zambia president Hakainde

Hichilema, chair of SADC Troika.

The opposition in Zimbabwe including concerned citizens were pressing for an urgent Extraordinary SADC Summit to settle the political challenges in the country following the flawed August 23 elections.

Zambia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation announced that Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, current Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation would convene and chair a virtual Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit on September 27, 2023.

Tanzanian President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan - the incoming chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Namibian President Hage Geingob

- the outgoing chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Felix Antoine Tshisekedi attended the meeting from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. "The summit will deliberate on the security situation in eastern DRC, updates of pledged critical capabilities for the SADC mission in the DRC (SAMIDCR)

and the progress made towards deployment in the eastern DRC, particularly the revised indicative budget for the SAMIDRC," said Zambia's Foreign Affairs Ministry in a press statement.

"It is in Zambia's interest to support efforts towards the SADC mission in DRC in order to maintain regional peace and stability, a prerequisite for advancing intra-regional trade and

investment which are critical for socio economic development."

Zambia's Foreign Affairs Ministry said the deployment of a Brigade-size Force in support of the DRC for an initial period of 12 months, beginning on September 30, 2023 was approved at the Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit Plus SADC Troika and Force Intervention Brigade Troop Contributing Countries

(FIB TCCs) and the DRC on May 11, 2023 in Windhoek Namibia.

"Additionally, the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) report on the harmonised elections in Zimbabwe as well as other implementing elections in the SADC region will also be discussed and good governance are also the foundation of Zambia's foreign policy," said the Foreign Ministry.

Innovative business models critical for African governments to unlock carbon markets

By Aimable Twahirwa

WITH current efforts to boost Africa's carbon credit production by 2030, experts believe the commitments will require Governments to switch from a voluntary to a compliance market by generating renewable energy for a portion of national and regional electricity supplies.

The compliance market in Africa, according to experts, is critical for countries to establish a carbon price through regulations to control the supply of allowances that are then distributed by national and regional regimes.

"It is all about getting the business model right (...) the capability of African Governments is there very central to having the right kind of information and investing in local business models," Mahua Acharya, the Chief Executive Officer of C-Quest Capital (CQC), one of the world-leading carbon finance company told IPS.

Currently, African leaders are pushing market-based financing instruments, such as carbon credits which can be generated by projects that curb emissions with a major focus on switching to renewable energy sources.

Carbon market initiative allows polluters to offset their greenhouse gas emissions by investing in development or initiatives such as tree-planting or renewable energies. Nevertheless, experts point out that they are still cheaper to purchase in Africa due to poor regulations and weak policies.

Renewable energy was at the heart of discussions at the 2023 Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi, Kenya, and shifting away from centralized fossil fuel energy towards people-centred green energy sources is now seen as the single most effective way to expand the continent's participation in voluntary carbon markets.

The African initiative's goal is to produce 300 million new carbon credits annually by 2030, comparable to the number of credits issued globally in voluntary carbon offset markets in 2021.

"This is a very ambitious target and a fantastic opportunity for Africa to set the course," Mahua said in an exclusive interview.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement's rulebook governing carbon markets gives countries a right to emit carbon dioxide at an agreed price per tonne, but one of the major challenges facing most African countries is the lack of appropriate strategies to earn money on these carbon markets.

The latest report on carbon markets and climate finance by the Eastern Africa Alliance shows that Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda are currently scaling up carbon credit production via voluntary carbon market activation plans.

Under the new move, internationally traded credits between governments and private sector players are acceptable under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

For example, Rwanda, as one of the few countries that expressed willingness to begin trading in voluntary carbon markets, is currently exploring key strategic sectors in which projects that reduce carbon emissions can be designed to sell credits on the carbon market. Officials emphasize that the major focus will be on renewable energy, the country leveraging on the carbon market as the source of climate finance.

However, some experts point out that such projects and programs need to be "authorized" to avoid the same carbon credit being sold twice.

"Voluntary approach is vulnerable to the decisions of corporate entities to meet their net zero goals - which is fine, but shaky if you think that countries should be basing economic planning decisions around this," Acharya said.

Carbon finance - the revenue from the sale of carbon emission reduction linked with mitigation activities - is a green growth opportunity for many developing and emerging economy countries.

On the sidelines of the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi earlier this month, some activists rejected carbon markets, describing them as "false solutions and narratives that undermine African communities' rights, interests and sovereignty."

The Executive Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Mithika Mwenda, told IPS that he was disappointed that the principle of shared responsibility was a missing point.

"The initiative [of carbon market] seems to be promoted by powerful interests who benefit from maintaining the status quo of fossil fuel dependence," he said.

While Mithika is convinced that, in most cases, these carbon market investments do not serve the climate justice imperatives for Africa, Acharya points out that different African countries are at different stages of preparedness and clarity towards putting carbon markets to work.



Carbon credits in Africa can be generated by projects that curb emissions with a major focus on switching to renewable sources such as solar energy. Nasho solar power plant in Eastern Rwanda. Credit: Aimable Twahirwa/IPS



Mahua Acharya, the Chief Executive Officer of C-Quest Capital, recommends innovative business models for African Governments to unlock carbon markets.

"These carbon finance transactions are very precious to many African countries because they are forex-based and provide a good degree of risk mitigation," Acharya said.

The latest Africa Environment Outlook for Business by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) shows that Africa could become a trailblazer in renewable energy solutions, with abundant solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and geothermal resources that may contribute to a 6.4 per cent increase in GDP from 2021 to 2050.

Businesses in the energy efficiency sector can provide products and services, such as lighting systems, smart buildings, and efficient industrial processes on the continent, it said.

While Carbon markets are seen as an incredible opportunity to unlock billions for the climate finance needs of African economies while expanding energy access, some carbon credit experts stress the need for the African Union (AU) as a continental body to position itself economically on equal footings with other major economic blocks.

"There are thousands of billions of dollars are being allocated as loans on high-interest terms to poor countries seeking help to cope with climate change impacts," said Adhel Kaboub, Associate Professor of economics at Denison University in Ohio, USA, and the president of the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity.

"Through these schemes, Africa cannot continue to play the role of source of cheap raw materials while serving as a large consumer market for the Global North," he said.

Rwanda is among the countries planning to use carbon markets to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCS) to the Paris Agreement.

Currently, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) are the two operational mechanisms allowing the country to earn carbon credit units by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

IPS UN Bureau Report

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MTAJA WA MAGOMIA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMISHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - 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New members to expand BRICS' global GDP share to 38 per cent

By Guardian Reporter

Expanding BRICS bloc from five to 11 members will create a group of impressive economic size will increase share of global GDP measured in US dollars adjusted by purchasing power parity (PPP) from 33 percent to 38 percent.

According to the recent report by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), an 11-member BRICS would take the bloc's share of the world's population from 41 percent to 46 percent in 2024, its and its share of global goods exports from 20 percent to 23 percent.

The biggest policy announcement from the bloc summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa last month, was an agreement to invite six new members to the bloc—Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE—with their enrolment set for January 2024.

By contrast, the G7—comprising the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the UK—would still account for just 10 percent of the world's population, 29 percent of global GDP measured in PPP-adjusted US dollars and 29 percent of global goods exports.

However, EIU notes in the report that the bloc's collective economic clout will be constrained by internal divisions and the lack of formal institutional structures, EIU says.



Concerns that the BRICS summit would adopt an anti-Western stance proved unfounded, and pre-summit talk of de-dollarisation made little headway—although there is clearly potential for settlement of more international transactions between BRICS partners in their local currencies.

Pre-summit reports pointed to a larger number of new BRICS applicants—including Indonesia and Bangladesh—but not all confirmed their interest, and details of the selection process are murky. Further expansion seems probable in the future, de-

pending on interim developments.

China and Russia view the BRICS as a potential counterweight to the dominant position of Western countries, whose leadership is exercised through established global institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank and the UN Security Council.

However, the EIU report says, an expanded BRICS is unlikely to immediately threaten the existing world order or herald the creation of an anti-Western bloc.

"Brazil and India are reluctant to swing an anti-Western cudgel, and BRICS members

remain split over their response to the Russia-Ukraine war, illustrating the group's diverse opinions," it says.

Long-standing tensions between China and India remain a major fault line, amplified by their rivalry for the leadership of the "Global South"—a new term for developing countries and emerging markets.

The expansion of BRICS will potentially boost its geopolitical influence, provided it can reconcile its internal tensions, but the group will become even more unwieldy.

Adding six new countries (some with pre-existing ten-

sions) risks generating more problems than solutions and will make it harder to reach consensus.

The inclusion of Iran, a close Russian ally that is similarly subject to US economic sanctions, could be problematic, aggravated by Iran's poor relations with all three of the new Arab members. Adding to the strains, Egypt and Ethiopia remain at loggerheads over a large Ethiopian dam on the Upper Blue Nile.

Crucially, adding new members—and specifically Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE—will elevate the BRICS share of global oil production from about 20 percent to 43 percent in 2024.

"The BRICS will continue to be hampered by a dearth of formal structures, such as a secretariat or an expansive trade deal, which will constrain its direct economic influence," EIU says.

"The Shanghai-based New Development Bank (NDB) was established by the five original BRICS members in 2015 and is already ahead on the expansion front—having admitted Bangladesh, Egypt and the UAE—but it remains very small compared with major development finance institutions."

German inflation sinks to its lowest in 2 years

BERLIN

German inflation plunged to its lowest level in two years after the effect of heavily discounted public transport last summer disappeared from the comparison.

Consumer prices advanced 4.3 percent from a year ago in September, compared with 6.4 percent in August, the statistics office said Thursday.

While that's the slowest pace since Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent energy costs soaring, it remains more than double the European Central Bank's 2 percent goal for the 20-nation euro zone. Prices rose 0.2 percent on the month.

The data from Europe's largest economy will cement expectations for the ECB, barring any shocks, to stop raising interest rates following an unprecedented 10 straight hikes. That doesn't mean a cut is imminent. Officials say they'll keep borrowing costs at restrictive levels for a prolonged period to get price gains back to the target.

German bonds pared declines and the euro trimmed gains after the release, as markets increasingly come around to that higher-for-longer narrative. The yield on 10-year government debt is hovering just below 3 percent—the highest since 2011. The euro is flirt-

ing with its weakest level against the dollar this year, near \$1.05.

Money markets are wagering on two quarter-point rate reductions by end-2024, compared with as many as three just two weeks ago.

Inflation not only remains elevated but is accelerating in some countries. Earlier Thursday, Spain reported a jump to 3.2 percent this month on electricity and fuel costs. Citing the advance in oil that's brought prices near \$100 a barrel, its central bank sees a further acceleration to 4.3 percent in 2024. In Ireland, price growth quickened to 5 percent from 4.9 percent.

Commodities are among upside risks to the ECB's prediction that euro-area inflation will return to 2 percent in the second half of 2025. A separate report from the European Commission showed consumer-inflation expectations at their highest since May.

"German HICP inflation plunged in September as base effects and statistical distortions that had pushed the measure up through the summer started to unwind. This helped reveal a picture of declining underlying pressures. We expect this trend to persist in the coming months, offering policymakers at the ECB some reassurance over the medium-term inflation outlook," said Maeva Cousin, senior euro-area economist.

Kilimanjaro also to be covered by school pilot milk feeding program

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

The Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) is set to embark on a pilot project for the implementation of the School Milk Programme (SMP) in the country.

Giving an exclusive interview to this publication, TDB Registrar Dr George Msalya said the project has been designed to take off this November in Kilimanjaro Region.

"We have so far entered into agreement with the Kilimanjaro-based Galax Food and Beverages Ltd to design and produce the small-sized processed yogurt milk sachets that will be marketed to the pupils at the patriotic prices of around 500/-," he briefed.

He said as per the plan, the envisaged pilot project will be executed in some of the schools to be selected in the region mapped in the north-eastern part of the country.

