



Minister wants increase in sea cucumber production
Page 3



Anaesthesiologists appeal for measures to bridge experts gap
Page 4



Local varsity scanning latest teaching tech in Germany
Page 6



Guardian BUSINESS
African leaders endorse declaration on enhanced fertiliser use, soil health

Forex headwinds drag Airtel Africa into losses

DSE registers 7.5bn/- turnover in four days

Page 13



Speaker pushes Water estimates' adoption

SPORTS
Page 20



Katwila inspires confidence in Mtibwa Sugar's NBC PL survival journey

Page 19



Time running out for Arsenal as Man City hunt Premier League glory



ROAD SAFETY SENSITISATION 'LECTURE': Corporal Baraka Kabala, a traffic police officer stationed in Momba District, Songwe Region, pictured on Thursday taking pupils from Tunduma township's Chapwa Primary School through the basics of road safety. Photo courtesy of Correspondent Issa Mwadangala

This matter will be taken to the committee because probably the funds mentioned by the minister that came from the World Bank and other stakeholders may help in the implementation of various projects

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Assembly yesterday approved 627.78bn/- to Water ministry for fiscal 2024/25. Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson had to intervene and issue directives after Halima Mdee (Special Seats, Opposition) demanded that the House shelve the debate to Monday for the Budget committee to sort out with the government key areas which need money. Various contributions by MPs insisted that the funding allocated to the ministry was vastly inadequate, the MP noted, asserting that approving the estimates removes initiative on the part of MPs as to where money ought to be directed. The Speaker overruled the motion to facilitate adoption of the estimates, while calling upon the government to work on concerns raised by legislators, including low budget allocation, insisting that approving the budget is not foreclosure of reviewing allocations before the National Budget is passed. Adjourning the session, the Speaker cited concerns raised by the Budget committee was addition of 50/- per litre of fuel, add-

TURN TO Page2

'Impose interest on delayed servants' retirement sums'

By Guardian Reporter

RETRED civil servants whose payments are delayed by the social security funds need to be paid an interest on the delayed funds, a top legislator has declared. Dr Tulia Ackson, the Speaker of the National Assembly, issued this advice in the debating chamber yesterday during the question and answer session to cabinet ministers, underlining the need to push the government to come up with plan to improve laws on the payment of benefits to retirees.

There ought to be no delays put up by social security funds, she said, citing the need to put interest charges on social security funds that are repeatedly failing to fulfil their responsibilities. Husna Sekiboko (Special Seats) had in a question sought for explanation why a good number of retired civil servants enrolled in parastatal and government service funds merged into the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) or shifted to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) haven't been paid their overdue retire-

ment benefits. Patrobas Katambi, the Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities deputy state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) responded that the government recognises the importance of paying retirees their benefits on time. He cited reports showing that entitlements inherited by NSSF and PSSSF in 2018 had been paid by 78 percent and other payments were on-going, whereupon the Speaker asserted that civil servants often retire and then start grappling

to obtain their benefits, for anything from six months to one year. Underlining that this is not fair. The government had already improved the information database on retired servants and it is currently prepared six months before they retire, she stated, noting that it is important for civil servants to be paid early to support their living. "My general advice is that if employers delay to submit con-

TURN TO Page2

Govt to control octopus fishing

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA, a major source of octopus in the western rim of the Indian Ocean, is working on measures for sustainable management and harvesting of the species, involving communities and other partners. Prof. Mohammed Sheikh, ministerial director of fisheries development, said at a recent workshop in Dar es Salaam that the plan is geared towards addressing existing gaps in assessing and harvesting octopus stocks. The purpose is to enhance conservation of the valuable resource that supports local market needs and exports and local markets, he said, pointing at collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

TURN TO Page2

SADC, EASMI out to forge partnerships

ESAMI has continually strived towards excellence in management education and strategic planning

