



## MEDIA



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# Tanzania eyes AfCFTA zone as 7trn/- seeps into industries

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

TANZANIA is investing upwards of \$3bn (6.9trn/-) in strategic manufacturing aimed at making the country top supplier of industrial goods within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) before the end of the decade.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, unveiled the plan in the National Assembly yesterday while tabling the ministry's budget estimates for the 2022/23 financial year.

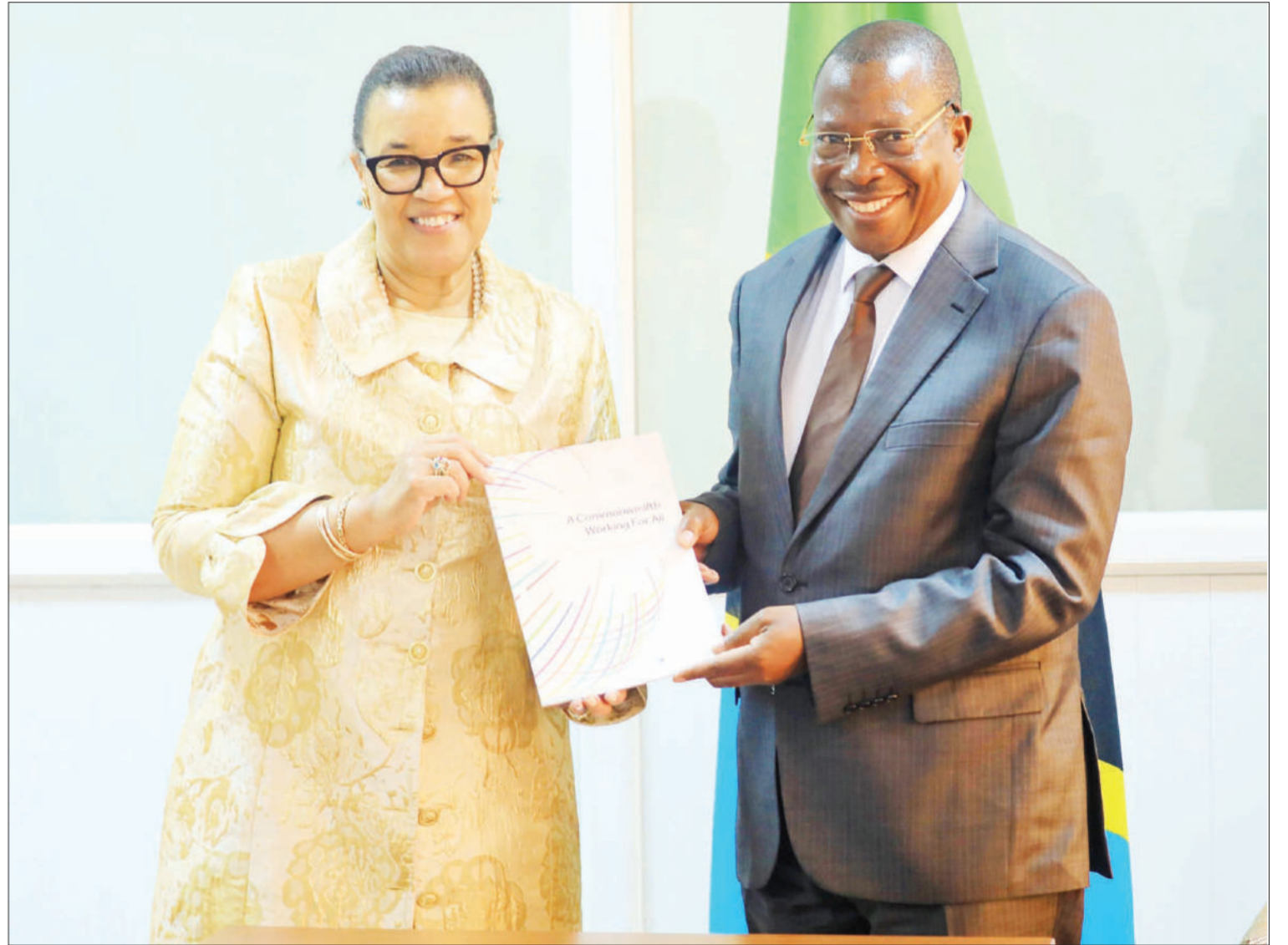
The country's ambitious investment programme seeks to put up 500 new large industries, whose employment results are likely to be substantial even by 2025, bringing the total large industry projects to 541 including those lined up for implementation at present.

"The target is realistic and achievable going by investments being registered at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and Economic Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)," she said, noting that the government has embarked on setting up the Kwana Industrial Park which will hold 200 industries.

Their production lines include textiles, electronics, construction materials and pharmaceuticals, she stated, elaborating that the first phase is scheduled for 2024 and create 100,000 direct jobs and 300,000 indirect occupation outlets.

Investment in this area is estimated at \$3bn (over 6.9trn/-), potentially making Tanzania the centre of industrial production within the region and the wider African free trade area, she

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Patricia Scotland, the British diplomat, barrister and politician currently serving as Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations, presents to Vice President Dr Philip Mpango a copy of a special journal published by the organisation. This was shortly after talks at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: VPO

# Wholesalers, retailers on the radar as consumer prices rise

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

UNSCRUPULOUS manufacturers and traders are ripping off Tanzanians by hiking prices of essential goods, hiding behind fuel price pressures arising from the Russian

invasion of Ukraine.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade made this remark when tabling fiscal year estimates for 2022/2022 in the National Assembly yesterday, acknowledging that there are

genuine reasons for price increases especially imported goods.

Citing supply gaps occasioned by the conflict in the heart of Europe, she said that some people are out to make a killing by anticipating

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# Minister says move to lease out islets was fully positive

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government's move to lease small islands in Unguja and Pemba has been described as meant to add value to the tourism sector in the Indian Ocean archipelago, as a productive use of the islets which were often used by drug traffickers as contact points.

Lela Mohammed Mussa, the minister for Education and Vocational Training, made this observation when responding to questions by members of the House of Representatives demanding clarification on the leasing of the islets.

Voicing concern over the matter during

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# Home Affairs abolishes in-service training fees

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

HOME Affairs ministry employees in the Police, the Prisons Department, Immigration and the Fire and Rescue Force have reason to smile as they will no longer foot part of costs during in-service training.

Tabling the ministry's 2022/23 budget estimates in the National Assembly yesterday, minister Hamad Masauni said this measure was facilitated by allocation of 16.6bn/- for in-service training needs, ending a situation where officers were contributing to offset part of the costs whenever they attended training.

This affected the standard of living of their families, he said, while the issue repeatedly came

up in consultative meetings between leadership and servicemen in the various departments of the ministry.

Out of the allocated amount, a total of 11.6bn/- will be used by the Police Force, 3.5bn/- for Prisons, 555m/- for the Fire and Rescue Force and 900m/- for Immigration, he said, pointing at the scarcity of uniforms as a major challenges facing officers for years, and was being resolved in the 2022/23 allocations schedule.

A total of 18.1bn/- is set aside for the purchase of uniforms, where 11.7bn/- goes to the Police, 4.1bn/- to Prisons, 1bn/- to Fire and Rescue and 1.3bn/- to Immigration, he explained.

Employment also rose by 6,023 placements to reduce the scarcity of manpower in the various forces and overall administration in the ministry. The new placements were recruited from July 2021 to March 2022, he stated.

Of the new recruits, 4,103 join the police, 700 become prisons staff, with 400 other cadres joining fire-fighting and 820 cadres picked to work with immigration. The recruits are currently undergoing training at relevant colleges and they are expected to graduate late October," he said.

"These recruitments are expected to improve performance in the ministry and boost security of our country," the minister added.



Former Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya (in blue jacket) is escorted to the High Court in Arusha city yesterday to hear the ruling on his appeal in connection with a criminal case that had earlier seen him convicted and imprisoned. He was acquitted yesterday on a technicality but only to be led back to remand prison soon after because he has a pending case in court relating to an unbillable offence. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack





## Wholesalers, retailers on the radar as consumer prices rise

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shortages due to the conflict.

To this end, the minister directed the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) to start tracing and taking legal action against manufacturers and traders who have hiked prices of essential goods.

The minister said in her presentation that almost everything has gone up in retail prices, with grain, edible oil and construction materials leading the pack.

"Irregular hiking of prices is illegal under section 9 (1) of the Fair Competition Act, No.8 of 2003," she affirmed.

"The FCC is hereby directed to make a close follow-up on essentials that have been highly affected by the price hikes and take action against culprits in accordance with the law."

The minister named edible oil as among essentials that price was genuinely affected by the outbreak of the conflict, capping delivery handicaps arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Two months ago a tonne of sunflower oil sold at \$1,491.30 with palm oil standing at \$776.96, up from \$711.71 and \$573.02 respectively by March 2019, a 149.67 per cent rise, she said.

Locally, beans—one of the most

affordable staples—has risen from 177,340/- per 100kg bag in March 2021 to 188,294/- a year later, a 6.2 per cent hike, she stated, noting further that a 100kg bag of maize sold at 48,341/- in March 2021 and 59,861/- two months ago, equal to a 23 per cent rise. The average price of rice has gone up from 139,212/- per 100kg sack in March 2021 to 185,278/- last March, she specified.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said in winding up debate on PMO budget estimates here last month that measures were being taken to enhance local industrial output especially in the food subsector, for wheat, edible oil and sugar to diminish import needs. This requires improving the investment and business environment, providing incentives to investors.

Tanzania imports 55.5 per cent of its total edible oil requirements despite its potential in palm oil and sunflower crop farming. The country similarly relies on imported raw materials for producing edible oils and soaps.

Experts say Tanzania has more-or-less similar weather conditions with Malaysia from where it imports most of its palm oil, as South Asian country is the world's second largest producer of palm oil. Tanzania is not even recognized as palm oil producing country, agro-sector experts affirm.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Arusha city on Thursday presenting an award to NMB Bank Plc's northern zone manager, Dismas Prosper, in appreciation of the bank's sponsorship of the commemoration of this year's edition of Public Procurement Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### MOGADISHU

Somalia's presidential election, which has been delayed for several months, will be held on May 15, according to a joint parliamentary committee tasked with preparations for the poll.

The country has been beset by political wrangles and security crises for years that delayed the voting exercise expected early last year.

For over 50 years, Somalia has not had universal suffrage, whereas citizens go to the polling stations and elect their leaders in the ballot box.

The new MPs made up of the Lower House [275 seats] and Upper House [54 seats] will elect the new president in a joint session in Mogadishu on youth day, May 15.

Meanwhile, at least 30 Burundian soldiers were killed and 20 others injured in Tuesday's attack by al-Shabaab militants on an African Union base in southern Somalia, according to a Burundian official.

The official, who requested anonymity because he is not allowed to speak to media, told VOA Somali that 10 soldiers died on the spot, and the rest of the soldiers succumbed to their wounds. He confirmed that other soldiers are still missing.

Al-Shabaab said it killed 173 soldiers in the attack on the AU base in the village of El-Baraf, about 150 kilometers

## Presidential election to be held on May 15

north of Mogadishu. The casualty figure has not been independently verified. A separate source told VOA Somali that 161 soldiers were at the camp at the time of attack. The Burundian official confirmed that number.

The Burundian official told VOA Somali that the soldiers had intelligence al-Shabaab was gathering in a nearby village about 48 hours prior to the attack. He said the soldiers prepared to defend themselves and dug trenches.

He said what caught the soldiers by surprise was the enormity of al-Shabaab explosives detonated at the camp. He said the militants used three truck bombs, one of which fell into a ditch. He estimated the militants detonated about 20 kilograms of explosives, and that 450 militants overran the camp.

The official said the suicide truck bombs caused most of the casualties.

Earlier, the government of Burundi reported 10 of their soldiers were killed, with five others missing and 25 injured. Burundi also said 20 al-

Shabaab militants were killed in the attack.

On Twitter, Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye said there are no words strong enough to condemn the terrorist attack against the Burundian contingent. He wrote, "I join with all of Africa which has just lost sons and daughters ... to console the hard-hit families."

The African Union, the Somali government and the embassy of the United States in Mogadishu have all strongly condemned the al-Shabaab attack.

AU chief Moussa Faki Mahamat paid tribute to the Burundian soldiers killed, and said the "heinous" attack will not lessen support of AU forces to Somalia.

The Somali ministry of foreign affairs called on the international community to increase and provide higher-end capability to Somali security forces and AU forces so they can effectively combat terrorism in Somalia.

The U.S. embassy in Mogadishu said the U.S. extends condolences to the

families of the troops killed and wished a quick recovery to those injured.

The Mayor of El-Baraf, Abdullahi Haji Muhumed, told VOA that Tuesday's fighting at the camp was the heaviest the area has seen.

"Fighting like this never happened in this area," he said, explaining that the violence also killed two civilians and injured 10 others. "It was heavy fighting."

The incident marked the first major al-Shabaab attack on AU forces since the mission changed its name and operational structures last month.

The U.N. Security Council, which authorized the new mission called the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia, gave it a mandate to reduce the threat posed by al-Shabaab, support the capacity building of Somali security forces, and conduct a phased handover of security responsibilities to the Somali government. The mission's mandate runs through the end of 2024.

AGENCIES

## Tanzania eyes AfCFTA zone as 7trn/- seeps into industries

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declared.

Other industrial investments are set for the Nala special economic zone in Dodoma, a major industrial park in Mwanza, where the projects are being pursued by the government in collaboration with the private sector, she stated.

The minister described Tanzania as registering steady growth in industrial investment, spearheaded by the private sector especially at Economic Processing Zones (EPZ) and Special Economic Zones (SEZ), beefed up by properties held by individuals.

Characterizing industrial sector activity, he said most industries are ancillary, a total of 62,400 establishments forming 77.07 per cent of total industries, 17,267 small scale factories (21.33 per cent of outlays) 684 medium scale units (0.84 per cent), and 618 large factories (0.76 per cent of total units).

Out of the 618 large factories employing at least 100 people, 41 have the capacity to hire more than 500 workers. The investment plan now seeks to have 500 such factories targeting the AfCFTA zone, by 2025.

AfCFTA is a free trade area founded in 2018 with trade commencing in

January 2021, following the African Continental Free Trade Agreement inked by 54 of the 55 African Union member states.

The free-trade area is among the largest in the world for participating countries, by World Trade Organization data cited by AfCFTA officials.

The traditional Pan African hub of Accra serves as the AfCFTA Secretariat, commissioned and handed over to the AU by host president Nana Akufo-Addo on August 17, 2020.

Tanzania ratified AfCFTA on 9 September 2021, the 39th country in Africa to deposit its instrument of ratification, in the wake of vast policy changes initiated by the sixth phase government.



**The target is realistic and achievable going by investments being registered at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and Economic Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)**

## Minister says move to lease out islets was fully positive

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debate on budget proposals of the Office of the President, (Labour and Economic Empowerment), some representatives expressed dissatisfaction with the leasing process, saying Zanzibar residents were not adequately involved.

Lela who led the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage for several years said investment in the islets was important for economic growth, ending a situation where the islets were left idle and unproductive, while a number of studies showed their economic potential.

Leasing these islets will promote tourism and its specialized aspects like diving, she said, elaborating that the leasing process started in 2009 and in

2019 the government formed a special committee of 17 people to evaluate the process and give advice.

She said drug dealers used to hide in the islets, several of them near the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa.

Tourism activities were continuing but the government wasn't obtaining any revenues, she said, underlining that countries making progress in tourism have considerable interest in investing in islets, like the Maldives and the Seychelles.

The Zanzibar government is marketing nine islets to prospective investors, specifically targeting network individuals, as Zanzibar has over 50 islets, some of which have already secured investments, the minister added.



Energy ministry permanent secretary Felchesmi Mramba (R) and Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Elisabeth Jacobsen, hold copies of a report book on clean energy transition in Tanzania shortly after launching it in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The thrust of the publication is on the powering of sustainable development. The focus is on access to affordable and reliable energy services by 2030 as well as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector by 30-35 per cent. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





Judge (rtd) Robert Makaramba (L), chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), swears in Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe in Dar es Salaam yesterday as one of the judges of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2021. Looking on MCT executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga (2nd-L) and programme officer Saumu Mwalimu. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## MCT names seven judges for EJAT 2021

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) has released the names of seven judges for the 2021 Excellence in Journalism Awards in Tanzania (EJAT).

Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Dar es Salaam, MCT Executive Secretary Kajubi Mukajanga said the judges will work on the submitted stories from journalists across the country before the set date of the event which is 28th this month.

The judges, who were sworn in yesterday, will be led by veteran journalist Mkumbwa Ally as chief judge and Mwanzo Milinga as their

secretary. Others are lecture Imane Duwe, Nipashe newspaper Managing Editor Beatrice Bandawe and senior investigative journalist Mbaraka Islam.

Others in the list which is a variation of journalists from print and electronic media are Aboubakary Famau and Rose Haji.

Mukajanga said the council has reintroduced the 'lifetime achievement award' which was missing for almost five years.

According to the MCT official, President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to grace the occasion.

"The challenging part has been lack of financial resources, therefore let

me take this opportunity to call upon stakeholders to support the matter," he said.

For his part, the judge who presided over the swearing in of the new judges Robert Makaramba, stressed on truth and accountability on the new appointed judges as it's what the media field demands.

Already the process for lifetime achievement awardees has begun. The category recognizes a journalist that dedicated his or her career to live a commendable mark in the journalism field.

According to Mukajanga, the council has received 598 stories so far, rising from the 2020 number which was 396.

Many youth participants countrywide from 75 media organizations have submitted their stories, whereby journalists from Dar es Salaam send a total of 250, Mwanza (63), Zanzibar (59), Arusha (33), Tanga (37) and other regions that he did not mention that submitted five, two to six stories.

Apart from MCT, EJAT's organizing committee involves organizations like Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), Tanzania Media Women's Association, Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF), HakiElimu, Agriculture Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) and Twaweza.

## 70 prisoners were released on parole basis in 2020/2021 FY, states minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ONLY 70 prisoners were released on parole basis in 2020/2021 financial year as both national and regional parole boards did not hold meetings, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Jumanne Sagini told the lawmakers while boards are supposed to sit at least four times in a year; they did not because they had not been constituted.

He made the statement in response to a question by the Mafinga Urban MP, Cosatu Chumi (CCM), who had wanted to know how many times the regional and national parole boards meet in a year.

"How many times do the national and regional parole boards meet in a year and how many inmates were released through the programme in 2020/2021?" he asked.

In response, the deputy minister explained that the parole boards under Act 25 of 1994 and the boards sit every year in effort to help reduce congestion of prisoners.

In a supplementary question, the Mafinga MP had also wanted to know what the government was doing to save the situation, noting that it seems that some boards do not meet.

Minister Sagini in response said, "It is true some boards did not meet because they had completed their tenures but

new boards have been constituted."

In 2020, then deputy minister of Home Affairs, Hamad Masauni expressed satisfaction at the regional and national boards with their prisoners' parole programme, asking them to continue with it.

Speaking during inauguration of the National Parole Board, Masauni said civilization level in any country and globally is measured by how the country handles 'rehabilitation' of prisoners in their prisons.

"I am satisfied with the level of performance of the regional and national boards of parole in the country that is providing prisoners with an opportunity to join community members with ease on parole basis," he said.

He noted that it was important that the board improves its understanding of parole regulations and programme, because they have a benefit to the nation.

He said the programme has occasioned some discipline to pardoned prisoners, who exercise discipline and cooperation once reinstated into community, a behaviour that contributes in the development of the whole nation.

Since inception, the Parole Board targeted pardoning 6,237 prisoners on parole basis, whereas 5,535 have been released as the managed to convene over 41 sessions.

## Minister Ulega calls upon stakeholders to use better processing technologies

By Guardian Reporter, Kigoma

DEPUTY Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega has urged stakeholders in the industry to ensure they use modern processing and storage technologies so as to fight the growing challenge of loss of fishery products.

Ulega made the call on Thursday here during the opening of the 10th anniversary of the Tuungane Project which is implemented by the Tanzania Nature Conservancy and PathFinder International in villages located along the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

He said that the loss of fishery products in Lake Tanganyika was still a serious problem thus calling for development partners, including the project, to join forces and invest more in drying technology of the products to reduce the losses.

"If we really want to empower our fishermen then we should invest in fish products drying technology, this is very important for the future of our people, we should not allow these lake's products that can lift low income Tanzanians to continue fading away," he added.

He commended the Tuungane

project for transforming the mindsets and lives of the majority of fishermen and traders in Kigoma saying that the move was complementing efforts of the government that aims to promote the blue economy.

He also commended the supervisors for strengthening patrols by supporting security groups in the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

"As the government, we will continue to strengthen efforts to protect water resources, fighting illegal fishing will remain our first priority," he added.

Earlier, director of the Tanzania Nature Conservancy Lucy Magembe said in the past ten years, the Tuungane project has managed to set aside and preserve a total of 12,015 hectares for fish spawning in Uvinza district in Kigoma, Melele and Tanganyika in Katavi region.

Hanaf Msabaha, Uvinza District Commissioner said despite efforts done by the government to implement several projects in villages along the shores of Lake Tanganyika, the Tuungane project has greatly helped to reduce illegal fishing through educating the communities on processing of fish products thus increasing their value.



Dr Mercy Korir from Kenya (standing) pictured in Arusha city yesterday making a presentation to journalists from Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions on surgery for children with cleft lips and palates. It was during training organised by Smile Train, a non-profit organisation. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## TOSCI, ASA plan to import improved soya bean seeds

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government through the Tanzania Official Seed Certification (TOSCI) and Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) plan to import improved soya bean seeds to increase availability to Tanzanian farmers, it has been revealed.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde told the parliament yesterday that the demand for soya bean is very big in and outside the country, thus the need to improve local productivity.

He said the government is considering importing the improved seeds from neighbouring countries of Zambia, among others.

Mavunde made the remarks in response to a question by the Kalambo MP, Joseph Kandege (CCM), who had wanted to know the government strategies to boost production of the crop in Rukwa region and the rest of the country.

"What is the government doing to increase production of soy bean which has a lot of demand both locally and internationally?" he asked.

In response, the deputy minister said Rukwa region is one of the regions that produce soy beans in large quantity for consumption and business purposes whereby in 2020/2021 it produced 121,356 tonnes in some 120,432 hectares of land.