According to him, implementation of the pilot project will serve as a key podium to acquire pre-experience on how professional to run the eagerly-awaited school milk program, the initiative which will cover the whole country.

The school milk program (SMP) is expecting to cover the whole country starting with the schools in the areas where milk is available and the presence of dairy processing.

Expecting to gobble up to 15bn/- in order to run for at least five years, the healthful program targets to benefit students within a total of 500 schools across the country, and for both purposes, improving their (students) health and cognitive levels.

"The plan is to start with at least 100 schools in the period of 2023/2024 while other 100 schools will be added every year for the five consecutive years of the implementation and schools covered is expected to increase from 125 to 625 schools by 2027, with the targeted beneficiaries students are those aged between 4 to 19 years," the TDB chief boss, Dr Msalya detailed.

Under the timely program, the milk products to be distributed to the students will be the processed milk, either

pasteurized, UHT, cultured milk or yogurt depending on the availability and infrastructure of the area, and the quantity of milk supplied can be of 150mls to 200mls produced, whereby parents are sensitized about the benefits of the program and are encouraged to contribute money for the purchase of milk for their children to take during the break time.

To ensure the vital initiative see the light of the day, TDB in cooperation with the ministry of livestock and fisheries, diverse institutions from the private and public sector, and international organizations in the milk value chain have jointly bridged efforts and compiled the special Action Plan for Implementation of School Milk Program in Tanzania (2023-2028).

Among others, the main focus behind drafting of the Action Plan was to further enhance the implementation of a sustainable school milk program in Tanzania.

"Numerous records prove that in Tanzania school milk feeding programs started way back in early 2000s, nah has involved different models (ways of implementation), and has reached a peak of 125 schools and 99,000 children in the recent past. But despite the efforts, the vital program been limited in terms of coverage, access of dairy products to school children, involvement of stakeholders," according to Dr. Msalya.

Among the stakeholders that involved in the development of the Action Plan for Implementation of School Milk Program in Tanzania (2023-2028) include the President Office, (Regional Authority and Local Government), Prime Minister's office, ministry of education, ministry of health, Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).

Others are Tanzania Milk Processors and their association (TAMPA), Tanga Fresh Limited, ASA Dairies Limited, Shambani Milk, Profate Dairy, Nronga Women Dairy, Land O'Lakes Venture 37, Heifer International (Heifer Tanzania), Solidaridad, Nutrition Connect, TETRA Pack and SNV to mention but a few.



Dr Phillip Mpango

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango has said there is a need for Africa to increase transparency and involve citizens in efforts to fight against climate change.

The VP made the remark in a speech read on his behalf by the deputy finance minister Hamad Chande during the opening of the international conference on transparency and accountability held in Arusha.

He said the climate change has

created huge impact to the community and there is a need for increased transparency on public spending on mitigating the impact of climate change.

The meeting among other things aimed at sensitizing transparency and accountability on funds allocated for climate change mitigation.

The VP also said a lot of funds have been allocated to implement various social projects, which requires inclusive transparency among government of-

VP calls for transparency on climate change funds

ficials, institutions and the citizens.

He reminded that during the meeting among head of governments on climate change held in Nairobi early this month, the communiqué issued identified climate change as an obstacle for achieving prosperity and a threat to the global security.

"African countries have been facing major effects of climate change which resulted into unpredictable rains, floods, diseases outbreaks and forest fires, which have created negative impact on the economy, health, education, peace and security," he said.

"In this world we are living, conflicts caused poor supervision of public natural resources and bad governance. These conflicts are caused by injustices in exploitation of natural resources, which shake peace and security of economies."

The VP said Tanzania in collaboration with different stakeholders continue to implement different strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change, so it was important for the better use of funds allocated for implementing the strategies.

"Apart from having at least 60 percent of sources of alternative energy, only US\$60 million out of US\$3 trillion are invested are invested on renewable energy," he said.

Dr Mpango also congratulated WAJIBU for organizing the meeting in collaboration with his office; saying was an important platform for increasing community participation in promoting transparency and accountability.

"Transitioning to a low carbon economy will require significant investment to transform energy systems, alter the already built

environment and adopt appropriate infrastructure for a better emission energy source," he said.

In Tanzania, the government in collaboration with stakeholders came up with a National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (2022-2032) which serves as a strategic intervention tool for environmental management.

The strategy indicates the climate change effects on a range of ecosystems that have resulted in an economic loss of at least 5 percent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Earlier, the WAJIBU board chairman Yona Killagane said there is a need for increased transparency and accountability on public spending on climate change mitigation funds.

The WAJIBU director general Ludovick Utouh thanked diplomatic community, specifically from Norway, Switzerland and Sweden for financing the meeting.

Swedish ambassador to Tanzania Didier Chassot advised that the climate change agenda should be the main criteria for holding public office during elections starting from local government to presidential posts.

"The preparation of the Tanzania's national development vision 2025 should consider the issue of climate change in order to protect citizens from its impacts," he said.

Norwegian ambassador to Tanzania Tone Tinnes said there is a need for increased public awareness from the grassroots levels to enable people to become aware of the climate change issues.



Twiga partnership shows transformative impact of mining sector, says Barrick Gold



Barrick Gold president and chief executive Mark Bristow

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

Barrick Gold Corporation and the Tanzanian government are demonstrating how mining can be an enormous force for good when miners and their host governments work together to create sustainable value for all stakeholders, says president and chief executive Mark Bristow.

Speaking to media here yesterday, Bristow said Barrick's pioneering Twiga partnership with the government, which equally shares the economic benefits generated by the North Mara and Bulyanhulu mines, should be a model

for successful cooperation, notably in developing countries. Not only is Barrick now the largest contributor to the Tanzanian economy through taxes, salaries, dividends, payments to local suppliers, and investment in community projects, but it is also proving the country's investability to other international mining companies.

Since taking over the two moribund mines in 2019, Barrick has transformed them into a world-class gold mining complex making a substantial contribution to the company's bottom line. In that time, it has contributed more than \$3 billion to the Tanzanian economy, with Twiga this year recognized as the

largest dividend payer of all the companies in which the government has an interest.

The mines spent 84 percent of their procurement budgets with local companies, and Tanzanian citizens account for 96 percent of their workforce.

In the same spirit of partnership, Barrick has committed \$40 million to a roadbuilding program and a further \$30 million to the improvement of the country's education facilities.

Both mines are well on track to achieve their production guidance for 2023 as well as to replace reserves depleted by mining. In the meantime, exploration across Barrick's licence areas

has highlighted new development opportunities across these areas, including a potential new underground mine at North Mara.

"Our Twiga partnership is not only adding value to the Tanzanian economy but to the quality of the lives of the communities around its mines as they continue to grow. Our continued engagement with these communities and their village leaders, local NGOs and human rights organizations demonstrates Barrick's partnership philosophy and our commitment to upholding human rights standards in the regions in which we operate," Bristow said.

Food prices rise globally as countries limit exports

NEW YORK

How do you cook a meal when a staple ingredient is unaffordable? This question is playing out in households around the world as they face shortages of essential foods like rice, cooking oil and onions.

That is because countries have imposed restrictions on the food they export to protect their own supplies from the combined effect of the war in Ukraine, El Nino's threat to food production and increasing damage from climate change.

For Caroline Kyallo, a 28-year-old who works in a salon in Kenya's capital of Nairobi, it was a question of trying to figure out how to cook for her two children without onions. Restrictions on the export of the vegetable by neighbouring Tanzania has led prices to triple.

Kyallo initially tried to use spring onions instead, but those also got too expensive. As did the prices of other necessities, like cooking oil and corn flour. "I just decided to be cooking once a day," she said.

Despite the East African country's fertile lands and large workforce, the high cost of growing and transporting produce and the worst drought in decades led to a drop in local production. Plus, people preferred red onions from Tanzania because they were cheaper and lasted longer. By 2014, Kenya was getting half of its onions from its neighbour, according to a U.N. Food Agriculture Organization report.

At Nairobi's major food market, Wakulima, the prices for onions from Tanzania were the highest in seven years, seller Timothy Kinyua said.

Some traders have adjusted by getting produce from Ethiopia, and others have switched to selling other vegetables, but Kinyua is sticking to onions.

"It's something we can't cook with-

out," he said.

Tanzania's onion limits this year are part of the "contagion" of food restrictions from countries spooked by supply shortages and increased demand for their produce, said Joseph Glauber, senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Globally, 41 food export restrictions from 19 countries are in effect, ranging from outright bans to taxes, according to the institute.

India banned shipments of some rice earlier this year, resulting in a shortfall of roughly a fifth of global exports. Neighbouring Myanmar, the world's fifth-biggest rice supplier, responded by stopping some exports of the grain.

India also restricted shipments of onions after erratic rainfall - fuelled by climate change - damaged crops. This sent prices in neighbouring Bangladesh soaring, and authorities are scrambling to find new sources for the vegetable.

Elsewhere, a drought in Spain took its toll on olive oil production. As European buyers turned to Turkey, olive oil prices soared in the Mediterranean country, prompting authorities there to restrict exports. Morocco, also coping with a drought ahead of its recent deadly earthquake, stopped exporting onions, potatoes and tomatoes in February.

This isn't the first time food prices have been in a tumult. Prices for staples like rice and wheat more than doubled in 2007-2008, but the world had ample food stocks it could draw on and was able to replenish those in subsequent years.

But that cushion has shrunk in the past two years, and climate change means food supplies could very quickly run short of demand and spike prices, said Glauber, former chief economist at the US Department of Agriculture.



Kenyan tea farmer

Tea farmers set for record Sh44 billion bonus

NAIROBI

Smallholder tea farmers are set for a record Sh44.15 billion final payout from next week for their supplies for the financial year ended June 30.

The Kenya Tea Development Agency (Holdings) Limited (KTDA) is expected to release the amount popularly known as a bonus to an estimated 600,000 farmers affiliated with its 54 factories over the next two weeks beginning on Monday. This will bonus will be paid alongside payments for green leaf supplied this month.

The bonus payout is expected to lift farmers' total earnings for the year by 7.6 percent to an all-time high of Sh67.7 billion from Sh62.89 billion at the same time last year.

The growth in earnings to farmers is largely attributable to improved tea prices in the international market where the average tea selling price was recorded at Sh341 per kilogramme(kg) in the period from Sh311 previously.

Tea farmers are expected to earn an average of Sh59.02 for every kilo of green leaf sold from Sh50.18 last year - marking a 17.6 percent increase in the average total earnings per kilo.

"This year's total payout to smallholder farmers is attributed to increased sales volume, prudent cost management, and a favourable foreign exchange regime. Further, increased sales of orthodox tea this year have contributed to higher earnings for farmers with 10 million kilogrammes of orthodox tea having been sold this year from 11 factories that are processing the tea up from three million kilograms last year," KTDA Holdings Limited Group Head of Corporate Affairs Ndiga Kithae told the Business Daily.

Nevertheless, the improved earnings for the sector have been achieved against a nine percent decline in green leaf production.

Green leaf production in the year ended June for instance eased to 1.145 billion kilogrammes from 1.254 billion kilogrammes in 2022, marking the lowest output for the sector since 2019.

Lower tea production is partly attributable to drought conditions and depressed rainfall which dominated farm output resulting in the contraction of the agriculture sector last year by 1.6 percent.

Agricultural production was affected by the drought conditions in 2022 with tea production for instance falling to 535,000 tonnes from 537,800 tonnes in 2021 according to data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Production was hardest hit in the Kiambu region which features factories in Kambaa, Kagwe, Gacharage, and Ndui as output declined by 15.2 percent.

Equally output in the Kericho and Bomet region contracted by 14.3 percent while production in the Kisii and Nyamira region fell by 8.5 percent.

Farmers in the Kericho/Bomet region will pocket the bulk of the green leaf payout or Sh16.1 billion after supplying 305.4 million kilograms of tea in the cycle.