By Guardian Reporter

THE secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is working to forge links and partnerships with the Arusha-based Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI). Dr Johansein Rutaihwa, a senior programme officer for industrialization and competitiveness at the SADC secretariat based in the Botswana capital of Gaborone, led a delegation at midweek to explore

avenues for fostering collaboration between the two organisations. The delegation was pursuing means of fostering regional cooperation and generating development synergies, in augmenting the skills and capabilities of industrial labour and expertise across SADC member states. Dr Peter Kiuluku, ESAMI acting director general, stressed the importance of collaboration between SADC and the institute in

issues of trade facilitation, trade in services, e-commerce, gender trade finance and investment; industrial development. There are also aspects like monitoring the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), leadership and management, sustainable development, tourism and human capital, he said. ESAMI has for decades championed Pan-African intergovernmental cooperation, accumul-

ing a rich legacy of monitoring and evaluating intergovernmental activity in the Eastern and Southern African region. "ESAMI has continually strived towards excellence in management education and strategic planning," he said, noting that the institute is recognized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as a

TURN TO Page2



Govt to control octopus fishing

FROM PAGE 1

The government will deploy the FishPath approach, a comprehensive online tool for designing harvesting strategies for fisheries, with technical agencies, coastal communities and other stakeholders being introduced to the tool at the city workshop.

"There is every reason to conserve the octopus due to its huge economic, nutritional and ecological significance to Tanzania and the world. In addition to sustaining livelihoods and providing food locally and to other countries, the octopus is an indicator of a healthy coastal ecosystem, especially coral reefs," he stated.

The fish-path approach requires simplifying stock assessment and management measures, acting as a guide for engaging stakeholders to deliver a tailored solution for a fishery, he said.

Dr Tuyeni Mwampamba, the TNC director of science for the Africa Region, said the environmental agency seeks to partner with Tanzania in steering octopus fisheries towards sustainability using the FishPath approach.

"This is beneficial to fisheries in Tanzania and other Western Indian Ocean countries with limitations in data and capacity, rendering them unable to produce statistical estimates of stock status," he stated.

"This often limits management regulations, impeding advancement of science-based sustainable manage-

ment plans for fisheries and marine ecosystems that are adaptable and resilient to climate change."

Lucy Magemben the TNC country director said that the agency has worked with the government for over 10 years, providing funding, technical support and capacity development.

"We look forward to contributing to the country's Blue Economy through sustainable small-scale octopus fisheries," she stated.

The FishPath tool was initiated by TNC in partnership with oceanic research groups in the United States and Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO).

In addition, TNC and collaborators currently design and deliver tailored data review and stock assessment workshops to support the management goals of partner agencies.

In Tanzania, the octopus is exclusively harvested using traditional, small-scale, simple gear such as spears, rods or iron sticks along exposed reefs during low tide or by diving in deeper waters. These artisanal methods, though traditional, can pose sustainability challenges if not managed effectively, experts assert.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) says that Tanzania is the largest source of octopus in the western Indian Ocean, with catches increasing from 482 tonnes in 1990 to more than 3,400 tonnes last year.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a word with other Muslim faithful shortly after prayers at Quba Mosque at Mbweni in Unguja West B District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Speaker: Pay interest on all delayed retirement benefits

FROM PAGE 1

tribution, the law requires them to pay interest, so the same should be applied to social security funds that if it happens they delay paying the retirees, they should also be charged an interest. So we expect them to improve the current law to make this a legal order," the top legislator intoned.

Earlier, in his basic question, Ngara MP Ndaisaba Ruhoro queried on government plans to review and change the formula for computing retirement benefits as the 33 percent lump sum has negative effect on their retirement arrangements and capacity.

The deputy minister said the government recognises the importance of improving benefits, including lump sum payments for retirees, pointing out that the law wants social security schemes to conduct assessment to measure endurance every three years.

This helps to provide advice

and recommendations, including improvements to members' benefits in relation to the new regulations that came into force in July 2022, he said, insisting that it is important to consider the advice of experts regarding operations, management and sustainability of social security funds on the basis

of actuarial science.

The new formula for computing retirement benefits of 33 percent lump sum has been a thorn for many public employees inching to retirement for its effects on their resettling in the community after ceasing to obtain salaries, observers noted.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has word with Handeni Urban constituency legislator Reuben Kwagilwa (R) at Parliament grounds in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph.