He said the region target to produce 128,672 tonnes in 2021/2022 in some 121,961 hectares of land, adding that in effort to increase productivity of the crop in the region, the government and other stakeholders have taken several measures.

According to the deputy minister, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyole), Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) and Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) to provide training on seed production to 64 extension officers ad

district council, ward and village levels.

He said the extension officers to enable farmers increase their productivity by providing advice and prepare demo farms of soy bean, measure soil fertility to enable the right use of farm inputs.

They are also charged with the responsibility to encourage farmers to adopt contract farming between farmers and buyers for soy bean farmers to get reliable market.



**What is the government doing to increase production of soy bean which has a lot of demand both locally and internationally?**

### JOB VACANCY

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### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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The Journey is scheduled to start on **04.05.2022 to 17.05.2022**

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3. Route: From Holili to Moshi Via Soweto

Travelling time will be only time (06:30 am - 06:00 pm)

We regret for any inconvenience caused



## Govt to improve monitoring, evaluation of development projects, declares Ndejemb

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is to ensure strict monitoring and evaluation by improving coordination and strengthening the system and infrastructure in all ministries and public institutions undertaking development projects, it has been revealed.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance (PO PSMGG), Deo Ndejemb made the statement here, adding that Monitoring and Evaluation System Framework in 2022/23 financial year.

He was speaking at the closure of the first Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning week, urging other ministries and public institutions to prepare a one-year implementation strategy on monitoring and evaluation of the development projects.

He also underscored the need of capacity building and empowering the public servant and department of Monitoring and Evaluation so that they undertake smoothly their duties for increased efficiency and coordination of the government development projects funds.

The deputy minister admitted that there is a professional expertise gap in the industry thus a need to strengthen the department.

"Monitoring and evaluation help in getting the most valuable and effective use of resources," he said, adding that that is the most important thing to the government.

For his part, TanEA Board Chairman, Prof Deo Ngaruko said a missing monitoring and evaluation policy is a setback which needs to be looked at to foster the industry development.

He urged the government to have in place a scheme of service for the monitoring and evaluation cadres as the field is yet to be recognised despite its importance in check and balance

of the public resources and value for money.

Prof Ngaruko also insisted on the need for close working relations between the public and private sector thus the monitoring and evaluation will improve efficiency in the implementation of the projects and value for money and address the gaps.

Adding, "We need an evaluation which is systematic and objective assessment of the design, implementation and results of ongoing or completed projects, programmes or policies, for government to make informed decision."

The Sikonge MP, Joseph Kakunda (CCM) on his part said it is time for building a culture of making thorough analysis and follow up of the projects, thus, the importance of monitoring and evaluation in achieving national development policies and programmes' targets.

He shared his experience from Kenya, having attended such a meeting in the country, saying, "Much as our neighbours started about five years ago, let us work hard and we can outshine them," he said.

He said there is need to give a special attention issues of monitoring and evaluation thus in the 2022/23 financial year the framework system will officially start to operate which will engage all concerned parties in the implementation of development projects for connectivity and ultimate solution in case of challenges.

He called upon the conference organised by the Tanzania Evaluation Association (TanEA) to offer the best practice advice to the government in making the monitoring and evaluation of the development projects a success.

*"Much as our neighbours started about five years ago, let us work hard and we can outshine them"*



Shinyanga district commissioner Jasinta Mboneko (R) pictured yesterday presenting to Police Officer Commanding District John Kafumu chairs, tables and stools for use at the newly built police station at Mwakitolyo Gold Mine. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Zanzibar Govt launches special agency to monitor public funds

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has formed a special economic empowerment agency so as to monitor and ensure that all the funds issued for supporting the citizens to improve their lives are well spent.

Minister of State, President's Office,

Labour, Economy and Investment Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga told the House of Representatives here when responding to a question by the Pemba North Region Special Seats MP Bihindi Hamad Khamis.

The legislator wanted to know the process used by the government in issuing loans to small-scale

entrepreneurs.

The minister said entrepreneurs' funds have a special system of issuance whereby groups are required to register first so as to access the funds, something which is coordinated by 'sheha' of the respective area.

"This is one of the key criteria as these are government funds that

target small-scale entrepreneurs and should later be repaid for others also to benefit," he said.

Elaborating, Soraga said the Zanzibar government has allocated enough funds targeting various groups of entrepreneurs including those working in the blue economy such as seaweed and other sea farming.

"It is high time now for the small-scale entrepreneurs to utilize the opportunity by seeking for the funds so as to invest more in their projects and thus improve their income while contributing to the country's development," he explained.



Iringa Regional Fire and Rescue Force commander Isabela Mbawo affixes an emergency phone number 114 sticker to a vehicle at Iringa municipality's main bus stand on Thursday during the launch of the annual commemoration of Fire and Rescue Week. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

## Employ more psychologists to curb increase in cases of mental distress, MPs call on govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have called on the government to train and employ more psychologists in efforts to help reduce ever increasing cases of mental distress in the country that lead to death.

Speaking during the questions and answers session, the lawmakers argued that there is need to have the experts at all levels in the society, arguing the nation is experiencing a lot of suicidal deaths of relatives killing each other and so forth.

In a main question, the Special Seats

MP, Ester Maleka (CCM) had wanted to know if the government does not see the importance of increasing the number of psychologists in the society in effort to provide mental health services to people.

"Does the government think of increase the number of psychologists at all level of the society to help reduce stress that is causing a lot of harm to people?" she asked.

In response, the Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Mwanaidi Ali Hamisi said the government acknowledges the importance and

services of psychologists to Tanzanians.

However, she said the number of the experts in the country is not big and the existing few ones have been stationed at different parts of the country, at regional district and ward levels.

"My ministry in collaboration with the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) are working together to employ more psychologists when budget allows," she said.

Special Seats MP, Fatma Tawfiq (CCM), noted that the demand for counselling and psychological advice is very huge and that if the government

cannot employ more psychological experts then let it come up with mobile clinic at every district council.

"The situation is not good at all and the government must do something to rescue the situation," she said.

In response the deputy minister said there are already such experts at district councils who go down to ward and village levels and those seeking their service do so at the district council offices.

Special Seats MP, Shally Raymond said the problem is very big calling on the government to intensify public education.

## Govt reaffirms commitment to engage women and youth in agribusiness opportunities

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment and determination to leverage women and youth participation in agribusiness opportunities.

Deputy Minister for Investment, Industries and Trade Exaud Kigahe made the remarks at the dialogue to leverage women and youth participation in agribusiness opportunities in Dodoma recently.

The dialogue was organised by Agriculture Market Development Trust-AMDT. The deputy minister said women and youth should play an active role as the 6th phase government is opening up investment opportunities through agriculture, industries and trade.

He advised that women and youth should form small groups and unite adding that through financial institutions, it will be easier for them to import large bulk of goods and products and reduce unnecessary costs.

He said the government recognizes the importance and the role being played by women and youth to leverage national economy through different sectors.

"Agriculture is the backbone of our national economy. Raw materials from agriculture are mainly used in manufacturing industries. I commend AMDT for organising this dialogue to explore and discuss opportunities available for them.

"Women and youth are the catalyst of development for any nation. Therefore, they should not be left behind in the process of socio-economic development of the nation," he said.

Economic development depends on industries, trade and agriculture. The government will continue creating conducive environment for local and foreign investment as well as policy and legal frameworks, he added.

He assured women and the youth

that the government has already worked on nuisance fees, levies and taxi at the district council levels. Citing an example he said the government has already removed more than 35 nuisance tax and levies.

He urged women and the youth to use the government institutions like TIRDO, SIDO, TANTRADE and BRELA to get trained so that they can be able to produce quality products and goods.

He commended the good work being done by AMDT for working together with the government to find solutions to the challenges facing agriculture development such as markets and value chain development.

He urged the media to give priority to women and the youth when reporting saying journalists have key role to play to inform them and the general public at large on different emerging opportunities.

AMDT' mission is to unleash large scale systemic change in agricultural market systems that are critical for the productive poor.



**"Agriculture is the backbone of our national economy. Raw materials from agriculture are mainly used in manufacturing industries. I commend AMDT for organising this dialogue to explore and discuss opportunities available for them"**



## KSC wins RC's praise for providing social services to nearby communities

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela has commended the management of Kilombero Sugar Company Limited (KSC) for its decision to allocate funds from the annual revenue for strengthening community services in the communities surrounding the factory.

RC Shigela made the remarks during a public meeting held recently with residents of Ruaha Ward, Mikumi Division in Kilosa District, which also involved some officials from Kilombero Sugar Company.

At the meeting, some citizens mentioned a number of challenges facing them, including poor road infrastructure, lack of quality health services, water and offices for delivery of community service.

"I commend the leadership of Kilombero Sugar Company for this step as this will strengthen the good relationship that exists between the company and the people living in surrounding areas from the villages and wards in Kilosa District Council and Kilombero District," said Shigela.

After hearing the challenges facing the residents, the Director of Corporate Affairs for Kilombero Sugar Company Limited, Ephraim Mafuru, said that

the company will allocate more than 400m/- annually for strengthening social services.

He said the money will be used to strengthen community services in the area around the factory, and those bordering the company's sugarcane fields.

Mafuru said the local community has made a significant contribution to the operation of the factory and that the money should be used to strengthen the infrastructure in their areas as one of the way in recognizing their contribution to the company.

In another step, the management of the company has promised to prioritise employment for the community surrounding the factory in its expansion project whose implementation is expected to be completed by July 2024.

Meanwhile, Kilombero Sugar Company has continued to improve welfare services for its employees by building more than 1,800 staff houses.

The company's business affairs manager, Bruno Daniel, said this at the World Workers' Day celebrations held regionally at CCM Mikumi grounds in Kilosa district.

He also said that workers living outside the factory area are given 15 percent of their salaries to cover housing costs.



Tanzania Midwives Association president Feddy Mwanga speaks during the commemoration of International Day of the Midwife (May 5) held at national level in Dodoma city and attended by a wide range of stakeholders, among them UNFPA-Tanzania representatives. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

FARMERS in Mbozi District, Mbeya Region, have said that despite investing in quality seeds, poor availability of affordable fertiliser remains a major challenge, a situation which holds back their efforts to fight poverty.

They are decrying that rising cost of farming inputs, especially fertilizers' affects production and leads to low harvests.

Ibrahim Sikanyika, one of the farmers said the harvests in this season were unsatisfactory because many farmers failed to afford the cost of fertiliser which is sold between 100,000/- and

## Mbozi District farmers underscore need for timely access to affordable fertiliser

120,000/- per 50kg bag.

He said the price of fertiliser was too high compared to the capacity of majority of farmers, something that needs to be addressed, if the country is to achieve its development goals through the sector.

"In previous seasons, the price was at least affordable as we were purchasing a 50kg bag of fertiliser at

65,000/- to 75,000/- but the current situation scares us as we do not afford the cost. In general, costs of life have risen, inputs are also unaffordable, this situation hurts us a lot and we don't know what to do rather than ending up producing for consumption," he said.

Another farmer, Frank Mkdondya called on the government to intervene in the matter and come up with

solutions that will help the process of the inputs to be low and affordable.

He however hailed panner and pioneer seeds saying that they have rescued majority of the farmers despite the rainy season starting late.

"At least those who used the seeds have got good harvests, however the seeds are not available in all areas, so if the price of fertilizer was good, we

could have reaped big in the season," he added.

Agriculture officer at Asweketwa village in Ihanda said despite the challenges, farmers should continue adhering to the best farming practices so as to get better harvests.

He said extension officers have been visiting farmers to provide them with better agricultural education

and techniques that will help them achieve higher yields in this time when many parts are affected by climate change.

Corteva Agri Science company manager, who are the producer and distributors of panner and pioneer maize seeds, Tolio Mafie said the demand for the seeds was high but the firm was working to increase production so as to cater the needs.

He said if farmers will adhere to the advice from experts, they can harvest between 35 to 40 sacks per hectare and thus advised them to abandon traditional ways and focus more on commercial farming.



This is Dar es Salaam city's main mixed-goods market, Kariakoo, which is undergoing rehabilitation after being gutted by fire in July last year. Correspondent Jumanne Juma captured the scene yesterday.

## Plan to source water from great lakes due to benefit surrounding communities, Water minister tells MPs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN AN effort to ensure availability of clean and safe water throughout the country, the government has said it plans to pump water from great lakes in the country, parliament heard yesterday.

Water minister, Jumaa Aweso made the remarks in response to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Martha Mariki if the government had plans to pump water from Lake Tanganyika to all other parts of Katavi region.

In response, the minister said accessibility of water in the region has reached 71 percent in the villages and 60 percent in urban areas but the long term solution is to get water from Lake Tanganyika.

He said in the 2021/2022, the ongoing project is at Karema in Tanganyika district that serve Kapalamsenga and Songambebe villages in Kapalamsenga ward, Isengule and Shukula villages in Isengule ward. The project is expected to end in September 2022.

"It is the government's plan to source water from great lakes in the

country with the aim of ensuring that all villages and districts near the lakes benefit," said the minister.

Aweso made this statement following supplementary questions from several members of parliament who had wanted to know when their districts neighbouring lakes would benefit from the sources of water.

He cited such projects as that of Dodoma region getting water from Lake Victoria via Singida region whose feasibility studies he said were carried out during the fiscal year 2020/21.

Another project is that of connecting villages in Tarime district with water from Lake Victoria. He said this in response to a supplementary question by the Special Seats MP, Agnes Marwa (CCM) who had wanted to know plans to pump water from the lake to Tarime.

Others include Mugango-Kiabakari Butiama project, which receive water from Lake Victoria, which has been funded by the government of Tanzania, Saudi Arabia and Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

## Fire and Rescue Force in Iringa offers education on fire outbreaks

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

FIRE and Rescue Force (FRF) in Iringa Region has reached out to a number of areas and sectors, furnishing them with right knowledge on how to overcome fire events in their places.

The initiative was part of the

commemorations of the Fire Prevention Week 2022 which is held at Mwembetogwa grounds in Iringa municipality.

Speaking at the launch here, Iringa Regional FRF Commander Isabela Mbwago said that there are many Tanzanians who are still unaware of what to do during fire events so

educating them was a matter of paramount importance.

Mbwago inaugurated the celebrations by inspecting vehicles at the Iringa and Mlandege bus stands and saying that there were a good number of vehicles that were found lacking fire extinguishers.

"The other thing is that most of the

workers who work in these vehicles are unaware of the use of the emergency number - 114 during disasters, so motorists should be aware of this and make sure that their vehicles are equipped with the firefighting equipment," she noticed.

The theme of the celebrations for this year 2022 is 'A strong economy

based on fire protection and alertness to fire hazards,' and the climax of the celebrations is today.

She mentioned some of the duties that the military has to do to put out fires, provide education on fire prevention and safety, conduct inspections and fire protection, read building maps and provide advice.

She also said the FRF also provides first aid in road accidents and accidents provides training in firefighting, investigating fire disasters and providing humanitarian services.

Mbwago urged Iringa residents to turn out in large numbers in the grounds so as to get right education and also to bring their vehicles for free inspection where they will be taught on how to use fire extinguishers in their cars and areas.



# Mobile firm pledges to extend access to affordable services across rural Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

TIGO Tanzania has expressed its commitment to increase investment so as to extend access to affordable mobile services and drive digital inclusion across rural Tanzania.

MIC Tanzania PLC chairman, Rostam Azizi made the statement in Dar es Salaam during his meeting with media practitioners to outline priorities and strengthen engagement.

The firm held the media forum in order to connect and unveil its future plans aimed at fueling the telecommunications industry in Tanzania after a consortium led by Axian Telecom and the prominent Tanzania businessman Rostam acquired the merged entity MIC Tanzania PLC (Tigo and Zantel).

The meeting outlined the Axian Telecom consortium's ambitious growth plans to support the digital transformation of Tanzania by investing significantly in the country over the next five years to strengthen the network coverage and quality of service of the merged entity MIC Tanzania plc.

"We are excited to meet with the media fraternity to outline our future plans for over 14 million customers across the country. Following decades of experience in this sector, I am committed to providing valuable strategic guidance and stewardship to Tigo in order to increase investment in infrastructures and thus extend access to affordable mobile services," Rostam

said.

Axian Telecom's founder and board chair, Hassanein Hiridjee, said: "Our investment into the merged entity (Tigo and Zantel) will help us fulfill our ambition to be an end-to-end partner in Africa's digital transformation journey and further accelerate financial inclusion, capitalizing on the success of the merged entity's mobile financial services to develop bespoke services that meet our customer's needs."

Leveraging on its expertise, notably in deploying state of the art technologies and developing successful mobile financial services, Axian Telecom and Rostam Aziz ambition is to energize the telecommunications ecosystem in Tanzania with a focus on ensuring a better experience for the customers as well as employees.

Plans are underway for the merged entity teams to move into the tallest building in East and Central Africa, PSSSF Commercial Complex located in the commercial city, Dar es Salaam. This move will help the company to develop and nurture talent in a more advanced working environment.



**We are excited to meet with the media fraternity to outline our future plans for over 14 million customers across the country**

# Forecasting tool finds best time to fight fall armyworm

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

A NOVEL modeling system relying on simple inputs could help smallholder farmers accurately predict the best time for controlling fall armyworm larval populations to prevent crop damage and yield losses, a study shows.

The models use a combination of field data, plant-pest lifecycle data and earth observations to produce near real time forecasts to help fight the destructive pest, which is estimated to cause annual yield losses in Africa of US\$9.4 billion, according to the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI).

Since late 2016 when fall armyworm was detected in Africa, it has spread throughout most of the continent, leading to food insecurity among smallholders, the CABI study says. In Ghana and Zambia, maize yield losses from the pest are estimated at around 27 and 35 per cent respectively.

The study, published last month in the journal Crop Protection, built two larval population emergence models from field fall armyworm data from maize in Zambia that were validated using similar data from multiple maize sites in Kenya.

"The models can be adjusted to work with a variety of management strategies and farming systems as the thresholds are not fixed and can be adjusted depending on the situation – subsistence farming versus cash crop farming," says Alyssa Lowry, the study's lead researcher and data scientist at CABI.

The objective of the study, Lowry explains, was to develop a modeling system that could accurately forecast the development of fall armyworm larval populations in the field and produce actionable outputs to help smallholders better manage the pest and avoid serious crop damage.

"Fall armyworm is a prolific pest that can have a devastating impact on farmers' yield if not properly controlled," says Lowry. "Most of the management strategy currently used for fall armyworm relies heavily on farmers reporting the damage they see but oftentimes once the damage is visible and it is too late to recover crop yields.

Lowry says the models can also easily

be applied to other major insect pests of farmer crops in Africa. "Smallholder farmers need as many weapons in their arsenal for the fight against invasive pests as possible and the fall armyworm models...will hopefully help Africa's national plant health system to include more preventative management strategies rather than mostly reactive measures," she adds.

The models, she explains, can be rolled out to farmers through bulletins that show the number of days to action in the form of a map, supported by a guide to pest management developed by CABI's Plantwise programme. They can also be shared by text message or radio for access by other agricultural service providers.

Plantwise is a global programme that helps protect farmers from crop loss from plant health problems. It works with national agricultural advisory services to establish and support sustainable networks of plant clinics, run by trained plant doctors, where farmers can find practical plant health advice.

Jane Ininda, head of seed research and systems development at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, says that models that support monitoring, surveillance, crop scouting, time reporting and control interventions remain critical for smallholder farmers to avert any serious damage to crops and pastures.

"These can be further [reinforced] where active networks of stakeholders exist for effective management, including ministries of agriculture, extension systems, and communication agencies such as the media and coordination on the availability and affordability of control interventions," Ininda says.

But Ininda says that because the models are based on larval populations, while control is supposed to be before the larvae are detectable, smallholders could find the models complicated.

"This requires farmer education to understand the relative advantage of using such a system," she explains. "Where farmers depend on material support to control fall armyworm, there should be a need to synchronise with government agencies support with such predictions. The model also needs support of an insurance system."



Masasi Town Council chief nurse Devotha Namahala (R) briefs Vodacom Tanzania Foundation manager Sandra Oswald on the function of an infant warmer and an oxygen machine when the latter visited Mkomaindo Hospital earlier this week. She was following up the use of medical equipment VTF has extended to the council in support of healthcare for premature babies at the hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Many children with cleft lip untreated due to lack of funds, poor awareness

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

MAJORITY of children from poor families who are born with cleft lip are left without getting surgical services to correct the challenge due to lack of funds and poor awareness.

Cleft lips are birth defects that occur when a baby's lip or mouth do not form properly during pregnancy.

Addressing journalists here, Smile Train organisation manager Veronica Kamwela said despite lack of money, many parents are still fed with the mindset that the defect is untreatable.

She said statistics show that about 200,000 children globally are born

with cleft lip defects every year.

"Although there are no official studies conducted in the country over this challenge, there are many children who are born with this defect, for example there is one hospital in Lake Zone which conducts surgery to 40 children born with the challenge per month. Researchers are now conducting a pilot study in the regions of Morogoro, Singida, Dodoma and Tabora," she asserted.

According to Kamwela, factors contributing to the increase of the challenge include cigarette smoking and alcohol and drugs consumption during pregnancy and infections.

Other causes can be genes a child inherits from their parents and environmental factors such as smoking during pregnancy or drinking alcohol during pregnancy, obesity during pregnancy and lack of folic acid during pregnancy.

She noted that lack of adequate education about the problem was also one of the challenges.

"Reports show that most of the babies born with defects suffer from malnutrition but also have challenges in respiratory system and hearing," she noted.

Dr Mercy Corir, a pediatric surgeon from Kenya, when presenting a topic

on the importance of pediatric surgery services, said more than 1.7 billion children worldwide lack access to such services on time.

"This is a big challenge, as it bares children from growing properly, this affects millions of children worldwide as they lack access to quality surgical services to address the challenge. The economy is also affected," she said.

The Same Qualities Foundation director Dr Peter Mabula said the society has been ignoring the importance of encouraging pregnant mothers to attend clinics so as to get education and all required services for safe births.



Watumishi Housing Investments workers take part in this year's May Day procession in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SWEDISH ambassador to Tanzania Anders Sjöberg has called on the government to amend the Media Service Act of 2016 to enable journalists report freely.

Speaking at the climax of World Press Freedom Day in Arusha the envoy said the law would help the community access information freely.