Small-holder farmers served by factories in Kapkoros, Tirgaga, Olenguruone, and Motigo will split some Sh4.9 billion from the total payout marking the highest payment by sub-region.

Growers in the Kiambu region have meanwhile earned a total of Sh12.8 billion to rank in second place ahead of Kirinyaga-Embu (Sh10.4 billion), Meru (Sh9.6 billion), Muranga-Nyeri (Sh8.9 billion), Kisii-Nyamira (Sh7.5 billion) and Vihiga-Kakamega-Nandi (Sh2 billion).

The improved pricing of green leaf is in the backdrop of ongoing reforms in the sector which for instance saw the introduction of a minimum tea price/ reserve price at the Mombasa auction in July 2021.

"The reserve price at the auction has provided a cushion for farmers by ensuring their teas are not sold below a certain price point. This, in turn, has translated to higher earnings per kilo of sold tea compared to the period when a similar arrangement did not exist," added Mr. Kithae.

Equally, tea earnings have been favoured by a weaker shilling, whereas the green leaf, sold in the international market in dollars has fetched more in local currency terms.

Nigeria oil workers to start national strike on Tuesday



LAGOS

Oil workers in Nigeria will join an indefinite nationwide strike from Tuesday to protest against the rising cost of living, threatening to disrupt output in Africa's No. 1 oil producer.

The Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers said it has directed its members to cease all operations from October 3 in solidarity with the indefinite strike called by the country's two biggest unions - the Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress of Nigeria.

The strike has been triggered by anger against soaring prices of fuel and food in Africa's biggest economy and most populous country after the removal

of a fuel subsidy by President Bola Tinubu after his inauguration in late May.

Tinubu also lifted foreign exchange controls causing the naira to depreciate sharply against the dollar. Both actions have sent inflation to an 18-year high, reduced fuel consumption.

Oil remains Nigeria's biggest foreign exchange earner, but large scale oil theft has over the years cost the country billions of dollars. Oil output in Nigeria stood at 1.18m bpd in August 2023, according to OPEC.

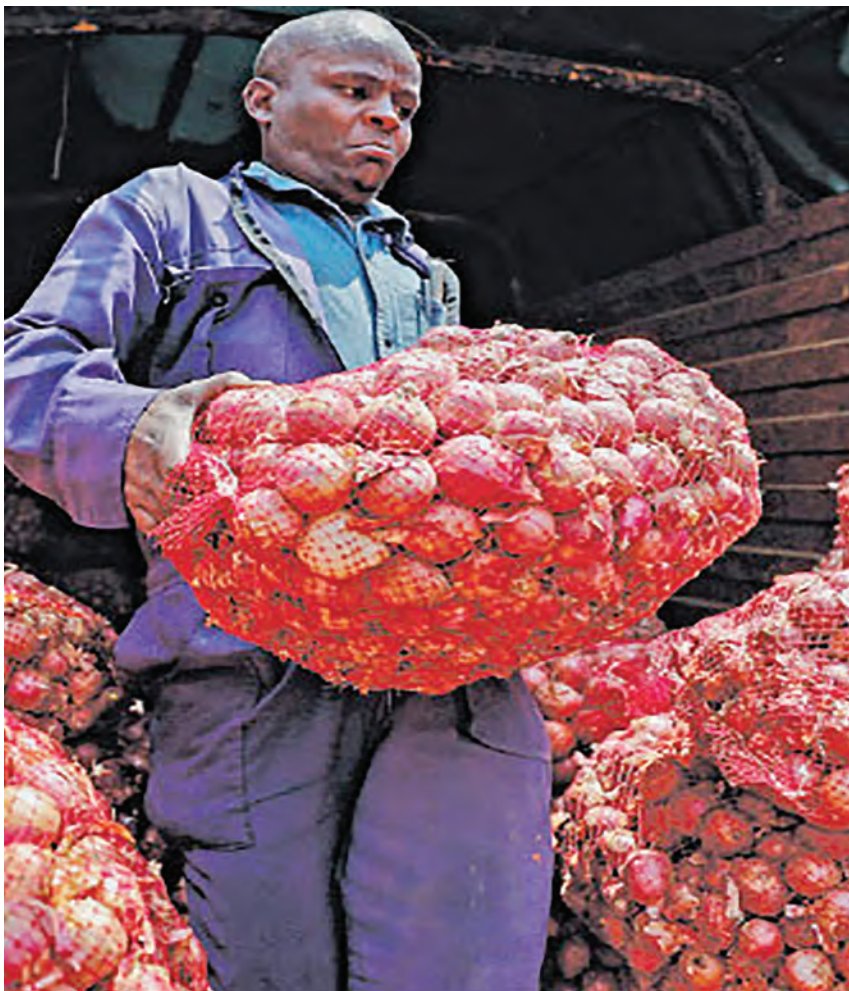
Leaders of the oil workers union said in a statement that the government's "gross insensitivity" to the plight of workers was unacceptable and called on its members to join the nationwide industrial action.

They described Tinubu's reforms as "very harsh and sudden economic policies."

The leaders said they were aware of the huge impact a 24-hour industrial action can have on businesses, but the government's actions had forced them "to take this very hard and painful route of last resort" to demand changes.

Tinubu has said the government could no longer afford the fuel subsidy. The government spent \$10 billion on the subsidies in 2022, resulting in growing budget deficits and rising public debt.

The president has also said floating the naira would allow investment to flow freely in and out of the country.



Asian stocks end grim Q3 on brighter note

SINGAPORE

Asian shares had their best day in weeks on Friday but were still on track for their worst quarterly performance in a year as worries over elevated interest rates dragged on sentiment, while the dollar wobbled and oil prices held their ground.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gained 1 percent, and were set for their biggest one-day percentage rise in four weeks.

The index though remained close to the 10-month low it touched on Thursday and was set for a 4 percent drop in the July-September period, its worst quarterly performance since a 13.6 percent drop in the same period last year.

Futures indicated that the relief rally might continue in Europe, with the Eurostoxx 50 futures up 0.07 percent, German DAX futures up 0.19 percent and FTSE futures up 0.12 percent.

Investors are watching out for the U.S. personal consumption expenditures price index due later on Friday, but before that euro zone inflation data will take the centre stage.

Economists polled by Reuters expect the inflation rate across the 20 countries that use the euro to fall to 4.5 percent in September from 5.2 percent in August.

Data on Thursday showed German inflation fell in September to its lowest level since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The recent rise in Treasury yields to 16-year highs has cast a shadow over the stock market, with the Federal Reserve's hawkish tilt last week also weighing on risk sentiment.

Data showed the US economy maintained a fairly solid pace of growth in the second quarter and activity appears to have accelerated this quarter, but a looming government shutdown and an ongoing strike by auto workers are dimming



the outlook for the rest of 2023.

"During the most recent Fed press conference, (Fed Chair Jerome) Powell mentioned that while the Fed doesn't target levels of real GDP, it evaluates whether it poses a risk to achieving the 2 percent inflation target," said Ryan Brandham, head of global capital markets, North America at Validus Risk Management.

"From this perspective, the current GDP figure is not seen as a significant threat and may provide some comfort in an otherwise concerning inflationary environment."

In rest of Asia, Japan's Nikkei was 0.34 percent lower, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index rose 0.56 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index surged 2.7 percent. The Chinese markets were closed for a holiday and are on a break next week.

Investor focus is zeroed in on the Chinese property sector after China Evergrande Group said its founder is being investigated over suspected "illegal crimes".

In Asian hours, the yield on 10-year Treasury notes eased 0.5 basis points to 4.592 percent, inching

away from the fresh 16 year peak of 4.688 percent it touched on Thursday.

In foreign exchange market, the dollar index eased 0.15 percent to 106 but hovered near the 10 month high of 106.84 it touched earlier this week. The index is up 2.4 percent this month and set for second straight month of gains.

The Japanese yen was at 149.35 per dollar, perilously close to the 150 level which is viewed as potentially spurring intervention from Japanese authorities.

Core inflation in Japan's capital slowed in September for the third straight month mainly on falling fuel costs, data showed on Friday, suggest-

ing that cost-push pressures are starting to peak, in a relief for the fragile economic recovery.

Oil prices regained grounds on Friday after a brief pause in rally as traders weighed expectations of supply increases by Russia and Saudi Arabia versus forecasts of positive demand from China during its Golden Week holiday.

US crude fell 0.02 percent to \$91.69 per barrel and Brent was at \$95.05, down 0.35 percent on the day.

Gold prices were braced for their biggest monthly fall since February, hovering around six-month lows. Spot gold was little changed at \$1,864.75 an ounce.

Eurozone inflation hits a two-year low

LONDON

Eurozone inflation has fallen to its lowest level for almost two years, bolstering hopes that the biggest surge in consumer prices for a generation is fading fast and paving the way for the European Central Bank to halt interest rate rises.

European government bonds rallied after the better than expected figures for eurozone and French inflation were published, while equity markets strengthened.

Consumer prices in the single currency bloc rose 4.3 per cent in the year to September, down from 5.2 per cent in August, according to Eurostat, the EU statistics arm. Economists polled by Reuters had expected a rise of 4.5 per cent.

The last time inflation was lower was in October 2021.

Core inflation, which excludes energy and food and is closely watched by the ECB as a gauge of underlying price pressures, also fell more than expected to 4.5 per cent, down from 5.3 per cent in August.

Economists said there were clear signs of underlying price pressures cooling. "The sequential easing looks broad-based, beyond base effects," Frederik Ducrozet, of Pictet Wealth Management, wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

The sharp slowdown in inflation added

to investors' hopes that the ECB will end its unprecedented string of 10 consecutive interest rate increases when its governing council meets in Athens on October 26.

The central bank has raised its benchmark deposit rate from an all-time low of minus 0.5 per cent to a record high of 4 per cent, lifting borrowing costs for households, businesses and governments in an attempt to constrain activity and cool price pressures.

"This reinforces our view that the ECB has finished raising interest rates," said Jack Allen-Reynolds, an economist at research group Capital Economics. "Nevertheless, we continue to think that the bank won't start cutting rates until late 2024."

Inflation in the eurozone has fallen from a peak of 10.6 per cent last year. Price pressures in the bloc have receded more slowly than in the US, which reported inflation of 3.7 per cent in August, but faster than in the UK, where inflation was 6.7 per cent last month.

Following turmoil in European bond markets on Thursday, Italian 10-year government bond yields fell 0.17 percentage points to 4.75 per cent on Friday, down from their highest level in a decade.

German 10-year bond yields slipped 0.14 percentage points to 2.83 per cent, having also hit a 10-year high during the previous trading session.

UK economy grows faster than estimated since Covid

LONDON

The UK's economy has grown faster since the start of the Covid pandemic than initially thought, new figures show.

Revised data indicates that the UK has seen faster growth than France or Germany since the end of 2019.

The growth figures had been expected to be upgraded, after the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published new estimates earlier this month of how the economy had performed since Covid.

However, analysts said the UK was still suffering from lacklustre growth.

The latest figures from the ONS indicated that the UK's economy has grown by 1.8% since the pandemic started, whereas the previous estimate was a 0.2% contraction.

They also showed that the economy grew by 0.3% in the first three months of this year, up from the 0.1% previously estimated.

The estimate for the April-to-June quarter was unchanged at 0.2%.

Following the latest set of revisions, ONS chief economist Grant Fitzner said the UK's growth rate was "almost unrevised over the last 18 months".

The size of an economy is measured by Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, which tries to cover all the activity of companies, governments and individuals in a country.

The ONS revises GDP figures over time as it receives more information about how the economy performed.

Earlier this month, the ONS had said that "richer data" from its annual survey meant that it now estimated the UK economy was larger than previously estimated in the final three months of 2021

compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The latest set of figures, means the UK's growth since the pandemic exceeds that of 1.7% in France and 0.2% in Germany.