SADC, EASMI out to forge partnerships

FROM PAGE 1

centre of excellence and ISO certified.

Its networking goes well beyond the region, embodying the spirit of collective progress, he said, highlighting the creation of the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (ESAMI-TRAPCA) in December 2006, underscoring its commitment to fostering economic growth and development.

ESAMI-TRAPCA plays a pivotal role in providing advice to least developed countries (LDCs) in various aspects of international trade, ranging from trade policy formulation to implementing trade agreements.

"The significance of this collaboration transcends administrative formalities," he stated, noting that it embodies a shared vision for regional prosperity and development.

"By leveraging ESAMI's expertise in management education and strategic planning, coupled with SADC's commitment as stipulated in the SADC Vision 20250 and RISDP 2020-2030, this partnership can catalyse transformative change across the SADC region and unlock the full potential of Eastern and Southern Africa," he declared.

The SADC, ESAMI engagement is anticipated to lead to a robust partnership to chart out a future defined by prosperity, progress and shared prosperity, he added.

Speaker pushes Water estimates' adoption

FROM PAGE 1

ing that the Budget committee will reconvene to look at the matter.

Most comments by MPs showed worries that money not going to the ministry despite being budgeted for, she said, demanding that the committee look at the matter, "to find out whether money deducted on fuel should be increased or not, or if

the problem is how it is distributed."

"This matter will be taken to the committee because probably the funds mentioned by the minister that came from the World Bank and other stakeholders may help in the implementation of various projects," she stated.

Earlier, during discussion, Luhaga

Mpina (Kisesa) suggested the Water ministry estimates be increased to 1.5trn/- as it impacts many people. He argued that the legislature "should stand firm to defend the budget of the Ministry of Water which has dropped from 756.2bn/- in the year 2023/24 to 627.7bn/-."

"This is unacceptable and it is at variance with the president's goal to

address water scarcity in the country," he said, with Charles Kijege (Mwibara) affirming that the specified allocations will help the ministry to implement its responsibilities to efficiently supply water to the public.

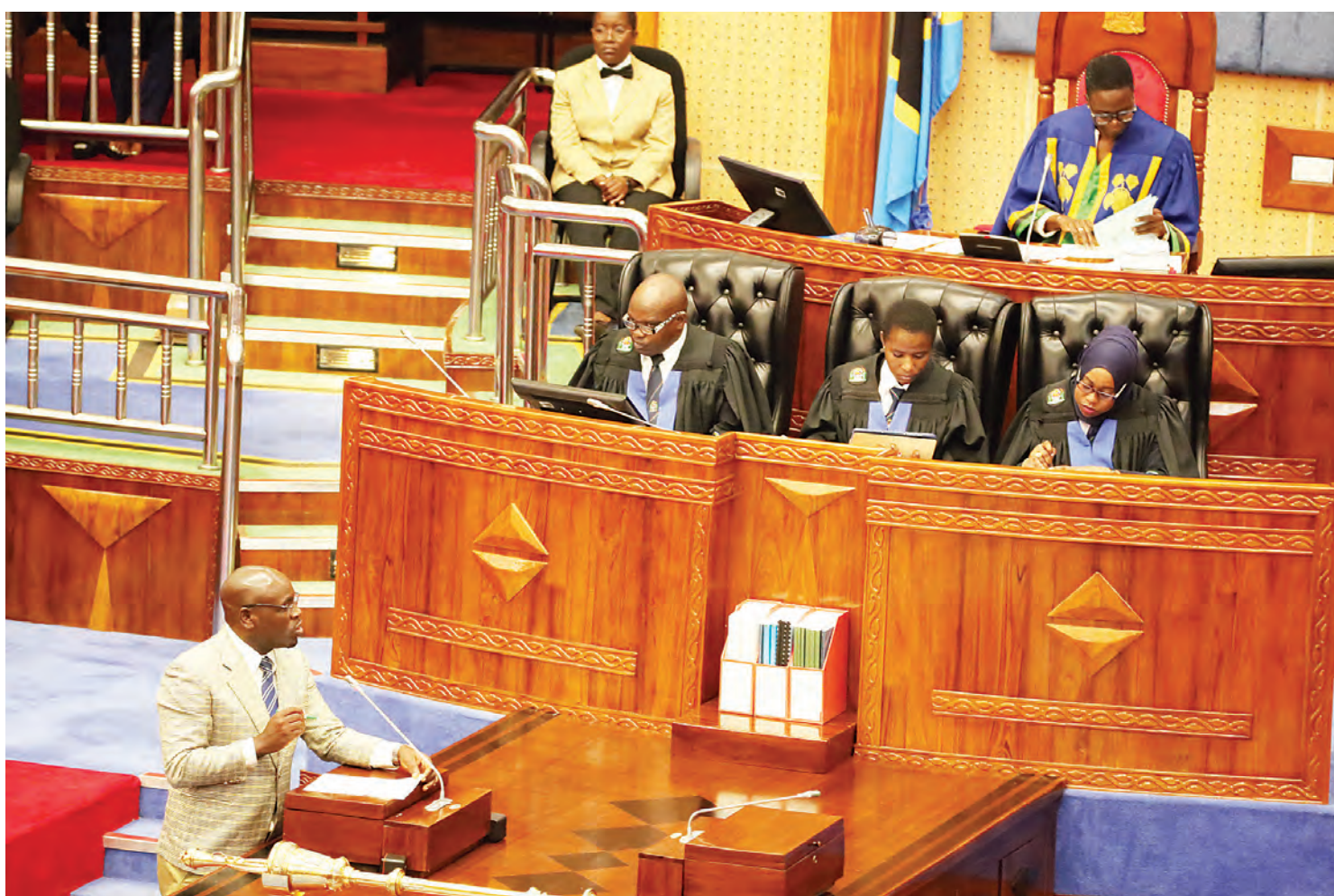
Stanlaus Nyongo (Maswa East) aid the president's campaign to make water available in the rural areas is a