"But it will help to protect online

# Swedish ambassador calls for press freedom

journalists and they will be free to write and inform the public," he said, noting Sweden in collaboration with the Tanzania Media Council (MCT) is continuing to promote freedom of information and to support journalists' clubs to assist journalists to write professionally.

British High Commissioner

David Concar called on African countries to unite and become one in protecting the freedom of the media.

He said that if they unite together they will be able to overcome the various challenges that have been facing journalists, including the killing of journalists, while performing their

duties.

Concar emphasised that it was important to unite and work together in African countries to promote media freedom.

Speaking at the event, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said she had already ordered the Media Services Act of 2016 to be reviewed.



## EAC steps up readiness for health emergency response

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community Secretariat yesterday held the first simulation exercise (SIMEX) since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in order to strengthen preparedness and bolster response to future public health emergencies in the Partner States.

The exercise is part of a one-week regional training workshop to strengthen national capacities for exercise operations at ports of entry and is a follow up on Table Top exercise conducted in Arusha in 2018 and the cross-border field simulation exercise at the Namanga border between Kenya and Tanzania in June 2019.

The simulation exercise taking place at Kilimanjaro International Airport in the United Republic of Tanzania is intended to test the knowledge and skills acquired by the participants during the training workshop.

The aim of the exercise is to link early warning with preparedness and response. The logistics drill includes a realistic disaster scenario which will help the participants to build skills for design and implementation of simulation exercises at national level.

Kilimanjaro International Airport Security Manager, Justine Makomondi Kisusi, confirmed that the exercise is necessary for strengthening readiness to respond to public health emergencies: "We are delighted to receive all delegates for this emergency simulation exercise, as it will help us combat future outbreaks."

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, in recent years, the East African Community (EAC) has experienced numerous outbreaks of infectious diseases and other events of public health concern, such as droughts and floods. In the African Region, about 100 public health events are reported annually. In the last three years, East Africa has had several disease outbreaks such as yellow fever, cholera, Rift Valley fever, Marburg virus disease, measles and Ebola. The region is also prone to natural disasters such as floods, landslides and drought. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the need to enhance public health emergency capacities at ports of entry.

To better prepare for public health emergencies, the EAC Secretariat, with support of WHO and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, conducted a training of 60 emergency response experts and officials from Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda on management of public health emergencies at ports of entry. The participants were selected from various One Health sectors including health, environment, agriculture and animal health, trade, tourism and defence.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Dr David Balikowa from the East African Community noted that it is critical to keep "assessing and improving the regional



Port health officers attend to a "collapsed" arriving passenger during a simulation exercise at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA).

health crisis response capacity and status of implementation of the International Health Regulations".

Dr Mary Stephen, the WHO Regional Office for Africa Focal Point for International Health Regulations reminded participants of the increasing occurrence of emerging and re-emerging diseases which present immense

challenges to detect and contain.

The Manager of the EAC/GIZ Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region project in Arusha, Tanzania, Dr Irene Lukassowitz agrees on the need to be prepared for future outbreaks, as "fighting for more resilient health systems can also help withstanding the shock of disaster and potential damage from emergencies."



## US, Tanzanian govts launch health initiative worth \$260million

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Tanzanian and US government yesterday launched AfyaYangu (My Health) activities—a \$260 million flagship health services delivery programme in the capital city Dodoma.

The event was attended by the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright, Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, Minister of Health, Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of PORALG, Innocent Bashungwa, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups as well as the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director V. Kate Somvongsiri

The USAID's AfyaYangu is a five-year programme, comprising three activities that will address issues around HIV, tuberculosis (TB), family planning (FP), and reproductive,

maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH).

Statistics show that Tanzania has around 1.7 million HIV-positive people, faces persistent challenges in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, and continues to have cases of COVID-19 which have disproportionately affected high-risk groups like pregnant women and those living with HIV.

The US government is committed to partnering with Tanzania's Ministry of Health and the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government at the central and regional levels to deliver high-quality integrated HIV, TB, and RMNCAH prevention, care, and treatment services that will improve health outcomes, particularly for youth, women, and children.

The project will also improve Tanzanian households' nutrition and health outcomes by making quality

health care services more readily accessible by continuing to build the capacity of local stakeholders for long-term, country-led programmes.

The AfyaYangu programme being launched directly contributes to these goals. Through this programme, USAID Tanzania will increase the identification of people living with HIV and ensure they start-and stay on-antiretroviral treatment; and improve people's ability to protect themselves against HIV infection. AfyaYangu will also strengthen community-led health systems to ensure Tanzanians in target regions receive the quality health services they need and increase childbirth services to improve pregnancy and newborn outcomes.

Healthy children are the future leaders of Tanzania who can only achieve their full potential with adequate access to healthcare and education. The US government is

committed to partnering with the government of Tanzania to advance the goal of ensuring that Tanzania's youth are healthy, well-nourished, well-educated, and possess the right skills.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Wright remarked, "With nearly two-thirds of Tanzania's population under the age of 25, we must strengthen local health systems to improve the health outcomes for generations of young Tanzanians that will guide the country towards a more viable and stable future." USAID's AfyaYangu programme will be implemented in 21 regions of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, PO-RALG, regional and local government authorities, civil society organisations, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), Jhpiego, Deloitte and consortium partners.

## Sendiga advises villagers to conserve forests for sustainable development

By Guardian Reporter

IRINGA Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga has urged villagers to invest heavily in conservation of natural forests and make proper use of the resource for sustainable development.

Addressing residents and leaders in Mahenge village, Kilolo District on Thursday, the RC said protection of natural resources was a responsibility of every member of the community.

She witnessed how the Mahenge village was benefiting from the implementation of the Conserving Forests through sustainable, forest-based Enterprise Support in Tanzania (CoForEST) project which is conducted by the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) with support from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

According to her, if villages could see the potential available in the forest reserves and invest efforts to conserve them, then they could reap big and thus stimulate development.

"Villages and forests have a lot of opportunities, what we have to do is to conserve them and use products from the forests sustainably to improve income; villagers should be educated on the importance of protecting natural forests," she said.

She noted that natural forests play a vital role in sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation. "We have witnessed how the project has started to produce positive outcomes as it has stimulated development and increased conservation. MJUMITA and TFCG have done a very great job here by educating you on conservation, so make sure that you utilise this education well," she added.

She noted that for the country to attain its development goals, having a patriotic generation that prioritises environmental conservation, is a matter of paramount importance.

"The Iringa region through water valleys, contributes to water availability in various mega and strategic projects such as the Kidatu power station, Julius Nyerere Hydro-power Project (JNHPP), so we have a role to continue protecting the nature for stable supply of water in our areas and national projects," she

added.

She commended the organisations for educating villagers on sustainable forest resources harvesting and better land use so as to ensure that the natural resources also benefit future generations.

Earlier, TFCG director Emmanuel Lyimo said the organisation has been working to stimulate environment conservation which includes educating villagers and leaders to scale up sustainable charcoal production and other activities for the country's development.

"Most of natural forests have been destroyed by human activities, what is done now is to re-plant trees, this move have has affected biodiversity and ecosystem, this is why we came up with the project to ensure that villages conserve natural forests, encourage villagers to initiate eco-friendly projects such as bee keeping, vegetable farming and tree planting," he said.

He said TFCG has also invested in public awareness programmes so as to ensure that communities have broader understanding of the importance of natural forests and conservation for sustainable development.

Charles Lyimo, manager of the Transforming Tanzania Charcoal Sector (TTCS) project said ten villages in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region have been assisted in the past ten years to integrate sustainable charcoal production into the management of their village forest reserves.

He said the project was introduced, dedicated to fight deforestation and to support the local economy. "It is designed to transform the charcoal sector, not only by introducing more sustainable and energy efficient methods to produce charcoal but also by building the capacity of the villages and the district to govern the business more successfully," he asserted.

Charles said: "After recording big achievements, the government and stakeholders called for the project's extension from 2015 to 2019 in the districts of Mvomero, Kilosa and Morogoro benefiting 30 villages," he explained.

He said following great success in Morogoro, the project extended in Kilolo district of Iringa as well as Ruangwa, Liwale and Nachingwea districts in Lindi Region and is expected to end this year.

## Ministers adopt 35pc as the EAC common external tariff 4th band

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African Community (EAC) ministers - cabinet secretary in charge of Trade and Finance have adopted 35 percent as the 4th Band of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET).

They made the approval during a retreat on the comprehensive review of the CET on Wednesday, in Mombasa, Kenya, ministers, decided that implementation of the reviewed EAC CET shall commence on 1st July, 2022.

The meeting further agreed that there should be flexibility in implementation of the revised CET, particularly on products currently affected by the current global economic realities.

The EAC Council of Ministers chairperson, Betty Maina, who is also the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industrialisation and Enterprise Development, Kenya hailed the move, dubbing it beneficial to the promotion of industrialisation and in safeguarding consumer welfare on products where the region is net importing.

"The reviewed CET will address the requests for stays of application, which distort the EAC CET," she said.

The meeting further directed EAC Partner States to identify products which are affected by the current global trade disruptions for consideration during the Pre-Budget Consultations meeting scheduled for 9th to 13th May, 2022.

In his remarks, EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki termed this as a positive step towards the realization of the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"The move is set to spur intra-regional trade by encouraging local manufacturing, value addition and

industrialisation," said Dr Mathuki.

The Secretary General said the CET is one of the key instruments under the Customs Union pillar which justifies regional integration through uniform treatment of goods imported from third parties.

Among the tariff lines in this 4th band include: dairy and meat products, cereals, cotton and textiles, iron and steel, edible oils, and beverages and spirits.

In addition; furniture, leather products, fresh-cut flowers, fruits and nuts, sugar and confectionery, coffee, tea and spices, textiles and garments, headgears, ceramic products, and paints, among others.

The meeting was informed that the maximum tariff band at 35% was the most appropriate rate, as in the long run, it has the most positive impact to regional growth. They noted that in its application, a welfare loss is expected, but would be cured from generated added employment opportunities from the switch of local production.

The meeting, held in a hybrid format was attended by the respective ministers and permanent secretaries from the partner states.

Burundi was represented by Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry & Tourism Marie Chantal Nijimbere, Tanzania was represented by Minister of Finance and Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Uganda was represented by Francis Mwebesa and Rwanda was represented by Beata Habyarimana.

In addition, the EAC Deputy Secretary General Eng Stephen Mlote was in attendance, while the private sector was represented by the Executive Director of the East African Business Council (EABC) John Bosco Kalisa.



SATURDAY 7 MAY 2022

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Food insecurity an evolving concern in COVID-19-hit sub-Saharan Africa

**T**HE socio-economic situation of the urban poor in sub-Saharan Africa has worsened following the COVID-19 pandemic, with millions of people facing acute food insecurity and malnutrition.

Food security is the measure of the availability of food and individuals' ability to access it. According to the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, food security is defined as meaning that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.<sup>[1]</sup> The availability of food irrespective of class, gender or region is another one.

At the 1974 World Food Conference, the term 'food security' was defined with an emphasis on supply; food security is defined as the 'availability at all times of adequate, nourishing, diverse, balanced and moderate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices'. Later definitions added demand and access issues to the definition. The first World Food Summit, held in 1996, stated that food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

History of the severest food crises shows that many countries were completely unprepared for a crisis and unable to resolve the situation without international aid.

In spite of criticism lately, the international community has always sent help in the form of food supplies and other means which saved millions of lives in the affected regions. However, the international aid often did not reach the most vulnerable populations due to a high level of

corruption and political instability in many Third World countries.

Many African and Third World governments encourage production of the so-called cash crops, the income from which is used to import food. As a result, countries which depend on cash crops are at high risk of food crisis because they do not produce enough food to feed the population.

The majority of the severest food crises after the second half of the 20th century were caused by a combination of several factors. The most common causes of food insecurity in African and other Third World countries were drought and other extreme weather events. The comparison of the severest food crises in the later history reveals that all were preceded by drought or other extreme weather events. They resulted in poor or failed harvests which in turn resulted food scarcity and high prices of the available food.

In addition to extreme weather events, many failed harvests in African and other Third World countries were also caused by pests such as desert locusts. Cattle diseases and other agricultural problems such as erosion, soil infertility, also play a role in food insecurity. Some experts suggest that drought and extreme weather in regions affected by food crises in the recent decades could be a result of climate change, especially in the West and East Africa which have problems with recurrent extreme droughts.

The disease which is a serious public health concern in the sub-Saharan Africa worsens food insecurity in two ways. Firstly, it reduces the available workforce in agriculture and secondly, it puts an additional burden on poor households. Poor African and Third World countries have the highest growth rate in the world which puts them at increased risk of food crises. According to some estimation, Africa will produce enough food for only about a quarter population by 2025 if the current growth rate will continue.

## Pains on oil price hikes a bit selective, but should look at all relevant options

**U**NEASE about the impact of rapid rises in the price of fuel has started to mark the political landscape, after the legislature moved to suspend (adjourn) the regular order of business to debate the situation, as a matter of acute public interest. To an outside observer, the first item one had to determine was the intensity of the price hikes in everyday life, and an MP from the northern zone said living costs had risen by 21 percent in the past month or so. The other datum concerns the manner in which oil prices have been rising, that the price moved from 2,700/- to 3,500/- in Dar es Salaam, and in rural areas prices of up to 5,000/- per litre of diesel have been registered, nearly twice the price mid last month; unmanageable.

From the viewpoint of this disparity it is evident that something needs to be done more in the rural areas than in Dar es Salaam for that matter. This firstly implies that providing a subsidy for oil prices in the same cost structure may end up benefiting urban hoarders and rural filling stations cut their prices only marginally.

The best way is to solve the supply side drag, for instance maintaining the bulk procurement system while allowing anyone who would sell at more competitive prices to also bring in consignments, as removing bulk procurement risks handing the entire market to profiteers. That could touch off chaos.

The price snag in rural areas has to do with retail monopoly of particular filling stations in some small towns, so when the merchant feels some shortage is in the air, at least being talked about, raising the price is the first order of reflex action. MPs pointed out this situation but luckily no one suggested going back to police

methods of investigating profiteers and withdrawing their licences or filing cases of economic sabotage against them, which isn't far from our usual habits. MPs were looking for solutions of how to stabilize the market, and that is precisely what is needed, not a change of agents, to replace merchants.

The other aspect is that this crisis has called for parliamentary debate while in 2016 the sugar price crisis didn't elicit the same reaction, after a policy move to stop sugar imports and curtail sugar imports to local producers who buy cheap foreign sugar, repackaging it and sell at far higher prices. What is relevant about the 2016 situation is that sugar is a basic need like fuel, and at that time it wasn't foreign conflicts that led to shortages but policy measures designed to generate profit for local producers. That is why the panic is a bit selective, as some current voices wishing that the Treasury breaks the bank on higher fuel prices are foremost in seeking protection of local producers, even at the expense of consumers paying twice the bill.

At the same time it hasn't been sufficiently emphasized that the problem isn't firstly the fuel price climb as Tanzania has done much better than most of our neighbours, as President Samia Suluhu Hassan was pointing out in an interview at midweek. The real problem is that Tanzanians remain relatively poorer in purchasing power, which calls for structural reforms so that there is more money in circulation and ability to absorb periodic shocks among the population. During the third and fourth phases there was more cash in circulation due to lopsided budgeting, taking three quarters of revenues into recurrent expenditure, cut to just over 60 per cent since late 2015. To compensate, we can open up asset markets, not break the bank.

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## Journalism can be a vital public good only if media independent, economically viable

A UNESCO report

“THE benefits of a free, pluralistic and independent press are widely recognized and valued as a necessary condition of an open society and healthy democracy, as well as being a positive factor for sustainable development.”

This is according to the 2021/2022 edition of the flagship series of reports by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development focuses on understanding the role of journalism as a public good.

The report discusses trends in media freedom, pluralism and independence around the world, the importance of media viability in ensuring a free press that is able to serve the interests of the public, and trends around the safety of journalists.

The findings are grounded in data-driven analysis, conducted by UNESCO in partnership with the Data-Pop Alliance and supplemented by research by Economist Impact.

The report is designed to serve as a resource for UNESCO member states, international organisations, civil society, the media and academics. It begins with a chapter that focuses on understanding the role of journalism as a public good and unpacks the existential challenges facing news media.

“For journalism to fulfil its mission as a public good and essential service, media must be not only independent but also economically viable. If the viability of media is under constant threat, journalism as distinctive communication in the public interest cannot be sustainable,” says the report.

It then examines global trends in media freedom, media pluralism, and media independence over the past five years, followed by a chapter on trends in the safety of journalists.

The issues around mis- and disinformation and the related challenge of internet transparency are woven into all of these sections, and particularly tackled in relation to independence.

The final chapter of the report reflects on the use and impact data on freedom of expression and media development as well as the need to improve the collection of the data.

In each chapter, the report outlines

good practice and measures UNESCO has taken to tackle the issue at hand - whether it is around media freedom, pluralism and independence; media viability; the safety of journalists; or data-gathering. All chapters also offer a list of recommendations for the way forward.

The following are some of the key findings highlighted in the report, ONE being on Press Freedom. Press freedom continues its downward trend across the globe.

Some 85 per cent of the world's population experienced a decline in press freedom in their respective countries over the past five years.

This is according to analysis based on data from the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute. Measures responding to the Covid-19 pandemic were also frequently used to justify violations of press freedom.

New laws and policies restrict freedom of expression online. Dozens of laws have been adopted or amended since 2016 that contain overly vague language or disproportionate punishments that threaten online freedom of expression.

In addition, in the last five years, government requests for content removal on major internet platforms have doubled.

Two: Viability of the media in a digital world. Audiences and revenue continue to move online, placing news media's traditional business models in danger.

The number of social media users worldwide rose from 2.3 billion in 2016 to 4.2 billion in 2021, and advertising revenues have shifted rapidly towards internet companies and away from news outlets.

Google and Meta now receive just about half of all global digital advertising spending, while global newspaper advertising revenue dropped by half in the last five years.

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, trustworthy, independent media proved to be a lifesaving public good. But they are under systemic economic threat and need support.

The impact of the pandemic worsened the already fragile viability of news outlets, which collectively constitute a pluralistic and independent media sector.

New policies and measures are urgently needed to ensure that journalism can continue to function as a public good. These include public

financing for trusted news outlets, enhanced support for genuine public service media, and a redoubling of donor aid and philanthropic investments in news production.

A deluge of mis- and disinformation has contributed to years of declining trust in media worldwide. The growing challenge of false and misleading content was brought into sharp relief during the Covid-19 pandemic, so much so as to be dubbed a “disinfodemic”.

Meanwhile, according to several reports, trust in media and information sources has continued to decline over the past five years.

Amid controversies, recent years have seen mounting calls to end the opacity of internet companies' moderation and curation of content. Greater transparency about the firms' operations would open these entities up to public scrutiny and greater accountability.

Both independent reports and high-profile whistleblowers have underscored the need for greater transparency across the board, especially regarding the companies' governance and accountability around data holdings and privacy, fact-checking, and community standards and their implementation, including moderation of hate speech and mis- and disinformation.

Three: Gender in the media. Progress in closing the gender gap in newsrooms, in bylines, and in the news itself has largely stagnated.

Women continue to be underrepresented at leadership levels in news organisations and on “hard news” beats like politics.

Both qualitative and quantitative studies meanwhile suggest persistent biases in women's representation in the news and the marginalisation of women as expert sources.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, only 27 per cent of health specialists quoted in the media were women, despite the fact that women make up about half of health specialists worldwide.

Four: Safety of journalists. Journalism remains a deadly profession; nine times out of ten, the murder of a journalist is unresolved.

From 2016 to the end of 2021, UNESCO recorded 455 journalists killed for their work or while on the job. This figure shows slight improvement compared to the previous five years but, at the same time, just 13 per cent

of cases recorded by UNESCO since 2006 have been judicially resolved, threatening a continued cycle of violence.

Other threats against journalists, online and off-line, continue to grow. Journalist imprisonment is at record highs, while online violence and harassment spurs self-censorship and, in some cases, physical attacks.

Those threats inordinately affect women journalists and those who represent minority groups: 73 per cent of women journalists responding to a survey by UNESCO and the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists had experienced online violence in the course of their work.

Closing the data gap. The rapidly growing data ecosystem offers the chance to improve our understanding of, and support for, the media sector and freedom of expression.

However, in the countries and communities where journalism is most at risk, the health of the news system on issues like ownership, pluralism, independence and viability often remains a black box.

Using data to inform policies and solutions must first overcome significant gaps in availability, accessibility, utilisation and stability.

The conclusion looks into the future at how to meet the challenges facing freedom of expression and media development, and delivering on the promise of the original Windhoek Declaration and Windhoek+30, a roadmap for the future outlining principles endorsed by UNESCO member states in 2021.

In a word, the report cites various measures that are required to ensure that journalism can continue to function as a necessary public good, chiefly: new regulations for social media transparency, independent state subsidies to trustworthy news outlets, enhanced support for genuine public service media, increased media development assistance, and ramped-up philanthropic investments.

It says all of these need guardrails and vigilance to protect standards of editorial independence and freedom of expression.

For their part, it notes, journalists need to uphold the integrity of the profession in the face of pressure, and media outlets need to do better at digital innovation.



# Cosatu's 'successful' Workers' Day rally

By Magnificent Mndebele

**K**ICKING the president out of the federation's main rally shows how tired workers are of the government protecting the private sector while claiming to be on the side of the working class.

It was Juluka "Juu" Nombanga's apoplectic fellow mine-workers who invigorated the aura of the Congress of South African Trade Unions' (Cosatu) poorly attended Workers' Day commemoration rally at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium near Rustenburg in North West province.

The mineworkers under the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union came to the stadium singing and holding protest placards. Their anger has been brewing for months. They have been on a no-work, no-pay strike at the Sibanye-Stillwater gold mine since early February, after the mine failed to meet their wage increase demand of R1 000 a month.

The workers are struggling to come to terms with chief executive Neal Froneman having pocketed about R300 million last year. Froneman received a basic salary of R12.42 million over the 12 months, plus a cash bonus of R7.8 million and R264 million in conditional share profits.

"It wasn't our plan to cause chaos. As workers from Sibanye-Stillwater, we are only hoping that President Cyril Ramaphosa will listen to our demand for a R1 000 wage increase," said Nombanga, 45, one of the organisers of the striking mineworkers. "He should go and sit down to discuss with the chief executive to add money for us."