Responding to the new data, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt said: "We know that the British economy recovered faster from the pandemic than anyone previously thought and data out today once again proves the doubters wrong."

"We were among the fastest countries in the G7 to recover from the pandemic and since 2020 we have grown faster than France and Germany."

However, Ruth Gregory, deputy chief UK economist at Capital Economics, said the latest ONS release "changes very little".

"The data leaves the economy still only 0.6% above its level a year ago," she said.

"It does not change the big picture that the economy has lagged behind all other G7 countries aside from Germany and France since the pandemic. And that's before the full drag from higher interest rates has been felt."

Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, noted that when it came to international comparisons, "a stable picture might take some time to emerge, given that statistical authorities in other countries are revising their data too".

The most recent GDP figures showed that the economy shrank by 0.5% in July, due to a combination of strike action and the impact of wet weather, and there have been concerns over the economy's weak performance in recent months.

However, Mr Tombs said he thought that the UK would avoid a recession in the second half of this year, helped by the recent slowdown in the rate of consumer price rises.

UZALO

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 8 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
SUNDAY 9 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
MONDAY 10 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
TUESDAY 11 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
WEDNESDAY 12 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
THURSDAY 13 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
FRIDAY 14 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 KumeKucha	6:40 HABARI	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
SATURDAY 15 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
SUNDAY 16 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
MONDAY 17 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
TUESDAY 18 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
WEDNESDAY 19 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
THURSDAY 20 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
FRIDAY 21 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
SATURDAY 22 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Shamsam za Pwani	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjye Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	15:45 Mjye Zaidi rpt	16:10 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Jiji Letu	16:45 Maphisi rpt	16:50 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	17:00 Jungu Kuu	17:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini w		

WORLD

Trudeau's allegations against India 'childish', says diaspora

OTTAWA

THE Indian diaspora in Canada has criticized Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations against India, terming them as "childish" and have asked for concrete evidence to back the same.

Trudeau recently made allegations about the Indian government's involvement in the fatal shooting of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil.

"Trudeau's allegations are childish. All his talks are in the air. There are only one to two per cent extremists here in Canada, the rest of the Sikhs do not go with them. They have

their own views," an Indian diaspora member in Canada, Amandeep Singh Chabba, said.

Canada has yet to provide any public evidence to support the claim about the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Amandeep said: "The Canadian PM should have given concrete evidence for his allegations. This has resulted in divide and polarization in India-Canada relations. Trudeau's actions make me want to cry."

Amandeep further said that even big issues can be solved at the table and through diplomacy. "I want to request both nations to come at the table, talk and solve the issue," he said.

Another diaspora member, Dr Raj Jaggal, said the Canadian government is creating a divide between the Hindus and Sikhs in Canada. "This is very wrong. Trudeau should either resign or he should resolve the matter because there is no difference between Hindus and Sikhs. The government is creating this divide to get votes," he said.

Indo-Canadian Manjeet Bir said: "We pray to the government to maintain peace between both nations so that people remain happy. The Indian diaspora in Canada is worried, are praying day and night for things to get better."

ANI

UN Deputy Secretary-General calls for putting pressure on Taliban to ensure women's, girls' rights in Afghanistan

KABUL

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed has called for putting pressure on the Taliban to ensure women's and girls' rights to education and work in Afghanistan, TOLO News reported.

TOLO News is an Afghan news channel broadcasting from Kabul, Afghanistan.

Mohammed while speaking at a press conference, said that the situation of women and girls is getting worse day by day in Afghanistan.

The UN Deputy Secretary-General said: "There is a Women in Islam conference that is coming up that will be taking on some of these issues, you will know that the OIC had sent a mission recently to Afghanistan so we think the neighbourhood's important as well (to) create that pressure and that momentum, they're part of the international community and they've got to put pressure to make sure that women's rights are back where they should be in Afghanistan."

As per some women's rights activists, the Taliban should provide the rights of employment and education to women and girls, in order to attract the trust of the world.

A women's rights activist, Tafsir Seyaposh, said: "The Taliban must first establish credibility at the national level if it hopes to earn credibility at the international level. How long would they continue to disregard women and how far they would go to violate their rights."

"It is the responsibility of the world and the current authorities of Afghanistan to pay serious attention to the alarming situation that Afghan women have and the situation that has isolated Afghanistan," said Suraya Paikan, another women's rights activist, according to TOLO News.

The Taliban has not yet commented on the remarks of UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. It previously denied the violation of women's and girls' rights saying that their rights are ensured in Afghanistan in accordance with the Islamic principles.

Meanwhile, as many as 11 countries have put pressure on the Taliban for violating women's rights in Afghanistan during the United Nations (UN) meeting, reported Khaama Press.

Countries including the United States, France, Britain, Japan, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Ecuador, Albania, and Malta, referred to the treatment of Afghan women and girls by the Taliban as "gender-based violence", according to a joint statement. ANI

AUKUS slammed as 'a mistake'

SYDNEY

ANALYSTS have high regard for recent description of Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe that the security pact linking Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States AUKUS is a "mistake".

The president spoke on the issue on Sept 18 during an event in New York hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Dr Lloyd Cox, a senior lecturer at the Macquarie School of Social Sciences, Macquarie University in Sydney, agreed with Wickremesinghe's assessment of AUKUS.

"Yes, I absolutely agree that AUKUS was and is a mistake," he told the China Daily.

Wickremesinghe also used the occasion to take a swipe at the so-called "Indo-Pacific" – a term widely used by US-led Western world and Japan officials – by referring to it as "an artificial framework". The term is often used when talking about the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, better known as the Quad, a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the US.

Of AUKUS, Wickremesinghe said: "It is a military alliance moved against one country – China."

"I think it's a strategic misstep. I think they made a mistake," he added, describing the alliance as unnecessary. The AUKUS security pact was set up in September 2021. At the time, it was described by its three members as a security partnership involving information and technology sharing on nuclear-powered submarines, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and additional undersea capabilities.

But central to the pact is Australia establishing a nuclear-powered submarine fleet of up to eight boats to replace its ageing Collins Class diesel submarines.

The controversial decision by Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines has placed a question mark over the country's position as



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (second right), US President Joe Biden (second left) and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (first left) meet at Point Loma naval base in San Diego, California, on March 13, 2023, as part of AUKUS, a trilateral security pact between Australia, the UK and the US. (PHOTO / AP)

a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and has deeply divided the nation.

Dr Lloyd Cox who absolutely agreed that "AUKUS was and is a mistake", explained: "If we set to one side the enormous financial burden of the project – A\$368 billion (\$235 billion) plus an additional A\$50 billion for contingencies – there are four other principal reasons why AUKUS is a mistake and should be scrapped.

"First, the deal will so closely align Australia's defence and foreign policy with those of the United States that the country's 'sovereignty' will be largely effaced. "Our military will be further integrated into the command-and-control structures of the US military, we will be totally dependent on the latter for technical expertise."

"Second, no one has convincingly shown that there exists a problem for which Australian nuclear-powered submarines are a solution."

He said: "The alleged threat that China poses for Australia is hugely overblown, and the deal cannot help but to irritate Australia's relationship with its largest trading partner and source of much of its prosperity."

Cox cited the great uncertainty around the US' long-term position in Asia as the third reason.

"If the US reduced its commitment to the region, Australia's supposed security guarantee from a 'great and powerful friend' would evaporate.

"And this is related to the final point – the dysfunction of US politics.

"To bet all of one's geo-political chips on a country marked by entrenched political polarization and the radicalization of one of its main political parties is to take a huge risk. The adherents of AUKUS largely ignore such risks," Cox said.

Alison Broinowski, an academic and a former diplomat, said names like Indo-Pacific "are artificial and inconsistent, being made by people, including 'Asia-Pacific'." She told China Daily that "Sri Lanka probably objects to 'Indo' because that doesn't appear to include them and may suggest Tamils as well.

"But 'Indo-Pacific' reflects two oceans, not specific countries. The president is no doubt aware that the term originated in recent years in response to the US interest in building a constituency of supportive countries to contain China's growing influence.

"India is a key member of the Quad, as well as of the BRICS. So 'Indo-Pacific' became the term used by the US and its allies."

As for Wickremesinghe's view on AUKUS, Broinowski, who is also former president of Australians for War Powers Reform, said, "It's worse than a mistake because it is a deliberate decision by the US, UK, and Australia to create a 'defensive' fortress in Australia with an array of weapons aimed at China. This is provocative, it makes Australia a target."

Agencies

India to be world's third-largest economy by 2027 - Amit Shah

NEW DELHI

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday expressed confidence that India will be the world's third-largest economy by 2027.

Addressing the 118th Annual Session of the PHDCCI at Vigyan Bhawan here, the Home Minister urged the industry to make more investments in research and development to make MSMEs world-class.

He recalled the success of the G20 Summit, Chandrayaan-3, and Mission Aditya L-1 mission at the beginning of his speech and also referred to the passing of the women's reservation bill.

"All these events have filled the country with new energy," the Home Minister said.

He said the country has completed 75 years journey after Independence and has several achievements to its credit.

Shah said the roots of democracy have deepened in the country.

He said India was at 11th position in 2014 in terms of the size of its economy. "Now, we are the fifth-largest econo-

my of the world and I have firm belief that we are going to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027," Shah said.

Referring to the efforts of Modi government in strengthening the economy, the minister said India's GDP is over 3.75 trillion USD, Rs 10 lakh crore capital expenditure has been marked for boosting expenditure and bad debt tax recovery is increasing.

Shah said there was a GST collection of Rs 1.87 lakh crore in April and the average collection for 2023-24 has been Rs 1.69 lakh crore.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words, "Yahi Samay Hai, Sahi Samay Hai", Shah called upon the industries to increase their size and scale and asked PHDCCI to play a major role in the process.

The Home Minister said more thrust on research and development will enable the industries to become world class.

Shah also expressed confidence that India would soon become an education destination in the world. ANI

At least 52 dead, more than 50 injured in Pakistan suicide blast

QUETTA

A suicide bombing in Pakistan killed at least 52 people and injured more than 50 yesterday at a religious gathering to mark the birthday of Prophet Mohammed in a restive province bordering Afghanistan, health officials and police said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blast which comes amid a surge in attacks by militant groups in western Pakistan, raising the stakes for security forces ahead of national elections scheduled for January next year.

"The bomber detonated himself near the vehicle of the Deputy Superintendent of Police," Deputy Inspector General of Police Munir Ahmed told Reuters.

The blast ripped through near a mosque in Balochistan province where people were gathered for a

procession to mark Mohammed's birthday, which is a public holiday, Ahmed added.

At least 58 people were wounded, said Abdul Rasheed, a district health official, adding that the toll could rise as many people were in a serious condition.

Pakistan has seen a resurgence of attacks by Islamist militants since last year when a ceasefire broke down between the government and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella organization of various hardline Sunni Islamist groups.

The TTP denied it had carried out yesterday's attack.

Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti called the attack a "very heinous act".

In July, more than 40 people were killed in a suicide bombing in north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province at a religious political party's gathering.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blast which comes amid a surge in attacks by militant groups in western Pakistan, raising the stakes for security forces ahead of national elections scheduled for January next year

Ningbo advances rural vitalisation with 'courtyard makeover'

IN villages of Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang province, it's common to see exquisite and beautiful courtyard houses standing alongside small bridges and flowing creeks. With fields blanketed by golden ripening rice and wheat, it presents a gorgeous scene reminiscent of a quintessential canal town in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River.

In recent years, Ningbo has been working to promote the building of livable towns and beautiful countryside. It focuses on protecting and developing tra-

ditional villages as well as treating rural domestic sewage. By building "beautiful courtyards," Ningbo aims at closer integration between the culture and tourism sectors.