crucial step in the fight against contagious diseases, intoning that one dollar spent for clean water supply saves \$4 in potential medical treatment if clean water is not accessible.

Soud Mohamed Juma (Donge) said Tanzanians are witnessing the tremendous work done by the ministry to ensure that water supply is accessible everywhere, advising

that budget allocations should be increased and the water policy of 2002 be improved to rhyme with the direction of water supply gains.

Selemani Zedi (Bukene) expressed dissatisfaction with the budget allocation, urging the government to increase allocations as water is a vital sector for the public.



Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigahe (L) pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday responding to legislators' questions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Minister unhappy with sea cucumber hatchery production pace in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Blue Economy and Fisheries minister, Shabaan Ali Othman, has directed Zanzibar Marine Hatchery, a company tasked with production of sea products to increase production of sea cucumber hatcheries within two months for farmers.

The minister gave the directive after making an impromptu tour of the company where he expressed dissatisfaction with the rate of production.

He said the government had good hopes with the investor running the hatchery which was meant to benefit farmers.

"Let me say that I am not impressed with the way things are progressing here and I will take action soon if you do not change," he said.

He said the company has generated complaints among workers which need to be addressed because the current leadership has created divisions between government officials and those working for the company.

Othman said the goal of the government is to support and partner with the company so that the hatchery's expertise is transferred to locals.

Director of Zanzibar Marine Hatchery Company Sheha Idrisa Hamdani

said he had received the minister's order, promising to work on it.

The minister also visited the Zanz International Company located in Unguja which is engaged in the export of crab products, where he also said that the facility had not brought any investment results so far.



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Dar readies to host continental infrastructure conference 2024

By Carlos Banda

TANZANIA is scheduled to host Fidic Africa Infrastructure Conference 2024 (FAIC 2024) for the first time which will bring together over 1,000 delegates to discuss innovative sustainable solutions for the present and future challenges.

Martin David, chairman of the local organizing committee for FAIC 2024 said in Dar es Salaam recently that the conference is a vital platform for stakeholders and aspiring young engineers to interact and exchange ideas meant to address challenges and ensure sustainability of infrastructure investments.