Nombanga started working for Sibanye-Stillwater in 2019 and is now the NUM's chairperson at shaft seven. "My job is to dig gold. The problem is that I am only paid to go underground to dig the rocks. It is very difficult to do this kind of work," Nombanga said, yet he doesn't have much to show for it - the big money and wealth goes to the company and its executives. He added that the miners are struggling to keep up with the skyrocketing and unaffordable cost of living.

Cosatu's national delegates realised early on that chaos was imminent if the striking workers were denied an opportunity to air their demands. They insisted that Ramaphosa address the mineworkers directly. Although he was reluctant to humble himself, the president finally acceded to their pressure. Some of the heavily guarded, chanting mineworkers labelled Ramaphosa a "sellout".

"I will make sure to tell Froneman that you guys want R1 000," said an irked Ramaphosa, struggling to convince the workers who were booing him. "Andizakuyivuma lendlela enithetha ngayo (I won't accept the manner in which you talk to me)," he said, trying to reprimand them. "Aningimaleli mangithetha (You do not listen to me when I speak)."

The security forces were at the stadium to contain the workers, who are displeased about the government's quietness regarding their plight. Angry public-sector workers stormed into the stadium and chased Ramaphosa out of the rally. He was escorted by a police inyala.

## Government's double standards

Cosatu president Zingiswa Losi was the only speaker allowed to deliver her keynote speech, which reflected on the milestones of the federation. One of its successes, Losi said, was getting the government to adopt the International Labour Organisation's Convention 190, which seeks to eliminate violence and sexual harassment of women in the workplace. This convention moved a step forward to accommodate workers in the LGBTQIA+ community.

The second victory, she said, was the national minimum wage, which has increased to R23.19 per hour. This is the biggest victory, because it "pertains to the most vulnerable sectors of our economy, the domestic workers, farm workers and security guards," she said. The third victory worthy of celebration relates to the six-month maternity leave.

"Even if you gave birth to a stillborn child, you are still entitled to take your maternity leave. This is a huge victory because at first no one had acknowledged that you are a mother. Because the baby is not alive, you [were] expected to go to work," she explained, adding that even for those who can't give birth, "an adoption leave is now an entitlement for those who cannot bear their own children in the natural way."

But the spotlight on Cosatu's Workers' Day rally was on why Ramaphosa was chased out of the stadium and barred from speaking. Workers have had enough of the double standards of the government, which claims to be pro impoverished and working-class people. It entered into a three-year wage agreement with the public-sector unions in 2018. Losi said the workers were "forced" by the government into this agreement, only to find that on the last leg the government failed

to honour the last leg of the Resolution 1 of 2018. When the federation pushed for the government to commit, it went to court.

The court ruled that the 2018 agreement was unlawful and unenforceable because the National Treasury rejected the agreement at its inception. The federation was aggrieved because the Constitutional Court focused on the internal mandating processes of the government and failed to acknowledge that Cabinet gave the Department of Public Service and Administration the go-ahead to enter into an agreement with unions. The judgment also imposed the treasury on the collective bargaining process and gave it veto powers that allowed it "to act as a super ministry", according to a press release by Cosatu on 1 March.

"The message to workers from this court ruling is that this administration has long ago walked out on workers and unions. The social compact that is being proposed is demanding that workers stop demanding wage increases and that the current labour law regime be weakened," said Cosatu.

"It is now obvious that this government will not save workers, it has sold them out to the billionaire class, and workers will only save themselves. The only way left to change the balance of power and force concessions from the ruling capitalist class is for workers to exert their power by mobilising and fighting. This is a class war."

"Now the ANC understands" "This is still a sore issue to workers, and it will continue to be until it is addressed properly. That is why I was saying running to court is not a solution," Losi said. "We've always told the ANC government that what they are doing is going to be setting a wrong precedent. What the government did was an attack on the collective bargaining council."

The government's failure to honour its three-year wage agreement, Losi said, has empowered companies such as Sibanye-Stillwater to come up with an avalanche of excuses and to follow suit.

Considering how events played out at the rally, was Cosatu's May Day rally a success? The short answer, Losi said, is yes.

About eight Cosatu rallies took place across the country. "But with this one, I'd say it was a success in the sense that a success of a May Day is not about how well you have delivered your speech," she said, but is premised first on Sibanye-Stillwater mineworkers being able to air their grievances.

Ramaphosa being booed out of the rally is the second success. "I guess as much as we do not condone their actions that ended up disrupting the May Day speakers, but we cannot condemn at the same time for them to ventilate their anger. Now the ANC understands exactly how workers feel," Losi said. "We've been consistent in raising this matter. But leaders chose to ignore us. It was a success because leaders felt the pain that workers are feeling."

National Cosatu spokesperson Sizwe Pamla echoed her sentiments. "The reality is that this administration is populated by former trade unionists," he said. "To a certain extent what irritates workers the most is that they turned their backs on them as they ascended the ladders of power. Yet it is workers who have given them the support."

## No messiahs

Pamla said the reaction and anger of the workers towards Ramaphosa was inevitable. "I would be shocked that someone is shocked, because if you look at the real budget document, the government [has decided to] cut corporate tax from 28% to 27% and in another paragraph, the budget announced that 6 000 workers at the post office will be dismissed," he said.

The budget speech leaves workers with one interpretation. "If you read what that means," Pamla added, "it means that the government is putting money in the pockets of the private sector and they're sending workers home to struggle and to suffer. This is a government that could have easily taken that money to bail out the post office and save jobs."

The humiliation that the ANC and the South African Communist Party - who happen to have lapsed on paying their workers in the not-too-distant past - should not be considered an anomaly. Instead, the workers are simply holding their leaders accountable.

"Cosatu workers generally, they are clear when it comes to leadership," Pamla said. He warned that leaders must be prepared to dance to the music when they betray the interests of workers. "There are no messiahs in the labour movement," Pamla said. "Workers hold their leaders accountable. Sometimes they fire them and sometimes they hold them accountable to public forums, like they did with Cyril Ramaphosa."



## EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is making reforms in its structure, internal operations and staffing to accommodate business needs. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following vacant position: -

- 1. POSITION: Sales Manager (1 POST)**
- 2. REPORTING LINE: Director of Commercial and Business Development**
- 3. QUALIFICATIONS:**

The following are qualifications for aspired candidates: -

- Must have a first Degree in Marketing/Business Administration/Commerce or any business-related field and a Master in Business Administration or relevant field OR;
- A Bachelor Degree in any field with hands on experience in Aviation and a Master Degree in Business Administration or relevant field from a recognized institution.
- Must have at least 8 years' working experience in a competitive and dynamic business environment.
- Hands on skills on airline Commercial Operations is an added advantage

## 4. COMPETENCES:

- High level of integrity, customer focus and good Public Relations skills
- Problem-solving and flexibility
- Decisive, confident and result oriented
- Revenue and cost conscious
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills
- High levels of empathy
- Organizational and time-management skills
- Critical thinking and analytical
- Strong ethical standards

## 5. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

The holder of the position will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- Develop execute and Drive passenger sales plan guarantee exposure of Air Tanzania's product facilitating delivery of the company's sales targets and business objectives
- Lead, direct, manage, and motivate sales team in order to achieve and ensure maximum sales, based on the growth strategy of Air Tanzania
- Conduct analysis of business environment to facilitate timely response to develop market trend to maximize on opportunities that arise and minimize adverse impact on a company sale
- Ensure product and promotional plan are understood and implemented to the greatest impact on the company sales
- Monitor competitors' activities, evaluate, recommend competitive strategy and pricing level to deliver expected yield, margin and revenue targets.
- Ensure all travelling agents and corporate customers are prioritized, regular visited and professional handled by the sales team to increase revenue and gained market share.
- Identify and allocate resources on what needs to be done by station coordinators/sales executives to cover territory and travel agents effectively
- Manage travel trade relationship, review travel trade developments and suggest appropriate modification in the sales policy to ensure profitability
- Prepare weekly, monthly and annual sales reports
- Provide inputs and participate in the identification and progress of new business opportunity for revenue growth (through special prorated/interline agreements/partnership etc)
- Participate in ATCL's passengers' revenue budget process for the assigned territory
- Assess and propose appropriate incentives schemes to travel agents, corporate travel, and travel trade to enhance productivity, efficiency and maximization of revenue
- Conduct and coordinate annual performance review for all station/sales executives whilst constantly reviewing training development needs skills and abilities
- Resolve operational and reservations issues from travel agent related product or disruption or customer complaints involving individual sales personnel, including addressing any disciplinary problem that may develop within the sales team.
- Develop and monitor expenditure budget/actual and control costs
- Develop and maintain customer profile database and records
- Liaise with marketing and tariffs units and other passengers service-related department of ATCL's to ensure well integrated sales efforts
- Perform any other official duties that may be assigned by supervisor

## 6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Five (5) years contract with remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Scales and Incentive Scheme

## 7. MODE OF APPLICATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS:

Interested applicants must submit a dully signed letter for consideration of the application attached with the following:

- A detailed curriculum vitae (CV),
- Certified copies of all certificates (including secondary school), other relevant certificates, Applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities Tanzania Commission for University (TCU) or National Examination Council- NECTA)
- Two recent passport size photographs
- Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.

**Note: Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other information on application shall warrant legal consequences**

## 8. CLOSING DATES:

Applicants should consider the following closing dates for this post as follows:

Within Fourteen (14) days from the first date of this announcement

The application letters should be directed to the following address: -

**Managing Director and CEO,  
Air Tanzania Company Limited,  
P.O. Box 543,  
DAR ES SALAAM.**

Date of issue 07/5/2022



Members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) take part in a May Day rally in Cape Town, South Africa 01 May 2018.



# All eyes on Buhari as list of APC's presidential aspirants grows

**W**ITH the growing list of presidential aspirants in the All Progressives Congress, all eyes are on President Muhammadu Buhari to name his preferred successor before the party is torn apart, writes Louis Achi

President Muhammadu Buhari has so far given his "blessing" to a number of aspirants seeking to become the standard bearer of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in next year's presidential election.

As at last count, over 12 candidates have openly expressed their intentions to contest the 2023 presidential election on the platform of the party. They include: Vice President Yemi Osinbajo; National Leader of the APC, Senator Bola Tinubu; Minister of Transportation, Hon. Rotimi Amaechi; Ebonyi State Governor, Mr. Dave Umahi; former governor of Imo State, Senator Rochas Okorocha; Governor of Kogi State, Mr. Yahaya Bello; Minister of State for Education, Mr. Emeka Nwajiuba, who became the first aspirant to purchase the party's N100 million forms; and former Abia State Governor, Senator Orji Uzor Kalu, who recently withdrew from the race.

Others are former President of the Senate, Senator Ken Nnamani; Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige, Cross River State, Prof. Ben Ayade, amongst others. A former Governor of Ogun State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun has also scheduled to declare on May 5, while Governor Kayode Fayemi is also being expected to make a pronouncement on his undeclared presidential ambition.

All those who consulted with the president, according to available information, were said to have received his "blessing" to the extent that he did not ask any of them not to proceed with their presidential project.

It is believed that the president, however, has his trump card, his most preferred successor-in-waiting, close to his chest.

He will require the buy-in of state governors who are critical stakeholders in the party to provide significant support his preferred candidate. No fewer than 7,800 delegates will vote at the party's presidential primary election and the governors control



President Muhammadu Buhari

the delegates in their respective states. Buhari had in January hinted that it would be too early to anoint a successor, adding that if he disclosed his preferred candidate, the person may be eliminated before the 2023 general election.

"I don't have any favourite for 2023 and if I do, I won't reveal his identity because if I do, he may be eliminated before the election. I better keep it secret," he reportedly said in a live TV programme.

Many political analysts have contended that the president must be compulsorily interested in who succeeds him. It is also expected that he will very likely settle for someone who shares the same vision with him about Nigeria - someone who will step in the saddle to sustain the tempo of his agenda.

Many have wondered why the president would always throw his doors open for all presidential aspirants when he knows that

he has his trump card close to his chest. It is feared that his action could tear the party apart at the end, especially if the aspirants are allowed to make huge financial commitments in pursuit of their ambitions before the president names his preferred choice.

As Nigerians await Buhari's decision, speculations are rife that he had shortlisted Osinbajo from the South-west zone; Amaechi from the South-south zone; and Nwajiuba from the South-east zone. Nwajiuba was the first and only aspirant that has picked the N100 million forms for the party's nomination and Expression of Interest. Nwajiuba has enjoyed very close relationship with President Buhari since the past 20 years and has remained a committed and reliable member of a group of Buhari's loyalists.

There is also a strong speculation that Buhari is considering former President Goodluck Jonathan, as his successor. According to

feelers, Buhari is said to be quite appreciative of Jonathan's gesture in accepting the outcome of the 2015 presidential election.

The president, it was learnt, considers Jonathan's nationalism a great asset that can further be deployed in stabilising the country and strengthening national unity.

The sale of forms in the APC began on April 26 and ends on May 5. Anybody who is interested in the APC presidential ticket is circumscribed within this time frame to indicate interest by stepping out to procure the expression of interest and nomination forms. After that, the only window that is available for significant intervention is substitution of candidate.

Whether Jonathan runs for the seat or not, President Buhari has other competent hands to choose from, to wit: Tinubu, Osinbajo, Amaechi, Nwajiuba and others who have indicated interest. As the list of aspirants for consideration in the intricate and gritty succession race continues to grow, the aspirants make deeper commitments, which may make it difficult for them to withdraw for any candidate that emerges as the president's choice.

Apart from the payment of the N100 million forms, aspirants also make huge financial commitments in their nationwide consultations. Such aspirants may dare Buhari and push ahead with their ambition, either in APC or any alternative platform. This may spell doom for the ruling party.

Already, an unconfirmed report had already alleged that Tinubu had hinted that Buhari was not backing his aspiration. Nevertheless, he was also said to have vowed to pursue his presidential project.

Having prepared for the presidential project for close to 20 years, Tinubu is no doubt the most prepared aspirant with formidable structures and followers nationwide. He has a very huge war chest and if he dares Buhari, the ruling APC will not recover from the resultant crisis.

Governors in the party are also said to be mounting pressure on the Buhari and the party executive to ensure that one of its members is given the ticket to fly the party's flag. Buhari should therefore act expeditiously and save the ruling party from any self-inflicted crisis and embarrassment.

Buhari had waited for so long before anointing Senator Abdullahi Adamu as the consensus National Chairman of APC. The party's presidential aspirants can't afford to be kept waiting any longer.

By Tobore Ovuorie

## Female investigative journalists in Africa face too much danger

**W**OMEN who seek the truth in Africa face fear, violence and threats to their lives, writes Nigerian journalist Tobore Ovuorie.

Freedom of expression is quite expensive, especially for female investigative journalists in Africa.

Nine years ago when I went undercover, my then-fiance wanted me to quit investigative journalism, including the big story I was working on at the time. I had to make a tough choice: Marriage and a family -- or the pursuit of truth.

I chose the latter and it came with dire consequences, with which I am still living.

### Living in fear

Men do not understand why I am unable -- and will never -- show them off on social media platforms, be it as display photos, on my timelines, or wherever else. They never make sense of the fact that I cannot bear their names, though it is for their good.

They disappear immediately when I open up about not being able to publicize my children or

family -- or even share anything about them on social media.

Some of my colleagues-turned-friends -- women investigative journalists -- in Africa, have fled their countries to safer spaces in Europe and the US, for fear of their safety, while others are in the process of doing the same.

Politicians aren't the only perpetrators: So are citizens and even security personnel who ought to provide us with protection.

It is darker than you could imagine. And more grim than I could even begin to explain.

The danger of knowing too much

Too many details and information remain in the dark wardrobes of my mind and heart.

On either side, the pendulum swings don't do me any favours. So I live my life on edge, always looking over my shoulder.

Certain body scents and other smells take me back to the dark experiences that I am suppressing. A car or van pulling over by my side -- even on a busy road -- sends shivers down my spine.

Other female investigative



A young Kenyan female journalist

journalists in Africa who I know personally live their lives in the same manner.

We fear being manhandled and forced into vehicles and driven away to unknown desti-

nations to be tortured over our work.

There is no doubt that male investigative journalists in Africa report similar experiences. But our bodies are ravished by not just one, or two, or three men when held captive. And, we are unable to share these dark experiences.

How do we start such a conversation? With whom? And revealing details of procuring an abortion -- the aftermath of a gang rape intended to silence us -- in places such as Nigeria where abortion is illegal?

When these moments creep out from the hidden corners of my mind, all I do is cry. But I am unable to tell anybody precisely why.

In my mind, I die -- but I'm still alive.

The importance of press freedom

The International Federation of Journalists recently revealed an astonishing statistic: As of February 9, 2022, at least seven female journalists were killed in the course of their work around the world this year alone.

Year in and year out, aware-

ness of the importance of press freedom is raised globally, with governments being reminded of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression as enshrined under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

However, the 'silent' major players that stifle female investigative journalists' rights to freedom of expression -- particularly in Africa -- remain unchallenged and unaddressed. And so, the dark cycle continues.

Indeed, being an investigative journalist in Africa is a lot harder for women: We pay a higher personal price, suffer under the long hours and high levels of stress birthed by untold and unspeakable anguish and other external factors.

I battle mental health challenges including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and panic attacks -- all caused by the slippery path of working as an investigative journalist in Africa.

Some of my fellow female colleagues also struggle with some of these issues, but are afraid of

speaking up due to the social stigma.

We risk losing our jobs and everything else because of the mental health challenges caused by investigative journalism work!

The spate of intimidation against me and my colleagues who work in the region labeled the "most violent for journalists" is on the increase. This is further hindering our independence, growth and development.

We are attacked for doing our jobs diligently and the assaults are often sparked by the mere perception that we somehow cause some harm with our reporting. We risk being abused, jailed and killed, while harassment is already a way of life for us.

Being a female investigative journalist is light and a major plus. It is not darkness, not a crime!

A vibrant media plays an indispensable role to the sustenance of democracy. But this should be achieved in a safe environment. Unfortunately, not much is being done to ensure there are safe spaces to report. Which is quite discouraging, to say the least.

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## Growing African mangrove forests chiefly out to combat climate woes

By Special Correspondent, Mombasa

IN a bid to protect coastal communities from climate change and encourage investment, African nations are increasingly turning to mangrove restoration projects, with Mozambique becoming the latest addition to the growing list of countries with large scale mangrove initiatives.

Mozambique follows efforts across the continent – including in Kenya, Madagascar, Gambia and Senegal – and is touted as the world's largest coastal or marine ecosystem carbon storage project. Known as blue carbon, carbon captured by these ecosystems can sequester, or remove, carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at a faster rate than forests, despite being smaller in size.

Mozambique's mangrove restoration project – announced in February alongside its UAE-based partner Blue Forest Solutions – hopes to turn 185,000 hectares (457,100 acres) in the central Zambezia and southern Sofala provinces into a forest which could capture up to 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide, according to project leaders.

"Blue carbon can be utilized not only to sequester tons of carbon dioxide but to also improve the lives of coastal communities," Vahid Fotuhi, the Chief Executive officer of Blue Forest, told the Associated Press. "There are around one million hectares of mangroves forests in Africa. Collectively they're able to sequester more carbon dioxide than the total annual emissions of a country like Croatia or Bolivia." He added these projects would create green jobs and promote biodiversity.

Africa's major mangrove forests have been decimated in recent decades due to logging, fish farming, coastal development, and pollution, leading to increased blue carbon emissions and greater exposure of vulnerable coastal communities to flooding and other threats to livelihood.

But the continent's growing attention on mangrove restoration can be attributed in part to the successful Mikoko Pamoja project, initiated in 2013 in Kenya's Gazi Bay, which protected 117 hectares (289 acres) of mangrove forest and replanted 4,000 trees annually, spurring other countries to also address their damaged coastal land and recreate its success.



Mikoko Pamoja, Swahili for 'mangroves together', centered its efforts to protect small communities in Gazi and Makongeni villages from coastal erosion, loss of fish and climate change. It was dubbed the "world's first blue carbon project" and earned the community of just 6,000 global fame, accolades, carbon cash

and greater living standards.

"Mikoko Pamoja has led to development of projects in the community, including installation of water," Iddi Bomani, the village chairperson of the Gazi community, said. "Everyone has water available in their houses."

"It especially leads to improved livelihoods

through job creation when done by communities," Laitani Suleiman, a committee member of the Mikoko Pamoja, added.

Several other projects have come to fruition since. In Senegal, 79 million replanted mangrove trees are projected to store 500,000 tons of carbon over the next 20 years. Neighboring

Gambia launched its own reforestation effort in 2017, with Madagascar following suit with its own preservation project two years later. Egypt is planning its mangrove restoration project ahead of hosting the United Nations climate conference in November this year.

The projects have sparked a clamor for the sale of carbon credits, a type of permit that allows for a certain amount of emissions as remuneration for forest restoration or other carbon offset projects. Gabon was offered a recent pay package of \$17 million through the Central African Forest Initiative due to its protection efforts, but complaints persist on the low prices offered to African governments.

Africa remains excluded from a lot of financing available under the climate change," Jean Paul Adam, the head of the climate division at the Economic Commission for Africa said, adding that a lack of financing means nations on the continent are unable to build up their resilience to climate change.

He added that, "nature-based solutions and advocating for a fair development price of carbon" would propel the African economy.

And the benefits of reforestation can be significant, according to Coral Reef Alliance's Marissa Stein.

"Restoring and protecting our marine habitats plays a key role in maintaining the health of our planet," she said, adding that mangroves alone store up to four times more carbon per hectare than tropical rainforests. The Global Mangroves Alliance also estimates that mangroves reduce damages and flood risk for 15 million people and can prevent over \$65 billion of property damage each year.

## AU invites African nations to continue COP22 Marrakech work

By Special Correspondent, Rabat

WITH the aim of coping with climate disruption, the African Union (AU) has invited African countries to support the elements of COP22 in Marrakech.

The African Union encourages the pan-African organization's 54 member states to continue

supporting and facilitating the work of the African Climate Commission – created at COP22 in Marrakech in 2016 – to lead the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The AU commented on the resulting efforts following the Marrakech summit in a meeting held on April 21 on climate dis-

ruption, peace, and security in Africa, with the participation of Morocco.