In Qinshan village, Jiulonghu township, Zhenhai district of Ningbo, every household grows flowers, making beautiful scenery a sight at every doorstep. The beautiful courtyards in the village are the fruit of the joint efforts made by Qin Lei, a master Chinese floral artist, and local villagers. In 2018, Qin returned

to his hometown and became an art consultant for local rural revitalization. He established a floral art workshop in the village to help villagers obtain skills and increase income.

"At first, the villagers thought learning flower arrangement was useless. So we invited villagers who enjoyed flowers to join us first. Their courtyards became beautiful, which inspired their neighbors to follow suit. Thus, the enthusiasm of the villagers was greatly increased," said Qin. The flower arrangement busi-

ness not only increased income for villagers, but also attracted large numbers of tourists to come and enjoy the scenery.

Many villagers transformed their houses into B&B hotels. In addition to lodging in the beautifully renovated courtyards, tourists can visit various attractions around the village such as a wetland park and a cultural museum depicting local history. On top of that, new forms of cultural tourism and leisure businesses like campgrounds and floral art workshops are also starting to

thrive. Today, B&B hotel rooms in the village are often fully booked on holidays, and the village has genuinely attained shared wealth and beauty.

Introducing artistic approaches, encouraging villagers' participation, and stimulating the endogenous motivation for rural revitalization are important all in one place.

In April this year, a team led by Professor Cong Zhiqiang from Renmin University of China was invited to Nanxi village in Shenzhen township, Ninghai county,

where it worked with "Sister Nanxi," a group of women who are good at decorating courtyards, to artistically revitalize a rural house that had been abandoned for nearly 20 years. Finally, they successfully created a beautiful courtyard called Nanxinan Courtyard that integrates leisure, dining, and entertainment all in one place.

"We originally just intended to plant some flowers to improve the overall environment of the village. I didn't expect that after the artistic transformation by Cong's

team, and with the donations of old items from villagers, the small courtyard has become more and more beautiful, and has attracted many tourists," said a member of "Sister Nanxi," whose real name is Liao Zhongfang.

The Nanxinan Courtyard made Nanxi village a hot destination among tourists, so the "Sister Nanxi" started providing catering services in the courtyard, launching a series of signature dishes to make the courtyard even more popular.

People's Daily



JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Supreme Court heard on Thursday arguments challenging a controversial law that makes it harder to remove an incumbent prime minister.

An eleven-judge panel of the court's 15 judges convened for the discussion, which was chaired by Chief Justice Esther Hayut.

They discussed appeals against a law known as the "incapacitation law" that was passed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's

coalition in March.

The new law limits the conditions for declaring an Israeli prime minister unfit for office, which reduces the possibility of removing Netanyahu for conflict of interest over his ongoing corruption trial.

During the court discussion, several judges said that the law seems to be intended for the personal benefit of Netanyahu amid a graft trial.

Hayut suggested that to avoid the appearance

of a law personally tailored for Netanyahu, the applicability of the law should be postponed until after the next elections.

The hearing was the latest in several legal challenges against the contentious judicial reform which has been promoted by the most right-wing government in Israel's history and has sparked months of mass protests across the country.

Xinhua

China-Africa scientific cooperation gaining traction in pursuit of shared prosperity

NAIROBI

COOPERATION between China and Africa in the fields of science, technology and innovation has gained momentum as both sides seek to chart a green, inclusive and resilient development pathway, said experts who attended a symposium that wrapped up Wednesday in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

Kenya hosted the three-day China-Africa Science and Technology Cooperation and Innovation for Social and Economic Benefits Symposium, which saw the participation of nearly 100 attendees, including policymakers and scientists.

The symposium was organized by the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and the Chinese mission to the African Union.

One of the key highlights of the symposium was the adoption of an ambitious blueprint to enhance China-Africa scientific collaboration in strategic areas such as food systems transformation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable water resources management.

Mithika Linturi, Kenya's cabinet secretary for agriculture and livestock development, noted during the symposium's opening that African countries can benefit from sustained growth, food security, and green recovery by cooperating with China in the fields of science, research and innovation.



Wang Qingfeng (L), director of the Wuhan Botanical Garden of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mary Gikungu (C), the director-general of the National Museums of Kenya, and Geoffrey Mwachala, the chief scientist at the National Museums of Kenya and editor-in-chief of the Flora of Kenya publication, attend a book launch of the 23rd volume "Rubiaceae" of the Flora of Kenya in Nairobi, Kenya, on Sept. 25, 2023. Xinhua

Linturi added that China's competitive advantage in plant breeding can be applied in Africa to develop crop varieties that can withstand climatic stresses, diseases and pests. Liu Weidong, director-general of the Bureau of International Cooperation at the CAS, said that a well-structured partnership between Chinese and African scientists is crucial for achieving the objectives of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, including food security and green growth. He stressed that China-Africa cooperation in science,

technology and innovation should address challenges related to the climate crisis, water stress, hunger and habitat depletion that are affecting the continent. Liu highlighted several flagship projects, such as botanical gardens and training in modern farming technologies, aimed at revitalizing China-Africa scientific collaboration.

On the sidelines of the Nairobi symposium Monday, a volume of the Flora of Kenya, which documents nearly 7,000 plant species from 223 families, was launched.

This collaborative research project involved scientists from the CAS, the Sino-Kenya Joint Research Center, and the National Museums of Kenya.

Wang Qingfeng, director of the Sino-Kenya Joint Research Center of the CAS and editor-in-chief of the Flora of Kenya, said that the publication's launch marked the successful cooperation between Kenyan and Chinese scientists in shedding light on plant species and the ecosystem services they provide.

Over the past decade, Chinese and Kenyan researchers have conducted extensive field investigations, discovered new species, and contributed to ongoing biodiversity conservation efforts.

Mahlet Teshome, the acting commissioner at the Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation of the African Union Commission, expressed African states' eagerness to enhance scientific cooperation with China under the Belt and Road Initiative as they strive for long-term socioeconomic transformation.

She emphasized that China-Africa cooperation in science, technology, innovation and applied research will support the continent's food security agenda and benefit local communities engaged in conserving rare species.

The China-Africa scientific cooperation symposium, in a concluding communique adopted Wednesday, proposed promoting the adoption of technologies to reduce post-harvest losses prevalent on the continent. Additionally, scientists advocated for the introduction of hybrid rice, high-value fruits, the conservation of indigenous plant species, and the restoration of degraded land to address hunger and malnutrition in Africa. Sofia Tesfazion, the director of resource mobilization at the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, called for the expansion of China-Africa scientific cooperation to include remote sensing, training, plant breeding and clean energy to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Audrey Azoulay in Beijing on Sept 28, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

Xi: China willing to work more closely with UNESCO

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said on Thursday that China is willing to work more closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in enhancing heritage protection and promoting cultural exchanges, thus contributing to global common development.

At a meeting with UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay in Beijing, Xi said that over the years, China has been supporting the work of UNESCO and actively undertaking various initiatives with the organization.

China-UNESCO cooperation is significant and contributes to advancing global peace and development, and it is necessary to carry on with such valuable cooperation, said Xi.

The world is composed of diverse civilizations and China is among the countries with the longest histories and oldest cultures, he added.

The president stressed that China has more than 1.4 billion people, so its tremendous

development alone is an important contribution to the progress of human civilization.

As China is striving to build itself into a great modern socialist country in all respects, it follows the strategy of invigorating the nation through science and education, and is committed to expanding the development of education, science and technology and culture, Xi said.

China attaches great importance to international exchanges and cooperation with all parties, including UNESCO, he added.

Azoulay said the Chinese government has always supported the work of UNESCO. The UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education funded by China has played an important role in promoting education globally among women and girls, she said.

UNESCO is satisfied with the extensive consensus and good cooperation with China in various fields and hopes to further strengthen exchanges with China in cultural heritage protection, as well as in science, culture, technology and other fields, Azoulay said. Xinhua

China-UNESCO cooperation is significant and contributes to advancing global peace and development, and it is necessary to carry on with such valuable cooperation

Eswatini election: The vote in a kingdom where parties are banned

BY GLORIA ARADI

PEOPLE in Eswatini, Africa's last absolute monarchy, are voting in parliamentary elections where candidates are not allowed to run for a political party.

This is the first poll there since 2021's deadly pro-democracy protests.

Critics have dismissed the elections as a farce meant to legitimise the absolute monarchy.

But King Mswati III has encouraged people to turn out to vote to ensure peace and stability is maintained.

More than half a million people registered to vote and they will be electing 59 members of the lower house of parliament. But the MPs only have an advisory role and do not wield any tangible power in the country previously known as Swaziland.

The 55-year-old king, who inherited the throne in 1986 aged just 18, will select 10 more representatives.

Reports from the capital, Mbabane, said calm prevailed at the polling stations on Friday morning.

Political parties have been banned in Eswatini since 1973, forcing individuals seeking elected positions to run as independent candidates in the parliamentary elections, which happen every five years.

The monarchy's crackdown on dissent and the country's political nomination system, which involves traditional chiefs choosing candidates, often produces elected officials supportive of the monarchy.



Advisors to King Mswati III defend Eswatini's traditional system based around the monarchy

Ahead of the vote, some Swazis expressed scepticism that the elections would bring about change, as the parliament cannot criticise or take action against the executive or king.

The king also appoints the cabinet, prime minister and judges, approves laws proposed by parliament and commands all of Eswatini's security forces.

"Even if they got elected into parliament, they do not have the power to hold the executive accountable, including the absolute monarchy," Zweli Martin Dlamini, the editor of Swaziland News, told the BBC's Newsday programme.

Like other outspoken critics of Mswati III, Mr Dlamini has been prosecuted several times for what he has written about

the king.

Two opposition lawmakers, elected in 2018, are currently detained for pushing for democratic rule, while a third fled into exile.

In 2021, student-led protests that began over alleged police brutality morphed into calls for political change. At least 46 people died in a series of clashes between the security forces and demonstrators, according to Human Rights Watch.

The government has disputed this figure and said that the police were responding to violent attacks.

In January this year, Thulani Rudolf Maseko, a human rights lawyer who was opposed to the king, was killed in his home, hours after the monarch warned critics who go against him.

King Mswati appeared to dismiss criticism of his government as polling opened on Friday.

He said that the "outgoing government did an exceptional job" and urged voters to "vote for people who will ensure that the kingdom remains peaceful; who love Eswatini and the nation, and who will continue to advance the kingdom's development aspirations".

The king's polygamous and opulent lifestyle, which is characterised by luxury cars and watches, has long faced criticism.

More than a third of the country's 1.2 million people live below the international poverty line.

Election results are expected this weekend. Agencies

Intelligent Asian Games demonstrates China's vitality in innovation

CHICAGO

The 19th Asian Games, which opened on Sept. 23 in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, has provided a stage for athletes from across Asia to surpass themselves, and has also opened a window showing China's technological innovation.

Various cutting-edge technologies such as 5G, internet of things, big data, and artificial intelligence have been widely used, and intelligent elements can be observed in the entire process and all aspects of the sports event, laying a solid foundation for holding a streamlined, safe, and splendid Asian Games.

In the central server room of the Huanglong Sports Center, a branch venue of the Games, a large screen clearly displayed the operation status of the entire venue. With the help of an intelligent management system, staff members collected and monitored real-time data through various indicators of the venue, thereby improving management efficiency.

To ensure optimal conditions for sailing competitions at the Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Center, the local meteorological department has partnered with the Ningbo Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Center. By utilizing AI capabilities, the time re-

quired for generating accurate weather forecasts has been reduced from 9 hours to just 4.5 hours.

The Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium, often referred to as "the Big Lotus," is the major venue of the Hangzhou Asian Games which hosts track and field competitions. With the aid of digital technologies, the stadium has achieved multi-platform intelligent operations. An "online event" command platform, a digital intelligent meteorological platform, an intelligent medical emergency response system and others work in synergy to ensure smooth running of large-scale events, accurate weather forecasts for key areas, and rapid emergency medical response.