It is scheduled to take place from 26th to 29th of

this month in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

"The guiding theme for this event is Innovation and Infrastructure Development for Sustainable Projects. The sub theme is around circular economy - whereby we look at recycling and repurposing of materials for new uses; the second subtheme is on green energy and eco-friendly advancements; the third subtheme is on building smart infrastructures through digital transformations and investment and financing in infrastructures," he said.

David said that through collaborative sessions, participants will refine critical thinking and leadership skills, which will empower them to effect positive change within their communities.

On the role of the event in human capital devel-

opment, Eng Cyprian Sweke, a member of the FAIC 2024 organising committee, said the big role of the Association of Consulting Engineers Tanzania (ACET) is to train and improve quality of local experts so that they can practically solve problems in the society.

"There are a lot of training programmes for engineers, especially the youth. We believe learning is a never-ending cycle due to the emerging new technologies, studies and discoveries; that is why the standards used today are quite different from the ones used 50 years ago. Through the use of various research studies, universities and local experts can help bring changes," he said.

Sweke said that among the participating stakeholders are universities because all the documents

owned by FIDIC and others are among the training programmes provided especially around project management and contracts.

FIDIC is an international Federation of Consulting Engineers which acts as a representative body for national associations of consulting engineers and represents over one million engineering professionals and 40,000 firms in about 100 countries worldwide with representation in each continent.

ACET) was established in 1985 with the key objective to assist its members and practitioners achieve higher professional, business and economic standards to enable them provide better engineering consultancy services.

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Tanga Port acting manager Peter Millanzi (gesturing) pictured yesterday briefing Tanga regional commissioner Dr Batilda Buriani (3rd-L) on recent improvements in operations at the facility. Left is Tanga regional administrative secretary Pili Mnyema. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

'Some teachers cause of mental health problems for their pupils'

Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

HEALTH experts have advised the government to devise a way to control a tendency by some primary school teachers who force pupils to memorise large content, leading to mental health issues.

Psychiatrist at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) Dr Aloyce Ambokile said some teachers do not use psychological methods in influencing pupils to like some subjects but instead use corporal punishments, including hitting with sticks, a practice which affects mental health of the pupils.

He was speaking yesterday during an annual symposium for civil society organisations where he said there are pupils who are beaten for not performing well in some subjects.

"There are pupils who at times are being forced to like some subjects; this is not the right way because they are supposed to be influenced psychologically and not by force," he said.

He said most teachers deal with psychological issues physically, affecting the mental health of pupils, adding that there are pupils who perform poorly in mathematics and end up performing poorly in other subjects as well after being

punished.

Arusha Regional Medical Officer Dr Charles Mkombachepa urged the general public not to stigmatize people with mental challenges and instead encourage them to go to service centres so that they can receive health support.

"Since they feel that they will be called the same names, it is good that we encourage them and direct them to the right places to go for treatment," he said.

He said that Arusha Region has a number of mental health care centres including Mount Meru Regional Referral Hospital, Levulosi Health Centre and Longido District Hospital.

Julieth Kiswaga, Director of the Kilimanjaro based non-governmental organisation Self Awareness For Everyone (SAFE), said mental problems lead to one percent of deaths yearly.

According to Kiswaga, a study conducted by mental health experts in the world, found that out of every eight people, one has a mental health problem.

Onesmo Petro, Director of the Tanzania Mental Health Organization, said the aim of organizing the conference was to raise awareness about mental health and eliminate stigma in the society.

By Guardian Reporter

Govt to work with investors to support digital inclusion

THE government has expressed readiness to support telecommunications companies in the country to facilitate more investments for smooth provision of services and foster economic growth.

Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye, made the remarks on Thursday during the launch of a research project in Dar es Salaam.

He said due to efforts by the government and stakeholders, the

communication sector has continued to grow while expanding services to the interior.

"The Independent Tower Industry as a Key Enabler of the Development of African Telecommunications' research by Dr Raul Katz was commissioned by SBA Communications and Telecom Advisory Services to examine the role of independent tower industry in expanding connectivity in Africa.