The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) "encourages member states to continue to support and facilitate the work of the African Climate Commissions created at COP22 held in Marrakech in 2016," according to a commu-

niqué published on Thursday. Morocco was represented at this summit by a delegation led by Mohamed Arrouchi, the Kingdom's Ambassador Permanent Representative to the AU and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The Council additionally emphasized the need to share expe-

riences, lessons gained, and best practices in fighting the negative consequences of climate change among the Member States and Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs).

This is in addition to developing more effective synergies between the organizations in-

involved at the local, national, regional, and continental levels. This synergy is intended to enable better coordination of efforts to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change.

The AU PSC also emphasized the importance of implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Frame-

work for Disaster Risk Reduction.

It urges African countries to collaborate with the private sector, NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to build effective national resilience to climate change, particularly in agriculture, and to develop climate-smart infrastructure.

## Women, black Africans and low earners most susceptible to disaster-induced depression

By Special Correspondent

PEOPLE living in communities affected by disasters in sub-Saharan Africa are more likely to experience depression, with women, black Africans and low earners are most susceptible, analysis suggests.

Climate change is one of the most defining sustainable development challenges in the region and is causing increasingly frequent and intense weather events such as flooding and droughts.

South Africa recorded 54 natural disaster events from 2000 to 2019 – the third highest in Africa after Kenya with 60 events and Mozambique with 55 according to the review by South African researchers.

Up until now, they say, country-level studies on the potential link between depression onset and community disasters in Sub-Saharan Africa has been lacking. This prompted them to analyze data from 17,255 adults enrolled in the South African National Income Dynamics Study from 2008 to 2017 who were depression-free when the study began.

"The likelihood of depression due to community disaster exposure was particularly pronounced among females, black Africans and individuals with lower education or income," says Andrew Tomita, lead author of the study published last month in PLOS Climate.

"Although climate change is one of the key drivers of disasters, there is not enough attention in Sub-Saharan Africa or large-scale evidence that speaks to the mental health impact of community disasters."

Tomita, a senior lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Nursing and Public Health, in South Africa said that the findings are consistent with evidence that exposure to stressful and catastrophic events such as flood, drought, mass unrest due to xenophobia and agricultural loss due to fire could lead to depression.

Garret Barnwell, an independent practice clinical psychologist based in Johannesburg, South Africa, adds that the study brings in new information as stressful events such as catastrophic floods and major loss of life leaves a long-lasting impact on communities without access to resources at a personal level.

Barnwell explains that most people in South Africa are not insured and have little savings.

There is a history of failing municipalities and failing infrastructure in relation to disasters, says Barnwell, who published a report last year on climate change and mental health



in South Africa. He says people often feel abandoned as the burden of responsibility is shifted from communities to the individual, creating a heightened sense of insecurity.

"This is a well-executed study using two datasets considered reliable," says Caradee Wright, a public health specialist leading the environment and health research group at the South African Medical Research Council.

"Disasters can certainly affect mental

health so there is validity in conducting the study". Tomita says that children who are also vulnerable to disasters were not included because of a lack of data on depression during the study period.

Despite women and black Africans suffering more from disasters, he adds, they have fewer resources and support to help them cope psychologically.

He suggests timely access to community-

based interventions for disaster survivors, with priority given to socially vulnerable groups.

"This makes sense since many of these groups will not have the means to cope with recovery after a disaster and this can lead to mental ill-health, such as depression," agrees Wright.

The study recommends changes to disaster risk management policies and proposes

food social grants that could cushion against income loss and crop loss resulting from disasters. "The study helps to identify where investments should go and how we should be supporting people coming from these affected communities," Barnwell adds.

For Wright, a key question remains: "How will this information be fed to the right people to help make this change happen and translate the research to action?"







## BUSINESS

## AfDB study: Trade finance application rejection is high among TZ businesses

By Guardian Reporter

TRADE finance application rejection is high in Tanzania compared with Kenya, which indicates exporting and importing firms are struggling to secure financial instruments to smooth their businesses transactions.

According to the study titled "Trade Finance Demand and Supply in Africa: Evidence from Kenya and Tanzania for May 2022, covering from 2018 and 2020 by the African Development Bank (AfDB) says evidence from firms has revealed that trade finance rejection in Tanzania is 83.33 percent against 79.71 percent in Kenya and overall rate of 82.1

percent.

"Since 2011, the AfDB trade finance supply data show significant rejection rates, especially among SMEs," study says. "On average, 12 percent of all trade finance applications made by firms were rejected by banks."

In Kenya and Tanzania, the rejection rates were 8 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

"Because most trade finance applications are for revolving credit that may not be directly linked to trade activities on loan application forms, firms are better positioned to know whether a rejected working capital loan or revolving credit is directly tied to trade activities



In Kenya and Tanzania, the rejection rates were 8 percent and 19 percent, respectively

or not relative to banks," AfDB says.

The firm-level data show, on average, 17 percent of trade finance applications were rejected in Tanzania between 2018 and 2020, against the 19 percent reported by banks.

The sectors with the highest rejection rate according to the study include automobile, electronics, ag-

riculture, forestry and fishing, food and beverage, apparel and garment, manufacturing as well as retail and distribution.

"We speculate that part of the reason could be related to the high risk of shipping goods for firms operating in these sectors due to the time-sensitive and fragile nature of goods in these

sectors," the study findings says.

"Insufficient collateral is cited by 75 percent of firms as the main reason for trade finance application rejection, followed by constraints on banks' capital (36 percent)."

Banks also cite insufficient collateral and client creditworthiness as the main reasons for banks' rejection

of trade finance applications made by firms.

At least six out of ten all banks surveyed over the past decade 2011-2020 cite the two as the key reasons for rejecting trade finance applications.

AfDB study explains that the reliance on working capital finance (pre-export, pre-import, and short-term revolving credit), could partly explain why collateral requirement is indicated by both firms as one of the significant reasons for trade finance application rejections.

When asked to provide information about collateral requirements for the most recent trade finance transactions, 44 percent of firms in Kenya and 71 percent of firms in Tanzania indicated that they were required to provide collateral requirements for their most recent trade finance transaction.

Most firms indicated that they needed collateral for the most recent trade finance transaction were medium-sized (50 percent) and small (38 percent) enterprises, with only 12 percent being large enterprises

This suggests that issues of collateral and creditworthiness are structural challenges for trade finance that need attention, especially for SMEs.

## OreCorp starts to push back Nyanzaga gold development

By Guardian Reporter &amp; Agencies

ON-GOING skills and labour shortages have forced ASX-listed OreCorp to push back the timeline for the definitive feasibility study (DFS) for its Nyanzaga gold project, in Tanzania.

The company in October last year told shareholders that the completion date for the DFS was targeted for the end of the second quarter of 2022, with front-end engineering design targeted for the fourth quarter of this year, and breaking ground for the second quarter of 2023.

However, the gold developer on Thursday told share-

holders that completion of the DFS had now been pushed back until the third quarter of 2022.

Project construction is now targeted to start in the third quarter of 2023, with first production due in the first quarter of 2025.

The Nyanzaga project is expected to produce 213,000 oz/y over a mine life of 12 years, with OreCorp expected to invest \$287-million to bring the project into production.

The Nyanzaga Project is a gold development project with a resource of 3.07 million ounces at a high grade of 4.03g/t gold.

Extensive drilling (2,665

drill holes for 276,911m of drilling) has defined this large resource and there is substantial potential for extensions of known mineralisation both at depth and regionally.

The Project is situated in the Archaean greenstones of the Lake Victoria Goldfields, approximately 60km southwest of the city of Mwanza and 60km east of the Geita Gold Mine (AngloGold Ashanti) and 30km northeast of the Bulyanhulu Gold Mine (Barrick Gold).

The Nyanzaga Project comprises the Special Mining Licence (SML) which covers 23.4km<sup>2</sup> and encompasses the Nyanzaga and Kilimani



Nyanzaga Gold Mine PHOTO/ORECORP

deposits and other exploration prospects. According to a Pre-Feasibility Study

(PFS) forecast life of mine (LOM) average gold production of 213koz per annum

over 12 years. The PFS has been based on a US\$1,250/oz gold price.

LONDON

EUROPEAN stocks extended losses on Friday, set for their worst weekly drop in two months following a major selloff on Wall Street yesterday, as concerns over a bleak economic outlook, soaring prices and rising bond yields kept sentiment shaky.

The Stoxx 600 Index dropped 1.4 percent by 10:38 a.m. in London, with consumer, retail and real estate among the biggest decliners.

## European stocks extend worst weekly losses

Energy outperformed as oil headed for its first back-to-back weekly gain since early March on signs the market is tightening as the European Union moved toward banning Russian crude.

The European equity benchmark hit a seven-week low on Thursday as initial euphoria sparked by the U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to raise in-

terest rates quickly soured as broader concerns over growth and inflation, and how central banks will maneuver in order to avoid a recession, took over investors' attention.

European equities have been under pressure this year due to concerns about monetary tightening, surging inflation and economic risks from the war in Ukraine.

"We're in a trickier period, more challenging for policy makers, more challenging for corporates and households," Arnab Das, global markets strategist EMEA at Invesco, said by phone. He added that the question the market is struggling with relates to what the path to a soft landing will be.

Investors have been watching the

earnings season closely for clues as to how companies are faring amid rising input costs and pandemic-related supply-chain disruption. Adidas AG's shares slumped on Friday after the sports apparel maker cut its profitability targets for the year amid a sales slump in China.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been another worry, with ING Groep

NV's shares falling after the Dutch bank's first-quarter profit missed analyst estimates due to Russia-related provisions.

**We're in a trickier period, more challenging for policy makers, more challenging for corporates and households**

## Europe buys natural gas at a premium to fill its storage

BRUSSELS

PROHIBITIVELY high natural gas prices in Europe have helped the continent stock up on the commodity amid lower consumption, simultaneously motivating more imports, Reuters' John Kemp reported, meaning Europe might get its storage caverns full before the next heating season begins.

The inventories are filling up faster than previously expected is a rare instance of good news for the European Union, which has been struggling with high energy prices for more than six months now.

The more important question, however, is precisely the one about prices. Storage may be full, but would the gas it holds be more affordable for European consumers? The answer is unlikely to be positive.

The EU is buying natural gas at a premium because of its urgent need to fill those caverns before either winter comes or Russia turns the gas taps off because importers are refusing to pay in rubles.

The suspension of deliveries to Bulgaria and Poland appears to have spurred European import-

ers into action. Earlier this month, requests for Russian gas deliveries to Europe hit a five-month high.

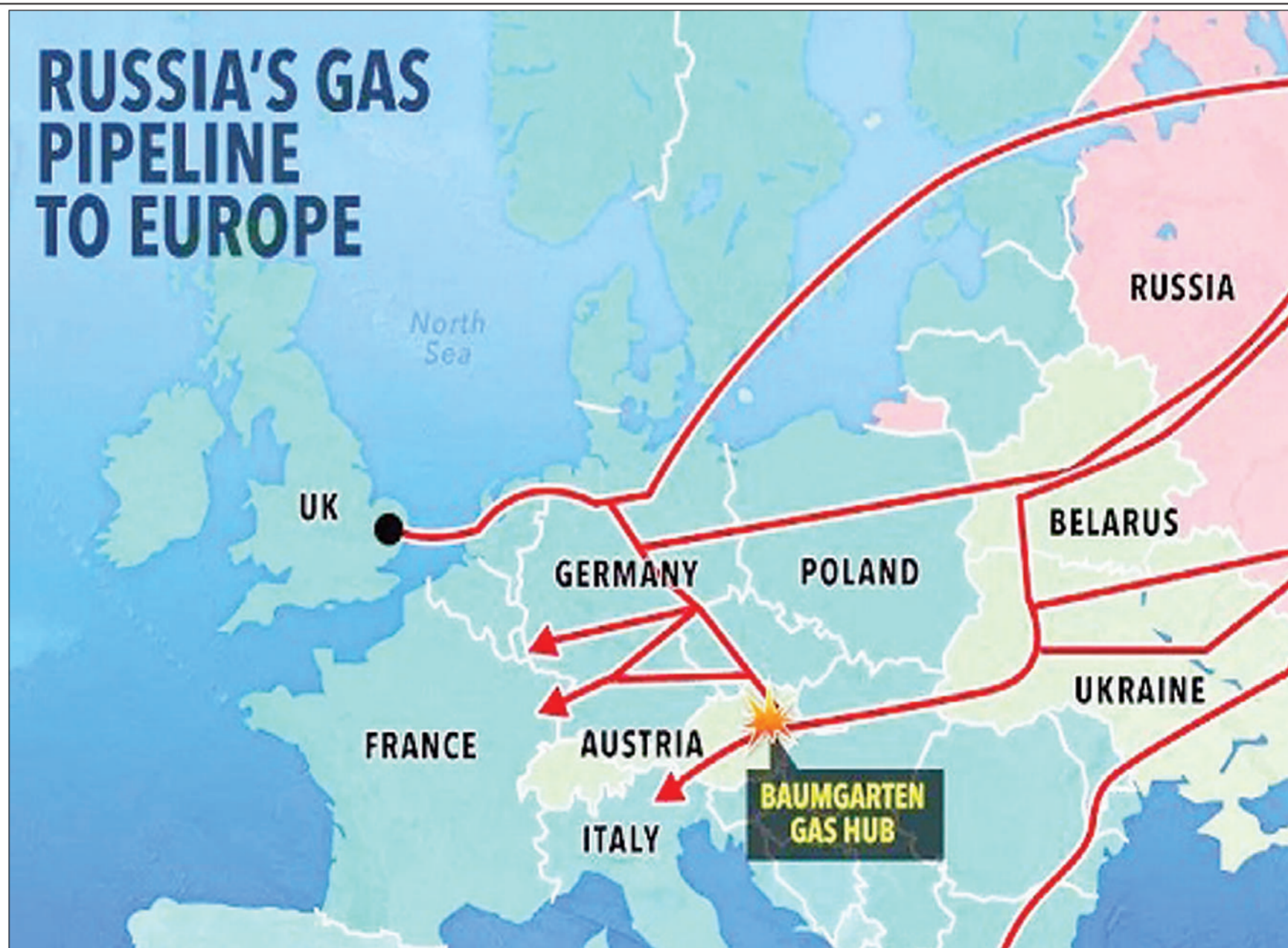
LNG imports are also going strong even though total US shipments abroad are on the decline due to regular maintenance at liquefaction facilities on the Gulf Coast.

According to Reuters' Kemp, at the start of May, natural gas inventory levels in Europe were 18 percent below the five-year average from before the pandemic. This translated into 81 Terawatt-hour (TWh).

As of the start of this month, the amount of gas in storage in the EU and the UK has grown to 380 TWh. At this rate, Kemp said, gas in storage could reach 904 TWh by October 1 when heating season begins.

According to the researchers from EWI, if Russia suspends gas flows now, the EU-excluding Spain and Portugal—and the UK, together, would need to cut gas consumption by 459 TWh during the summer.

But if that region seeks to maintain a 33 percent level of gas inventories to total capacity, then it would have to cut consumption by as much as 790 TWh.



Russia gas pipeline to Europe PHOTO/AGENCIES



## Global food prices near record as Ukraine war upends trade

NEW YORK

GLOBAL food prices held near a record as crop trade is disrupted by the war in Ukraine, exacerbating tight supplies and stoking inflation.

Russia's invasion has reduced exports from Ukraine to a trickle, curbing supplies from one of the world's biggest grain and vegetable oil shippers. That's sent buyers flocking elsewhere, while some nations are moving to restrict sales as they worry about depleting local reserves.

High fertilizer prices and weather worries are adding to the threat for global crop supplies, including drought curbing the U.S. wheat crop.

That risks compounding a deepening hunger crisis. A United Nations food index eased less than 1 percent in April, holding near an all-time high.

"It's really a minimal amount of decline," Erin Collier, economist at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, said by phone. "Prices are still definitely very high and definitely still very much a concern, especially for

low-income food-deficit countries."

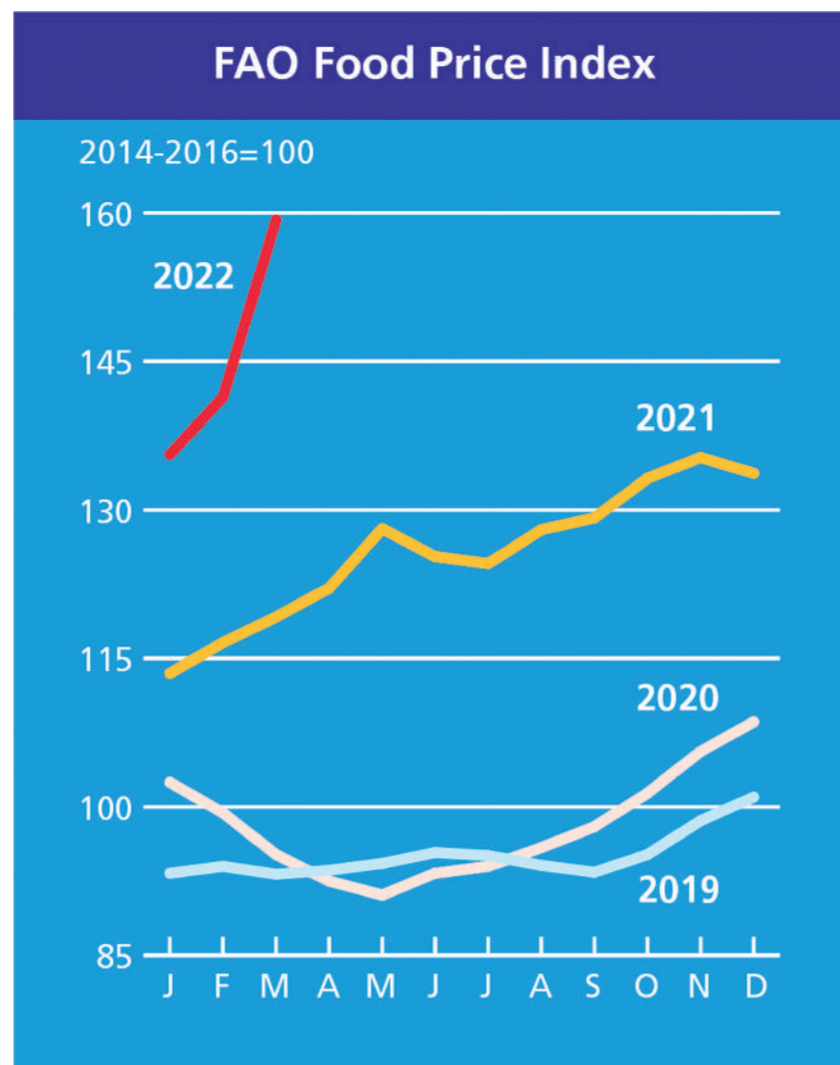
Prices fell for major staples including vegetable oils and grain, while meat reached the highest ever and dairy rose, the FAO report showed Friday.

The gauge had soared 13 percent in March, its fastest pace on record, in the immediate aftermath of Russia's attack. It's eclipsed levels from 2008 to 2011 that contributed to global food crises.

The slight decline in prices in April was partly due to falling demand for vegetables oil, and weaker corn prices. However, there are uncertainties about palm-oil availability from Indonesia, the agency said.

Officials in Indonesia, the world's top edible-oil shipper, recently restricted sales of palm oil abroad. That adds to a rash of crop protectionism since the war began, with countries like Serbia and Kazakhstan imposing quotas on grain shipments.

India is also said to be considering limiting wheat exports after severe heat damaged crops, while its govern-



ment said Thursday it doesn't see a case for restrictions.

"Such moves might benefit consumers in countries imposing the restrictions, but usually come at the expense of all others," the Agricultural Market Information System said Thursday. "Past experience suggests that these trade measures will put additional pressure on available food stocks, push prices up and threaten food security for the poor."

Surging food prices are piling pressure on governments spanning Sri Lanka to Peru. The inflation rate in Turkey is at a two-decade high, buoyed by rising grocery bills. U.K. retailers are also warning of higher costs to come, as supply-chain bottlenecks hold up shipments.

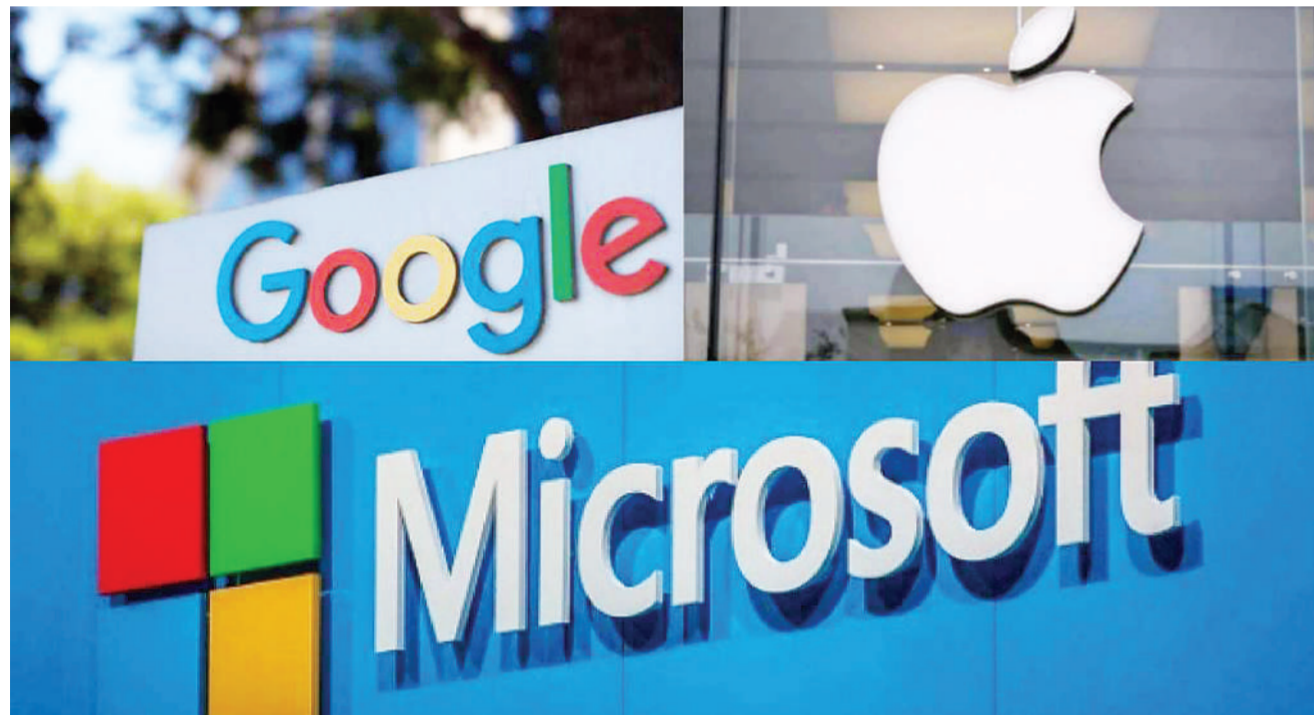
Countries continue to purchase grain despite high prices, Collier said. Dry spells hurting wheat crops in areas like Morocco may also boost their import needs for the coming season.