Shaoying, a co-host city of the Hangzhou Asian Games, has outfitted its Asian Games venues with a smart telemedicine system to strengthen medical support. Leveraging 5G and augmented reality (AR) technologies, on-site doctors can initiate remote consultations with experts from other hospitals.

Ma Quan of the medical team at the China Textile City Sports Centre Gymnasium, the competition venue for volleyball during the Asian Games, told People's Daily that his 5G-enabled AR goggles can send what he sees to off-site specialists in real time so that they can work together to provide professional medical treatment and



A Fuxing intelligent bullet train tailor-made for the 19th Asian Games is put into use, Sept. 16, 2023. (People's Daily Online/Zhou Wei)

emergency services for injured athletes.

From Sept. 8 to 20, the torch relay for the Hangzhou Asian Games was held across 11 cities in Zhejiang province. In addition to over 2,000 physical torchbearers, more than 100 million people from 130 countries and regions participated in an online torch relay via a mini program on Alipay, a third-party mobile and online payment platform launched by Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. AI tech-

nologies like facial recognition and motion capture have been used by the mini program to generate unique 3D avatars for each "digital torchbearer," which highlighted the charm of technology.

On Sept. 13, the Hangzhou Asian Games' three core systems, namely Results Distribution System, Games Management System, and Games Support System, were launched at 54 competition venues, the main media center, the Asian Games Village, and

the IT command center. They are now providing services to over 100,000 registered users from more than 40 countries and regions.

From the timing and scoring systems at the venues to the results systems, all information flows, gets processed and is finally presented in the form of data. Cloud computing is widely utilized to enable flexible allocation of computing resources, thus fully supporting the Asian Games' organizing and operations.

This means the core systems of the Hangzhou Asian Games are 100 percent cloud-based, making it the first "Asian Games in the cloud."

Cloud computing not only provides support for the Games systems, but also interconnects with intelligent applications to serve eight major groups including athletes, spectators, staff members and more.

Take cloud broadcasting as an example. Leveraging the cross-regional capabilities of cloud networks, the broadcast signals of the Hangzhou Asian Games will emanate from Hangzhou and be delivered globally to Asian and worldwide audiences with millisecond latency.

In Huzhou, another co-host city of the Hangzhou Asian Games, autonomous buses equipped with LiDAR, millimeter wave radar, and visual cameras have been deployed to provide shuttle services, improving transportation efficiency around venues.

The Zhejiang branch of China Mobile, one of the three major telecommunication carriers in China, has covered a 4-kilometer scenic strip between the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center and Asian Games Village with a 5G-Advanced network. With a speed about 10 times faster than 5G, the network will deliver a more immersive experience for watching naked-eye 3D sports broadcasts, movies and videos.

People's Daily



Raja Singh, acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia, speaks during the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games opening ceremony held in Hangzhou City, China recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Hangzhou Asian Games preparations win plaudits

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke, Beijing

OLYMPIC Council of Asia (OCA) officials have hailed the efficiency of the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games opening ceremony's preparations, saying that they have highly emphasized the use of digital technologies to optimize speed and smoothness.

They made their remarks about the Olympic Games' experience graced by China's President Xi Jinping, who had, a few days before the opening, declared confidence and capability of delivering a spectacular sporting showpiece.

Such hosting, the President revealed, will be similar to his readiness to strengthen cooperation with the OCA to jointly develop Olympic sports in Asia and enhance the unity of Asian people.

The OCA acting president, Raja Singh, said he was extremely impressed by the Hangzhou Asian Games, especially with the opening ceremony, the coordination between the organizers, and the clever gadget-contactless identity cards.

"What I would like to mention particularly is it is very new this time. Normally you would have to walk around with your participant card and scan and wait for it. But not in Hangzhou," he said.

Singh added: "I would like to congratulate the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (HAGOC) and the Chinese government on the spectacular ceremony."

The OCA boss pointed out: "It is the finest and most beautiful ceremony I have ever seen. I look forward to the great games following it."

Ndumbaro: Simba SC still in learning process for CAF Champions League triumph

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MINISTER for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Damas Ndumbaro has said Simba SC is still in the learning process to capture continental glory as the club is set to confront Egypt's Al Ahly in the opening match of the inaugural African Football League (AFL).

After several delays following its launch in August 2022, the AFL is set to get underway on October 20, with eight of the continent's biggest teams set to compete for the showpiece's maiden title.

The founding participants are Simba SC (Tanzania), Al Ahly (Egypt), TP Mazembe (DR Congo), Esperance (Tunisia), Petro de Luanda (Angola), Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Enyimba FC (Nigeria), and Wydad Athletic Club (Morocco).

The draw for the inaugural edition was completed on September 2, with Simba SC and Al Ahly playing the curtain-raising fixture on October 20, and the return leg of their quarterfinal fixture being scheduled for October 24.

The Egyptian giants have dominated continental football in recent times, and are the most successful team in the CAF Champions League with 11 titles.

However, Ndumbaro revealed he is happy that his country's representa-

He further expressed special gratitude to the Chinese President for his support during the ceremony, cementing the very good coordination with the organizers.

He disclosed: "The teamwork has been prominent all the time. We have a working group coordination and a committee. We are in touch all the time. From my side, we have never had a problem."

"The HAGOC has been in support of all national committees and the members of the OCA who are looking for any kind of support," he emphasized.

The OCA honorary vice president, Wei Jizhong, hailed the pace and orderliness of the Hangzhou Games opening ceremony as 'unprecedented'.

Chen Weiqiang, HAGOC executive secretary-general, attributed the operational efficiency to a smart control system that employs such technologies as 5G.

"The lights were automatically activated according to the real-time data measuring the flows at each exit," he said.

Blending the realms of artificial intelligence and eco-friendly technology, the Hangzhou Asian Games commenced on Saturday with a truly unique opening ceremony featuring a breathtaking futuristic light show at the centerpiece.

According to Hangzhou, this year's experience will feature a diverse array of 40 sports including track cycling, judo, swimming, and tennis to be competed by 49 Asian countries that are, among others, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, and Kyrgyzstan.

tive, Simba SC, will play against arguably the tournament favourites in the competition opener.

"We will welcome Al Ahly in the first match in the history of the African Football League. I think it will be a beautiful match," he said.

The minister disclosed: "The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Tanzania is always filled with fans when Al Ahly plays there, the matches are always enjoyable, and Al Ahly and Simba SC will make history when they play the first match in the history of the African Football League."

Ndumbaro noted: "It is a great honour for Simba SC and a great honour for Tanzania to host this historic match. It will be a strong match between Al Ahly and Simba SC. We, in Dar es Salaam, call it the 'special African derby'."

The minister said: "Al Ahly and Simba SC have faced each other on many occasions, especially in the CAF Champions League, and these matches are always characterized by strength and enjoyment."

"The fans are very enthusiastic and the atmosphere is very special. The two teams wear almost the same colour, and the relations between the two clubs are wonderful."

"Simba SC sold their player Luis Miquissone to Al Ahly, then they sold him back to Simba SC," Ndumbaro revealed.

Over 100 cyclists line up for Tanzania Heritage Tour

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MORE than 100 cyclists will be racing within Arusha and the city's suburbs in the 2023 installment of the Tanzania Heritage Tour slated for Sunday.

The city is once more hosting the annual bicycle racing event which, this time however, seems to be targeting sports tourism promotion in the Northern city through active events.

"We intend to make Arusha become a city of both sports and tourism," the event organizer, Joel Senny, revealed, adding more than 100 riders are expected to participate in the race.

The Tanzania Heritage Cycling Tour comes up on Sunday.

Senny has been organizing the cycling competition for over five years now in conjunction with the Arusha Cycling Association (ACA).

The organizer explained that this year's race is in preparation for an even larger multi-event sporting bonanza to be held in Zanzibar early next year.

The Zanzibar International Sports Festival will take place on the Indian Ocean archipelago in February 2024 and will involve various episodes.

As for the forthcoming Tanzania Heritage Tour, it is as usual being conducted through the Tanzania Cycling Company, an outfit dealing with bicycle trade, maintenance, and cycling sports.

The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau



Tanzania's cyclists are pictured battling it out in the past Twende Butiama Bicycle Tour, which started in Dar es Salaam and ended in Butiama, Mara. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

(PCCB) in Arusha will also participate in the event, whereby the PCCB will use the occasion to disseminate knowledge and education about campaigns against graft.

"PCCB will also contribute some money in the form

of prizes to be presented to the winners," Florence Mwiita, the head of the public education desk at the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Arusha, stated.

The Heritage Tour participants are, on the other

hand, graded depending on the type of bicycles they ride on.

The first type is the road bike/racing bike machines whose riders in the male category will be covering a total of 150 kilometers.

Female participants us-

ing the road race bikes will ride for 100 kilometers.

The same distance and bike types will be used by older participants aged 47 years and above who will also cycle for 100 kilometers. Previous events have covered up to 300 kilometers.

Even the medals to be presented to participants this year read '300 kilometers', counting the distance covered during practice.

Other cyclists will ride the usual Mountain Bikes, also known as Crossroad bikes.

The racing has been slated to get underway at the Sanawari Traffic Lights Robots, and the cyclists are expected to ride to Raskazone Sakina, make an about-turn, and speed back towards Tengeru through the expressway.

At Tengeru, the cyclists will make another turn, heading back to the city, and repeat the taxiway run several times until they cover the set distances.

To accomplish the 150 kilometers, cyclists will be forced to make six circular trips, while those racing the 100 kilometers ride four times in total.

In the men's category, participating cyclists finishing first to 10th will be awarded, while the competitors in the women's category and the aged racers' category finishing first to sixth will receive prizes.

DStv set to air new drama next week

By Guardian Correspondent

MULTICHOICE Tanzania has introduced the latest drama, titled 'Chanda', which will air on DStv's Maisha Magic Bongo channel.

The DStv customers have been asked to dive into the fascinating world of 'Chanda', set against the vibrant backdrop of Tanzanian culture and life dynamics, and offer a story of mystery, drama, passion, and resilience.

The drama series, set to premiere on Monday at 7:30 pm on DStv Channel 160, looks to hook viewers with its complex plot twists, exciting characters, and a story that mirrors the emotions of its audience.

With episodes airing from Monday to Wednesday, 'Chanda' will be an early night ritual for drama enthusiasts.

Noel Mulumba, MultiChoice Tanzania's Content Marketing Manager, revealed: "We are very excited to present 'Chanda' to our audiences. This drama is not just a show, it's an example of the incredible talent we have."

The official noted: "Our cast is second to none, and we believe 'Chanda' will set an industry benchmark for quality entertainment."

The first season of 'Chanda' details the complicated lives of Yaz Diwani (Christopher Morris) and Azra Shakombo (Fezza Kessy).

Born into wealth and privilege, Yaz, the sole heir to the Diwani empire, finds himself in a whirlwind romance with Azra, the daughter of his father's loyal friend and cook, Hamza Shakombo (Jafary Makatu).

Their union, marked by a grand Swahili yacht wedding, seems like a dream come true. However, beneath the surface, secrets simmer.

As pressure mounts, especially from Dida Diwani (Hidaya Njaidi), Yaz's mother who yearns for



Some of the cast members of the 'Chanda' series are pictured during the series' official launch held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. 'Chanda' series, commissioned by Maisha Magic Bongo channel, is scheduled to make its debut on DStv on Monday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

a grandchild, the couple faces trials that test their bond.

With Yaz keeping a dark secret and Azra's unwavering loyalty to protect him, the drama unfolds in unexpected ways.

Mulumba disclosed that DStv viewers have every reason to watch 'Chanda' given it portrays, among others, intricate family dynamics.

The viewers have been urged to dive deep into the lives of the Diwani and Shakombo families and witness the power struggles, the bonds of friendship, and the weight of legacy as two families intertwine in a journey of love, secrets,

and loyalty.

The series brings forth a love story with secrets. At the heart of 'Chanda' is the romance between Yaz and Azra.