Dr Katz's research highlights the significant impact of infrastructure investment on the growth and accessibility of telecommunications services across the continent.

The minister commended the findings, emphasising that independent towers promote competition in the telecommunications sector, leading to lower prices and improved services for consumers.

"I encourage the implementation of the country's laws and policies as one of the solutions to reduce costs for users, especially people living in rural areas who cannot afford to use more than one SIM card," he noted.

He acknowledged the invaluable contribution of independent towers to the development of Tanzanian telecommunications industry and expressed the gov-

ernment's commitment to supporting their continued growth and success.

Nnauye also emphasised the importance of meaningful connectivity, which includes availability, affordability, quality, safety and the impact of online services.

To achieve widespread communication service penetration in the country, he stressed the need for infrastructure sharing as the

best approach to reduce investment and operating costs for mobile network operators.

The minister recognised the crucial role of tower infrastructure in enhancing mobile connectivity, fostering economic growth and driving innovation.

"The government pledged to support initiatives that promote regulatory harmonisation, expedite permit approvals, and offer long-term guarantees to inspire investor confidence and enable sustainable growth in the telecommunications sector," he said.

Paris Summit hopes to raise \$4b clean cooking funding in Africa

ABIDJAN

DEVELOPMENT partners gathering in Paris next Tuesday are expected to pledge towards the \$4 billion needed to provide clean cooking access for 250 million African women by 2030.

The summit will see the African Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina, Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Norway Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre and International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol, co-chairing the event.

The landmark event aims to drive significant change in clean cooking access for the nearly one billion Africans using polluting fuels, which cause the premature deaths of approximately half a million women and children every year.

Women and girls spend up to five hours a day collecting fuel and cooking. This leaves little time for education, social or economic activities. Worldwide, the annual economic cost of women and girl's time searching for fuel wood is estimated at \$800 billion. The health costs are as high as \$1.4 trillion.

The capital investment needed to ensure universal clean cooking access in Africa by 2030 is accessible. The \$4 billion needed annually is a small fraction of the \$2.8 trillion invested globally in energy each year.

The summit aims to mobilize this much-needed finance. It brings together governments, development partners, private companies and NGOs to make concrete commitments and develop action-oriented

strategies to accelerate progress on clean cooking.

They are expected to pledge increased funding for clean cooking, with development partners committing to allocate a higher share of their energy portfolios and to work through private capital arms to bring more financing. Governments will prioritise clean cooking in national planning, create funded implementation programs, and introduce proven policies to support scaling clean cooking solutions.

Dr Adesina has committed the Bank's strong support and outlined a three-pronged approach to achieve universal clean cooking access in Africa. It entails governments directing at least 5 percent of their annual energy investments towards clean cooking solutions and having multilateral and development finance institutions set aside a significant share of their annual energy financing for clean cooking solutions, including concessional blended financing and guarantees.

At COP28, Adesina said that the group would channel \$2 billion for clean cooking over the next decade. He also joined global leaders in rallying around the Africa Women Clean Cooking Support Programme launched by President Samia.

Clean cooking initiatives are eligible under the Climate Action Window (CAW) of the African Development Fund (ADF), the group's concessional window for 37 of Africa's poorest and most vulnerable countries. During COP28, the Bank Group launched its first call, with \$258 million in mostly grant



Dominica Ngaleka, a human resources officer with the Simanjiro District Council, addresses a councillors' meeting at Orkesumet township on Thursday. Left is with council chairman Baraka Kanunga. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Anaesthesiologists call for measures to woo more experts

By Guardian Reporter

THE Society of Anaesthesiologists of Tanzania (SATA) has said that there is a huge shortage of experts in the profession, which poses a challenge to provision of quality services.

According to the society, despite the government's effort to put in place enough infrastructures for provision of services, the country still grapples with shortage of experts.

Dr Edwin Lugazia, SATA president, unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when addressing reporters on the sidelines of the 18th forum of the society.

"The government put in place enough infrastructure including machines, medical equipment and medicines but we still face a shortage in medical staff," he said.

He said to address the problem, they took various

measures to build capacity in various areas, including how to safely execute anaesthesia and treat critical patients who are required to be asleep during treatment.