Acute food insecurity spiked 25 percent last year, before the war in Ukraine began, and the hunger problem is likely to deteriorate further in 2022, a report from the Global Network for Food Crises said earlier this week.

"We've got the breadbasket of the world being turned into bread lines," David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Programme, said at a briefing. The war in Ukraine "is going to devastate the food security situation around the world."



## Apple, Google, Microsoft to expand support for passwordless sign-in standard



SAN FRANCISCO

IN a joint effort to make the web more secure and usable for all, Apple, Google and Microsoft on Thursday announced plans to expand support for a common passwordless sign-in standard created by the FIDO Alliance and the World Wide Web Consortium.

The new capability will allow websites and apps to offer consistent, secure, and easy passwordless sign-ins to consumers across devices and platforms, the announcement said.

The expanded standards-based capabilities will give websites and apps the ability to offer an end-to-end passwordless option.

Users will sign in through the same action that they take multiple times each day to unlock their devices, such as a simple verification of their

fingerprint or face, or a device PIN, according to the announcement.

This new approach protects against phishing and sign-in will be radically more secure when compared to passwords and legacy multi-factor technologies such as one-time passcodes sent over SMS, it added.

"Working with the industry to establish new, more secure sign-in methods that offer better protection and eliminate the vulnerabilities of passwords is central to our commitment to building products that offer maximum security and a transparent user experience - all with the goal of keeping users' personal information safe," said Kurt Knight, Apple's Senior Director of Platform Product Marketing.

"This milestone is a testament to the collaborative work being done

across the industry to increase protection and eliminate outdated password-based authentication," said Mark Risher, Senior Director of Product Management at Google.

"We look forward to making FIDO-based technology available across Chrome, ChromeOS, Android and other platforms, and encourage app and website developers to adopt it."

"Any viable solution must be safer, easier, and faster than the passwords and legacy multi-factor authentication methods used today," said Alex Simons, Corporate Vice President of Identity Program Management at Microsoft.

"We see a bright future for FIDO-based credentials in both consumer and enterprise scenarios and will continue to build support across Microsoft apps and services."

## De Beers introduces pioneer blockchain-backed diamond

LONDON

DIAMOND miner De Beers Group is deploying the Tracr blockchain platform at scale for its diamond production.

The group says Tracr is the world only distributed diamond blockchain that starts at the source and provides tamper-proof source assurance at scale, enabling sightholders to provide a fixed record of a diamond's origin, and enabling jewellery retailers to have confidence in the origin of the diamonds they buy.

"With more end-clients wanting to know the source of the products they buy, the deep meaning associated with a diamond purchase requires a technological step-change to meet their expectations.

"The introduction of Tracr at scale delivers immutable information on the source of De Beers' diamonds across the value chain and makes source assurance for 100 percent of De Beers' production possible," De Beers stated. The Tracr platform combines distributed ledger technology with advanced data security and privacy, ensuring that participants control the use of and access to their own data.

Each participant on Tracr has their own distributed version of the platform, meaning that their data can only be shared with their permission, and only they choose who can access their information.

The advanced privacy technologies used by Tracr reinforce data security on the platform. The fixed nature of each transaction on the platform ensures that the data cannot be tampered with when the diamond progresses through the value chain, De Beers' notes.

Moreover, it says the decentralised nature of the platform ensures its speed and scalability, with the ability to register one-million diamonds a



week onto the platform. With centralised platforms, dealing with large volumes of data

can cause bottlenecks; however, De Beers points out that the decentralised model used

by Tracr avoids such issues and enables rapid scaling.

The scalability, speed and security of Tracr are combined into an intuitive user experience to support ease of use for platform participants.

First launched in a research and development phase in 2018, De Beers has already registered one-quarter of its production by value on Tracr in the first three sights of this year in preparation for this first scale release.

The Tracr platform brings together a range of technologies - including blockchain, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and advanced security and privacy technologies - to support the identification of a diamond's journey through the value chain.

De Beers' provenance claims have been certified by the Responsible Jewellery Council and the group also has a Pipeline Integrity programme in place.

## IMF drops tough stance on Kenya's fuel subsidy

NAIROBI

KENYAN officials resisted the push by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to scrap the fuel subsidy programme that has seen the government spend Ksh49.164 billion to stabilise the petroleum prices.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani said they reached an agreement with the IMF to sustain the programme to cushion the economy from a sharp rise in the cost of living as a result of a global spike in oil prices.

Kenya is on a 38-month IMF programme, which has seen the multilateral lender give the country \$2.34 billion in loans in exchange for a reform package that includes eliminating fuel and tax subsidies to improve revenue collection.

IMF staff and the Kenyan authorities reached a staff-level agreement on economic policies to conclude the

third review of the programme late last month.

"We have a common understanding (with IMF). They would have preferred we left it (fuel prices) to the forces of the market but we have convinced them it is not possible," Mr Yatani said on the sidelines of the launch of the latest Economic Survey.

"We have a duty to our people. When the IMF engagement is productive we take it, when it is going to impact negatively on us we are cautious about it."

The World Bank and the IMF have gained a bigger say in government policy after Kenya turned to the multilateral institutions for concessional loans after the Covid-19 pandemic ravaged the revenues and limited the country's access to commercial loan markets.

Kenya had kept away from direct budget funding from institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank during former President Mwai Kibaki's administration, with

most of the funds coming in the form of project support.

Now, a deteriorating cash-flow situation, marked by falling revenues and worsening debt service obligations, has forced the country to return to these loans.

The multilateral loans come with conditions for the government to discipline itself and raise more taxes, cut expenditure and narrow the deficit.



**We have a duty to our people. When the IMF engagement is productive we take it, when it is going to impact negatively on us we are cautious about it**





# World Coal Association favours energy transition to net zero

CAPE TOWN

THE World Coal Association, and its member companies, are in favour of a just transition to a net-zero future, World Coal Association chairperson July Ndlovu (Pictured) has said.

In his keynote address to McCloskey's Southern African Coal Conference, Ndlovu emphasised the sincerity of the association's standing by stating that "we are not disingenuous when we say this. We are real people with families and communities. We also want the best for the future of our planet, people and economies."

That said, the World Coal Association is of the view that the world needs to take what it described as a "responsible, balanced, realistic, and integrated approach to our collective energy future".

This, he told the conference covered by Mining Weekly, meant recognising the need for energy stability, affordability, and sustainability - and thinking carefully about how best to deal with the energy transition, given that global energy supply is at a crisis point in the light of recent events.

"This crisis point is a culmination of the interconnectedness of commodity markets and some very big issues playing out around the globe," said Ndlovu.

The issues, he said, included the reopening of post-Covid economies and increased consumer demand, alongside rising oil prices and ongoing global supply chain disruptions and the slowdown of industrial sectors such as fertilisers, automotive manufacture, and digital production;

Others were inflation being seven to ten points higher than prepandemic levels; and the shock of the war - not only in terms of global peace and security, but also in terms of a negative supply shock for the global economy and a disruption of global energy relationships, prices and flows.

Before the outbreak of the war, most key global macroeconomic variables were expected to return



World Coal Association chairperson July Ndlovu

to normal in 2022/23, thanks to global vaccination efforts, supportive macroeconomic policies and financial conditions in the major economies.

Commodity prices and supply chains have been severely affected by the war, because even though Russia and Ukraine collectively only contribute 2

percent of global gross domestic product, they are major contributors to global commodities, such as staple foods, minerals and energy.

This is why groups of countries are calling on policymakers to reconsider the appropriateness of market design when it comes to energy.

Instead, the world needs to ensure energy security through diversity and "ensure the green transition in a publicly supported way".

"All of these complex developments signal what we know to be rational and real: the need for the world to spread its energy risk for a collectively more stable, secure, affordable and sustainable energy future for all people on the planet. It is simply unwise to toss our eggs into one or two baskets - or phrased differently, to commit ourselves to limited and unreliable energy supply chains," Ndlovu added.

"Within this context, we are here today to talk about the future of specifically thermal coal. I believe we need to embrace the path of energy diversity - and coal needs to be, and will be, a part of that mix for the foreseeable future. That is what the world needs, to get through this time of volatility and transition, with affordable and secure energy in place for the sustenance of the global economy and its people. Pragmatism and realism are vital right now when it comes to the energy mix," he said, cautioning against a rushed transition.

Ndlovu described the deployment of clean coal technologies as being imperative to reaching a sustainable future and highlighted the World Coal Association's programme of clean coal engagement with governments, industry, investors, climate science, and the media.

He said carbon capture and storage is expected to contribute 14% of the world's cumulative carbon dioxide reduction by 2060.

# Uganda central bank is likely to raise policy rate

KAMPALA

BANK of Uganda uses the Central Bank Rate (CBR) to fight inflation, which now stands at 4.9 percent, just a point shy of the 5 percent target.

Bank of Uganda has said it is closely monitoring movements in commodity and energy prices, which continue to present heightened inflationary pressures.

Speaking at a town hall meeting with Kabarole District leaders, Dr Michael Atingi-Ego, the Bank of Uganda deputy governor, said that whereas they had kept the Central Bank Rate (CBR) low because of the need to support economic recovery, the current uncertainties resulting from disruptions in global supply and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, are likely to impact inflation due to higher commodity and fuel prices.

Considering this, therefore, he said, the CBR will be adjusted depending on how fast the economy recovers and how quickly inflation evolves against the Central Bank target of 5 percent.

"[Bank of Uganda] will closely track inflation developments to ensure inflationary expectations are contained and will take appropriate action, where necessary," Dr Atingi-Ego said, signaling the possibility of an increase in the CBR, one of the tools that Bank of Uganda uses to mitigate inflation.

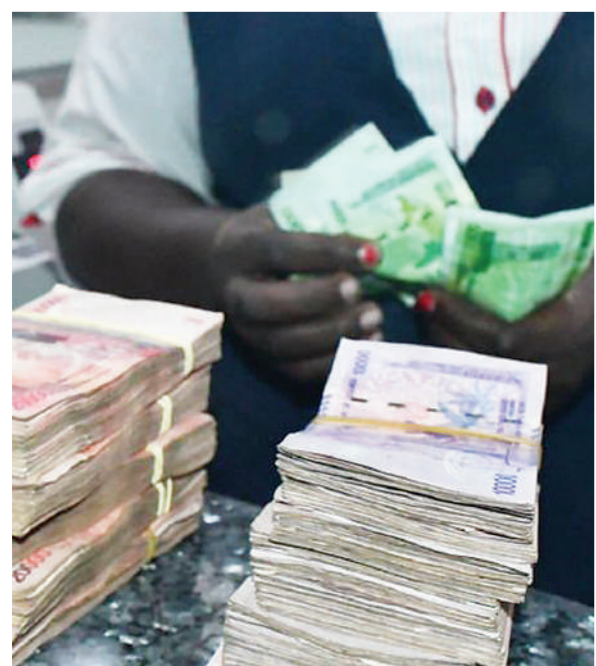
The Central Bank has in the last seven months maintained the CBR at 6.5 percent, which is considered to be a lower limit for commercial banks against which they adjust interest rates.

A low CBR allows commercial banks to set interest rates within affordable limits, against which borrowers can access cheaper credit.

However, given the heightened uncertainty regarding the evolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Dr Atingi-Ego said, inflation is likely to increase on account of higher commodity and energy prices.

Last week, data from Uganda Bureau of Statistics indicated that inflation had increased to just within a point of Bank of Uganda's target of 5 percent.

During April, UboS indicated, inflation had increased to 4.9 percent up from 3.7 percent in March, the highest level it has risen since 2016.



SUNDAY 8 May		MONDAY 9 May		TUESDAY 10 May		WEDNESDAY 11 May		THURSDAY 12 May		FRIDAY 13 May		SATURDAY 14 May		SUNDAY 15 May	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
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11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	11:35	Bongo Movie rpt	11:35	Bongo Movie rpt
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21:30	Mjuzi Zaidi	21:30	Mjuzi Zaidi	21:30	Mjuzi Zaidi	21:30	Mjuzi Zaidi	21:30	Mjuzi Zaidi	21:30	Mjuzi Zaidi	21:30	Mjuzi Zaidi	21:30	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie	22:15	Bongo Movie	22:15	Bongo Movie	22:15	Bongo Movie	22:15	Bongo Movie	22:15	Bongo Movie	22:15	Bongo Movie	22:15	Bongo Movie
00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt	00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt	00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt	00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt	00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt	00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt	00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt	00:00	Soap: Love to Death rpt
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CAPITAL

Sat 07 May	
08:00	Ai Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n' about rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:30	Our Earth rpt
13:00	Business edition rpt
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot
14:30	Telenovela rpt: Laws of love
17:15	EcoAfrica
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchat rpt
19:15	Mizenge
19:30	The Decor
20:00	Korean Drama: The Sling Shot



## WORLD

## UK PM suffers heavy losses in London in local elections

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party lost control of traditional strongholds in London and suffered losses elsewhere in local elections, early results on Friday showed, as voters punished his government over a raft of scandals.

Johnson's party was ousted in Wandsworth, a low-tax Conservative stronghold since 1978, part of a trend in the British capital where voters used the elections to express anger over a cost-of-living crisis and fines imposed on the prime minister for breaking his own COVID-19 lockdown rules.

The Conservatives lost control of the borough of Barnet, which has been held by the party in all but two elections since 1964. Labour also believes it has won for the first time the council of Westminster,

a district where most government institutions are located.

"This is a warning shot from Conservative voters," said Daniel Thomas, the Conservative leader of Barnet council.

The overall tally due later on Friday will offer the most important snapshot of public opinion since Johnson won the Conservative Party's biggest majority in more than 30 years in the 2019 general election.

The ballot is the first electoral test for Johnson since he became the first British leader in living memory to have broken the law while in office. He was fined last month for attending a birthday gathering in his office in 2020, breaking social distancing rules then in place to curb COVID's spread.

Early results showed the Conservative Party had lost 92 council seats. The main opposition Labour Party had gained 23



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

seat and the Liberal Democrats 42 seats.

The loss of key councils in London, where the Conservatives were almost wiped out, will increase pressure on Johnson, who has been fighting for his political survival for months and faces the possibility of more police fines over his attendance at other lockdown-breaking gatherings.

The elections held on Thursday will decide almost 7,000 council seats, including all those in London, Scotland and Wales, and a third of the seats in most of the rest of England.

Johnson upended conventional British politics in the 2019 general election by winning and then promising to improve living standards in former industrial areas in central and northern England.

But the loss of Wandsworth, Barnet and potentially Westminster symbolizes the way that Johnson, who won two terms as mayor of London, has lost his appeal in the capital. His support for Brexit has cost him support in London, where a majority of voters supported staying in the European Union in the 2016 Brexit referendum.

The outcome outside the capital is likely to be less clear-cut. The Conservatives lost overall control of councils in Southampton,

Worcester and West Oxfordshire.

But the party has not done as badly as some polls had predicted. One poll in the run up to the elections said the Conservatives could lose about 800 council seats.

John Curtice, a professor of politics at the University of Strathclyde, said early trends suggested the Conservatives were on course to lose about 250 seats. He said the results suggested Labour may not emerge as the largest party at the next election.

However, some local Conservative council leaders called on Johnson to resign after the party's poor performance, which they blamed on him being fined and the cost-of-living crisis.

John Mallinson, Conservative leader of Carlisle city council, told the BBC that had found it "difficult to drag the debate back to local issues".

"I just don't feel people any longer have the confidence that the prime minister can be relied upon to tell the truth," he said.

Simon Boshier, the most senior Conservative in Portsmouth, said the party's leadership in Westminster needed to "take a good, long hard look in the mirror" to find out why they had lost seats.

Agencies

## Anger over rules for West Bank visits

ISRAEL'S new rules to tighten foreigners' visits to the West Bank areas that it occupies could threaten the sustenance of some 2 million people who need humanitarian assistance, experts said. The new rules target universities, nongovernmental groups, businesses, and family unification activities.

They said Muslim countries of the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, headquartered in Saudi Arabia, can play a critical role in putting a stop to Israel's aggression by recognizing that the Palestinian issue "is part of its existence".

"The OIC's charter clearly shows how deeply embedded the Palestinian issue is in the existence of the Muslim body. Because of OIC's untiring efforts, the UN (designated) March 15 as International Day to Combat Islamophobia, which is a testament to what the OIC body can achieve if they are on the same page," Arhama Siddiqi, a Middle East expert at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in Pakistan, told China Daily.

"Muslims make up a significant portion of the world population. They can insert collective pressure for one," she added.

On April 27, Doha-based media outlet Aljazeera reported that a 97-page Israeli ordinance, called Procedure for Entry and Residence for Foreigners in Judea and Samaria Area, will replace the current four-page policy. The report said the Israeli government uses the terms "Judea" and "Samaria" to refer to the West Bank.

The report said the new policy differentiates between travelers who seek to visit Palestinians in the West Bank and those who visit Israeli settlers. Only those who visit Palestinians must obtain prior approval. Israeli authorities say, the report added, that restrictions on travel to the West Bank are "necessary for security reasons".

The Jerusalem Post reported on May 1 that Israel has now postponed the imposition of the new restrictions to July following a legal appeal. The restrictions were first published in February by the office of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories or COGAT. COGAT is the Israeli military's civil body that administers the West Bank.

"Now because of Israel's new restrictions, many professors and teachers will not be able to come back to Birzeit University and other Palestine universities. We have the right to raise our voice. Why (will) Israel restrict the right to education in Palestine," asked Mohammad Abualrob, an assistant professor and chairperson of the Department of Media at Birzeit University in the West Bank.

Walaa Sabah, community outreach and partnership officer at We Are Not Numbers, or WANN, a youth-led Palestinian nonprofit project in Gaza, also occupied by Israel, said the new rules will have a severe impact on humanitarian aspects.

"We Are Not Numbers is not limited to Gaza only, but it extends all over the globe, and most definitely the West Bank. We are now awaiting a delegation from the UK to visit Gaza, and it seems that the process is so complicated. They have been trying to get access for over 3 months and were not able to get permission until now," Sabah told China Daily.

She said preventing such delegations from entering "will hinder any improvements" in the humanitarian situation.

"We welcome any initiative from neighboring countries to help lift the siege in Gaza and facilitate the daily life of Palestinians. However, at WANN, we work toward providing political education and training in journalism and creative writing to help people advocate for human rights and have their voices heard without the need (for) any mediators," said Sabah.

At a meeting on April 25, Hissein Brahim Taha, secretary-general of the OIC, reaffirmed the OIC's support for the right of the Palestinian people to sovereignty over their occupied land, including East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine.

He also urged all international actors to assume their responsibilities and get involved to sponsor a political track to end the Israeli occupation. The meeting was held at the request of Indonesia and presided over by Saudi Arabia, chair of the 14th Islamic Summit.

Indonesian media reported that Indonesia's House of Representatives' Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Chair Fadli Zon had confirmed that the committee will visit Palestine in May to bolster bilateral relations between Indonesia and Palestine.

Belal Alakhras, a political analyst and Palestinian researcher at the University of Malaya in Malaysia, told China Daily that when a large number of countries declare a firm stance against Israeli oppression, Israel is likely to reconsider its proclivity to violate Palestinian sovereignty and right to self-determination.

The countries that border Palestine, and other interested nations, can provide significant assistance to the Palestinian people, Alakhras said, allowing them to "rely on themselves to live a dignified and free life in their land".

Agencies

## Chinese envoy urges US to stop politicising bilateral trade ties

WASHINGTON

CHINESE Ambassador to the United States Qin Gang has urged the United States to stop politicizing China-US business and trade ties and cancel the additional tariffs on Chinese goods that Washington still hasn't let go.

Qin made the remarks during a recent interview with Forbes magazine, which was conducted at the Chinese embassy in Washington on April 29 and was published on Thursday.

"Our trade and business relations have made remarkable achievements, benefiting the

two countries and benefiting the world. We are natural partners, because our economies are highly complementary," Qin told the magazine's Shanghai bureau chief Russell Flannery.

Qin said many of the "uncertainties and instabilities" surrounding the China-US business and trade relations these years are caused by the US side. "The Section 301 tariffs imposed by the Trump Administration are still going on. And the United States is now defining China-US relations as intense competition. Under such circumstances, business and trade are being politicized."



"So we hope that the United States should stop politicizing our business cooperation and stop using trade as a tool, so that we could

provide more stability and predictability to investors," he said.

Speaking of the additional tariffs on Chinese imports imposed during the Trump administration, Qin said it "hasn't reduced the trade deficit of the United States. On the contrary, it brings more costs to American companies and American consumers."

"I think it's time for the US administration to reconsider and to cancel it as early as possible," he said, adding "if the US side still wants to continue, I don't know if they are prepared for more losses. If they will continue, we have to live up to it."

## Solomons' PM exposes US double standards, Beijing says

FOREIGN Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian welcomed on Thursday remarks made in a speech by Manasseh Sogavare, the prime minister of the Solomon Islands, saying that these exposed the complete double standards of the United States and Australia in terms of their accusations against China.

Speaking to the nation's Parliament last week, Sogavare (pictured) hit out at the Australian government for failing to consult with the Pacific nation before joining AUKUS, a trilateral security bloc of the US, the United Kingdom and Australia.

"The AUKUS treaty will see nuclear submarines in Pacific waters," he said, adding that he learned of the AUKUS treaty from the media.

"One would expect that as a member of the Pacific family, the Solomon Islands and members of the Pacific should have been consulted to ensure this AUKUS treaty is transparent," he said.