From a lavish Swahili yacht wedding to the challenges they face, their journey is filled with passion, secrets, and unwavering loyalty.

It has powerful female characters. The viewers have been asked to experience the strength and determination of characters like Dida Diwani, who navigates her role with grace, ambition, and a touch of manipulation, and Azra, who showcases resilience and loyalty in the face of

adversity.

With hidden truths, past relationships, and family secrets, 'Chanda' promises a rollercoaster of emotions and unexpected twists at every turn.

The show further offers a unique blend of tradition, modernity, and the complexities of societal expectations.

The series also boasts a star-studded cast, featuring some of the most renowned actors in Tanzania like Fezza Kessy, Mwijaku, Christopher Mziwanda, Hidaya Njaidi, and Mayasa Mrisho.

'Chanda', for that matter, positions its cast as the best in the country,

ensuring powerful performances that resonate with viewers.

Mulumba noted: "We believe 'Chanda' will create conversations and debates that will resonate across audiences. This show embodies our commitment to delivering top-notch entertainment. If you haven't, we encourage you to subscribe to DStv and be part of this rollercoaster journey."

As the curtains rise on Monday, viewers have been urged to get ready to be wowed by 'Chanda' on Maisha Magic Bongo, DStv Channel 160, from Monday to Wednesday every week.

Mourinho's Roma sink to four-goal Genoa defeat

ROMA

JOSE Mourinho's Roma fell to their third Serie A defeat of the season 4-1 at Genoa on Thursday leaving the capital side just above the relegation zone.

Former Real Madrid, Manchester United and Chelsea coach Mourinho is having the worst start to his coaching career with five points in six matches.

"We started this match badly, we reacted to equalise and then we lost Diego (Llorente) and that changed the face of the match, our organisation," said Mourinho.

"There are so many things to say, we're missing important players, like Chris Smalling, we don't have the solidity of last season.

"We have to get out of this situation with this group which has its qualities and its faults."

Roma were reeling after Albert Gudmundsson fired the north-western port side ahead after five minutes before Bryan Cristante hauled them back into the game with an equaliser after 22 minutes.

But Genoa came out firing after the break with Gudmundsson and Morten Thorsby combining superbly to set up Mateo Retegui to finish off with a half-volley. Thorsby added a third after 74 minutes with Junior Messias sending in the fourth seven minutes later through a porous Roman defence.

Watching from the stands, Roma legend Francesco Totti left the Luigi-Ferraris stadium after Genoa's fourth goal.

Aiming for a return to the Champions League next season, Mourinho's side find themselves fighting to remain in the top flight.

Roma are 16th with five points from six games, 10 points behind leaders Inter Milan, and only two clear of Udinese who currently occupy 18th place.

Genoa jumped to 11th place with seven points after their second win of the season.

"We had a great match, showed a lot of courage and technical mastery. This team has a lot of pride and desire," said Genoa coach, former Italian international Alberto Gilardino.

Earlier Monza and Bologna drew 0-0, with Frosinone grabbing a 1-1 draw with Fiorentina.

AFP

With Messi sidelined, MLS workload under scrutiny

MIAMI

MAJOR League Soccer teams' ability to cope with the demands of new international competitions is under scrutiny after two games on Wednesday highlighted the consequences of a crowded schedule.

The league's star attraction, Lionel Messi, was forced to sit out Inter Miami's U.S. Open Cup final with Houston Dynamo along with his Spanish team-mate Jordi Alba, frustrating fans and viewers globally.

Shortly after that game in Fort Lauderdale was won by Houston, MLS champions Los Angeles FC were playing for another title on the West Coast when they faced Mexican club Tigres in the Campeones Cup.

The game was organised by MLS but the league's commissioner Don Garber wasn't at the match, as he watched the Miami game.

The Campeones Cup, an annual contest between the MLS and Mexican Liga MX champions introduced in 2018, ended in a goalless draw with Tigres winning after a penalty shoot-out.

It was the third competition this season bringing together MLS and Liga MX clubs following the CONCACAF Champions League and the new 47-team Leagues Cup - both of which LAFC had already competed in.

With the traditional domestic knockout competition, the U.S. Open Cup, the 34-game MLS regular season and the expanded post-season MLS Cup playoffs, with potentially six more games, there is little time for rest and recovery.

LAFC head coach Steve Cherundolo believes it is time that MLS changed its rules on salaries and squad size to allow clubs to operate with a bigger pool of players.

"I can tell you the rules and regulations of MLS roster building are not ample enough, and we are not equipped enough for all these competitions," he said after the Tigres match.

"I think we have done an incredible job to stay in all competitions very late, but our guys are depleted, our stadium ops is tired, everybody in the organization is tired.

"Maybe this is too many games, or maybe we don't have enough people to cover all these games," added Cherundolo.

"I do think the owners and the commissioner and the rest of the league office need to sit down and come up with solutions because status quo is not going to work. I do know that, and I can tell you that's the opinion of many other coaches, as well," he said.

- Squeezing in -

While other leagues can at least rest some players during the international breaks, MLS even squeezes in fixtures while top players are away with their national sides.

The congestion is coming from outside of MLS too.

For national team players, the CONCACAF Nations League finals were held in June with the confederation's Gold Cup the following month.

Next year, an expanded Copa America, which will feature many MLS players, will be held in the USA and in 2025 there will be another Gold Cup running alongside the expanded 32-team FIFA Club World Cup, which could feature two MLS teams.

Quite how the Leagues Cup will fit into that schedule remains to be seen but that tournament, which produced 77 games in less than a month, certainly has impacted this year's winners Miami.

AFP

Afcon 2027 will be 'amazing' in East Africa, pledges Ugandan organizer

KAMPALA

WHEN the joint East African bid from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania won hosting rights for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) on Wednesday, the emphasis quickly shifted to the tough expectations of the first staging of the tournament in the region since it visited Ethiopia in 1976.

Patrice Motsepe, president of the Confederation of African Football (Caf), praised the "deep commitment" to Afcon expressed by all three of the countries' heads of state.

"We are very strict in terms of the requirements that we are placing on these countries, both in terms of freedom of movement in and out of the countries - and the support, infrastructure and co-operation," said Motsepe, speaking in Cairo after announcing the result alongside Morocco's appointment as 2025 hosts.

"We will be sending teams on an ongoing basis to evaluate the progress being made. The key is that we are absolutely determined to maintain the highest possible standards for African football."

The Caf president said he would "hold their hand" and promised Afcon 2027 would be "a huge success". "Challenges ahead for Afcon hosts

Motsepe said he wants



Pictured in 2011 and originally opened in 1997, Uganda's Mandela National Stadium is currently undergoing significant renovations. Agencies

Afcon to match the standards of tournaments held by European body Uefa and South American counterparts Conmebol.

By Wednesday evening, the winners' celebrations had been superseded by a focus on the challenges ahead, according to Rogers Byamukama, a board member of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (Fufa).

"From now on, we are going to get our hands dirty and work alongside our counterparts in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to ensure the stadiums are ready by December 2025, which is a requirement," Byamukama told the BBC World Service's Newsday.

"It is a momentous oc-

casation and we are excited. We are grateful for the opportunity and we look forward to hosting an extremely amazing extravaganza when the world will come to East Africa."

Caf, which stripped Guinea of the 2025 tournament because of concerns over infrastructure and facilities, also considered bids for the 2027 finals from Egypt, Senegal and a joint entry from Botswana and Zambia, with Algeria withdrawing on the eve of the vote.

The governing body requires bids to propose two stadiums with capacity for 40,000 fans, two capable of accommodating 20,000 fans and two suitable for at least 15,000 supporters.

In Kenya, Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Nambwamba announced plans last week to create a new 50,000-capacity stadium in Nairobi alongside improvements to the capital's Nyayo National Stadium, the Kipchoge Keino Stadium in Eldoret and the Moi International Sports Centre in Kasarani, which hosted the World Athletics U20 Championships in 2021.

The country's president, William Ruto, signed a \$59.2m deal with a US foreign aid agency this month to buy electric buses to improve transport in Nairobi.

Kenya was awarded Afcon in 1996 but lost hosting rights because of a lack of readiness, suffering the

same fate over the 2018 African Nations Championship as a result of "accumulated delays".

Ugandan First Lady and Cabinet Minister of Education and Sports, Janet Museveni, has said that the home of the national team, the Mandela National Stadium in Namboole, which originally closed for renovations in October 2019, will reopen on 30 November and meet Fifa stadium standards.

The country's state minister for sports, Peter Ogwang, apologised in parliament after the national team played an Afcon 2023 qualifier against Tanzania in Egypt in March because of a lack of available venues in Uganda.

The Akii Bua Stadium in Lira and a new stadium in Hoima could also stage matches, while Tanzania's venues will include the 60,000-capacity Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium and potentially the Azam Sports Complex, which are in Dar es Salaam.

"It is possible to have a stadium which is good enough, from scratch to completion, in two years," said Byamukama, adding that the East African bid stood out because of strong transport links, including across the largest lake in Africa, Lake Victoria, which is in Tanzania and Uganda and borders Kenya.

"All of the East African countries have national carriers that should help. It is less than an hour from Nairobi to Entebbe, Entebbe to Salaam and Salaam to Nairobi.

"Uganda uses the port of Mombasa and Salaam. There is a good road network.

"There were plans, even without Caf's announcement, to extend the standard-gauge railway between Mombasa and Naivasha to Kampala by the end of 2025. The transport is the very best."

The 2023 tournament will take place in Ivory Coast from 13 January until 11 February 2024. The draw will take place in Abidjan on 12 October at 1900 GMT.

BBC

Why new-look midfields will decide Liverpool's clash with Tottenham

By Karl Matchett

MEETINGS between these two clubs last season came at difficult times for each, though, with the exception of perhaps a month at the start of 2022/23 for Tottenham Hotspur and two months at the end of it for Liverpool, that doesn't narrow matters down much.

The first came in November, where the Reds' success in north London meant the dwindling months of Antonio Conte's tenure were in the midst of a run of two wins in seven, and both of those somewhat fortunate victories earned in stoppage time. For Liverpool this would be a good win, but already the campaign had more than stuttered and, following the return from the World Cup, they'd embark on their most atrocious run of the season, Jurgen Klopp chopping and changing formations in search of a winning formula as they failed to win seven of ten.

By April and the return meeting at Anfield, the Reds were in better shape and had rearranged their build-up play and the centre of the park thanks to Trent Alexander-Arnold's roving involvement; a crazy 4-3 victory made it six unbeaten, while Spurs were by then onto their second interim manager of the new calendar year.

Elite European football for 2023/24 was, by then, looking improbable for both; both clubs were looking to the future, albeit in very different ways - and their subsequent summer activity showed as much.

And yet, they now both arrive at the first meeting of the new season with plenty of similar circumstances: new optimism, new faces, unbeaten in all competitions and, most notably of all, with entirely rebuilt midfields.

For Liverpool, that has come in the form of transfer reinforcements, a totally revamped group containing four new signings and one not just repurposed player, but almost revitalised in Curtis Jones.

He ended last term as one of the Reds' best performers and has quickly picked up where he left off, playing superbly from the left of the middle three to bring control, diligence, final-third supply line and - in the midweek cup win over Leicester - versatility while wearing the armband. Even with the No 17's much-improved show of consistency of late, and even with the impact Alexander-Arnold had prior to his injury, there's a different name on the lips of most watching on at Anfield this term.

Dominik Szoboszlai has not so much hit the ground running as outright barnstorming his way through every challenge, opponent and defence, smashing in two goals from outside the box and being the pick of the bunch in multiple matches already.

Highlights reels will showcase his drive, carrying the ball and penetrative passing, but his non-stop approach sees him equally important in the defensive half of the pitch too, where fellow new arrival Alexis Mac Allister has been more habitu-

ally stationed as the team's deepest midfield operator.

The trio had, obviously, never lined up together before the start of the campaign; in the last three league fixtures they have done so and it's no coincidence they have been the first fixtures where the Reds' attacking play was matched by off-the-ball control and overall match dominance.

But while in previous seasons fans had, at times, been crying out for more attacking thrust, more box runs and more final-third productivity from midfield, the additional technical edge gained this season is perhaps notable for coming at the expense of an element of physicality. That's not to say the Argentinian, the Hungarian and the Scouser have none. They are aggressive, make tackles and at least two of them are powerful runners. But if Klopp's peak midfield was the Gini Wijnaldum, Fabinho, Jordan Henderson triumvirate, there was

more defensive-minded athleticism there, more aerial ability for sure and more natural instinct to be in covering positions first. In isolation, the change isn't better or worse, merely different - and it now comes up against another much-changed midfield which has unquestionably added far more physical and technical prowess since last season, where it looked lethargic, uninspiring and safety-first on a far too regular basis. Different to Liverpool again, though, is that Spurs have found this midfield from within.

Ange Postecoglou has quickly settled on Yves Bissouma and Pape Matar Sarr as his preferred double pivot, two who were completely - at times bizarrely - on the fringes last season under a troika of head coaches. Bissouma has played more league minutes so far than any Spurs outfielders other than Dejan Kulusevski and Micky van de Ven; Sarr was initially

subbed on or off more frequently but played the full 90 against Arsenal last time out. It could change once Rodrigo Bentancur makes a full return after the next international break, but both are unquestionably ahead of Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and Oliver Skipp right now.

Both are comfortable ball-winning in either half of the pitch, Bissouma in particular is showing his ball-carrying ability on a regular basis and Sarr averages more shots per 90 minutes than any semi-regular Spurs player aside from Brennan Johnson so far this term.

Bissouma, meanwhile, is top ten in the Premier League for tackles per 90 (among those with at least 300 minutes so far on the pitch).

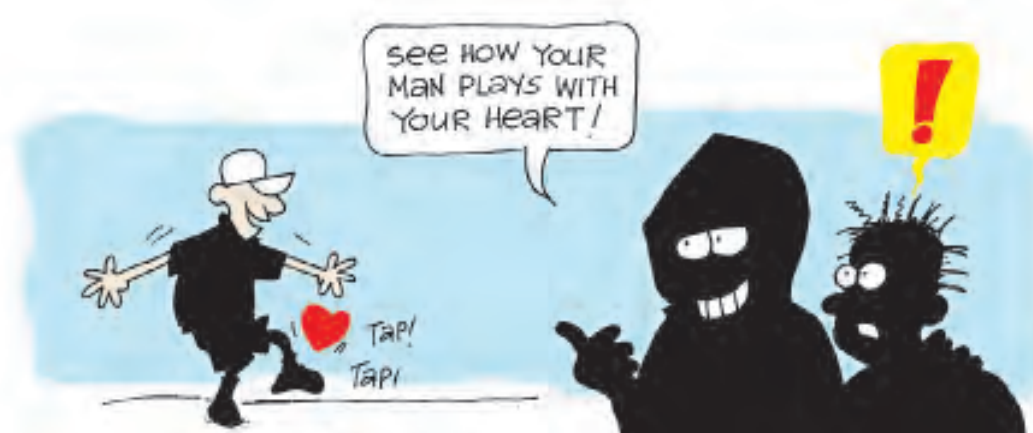
If it points to an all-action style in the middle, it's accurate, but it more pointedly highlights the way they have quickly formed a partnership, one

which can both set a platform and support the stellar attacking cast higher upfield, even one without Harry Kane.

Spurs are far more attack-minded than last year, possess far more cutting edge about their play and a lot more pace and intent about their gameplan. Liverpool, on the other hand, suddenly look once more entirely capable of dominating long stretches and supplementing an already excellent attack with - at long last - a midfield which can offer a very similar threat of creativity and goalscoring.

It makes the weekend match-up an incredibly intriguing prospect, one which will surely be settled by whichever newly-formed centre of the park manages to out-wit the other. It might not definitively tell us which new approach is best for the long haul, but those differences in approach could certainly determine the result in 90 minutes.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Afcon 2027 will be 'amazing' in East Africa, pledges Ugandan organizer

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Yanga out to seal CAF Champions League Group Stage spot



Yanga's Bakari Mwamnyeto (L), Clement Mzize (C), and Gift Fred participate in their club's training in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, preparing for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round rematch against Al Merrikh SC scheduled for today in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Young Africans SC will look to secure their place in the Group Stage of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League with a home win over Sudan's Al Merrikh in Dar es Salaam this evening.

The Tanzanian giants, popularly known as Yanga, will be content with their first-leg victory and confident they will seal their place in the CAF Champions League Group Stage.

The 2023/24 NBC Premier League leaders continued their perfect start to the campaign last time out by recording a narrow 1-0 win over Namungo FC in the league clash.

Not only did the win mean that Miguel Gamondi-coached Yanga was eight games unbeaten in all

competitions this season, but it also meant that the Jangwani Street men have now won their last seven matches.

The home team's defensive record has played a big part in the recent stellar run of form, as Yanga has kept seven clean sheets in the club's opening eight games of the season in all competitions.

Looking at the scenario ahead

of the game, Gamondi said they may be in a better position than their visitors due to the first-leg results but they will approach the game as if it was a goalless draw.

"This is the last step. We have 90 minutes to fight for what we want to achieve in qualification for the CAF Champions League Group Stage," the tactician revealed.

"The preparations are good, we had enough time to prepare. We quietly worked hard and are now waiting to play a very good game," Gamondi said in a pre-match interview.

The Argentine tactician stated: "I keep repeating that one of the major motivations to come to Yanga is to play in the CAF Champions League. I think it is the best continental

competition."

"It is a huge motivation especially because this club has not competed in the Group Stage for 25 years," he pointed out.

He added: "We did the first step in Kigali, Rwanda but tomorrow we will play like the game is 0-0. This game is different from the away tie we played."

Gamondi stressed: "We need to correct some mistakes that we made, especially in the first half. We will try to do our best. Everybody is ready."

The Sudanese team may feel that their chance of making the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League for the fifth time has now gone after the first-leg defeat.

However, the deficit is not an impossible one according to their head coach Osama Nabih.

Nabih acknowledged they are facing a good side but vowed to fight and nothing but the 90 minutes will give the final verdict of their fate.

Nothing in their recent form suggests that Al Merrikh can turn the tie around, though, as they have failed to win any of their last five matches over 90 minutes.

The visitor's recent away record in the competition has not been great either, as they have recorded just one away win in 10 minutes in their previous 10 games in the CAF Champions League.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

5 Sports

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1(r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

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05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Namungo FC eyes bringing Mashujaa FC back down to earth

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NAMUNGO FC will go in search of their first NBC Premier League win of the season when they take on high-flying Mashujaa FC at the Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi this evening.

Having recorded two defeats and one loss so far, Namungo FC finds itself in the relegation zone after three rounds of matches.

Failure to win could leave Namungo FC's head coach Cedric Kaze in a position where he is under fierce pressure to retain his job, with the club's supporters wary of falling deeper into trouble.

Yet another defeat would leave them at risk of being cut adrift of their top-four rivals even at this early stage.

They have only scored a single goal which is something Kaze will want to see change.

Form at Majaliwa Stadium is something Kaze will be keen on addressing as his outfit has only won one of the previous seven top-flight games in front of home supporters, losing three including the outfit's opening match this season.

After making five changes, Kaze is expected to keep to a similar side that began against Yanga, with goalkeeper Deogratius Munishi set to be protected by a back four of Hashim Manyanya, Erasto Nyoni, Derrick Mukombozi, and Emmanuel Charles.

Frank Domayo could continue in center-midfield alongside either Pius Buswita or Jacob Massawa.

At the opposite end of the table, Mashujaa FC is sitting fourth, thanks to a run of two victories and one draw in three outings, meaning the squad sits two points shy of leaders Yanga, second-placed Simba SC and Azam FC sitting third.

It is fair to say that Mashujaa FC has made an impressive start to life under head coach Mohamed Abdallah 'Baresi'.

They have defeated Ihefu SC and Kagera Sugar plus picked up a point in a 0-0 draw with Geita Gold FC.

They are the early frontrunners in the top race. Mashujaa FC has found itself once again in a position to reclaim the top seat.

With Young Africans and Simba SC occupied by continental engagements and Azam FC playing on Sunday, the newly promoted can leapfrog the top three if they manage to beat Namungo.

However, they have picked all their seven points in the comfort of their backyard. This will be their first test on the road.

There could still be scope for a couple of changes, though Abdallah will likely trust the core of regulars who have done the job for him so far.

The backline of Omary Kindamba, Michael Masinda, Baraka Mtui, and Macheмба Mganda has yet to concede a goal.

In midfield, Shaban Mgandila, Abulnassir Mohamed, Lucas Deo, and Said Juma have largely been impressive while Adam Omar and Karega Wazanga have provided the goals in attack.

Singida Fountain Gate FC players urged to step up against Future FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC's interim head coach Ramadhan Nsanzurwimo is optimistic the side will secure its first appearance in the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage at the expense of Future FC.

The clubs will face each other in a Second Preliminary Round rematch slated to take place at Al-Salam Stadium in Cairo, Egypt tomorrow.

Nsanzurwimo, who is also the Tanzanian club's Technical Director, is currently marshaling the first team following the abrupt departure of German coach Ernst Middendorp.

The German gaffer left the club immediately after guiding it to a 1-0 victory over Future FC on allegations that the management was interfering in his coaching responsibilities.

Speaking about their match against their Egyptian host, Future FC, which has enjoyed back-to-back league wins since losing to Singida Fountain Gate FC, Nsanzurwimo said his players are ready to write



Singida Fountain Gate FC's players are pictured engaging in training in Dar es Salaam recently, preparing to face Future FC in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup Second Preliminary Round's rematch in Cairo tomorrow. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA FOUNTAIN GATE FC

history.

The Burundian gaffer said: "Training sessions have been immense. I am pleased with the readiness of my players, the morale is up and what is left is to show what we have come for in Cairo."

"I call upon each player of this club to take responsibility and find a way of playing for the badge. Singida is a big club with enough resources that should be competing at the highest level and my players are aware of

this," the coach noted.

"We have more training hours for the match to keep the squad fit, hopefully, all players will catch up and show responsibility on the field, while we ought to be respectful to our opponents," the gaffer said.

Singida Fountain Gate FC has a 1-0 win advantage heading into the match, the club won in the first leg encounter at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam, with talisman Elvis Rupia making the

difference between the sides.

The Kenyan international striker scored on his debut match nearly two days after being revealed by his new club.

If they succeed in venturing into the Group Stage of the CAF Confederation Cup, it will be a remarkable achievement for them as they are making their first appearance in the continental tournament.

However, in their recent league game, Singida Fountain Gate FC suffered a 2-1 loss to Azam FC to continue their winless run of the season which has seen them come empty-handed from three opening matches.

This has left them occupying 12th place on the table with two points and the side is in the category of four other teams yet to pick victories.

Others are Mtwara Sugar, Namungo FC, Coastal Union, and the bottom-placed Tanzania Prisons.

Nsanzurwimo stressed: "We are aware that the return leg match in Egypt will be difficult but, until

now, we have an advantage after doing well in the first leg encounter at home."

Singida Fountain Gate FC's president, Japhet Makau, said the squad will face tough opposition but it is not timid of the big stage that the squad has reached.

The official noted: "Our focus is to get in the Group Stage, we have had a few very productive days of training. Our players are here to represent the country, themselves, and the group and they are aware of the importance of the match."

Makau confirmed there will be some bonuses for the club's players once they achieve a CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage appearance for the first time.

The club president noted: "Yes, bonuses are already known to the players and the important thing right now is for them to fulfill the mission and get their bonuses. I won't say to the public but players know what it means to achieve this history together."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