Sogavare said his country respects decisions made by Australia as a sovereign country. "When Australia signed up to AUKUS,



we did not become theatrical or hysterical about the implications this would have for us."

Sogavare's comments come in the wake of the island nation signing a security pact with China in April, a decision that has drawn

criticism from some countries, including the US and Australia.

Zhao said at a daily news briefing that China's normal security cooperation with the Solomon Islands differs in nature to some countries forming small circles, which would instigate the arms race, intensify nuclear proliferation, stoke bloc confrontation and lead to a tense situation in the region.

The US should earnestly fulfill its commitment to clearing unexploded ordnance, abandoned during the World War II, from the Solomon Islands and take more practical measures for the people of the country, rather than make reckless comments and interfere in normal cooperation between other countries, Zhao said.

In addition, Sogavare stated in the Solomons' Parliament that "from last November's riots, it is obvious, current security agreement with Australia is inadequate to deal with our hard internal threats" while maintaining the new treaty with China does not provide for a naval or military base.

Agencies

## Steel slag-turned soil conditioner changes saline-alkali land into fertile farmland

WITH the help of a drone, a herdsman driving a harvester followed navigation system to an alfalfa grassland that covers an area of over 300 mu (20 hectares) on a vast expanse of saline-alkali land in Xianfeng township, Urad Front Banner, Bayannur city, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

The grassland, which used to be barren saline-alkali land, is a pilot and demonstration project for saline-alkali wasteland transformation. It has been turned into fertile farmland by soil conditioner made from an iron and steel plant's desulfurization byproducts.

Baogang Group, an iron and steel enterprise headquartered in Inner Mon-

golia, produces over two million tons of steel slag every year. The steel debris it has accumulated over the years has piled up like a mountain, not only occupying land resources, but polluting the air.

To dispose of steel slag, a subsidiary of Baogang Group introduced a desulfurization project developed by Taiji Environmental Protection Equipment Co., Ltd., a private technology enterprise based in Cixi city, east China's Zhejiang province, which removes sulfur dioxide from flue gases with steel slag.

The project can consume 7,000 tons of steel slag every year, and the nearly 10,000 tons of byproducts from flue gas

desulfurization (FGD) can be used to produce soil amendments.

At the factory of the subsidiary of Baogang Group, the chimneys of three 75-ton circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boilers equipped with desulfurization devices soar into the sky.

According to an executive of the company, steel slag is ground first, and the powder is added with water and then sent into the desulfurization tower. After a series of chemical reactions, the desulfurization byproducts become sources of soil amendments.

Unlike waste generated by iron and steel plants, which are hard and rough large particles, FGD byproducts are fine

powder and feel like wet soil. Based on the properties of different patches of land, technicians then add suitable microelements into these FGD byproducts, eventually creating soil conditioners.

"Saline-alkali soil is formed as salts are kept within. After soil conditioners made from FGD byproducts are added into saline-alkali soil, they replace ions in the soil, including potassium, sodium, magnesium ions, with their own chemical elements such as calcium and iron, which makes it possible to take the salts away from the soil with water later," said Shi Yuezhan, general manager of Taiji Environmental Protection Equipment Co., Ltd.

The company has also taken measures to ensure that the desalted soil will not be affected again by the salts contained underground and in the surrounding land, according to Shi.

"After the salinity in the soil is reduced, crops can grow on the land," Shi explained.

Stressing that solid waste disposal shouldn't risk generating new waste, Shi believes it important to form a green chain to truly realize circular economy.

Replacing traditional desulfurizer such as limestone and lime with steel slag in desulfurization can not only save limestone resources, but avoid carbon dioxide emissions during the produc-

tion of lime, according to Shi.

If a project that produces 21,500 tons of sulfur dioxide per year uses steel slag as desulfurizer, it can save 26,000 tons of lime and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 11,400 tons a year. Its exhaust will also be able to meet China's ultra-low emission standards.

Taiji Environmental Protection Equipment Co., Ltd., one of China's national-level "little giant" enterprises that focus on specialization, refinement, uniqueness and innovation, has reaped the rewards of innovation through continuous input into research and development (R&D).

People's Daily





Principal Deputy Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

## Jean-Pierre named 1st Black White House press secretary

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden said on Thursday he has chosen Karine Jean-Pierre to be White House press secretary, succeeding Jen Psaki and becoming the first Black and openly gay person to serve as the public face of a US administration.

Psaki, who leaves the job on May 13, had said early in the Biden administration, which started in January of 2021, that she planned to stay about a year.

Jean-Pierre has served as deputy press secretary since the beginning of Biden's term. She worked on his 2020 presidential campaign, in President Barack Obama's White House, and was chief public affairs officer for MoveOn.org, a progressive advocacy group.

Biden has pledged to name top officials, cabinet members and judges who reflect the diversity of America, where white people make up less than 60 percent of the population but have traditionally held most top government jobs.

"Karine not only brings the experience, talent and integrity needed for this difficult job, but she will continue to lead the way in communicating about the work of the Biden-Harris Administration on behalf of the American people," he said in a statement.

The press secretary is the highest profile public-facing staff job in the White House.

"This is a historic moment, and it's not lost on me," Jean-Pierre said in a brief appearance in the White House press room. "It is an honor and a privilege to be behind this podium."

Dee Dee Meyers became the first woman to have the job in the 1990s under former President Bill Clinton.

Psaki was named by Biden after tumultuous relations with the media under Republican former President Donald Trump.

"Jen Psaki has set the standard for returning decency, respect and decorum to the White House Briefing Room," Biden said, thanking her for "raising the bar, communicating directly and truthfully to the American people, and keeping her sense of humor while doing so."

Psaki is known for a confident, no-nonsense, rapid-fire delivery from the White House podium. Jean-Pierre, who was chief of staff for Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris in 2020, has tended to stick closely to talking points during her press appearances as Psaki's deputy.

Psaki said Biden offered Jean-Pierre the job during an Oval Office meeting on Thursday afternoon.

"She comes to this job with decades of experience, even though she looks very young," Psaki said, adding her appointment will give a "voice to so many and allow and show what is truly possible when you work hard and dream big."

Agencies

## Travel industry, airlines urge end to virus testing to enter US

WASHINGTON

MAJOR US airlines, business and travel groups and other companies urged the White House on Thursday to abandon COVID-19 pre-departure testing requirements for vaccinated international passengers traveling to the United States.

"Given the slow economic recovery of the business and international travel sectors, and in light of medical advancements and the improved public health metrics in the US, we encourage you to immediately remove the inbound testing requirement for vaccinated air travelers," said the letter signed by American Airlines, Carnival Corp, Marriott International, Walt Disney Co's Disney Parks, the US Chamber of Commerce, US Travel Association and others.

Airline executives say many Americans are not traveling internationally because of concerns they will test positive and be stranded abroad.

The letter to White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Ashish Jha said "the economic costs associated with maintaining the measure are significant," saying international travel spending is down 78 percent compared with 2019 levels.

The letter noted many foreign governments "with similar infection, vaccination and hospitalization rates—including the United Kingdom, Germany, and Canada—have eliminated pre-departure testing requirements for vaccinated travelers."

The letter noted that the Biden administration does not require negative tests for entry at land-border points of entry with Canada and Mexico but only for air travelers.

Agencies



An aircraft approaches the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Arlington, Virginia on Feb 24, 2021. AFP

# Ukraine crisis affects E. Africa's food security - WFP

ADDIS ABABA

THE ongoing Ukraine crisis is negatively affecting East Africa's food security through reduced food supplies, accessibility and high prices of food, fuel and fertilizer, the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) warned on Thursday.

Export restrictions on grains, vegetable oil and fertilizers have surged since the start of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the scale having reached the levels of the 2008 global food crisis in terms of share of global trade, the WFP said in its latest situation update on the food security conditions in Eastern Africa.

Noting the Eastern Africa region's high dependence on food and fertilizer imports, the WFP said the Ukraine crisis could further exacerbate the already dire food security situation across countries in the Eastern Africa region. WFP estimated that the ensuing inflation from the Ukraine crisis could push additional 7 to 10 million people into acute hunger in Eastern Africa in 2022.

"Already, the region witnessed significant short-term jumps in prices of wheat, bread, fuel and fertilizer and widespread shortages of fuel, the most affected being Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Burundi," it said.

According to the WFP, Ukraine and Russia have restricted exports of wheat and other food products equivalent to 42 percent of total calories in restricted products. Indonesia has banned palm oil exports while Turkey, Kyrgyzstan



People gather to watch Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speak on a screen at the City Hall Square in Copenhagen, May 4, 2022. AP

and Kazakhstan have imposed export bans on a variety of grain products, it was noted. It said nearly half of Uganda (43 percent), Eritrea (43 percent) and Sudan's (47 percent) imported food calories have been affected by export restrictions, largely due to Russia and Ukraine wheat export bans.

The share of global restricted exports to Kenya stands at 20 percent, in Somalia (20 percent) while relatively lower in South Sudan (9 percent), it said.

The WFP said fuel prices jumped by 5 percent to historical high in Kenya, while wheat prices increased by a record 59 percent in

Ethiopia, the highest since 2016, just within two weeks of the Ukraine crisis.

Fertilizer prices have doubled in Kenya and tripled in Ethiopia, which together with fuel prices, will affect 2022 yields and crop production and worsen the food price crisis, it said.

Figures from the WFP show that consumption of fuel, fertilizer, wheat and vegetable oil have low substitution elasticity to price increases, likely to pile pressure on low foreign exchange reserves and current account balances of Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan and Burundi.

The overlapping food crisis risks in the re-

gion comes at a time when most countries are facing increased fiscal imbalances and rising public debt pressure, limiting capacity of public-backed subsidies and social protection systems to cover food gaps of the most vulnerable, it said.

According to the WFP, the COVID-19 pandemic, which set off the worst global recession in over a century, aggravated the pre-existing vulnerabilities, which has now been worsened by the global fallout of the Ukraine crisis.

Countries in the region were able to bounce back from the COVID-19 setbacks, recording impressive economic growth in 2021.

The strongest recovery in GDP growth was recorded in Kenya at 7.4 percent, while all others were higher than 2.5 percent except for Sudan, it was noted.

Xinhua

## US should return to rational, pragmatic policy toward China

By Hu Zexi, Zhong Mengxu

As the spillovers of the Ukraine crisis continue to spread, the international situation is increasingly complex and grave. The U.S., the instigator of the crisis, has neither reflected on its mistakes nor done its duty for world peace and security by trying all means to promote a ceasefire and peace talks.

Instead, it has continued to fan the flames of tensions between Russia and Ukraine and made it more difficult to achieve reconciliation. The country even attempts to shift the blame for its mistakes onto others and has willfully smeared and attacked China, sowing misunderstanding, antagonism, and insecurity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Remarks and acts of the U.S. regarding the Ukraine crisis, including spreading lies to create the illusion that China is responsible for the crisis and attempting to bracket the Taiwan question and the Ukraine crisis together to seek an excuse for using Taiwan to contain China, won't do any good to the settlement of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, but will further undermine mutual trust and cooperation between China and the U.S.

"The U.S. has kept stirring up trouble and only pursued 'coercive diplomacy' to make other countries pay for its mistakes and suppress China. Obviously, the U.S. hasn't learned anything from its wrong foreign policy in the past and still views the world with the friend-enemy binary logic," pointed out Ruan Zongze, executive vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies.

Washington's actions on the Ukraine crisis have proven that creating confrontation is the essence of the current U.S. policy toward China, according to Diao Daming, a research fellow with the National Academy of Development and Strategy, Renmin University of China.

"By using the Russia-Ukraine conflict to create division in the world, the U.S. attempts to cast China as a 'common threat' to the West so as to enlist its allies in confrontation with China at minimal cost, thus maintaining its hegemony and interests," said Diao.

Such moves of the U.S. have exposed the country's Cold War mentality and the wrong approach it has taken in dealing with its relations with China.

Some people in the U.S. hope to spawn a "new Cold War" with China, and regard the cultivation of a shared enemy as the necessary key to maintaining the so-called "liberal order," said Peter Isackson, chief strategy officer of Fair Observer, an independent, non-profit media organization in the U.S., in his recent article published on the website of Fair Observer.

According to the article, these people believe the fear of "enemy" can divert American people's attention from seri-



ous and worsening problems at home, such as income inequality and an enduring pandemic punctuated by contestable government mandates.

Some in the U.S. oppose the U.S. policy of engagement with China because they object to the loss of American global and regional preeminence and the inability of the United States to have its way unilaterally, which is "narrow-minded and short-sighted," pointed out Chas W. Freeman, Jr., former U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs.

U.S. politicians' fear-mongering over China and hyping the China threat will make the U.S.-China relations harder to manage, according to Andrew J. Nathan, a professor of Political Science at Columbia University.

Major countries in the world are supposed to shoulder major responsibilities for safeguarding international peace and security.

The U.S. must abandon its wrong approach, return to a rational and pragmatic policy toward China and show its sense of responsibility by working together with China to steer the China-U.S. relations back on the right track at an early date.

Last year, bilateral trade between China and the U.S. exceeded \$750 billion for the first time, and two-way investment between the two countries jumped to nearly \$240 billion. Meanwhile, more than 70,000 American enterprises made investments in China.

Facts have fully demonstrated that the interests of China and the U.S. are deeply entwined, ideological differences can't define the relations between the two countries, and the U.S. waging a "new Cold War" on China despite opposition would harm both China and itself.

The move to contain China will further divide the U.S. from its partners and undermine the reputation of the U.S., thus constituting an act of self-destruct-

**Major countries in the world are supposed to shoulder major responsibilities for safeguarding international peace and security**

tion, according to G. John Ikenberry, who is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University.

The Asia-Pacific region is not a wrestling ground for international politics. For a long time, the U.S. has attempted to create tensions and incite confrontation and antagonism in the region by pushing its Indo-Pacific strategy, arousing widespread concerns among countries in the region.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region share the general desire to prevent the resurgence of the Cold War mentality and refuse to take sides between major powers.

"All countries in the world want a positive and constructive relationship with both the U.S. and China," said former Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, whose view is echoed by many.

Competition among major countries is not the theme of the times, and zero-sum game is not the right choice. Now that the world has emerged from the Cold War, it should not suffer from a new Iron Curtain.

The U.S. should shoulder its responsibilities as a major country and respond to the international community's expectations by returning to a rational and pragmatic policy toward China and working together with the latter to bring the bilateral relations back on the right track.

People's Daily

## Wheatley takes over as British Virgin Islands premier as Fahie is ousted

MIAMI

THE British Virgin Islands on Thursday swore in Natalio Wheatley as the British overseas territory's new premier following the removal of ex-premier Andrew Fahie, who was arrested on drug charges in Miami last week.

The move may help the territory move beyond the scandal created by Fahie's embarrassing arrest, but the British Virgin Islands still faces scrutiny over corruption that may lead the United Kingdom to assume direct governance from London.

"This swearing-in ceremony represents another important and necessary step in renewing our cherished democracy and reforming out institutions," said Wheatley, the former deputy premier who will also hold the post of finance minister.

"It is my hope that this day will be remembered as the day we began a new era of democratic governance."

Governor John Rankin in a speech said he had revoked Fahie's mandate following a no-confidence vote in the House of Assembly.

Theresa Van Vliet, a lawyer representing Fahie in Miami, declined to comment. In a court hearing on Wednesday, she said Fahie will plead not guilty to the charges.

A commission of inquiry last week said the territory's elected government should be dissolved and its constitution suspended for two years due to systematic dishonesty.

The commission's report concluded that millions of dollars in state funds were being spent without proper processes, adding there was evidence of widespread abuse in appointments.

The report was not directly linked to Fahie's arrest, but British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said his detention demonstrated the importance of the inquiry.

Fahie, 51, was arrested at a Miami airport along with the managing director of the territory's Ports Authority, Oleanvine Maynard.

The US Department of Justice says Fahie in recorded meetings with a confidential source from the Drug Enforcement Administration agreed to help smuggle cocaine through the territory in exchange for a portion of the proceeds.



Former British Virgin Island Premier Andrew Altoero Fahie.



# SPORT



Ruvu Shooting midfielder, Rashid Juma (R), challenges Yanga's fullback Kibwana Shomari when the sides met in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League duel which took place in Kigoma last Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Coach Charles Boniface bemoans Premier League schedule

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

RUVU Shooting head coach Charles Boniface Mkwa has expressed fear his squad might showcase less convincing displays in an NBC Premier League duel against defending champion, Simba SC.

The Coast Region club will host Simba SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow, with the former having faced a trip to the game from Kigoma.

Ruvu Shooting had held Yanga to a 0-0 draw at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma last Wednesday, frustrating the league leader's efforts to widen its points margin with second-placed Simba.

Coach Mkwa pointed out he will try to keep his players psychologically fit so that they can perform well in the coming game, despite the schedule.

The tactician disclosed: "It is unfortunate for me and the Ruvu Shooting players, we were scheduled to play leading outfit (Yanga), and in the next game we will play against number two (Simba SC)."

Mkwa pointed out: "If you look here there is a big test, worse still we will start the journey from Kigoma back to Dar es Salaam, the schedule shows we will play our next game on Sunday (tomorrow), so it may be tough for my players to play as hard as they did here."

"I believe my players will be tired because of the journey, but I still believe they will fight and if possible show stiff opposition to Simba SC," Mkwa stated.

The tactician revealed: "I have given the same attention to the size of the journey we are facing from Kigoma to Dar es Salaam."

In the first round match of the NBC Premier League between Ruvu Shooting and Simba SC which took place at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza, the Coast Region squad went down 3-1.

## Yanga tactician unhappy with Ruvu Shooting clash's outcome

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's assistant coach Cedrick Kaze notes it was not his intention to witness the squad settle for a 0-0 draw with Ruvu Shooting when the clubs met in an NBC Premier League match at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma last Wednesday.

Kaze, who had taken over for three games in place of the suspended head coach Nasreddine Nabi, said the main purpose of the game was to garner good results, but it turned out differently.

Nabi was serving a three-match ban he was handed by Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last-eight tie between Yanga and Geita Gold FC that took place in Dar es Salaam in April, with Yanga knocking Geita Gold FC out in penalty shootout.

The Tunisian was in the stands in Yanga's three top-flight ties against Namungo FC, Simba, and Ruvu Shooting.

Kaze said he tried his best to achieve the goal of beating Ruvu Shooting, but the latter's

Meanwhile, Ruvu Shooting FC's Head of Information and Communication, Masau Bwire, has called on the Tanzanian football authorities to review the goal netted by his club's attacker Sadat Nanguo against Yanga.

It was not allowed to stand by assistant referee Khamis Chang'walu, who ruled the attacker was in an offside position at the time he connected home from a corner kick taken from the right.

Ruvu Shooting had put the ball on the back of Yanga's net in the fifth minute.

Bwire said he believes that if the football authorities looked at the goal again, it would be clear that the scorer was in the right place before rifling in.

He said some people that are specialized in decision-making, opposed the decision taken against Ruvu Shooting.

The official still stressed that the football authorities should not be satisfied and should issue the right answers.

Bwire disclosed: "I'm very angry because I did not expect an event like that to be decided otherwise in this game, sometimes you wonder if we want Tanzanian football to either move forward or end here."

"I urge the football authorities to ensure that they are satisfied and issue the right answers about the legitimacy of our goal which had been canceled," the official revealed.

"I also wish the video assistant referee, which was used in the CAF Confederation Cup's last-eight tie between Simba SC and Orlando Pirates, to have as well been used in this clash because it is very embarrassing."

"If there was a VAR the referee would have agreed to go and watch this event, I'm sure we would have come out with a one-goal victory here," Bwire disclosed.

Until the 90th minute of the game, the duel hosts Ruvu Shooting failed to come out with a victory, notching a 0-0 draw with Yanga who consequently stretched their unbeaten run this season.

resilience became a barrier despite his outfit's attackers trying to score goals from time to time.

The Burundian tactician added: "It was not our intention to come here and get one point, we were determined to get maximum points, but things have turned out differently, so we have to accept what we got from our clash."

"I tried different tactics that might have helped us achieve the goal of getting good results here in Kigoma."

"I still insist that the results we got are part of the game and we have accepted them," Kaze said.

In another development, the Burundian coach said the Yanga technical bench had identified weaknesses that led to a draw in the squad's two games, so they are determined to work their way back to victory.

"The technical bench has seen several shortcomings, we will work on them in our practice so that we can do well in our next game, I believe we will do well," Kaze said.

## SPORTS

# Simba SC coach loses hope on clinching Premier League title



Simba SC's attacker, Kibu Denis (R), speeds past Namungo FC defenders, Emmanuel Charles (L) and Omari Nyenje, when the squads met in this season's NBC Premier League clash that took place in Lindi early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC head coach Pablo Franco Martin has admitted that with a points difference between them and NBC Premier League leader, Yanga, they no longer hope to win the top-flight title this season.

The tactician noted that after recognizing the situation, they have seen fit to focus on this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) by winning three matches, starting with the quarter-final match.

"Realistically, being 13 points behind a team that has not lost a single game and is playing with high morale, it is hard to say we are still fighting for the title.. it would amount to deceiving our fans," Martin disclosed.

Simba SC is currently struggling to make sure it finishes the season with at least one top honour after losing hope of defending the Premier League trophy.

The club had last season clinched the ASFC title after beating an age-old rival, Yanga, 1-0 in the final which took place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in

Kigoma.

Earlier in the 2019/20 season, Simba SC won the ASFC by beating Namungo FC 2-1 at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Sumbawanga, Rukwa.

Yanga advanced to this season's ASFC semi-final by beating Geita Gold FC in a penalty shootout in the last eight after the teams had settled for a 1-1 draw after the regular time.

Other teams that reached the semi-finals of the ASFC are Azam FC which defeated Polisi Tanzania 3-0, and Coastal Union which cruised to a 5-4 victory over Kagera in a penalty shootout, after drawing 1-1 in 90 minutes. Azam FC will therefore play against Coastal Union in one of the ASFC semi-final ties, while Yanga awaits the winners of the last eight's match between Simba SC and Pamba FC of Mwanza.

Meanwhile, Dodoma Jiji FC head coach Masoud Djuma has said his team still has a chance to fight to reach one of the top four places in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League.

Djuma expressed his hopes after his team garnered a 3-1 win over Mara's Biashara United in a league tie that took place at Nyamagana Stadium in Mwanza on Thursday.

The Burundian coach disclosed the third and fourth positions in the Premier League standings are still open, and his mission is to ensure Dodoma Jiji FC takes one of those positions.

He said it is difficult at the moment to reach either the first or second place, given the domestic football big guns, Simba SC and Yanga, have established themselves in those positions.

The coach was adamant the remaining chance for his side is to fight to finish in either third or fourth place.

Djuma revealed: "Simba SC and Yanga are ahead, third and fourth places are still open, it is our responsibility to keep fighting to reach

those positions, I believe everything is possible."

"Getting three points on the road again by beating a tough Biashara United, it is worth congratulating each other and thinking about how to move forward, I still hope we will achieve our goal," the tactician disclosed.

Djuma disclosed: "Once you leave the red line of relegation, you have to think about how to go higher, especially in this league the teams are very close to each other, so I'm not worried, we will continue to fight to the end."

Dodoma Jiji FC has collected 27 points which put the squad in the eighth place in the Premier League standings, with Namungo FC and Azam FC sitting third and fourth respectively with 30 points and 29 points.

# Dar professional boxer eyes successful return to action

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DAR ES SALAAM's professional Middleweight pugilist Mfaume Ahmed has said he will, this year, regain his form, insisting he will not let his fans down.

Ahmed was adamant that if there is an opportunity for him to fight, he will make the most of it.

The outspoken pugilist stated so during a boxing bouts promotion event organized by renowned boxing promoter, Selemeni Semuny.

According to the pugilist, he is a confident boxer and is ready for any competitor who wants to fight him.

The boxer noted: "I am already grateful to the promoters who support us and allow us to continue to fight for income."

"This year I plan to do better and I am ready for anyone who will show interest in fighting me," he said.

The stylish boxer is one of the experienced local pugilists to have performed well, although his name is not widely known.

The boxer said the only thing that gives him confidence is the training he is always doing to protect his health.

Since the start of this year, the boxer has not taken part in a competitive bout.

Boxrec, a network that keeps records of professional boxers globally, has the fighter's statistics stating he last year took part in a fight against compatriot, Yusuf Mbembe, commanding a Technical Knockout victory in the second round.



Mfaume Ahmed

He, later the same year, took part in an eight-round international non-title bout against Russian boxer Rizvan Elikhanov in Russia and lost by Technical Knockout in the second round.

It was one of the undercards organized by promoter Zaira Ibragimova and was overseen

by the Russian Boxing Federation.

In recent years he has been involved in many supporting fights against fellow domestic boxers and has been doing well.

Ahmed has overall featured in 26 bouts, coming out victorious in 16 fights (seven of which were KOs), losing eight bouts, and two were declared a draw.



## Man City refocus on Premier League title push as Leeds sweat

LONDON

MANCHESTER City must pick themselves off the floor for the visit of Newcastle in the Premier League after their painful Champions League exit or risk ending the season empty-handed, with Liverpool on the prowl.

Pep Guardiola's men, reeling after blowing a two-goal lead in the final minute of their semi-final against Real Madrid to lose 6-5 on aggregate, are one point clear of the second-placed Reds but have the disadvantage of playing after their rivals for the second consecutive weekend.

At the other end of the table, Norwich have already been relegated and Watford look certain to follow, with Burnley, Leeds or Everton set to join them in the Championship next season.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of this weekend's action.

### "Bruised City"

Manchester City were on course for a treble before Liverpool won last month's FA Cup semi-final at Wembley. Now they have just one trophy to play for.

Jürgen Klopp's team have the chance to turn the screw today even though they have a tricky fixture against Tottenham, who are in desperate need of the points as they chase a top-four spot.

Newcastle lost 1-0 to Liverpool last week but that came after four straight wins for Eddie Howe's revived side, who are now safely in mid-table after their early season woes.

City know the maths is simple -- win their remaining four Premier League games and they will be champions for the fourth time in five seasons.

Guardiola is confident his side can shrug off the agony of their European exit but he has no margin for error.

"We need time now, one or two days, but we will rise," he said. "We have to do it."

### Leeds stare down barrel

Leeds fans might have shrugged off Burnley's last-gasp comeback win against Watford last weekend but Everton's shock victory against Chelsea the following day left them sweating.

After a sticky start under new manager Jesse Marsch, who took over from the

sacked Marcelo Bielsa at the end of February, Leeds appeared to have turned the corner.

But last week's 4-0 drubbing by City leaves them in real danger of dropping back down to the Championship after just two seasons in the top flight.

Leeds have 34 points -- level with Burnley and just two ahead of Frank Lampard's Everton, who have a game in hand -- with a difficult match at Arsenal tomorrow followed by a home game against Chelsea.

US coach Marsch said he knew the relegation battle would go to the wire when he took the job and believes his team are still up for the fight.

But if results go against them this week-end they could be in the bottom three tomorrow evening.

### "Golden Boot race"

Mohamed Salah remains the heavy favourite to win a third Golden Boot but will be looking anxiously over his shoulder at in-form Son Heung-min and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Egypt forward, with 22 league goals, has only scored twice since netting against Brighton in mid-March even as Liverpool have kept up their relentless quest for an unprecedented quadruple.

Since then South Korea's Son has scored eight times, including a hat-trick against Aston Villa and two goals against Leicester to take his tally to 19.

Ronaldo, one goal behind Son, has the chance to end a miserable season with Manchester United on a high but the Red Devils have just two games to play while Liverpool and fifth-placed Spurs both have four left.

Salah and Son will likely go head to head at Anfield today, with personal milestones an added element of spice in a fixture that could prove pivotal for both teams.

### Fixtures

Today (1400 GMT unless stated)

Brentford v Southampton, Burnley v Aston Villa, Chelsea v Wolves, Crystal Palace v Watford, Brighton v Manchester United (1630), Liverpool v Tottenham (1845)

Tomorrow (1300 GMT unless stated)

Arsenal v Leeds, Leicester v Everton, Norwich v West Ham, Manchester City v Newcastle (1530)

AFP

## Ronaldo arrival made me want to leave, says Cavani

LONDON

EDINSON Cavani has said Cristiano Ronaldo's arrival at Manchester United made him consider leaving the club.

Cavani's season has been interrupted by injury and the 35-year-old striker has been limited to 18 appearances for the club in all competitions in a disappointing campaign that will end without a trophy and no Champions League football next season.

"At the moment it was done, I thought it was a good thing for Manchester to sign Cristiano," Cavani told ESPN Brasil. "Knowing a bit about the world of football these days, the first thing I did was call my [brother and manager Walter Fernando Guglielmine] and said: 'Fernando, if this had happened a week ago, I would ask you to find me another club.'"

"But not because I didn't want to play with Cristiano Ronaldo. No. Because I had the opportunity to know him, and he is a great professional, with his targets, and that is perfect for a sportsman. But as I know, after years in football, how things work these days. That's why I spoke to my brother."

"It was more about understanding the situation. Not because I couldn't play in my role at Manchester, but because there are many things in football nowadays that are different from how they were with other people, how it was before, years ago. And

since it happened suddenly, I felt nothing. I thought: 'We'll play, do the best we can.'

"Regardless of my injuries at the club, which kept me out of the season for a bit... I experienced difficult situations, different from the ones I faced last year. And after a few months, I called my brother again and said, 'Remember what you said at the start of the season?' Before the season started. There are no secrets in football. For me, it's very clear how it works, and I have a way to see football that nobody takes away from me."

"So I called my brother and said that. And he was like: 'Stay positive, Edi, you will do a good job...'. He told me a lot of things. I had no doubt that everything could be better, 'But let's see what happens from now on.' And everything happened like we all know and that's it, here we are, I'm trying to do my best to help my team, like everywhere else I've been, but my way of thinking and seeing football showed me that I was right in the first few months and on... I had my problems with injuries and I've been away for a while. But that was a bit of what happened in that stretch."

A source told ESPN Uruguay last week that Cavani seeks a two-year deal with a LaLiga club and barring that, he would consider playing in Portugal.

(Agencies)

## Chelsea's uncertain future: How sanctions, confusion are impacting their squad for next season

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

CHELSEA'S sale may be edging closer to completion, but the most turbulent period in the club's 117-year history is far from over as fans, staff, and players face an uncertain future.

Although British billionaire Sir Jim Ratcliffe attempted to gate-crash the process with a last-ditch offer of his own, the consortium led by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly was confirmed as the Blues' preferred bidder on Friday.

Ratcliffe remains hopeful of a late change of heart as Chelsea look to secure UK government and Premier League approval in the coming days, but the Boehly camp is in the driver's seat to become the new club's new owners, finally drawing a line under the Roman Abramovich era.

It has been 67 days since Abramovich sought to create distance from himself and Chelsea in an attempt to avoid having to sell the club as Russia's invasion of Ukraine began to intensify. Abramovich passed what he described as "stewardship and care" of the Blues to the Chelsea Trustees, but as it quickly became clear that the charitable entity was simply incapable of running one of the biggest clubs in the world, the Russian oligarch announced within three days that he would put the club on the market.

The UK government's subsequent decision to sanction Abramovich for alleged ties to Russia's president Vladimir Putin meant that, as a freezeable asset, Chelsea were required to apply for a special licence to continue operating and fulfilling fixtures. The situation was unprecedented: Chelsea's club shop and hotel was closed, travel plans were compromised as budgets were cut, and transfers were banned as the UK government tried to ensure Abramovich could not in any way profit from its ongoing business.

For his part, Abramovich originally vowed to write off the £1.6bn debt owed him by Chelsea, but reports on Tuesday suggested he may now want that money returned after all, throwing into doubt the UK government's willingness to approve a deal. There may be some distance left to travel after all; as one Chelsea source explained to ESPN, the club is trying to complete something that often takes up to a year: for example, Newcastle's recent takeover took around nine months.

As the most prominent public-facing employee, head coach Thomas Tuchel faced questions no other contemporary has ever endured, negotiating each hurdle with a mixture of humility and endeavour as he looked to keep Chelsea's season on track.

Lately, however, the cracks have started to show. Four defeats in nine matches have led to the end of their Champions League title defence and triggered nervous looks over their shoulder as they try to avoid being dragged into a scrap for a Premier League top four finish.

Key defender Antonio Rudiger will leave for Real Madrid when his contract expires at the end of the season, Andreas Christensen is expected to follow, and Tuchel admitted last week that the suspension on transfers until a takeover is completed means they risk being left behind by their rivals in the summer window.

"You're never fully sure but we would have some targets and would usually have contacted some players and found out about their situations but now our hands are tied," said Tuchel. "We can still have the talks inside the building but we cannot act so it's not an ideal situation."

The Blues' temporary licence to operate runs out on May 31, underlining the urgency in completing a deal. But a closer examination of Chelsea's squad exposes how the clock is ticking on a number of big



Chelsea squad

decisions they must get right in order for the new era to start with a bang.

### \*Goalkeepers

Edouard Mendy's status as Chelsea's number one is secure, but the club will seek to offload Kepa Arrizabalaga at the end of the season. ESPN reported in February that the Brazilian was facing a fight to save his Blues career despite impressing while Mendy was away at the African Cup of Nations. Kepa has started just one game since then and came off the bench to miss the decisive spot-kick as Chelsea lost February's Carabao Cup Final to Liverpool 11-10 on penalties.

Sources have told ESPN that Kepa has worked hard to improve his style of goalkeeping, making him more aggressive and learning to command his box better, but there is still a desire within the club to move him on, ideally re-couping as much of the £71.4m fee they paid Athletic Bilbao for his services. Kepa has a contract until 2025 worth around £150,000-a-week, potentially limiting the number of suitors.

### \*Defenders

Sources have told ESPN that Rudiger's decision to leave has come as a significant blow to Tuchel and also many of the centre-back's team-mates. Talks stalled over Rudiger's wage demands -- he's believed to have rejected a final offer worth in excess of £225,000-a-week -- and Chelsea have not been able to negotiate since late-February as a result of the sanctions. Rival overseas clubs have sought to exploit the uncertainty by talking up the clarity that would come with a move away. Real Madrid have won the race to sign Rudiger and a formal announcement is expected soon.

Sources have told ESPN that Christensen had all but agreed terms on a new contract earlier in the season, but then upped his demands and talks stalled before the enforced hiatus due to the sanctions. Although the club triggered a one-year extension in Cesar Azpilicueta's contract, Barcelona have not given up hope as he could push to leave this summer, having completed 10 years as a

### Chelsea player:

Losing all three would create a major hole in the squad, especially given Thiago Silva turns 38 years old in September while Malang Sarr and Trevoh Chalobah are not proven over a long period at the highest level.

Chelsea have had a longstanding interest in Sevilla's Jules Kounde, but they're vulnerable to a rival swooping in given that he has an €80m release clause in his contract. The club were also thought to be considering offering Reece James improved terms on his current deal which runs to 2025 amid reports Real Madrid are among a number of clubs monitoring the right-back.

Marcos Alonso has one year remaining on his current contract, and a source has suggested Tuchel would be ready to sell the Spaniard if a suitable buyer could be found with Ben Chilwell hopeful of returning from knee ligament damage in time for next season.

Chelsea also have several defenders out on loan including Ethan Ampadu and Levi Colwill who will return; in fact, Chelsea's entire loan policy, which has proven highly profitable in the past, may be reviewed by a new owner.

### \*Midfielders

Much of the focus in recent months has been on the futures of the three defenders -- Rudiger, Christensen, and Azpilicueta -- but that has somewhat masked a similar issue rapidly approaching in midfield.

N'Golo Kante and Jorginho, both hugely influential players for Tuchel, are out of contract in 2023.

"It would be nice if we can avoid [more players running down deals] but at the moment it's difficult [because of the sanctions]," said Tuchel last month. "But [tying down Jorginho and Kante] should be the target for all of us." Jorginho turns 31 in December, the same age Kante is now.

In the past, Chelsea have had issues negotiating contract lengths with players -- Willian and Cesc Fabregas are two examples of players who left because the club were reluctant to sanction long-term deals for players over 30. Of course, it's impossible to know at this stage

whether the new owners would continue adopting this policy.

Another factor is the return of Conor Gallagher from a hugely successful loan spell at Crystal Palace. Gallagher is one of the Premier League's breakthrough stars having won Young Player of the Year at the London Football Awards and Tuchel recently spoke highly about the 22-year-old prior to Chelsea's FA Cup semi-final against Palace.

However, there are possible departures elsewhere with Ross Barkley and Ruben Loftus-Cheek's futures unclear while loanee Saul Niguez is expected to return to Atletico Madrid.

Sources have also told ESPN that Chelsea are keen to extend Mason Mount's contract, but once again, talks have not been able to begin due to sanctions. Mount has two years remaining on his current deal and negotiations are expected as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, both Christian Pulisic and Callum Hudson-Odoi have deals that also expire in 2024. Pulisic insisted he was relaxed about the situation when speaking last month but both players have struggled for fitness and not played as much as they would have liked. Billy Gilmour may be in line for a more prominent role once he returns from his loan spell at Norwich City.

### \*Forwards

Romelu Lukaku has started three games in all competitions since February 20. That situation is unsustainable for a €115m signing supposedly in the peak years of his career. Although Tuchel handled the initial public fallout well, the damage done by Lukaku's December Sky Italia interview, in which he discussed a possible return to Inter Milan and voiced frustrations over his second spell at Chelsea, may be permanent. Tuchel currently believes Chelsea are a more potent force without Lukaku and therefore it is not difficult to imagine the club considering transfer offers for the 28-year-old, especially as those fees could then be reinvested elsewhere.

Before the sanctions, it was expected that Chelsea would be open to allowing Timo Werner to depart as well after two unproductive seasons in England. Armando Broja has impressed on loan at Southampton but it is unclear at this stage whether Tuchel believes the 20-year-old is ready for first-team football at Stamford Bridge.

It is one of a raft of decisions he will have to make this summer. And the clock is already ticking.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Chelsea's uncertain future: How sanctions, confusion are impacting their squad**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Eastern Africa Rollball Championship attracts four countries

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Rollball Association (TRBA) has said so far four countries have confirmed to compete in the Eastern Africa Rollball Championship which is slated for next month in Dar es Salaam.

Initially, TRBA extended invitations to South Sudan, Zambia, Kenya, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Egypt, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Rwanda.

But Noel Kiunsi, TRBA Chairman, said Uganda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the host Tanzania are the countries that will compete at the championship whose dates will be announced soon.

He could not issue reasons why many of the countries which received TRBA invitations snubbed them.

"Sofar Uganda, Kenya, and DRC have confirmed to compete at the Eastern Africa Rollball Championship," he said.

The championship which was to be held for three days in Dar es Salaam last month was postponed due to a request from member nations that said they are not prepared for the championship.

Kiunsi said many nations cited the COVID-19 pandemic as the cause of their failure to prepare for the showpiece.

In the previous interview, Kiunsi advised each country to come along with a national flag and an anthem for official use.

The official noted each country should as well cover its internal transport costs, however, the hosts can coordinate the availability and logistics.

Rollball is a game played between two teams and is a unique combination of roller skates, basketball, handball, and throwball.

It is played on roller shoes with each team consisting of 12 players, six on the field and six in reserve.

The main objective of the game is to score maximum goals within a stipulated time.

The main feature of Rollball is that the ball is held in either one or both hands, when passing to the other players, with the ball repeatedly bounced on the ground.

The court size can vary from 28 to 40 meters in length and 15 to 20 meters in width.

The court includes a center-line dividing offensive and defensive areas. The penalty line is drawn either 4.5m or 3.5m away from the goal.



Geita Gold FC footballers discuss match strategies before the kick-off of one of the outfit's NBC Premier League clashes that took place at Nyankumbu Stadium in Geita recently.

## Geita Gold FC, Kagera Sugar battle for Premier League top four places

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE race for the top four is hotting up in this season's NBC Premier League, with at least five teams still in the frame.

Geita Gold FC plays hosts to Kagera Sugar in the early kick-off in Geita on Saturday afternoon.

Both teams need to win if they are to force their way into the top four.

They are separated by one point with Kagera Sugar on 29 points in fifth place while Geita Gold FC is on 28 points in seventh place.

Hosts Geita Gold FC will be confident of taking Kagera Sugar's scalp on home soil and continuing what has been a solid league campaign thus far.

Victory will temporarily move Geita Gold FC to third place, overtaking Namungo FC and Azam FC, who play later in the evening in another top-four battle.

Coach Fred Felix 'Minziro' has done an excellent job at Geita Gold FC since taking over from Etienne Ndayiragije.

He is getting the club punching above their weight and will be looking to make their strong home form count once again.

They have played 11 league matches at home this season, winning five, drawing five times, and losing only once against Yanga in a game which was played at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza, rather than their usual home ground at Nyankumbu Stadium.

The Geita Gold FC player of the season prize is an easy award to hand over.

George Mpole has been their most influential player, as he has taken his game to a whole new level.

Mpole has contributed 11 goals and two assists in the Premier League this season.

The attacker has scored in three of his last three matches. A goal against Kagera Sugar would see him go level with leading goal scorer, Yanga's Fiston Mayele, in the golden boot race.

Meanwhile, coach Francis Baraza's Kagera Sugar overcame Azam FC 1-0 on Tuesday to go level on points with the fourth-placed Chamazi side which has a superior goal difference.

This is an opportunity for Kagera Sugar to knock one of their rivals out of the race for the top four.

Baraza was under pressure at the beginning of the season. Some supporters were calling for him to lose his job, but he managed to turn things around and he now looks to be the right man for the job.

Kagera Sugar is in the box seat when it comes to finishing in the top four.

A win that will stretch their unbeaten run to six games will take Kagera Sugar two points above Namungo FC in third, pending Azam FC's results against KMC FC later in the evening.

Geita Gold FC has been a tricky team to beat, especially at home, Kagera Sugar will need the attackers on the pitch to take chances that come their way, as they could be few and far between.

At the moment, Eric Mwijage looks to be the striker offering the biggest goal threat.

Kagera Sugar has played 10 matches away from home this season, winning three matches, drawing five games, and losing twice on the road.

## Azam FC to face KMC FC in tricky Premier League duel



Azam FC midfielder, Paul Katema (R), seeks to outfox Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC midfielder Emmanuel Mvuyekure as the clubs locked horns in an NBC Premier League tie that took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC and Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC will be looking to return to winning ways in the NBC Premier League ahead of their clash at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday evening.

Azam FC comes into the game having suffered a disappointing low during the week, following up a 1-0 Premier League defeat to Kagera Sugar, having drawn 2-2 with Geita Gold FC the previous round.

Looking to avoid falling out of continental tournaments' contention via the league route, the ice cream makers now face a KMC FC that is also desperate to return to winning ways.

They are still the frontrunners to finish third but will know that they cannot afford to drop many more points.

Thabit Zakaria, Azam FC's information officer, spoke about the team's frustrating results and called for fans' support as they look to return to winning ways.

Zakaria pointed out: "We did not have good results in our two previous games, a draw against Geita Gold wasn't such a bad result given the environment but a team like Azam FC should be winning every single game."

"We failed in Bukoba and so we have to work on our

weaknesses on the training pitch. I urge all fans to come out and support the team."

A run of three defeats in five games has seen KMC FC slip out of the top half of the table and now has to win to avoid finding itself in a nervous relegation scramble with eight games to go.

Speaking ahead of the game, KMC FC head coach Thierry Hitimana says they are up to the challenge of at least getting a point on the short trip to Chamazi.

The tactician noted: "It is a tough game in a difficult campaign. Azam FC is coming off from losing and is desperate to reclaim the third spot."

"However we are also focused on getting results, we have to fight because the league is tough. We are preparing to ensure we at least get something from the game unlike what we got in Geita."

In head-to-head stats, Azam FC and KMC FC have met in seven league matches since the 2018/19 season.

Azam FC has claimed three wins compared to two for KMC FC, while two games have been drawn.

Azam FC has won both of their previous home matches in the rivalry.

When the teams met earlier this season, at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam in November last year, KMC FC triumphed 2-1 thanks to goals netted by Matheo Anthony and Hassan Kabunda while Charles Zulu scored Azam FC's consolation goal.

Rodgers Kola and Prince Dube are expected to lead the hunt for goals for the hosts while the visitors will look to Anthony, Charles Ilamfya, and Hassan Kabunda for inspiration.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



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Geita Gold FC has been a tricky team to beat, especially at home, Kagera Sugar will need the attackers on the pitch to take chances that come their way, as they could be few and far between