"Many centres have been added, we need to quickly train service providers who can provide such services everywhere," he said.

Dr Lugazia said the two-day meeting involved 250 participants who are expected to de-

liberate on and acquire practical training and exchange ideas.

"The meeting is held every year by experts with the intent to hold discussions and exchange experiences alongside various training programmes and build capacities from the lower levels to the international levels," he said.

He said through the meeting they were to discuss the challenges they face and those that

impact the country in the provision of anaesthetic medication services and find ways to solve them.

Dr John Kweyamba, SATA general secretary said doctors who joined the association gained opportunities that aimed to build their capacities.

"When experts join our organisation, they get opportunities for self-development in various countries which we have established relations with

thus allowing the country to have more experienced professionals," he said.

In its report published in 2019 dubbed 'Strengthening anaesthesia provision in Tanzania, the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists reported that Tanzania had less than 50 physician-level anaesthesiologists to serve the entire population which it termed as a severe shortage.

"This is especially evident

when seen in the light of the WHO-WFSA International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anaesthesia which highly-recommends a minimum of 5 anaesthesia providers per 100,000 people. Tanzania makes up for this shortfall through the use of non-physician anaesthesia providers to deliver the majority of anaesthesia provision," reads the report.

New Mwanza RC meets govt officials, asks for cooperation

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

NEW Mwanza Regional Commissioner Said Mtanda yesterday met heads of public institutions in the region as part of familiarization where he asked for their cooperation in executing his duties.

"We should know our responsibility of serving people and I believe that when you perform your duties properly, first of all you serve the people," he said.

Mtanda appealed to government officials in the region to discharge their duties with love to people so that they see that the government cares for them.

The RC said that all government institutions should invest in provision of quality services to push forward development of the region and the entire nation.

According to him, he will reach everywhere in the region to supervise use of government funds and give advice to the relevant authorities to take action where there is a problem.

"We will make a thorough follow-up to know how government funds are being used," he said.

Mtanda said that funds for development projects must be used for the intended purpose and not otherwise to resolve nuisances facing people and push forward development in communities.

Citing an example, he said that sometimes the government sends funds for development projects in some places but before the work is complete, relevant authorities supervising the projects ask for more funds from the government.

Mtanda said that he will not allow such a thing in his region and therefore urged officials receiving funds for development projects to ensure that they are all used for the intended purposes.

Before his appointment as Mwanza RC in March, Mtanda served in the same capacity in other regions with his latest station being the neighbouring Mara Region.



We should know our responsibility of serving people and I believe that when you perform your duties properly, first of all you serve the people



Yasinta Awiti, opposition ACT-Wazalendo's shadow Water minister, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on her party's analysis of the Water ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025 as tabled in the National Assembly in Dodoma city on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

ACT gives alternative plan to end shortage of teachers

By Carlos Banda

THE opposition ACT-Wazalendo has advised the government to allocate a budget of 50.2bn/- to create more employment opportunities for 6,500 teachers for primary, secondary and teachers' training colleges annually for five years to address shortage of teachers in the country.

Hamidu Bobali, ACT Wazalendo Shadow Minister for Education, Science and Technology, said this in a recent statement on the party's analysis of the budget plan for the ministry of education, science and technology for the financial year 2024/25 after it was tabled in parliament.

Bobali said the country should no longer be plagued by the shortage of teachers while there are 180,000 youth graduates from teachers' training colleges who are unemployed.

"Statistics for the 2023/24 financial year show that Tanzania has scarcity of 279,202 teachers for primary, secondary and schools for pupils with special needs. There is decrease of 186,325 teachers in primary schools, which is equal to 51.44 percent

higher compared to 36.7 percent in 2022/23; a total of 89,932 teachers for secondary schools which is 51.3 percent higher than 47 percent recorded in 2022/23 and a shortage of 2,945 teachers for schools for pupils with special needs, lower than 4,462 which is the required number of teachers," he said.

The shadow minister said the government should strive to employ at least 5,000 tutors and lecturers to address the demand for teachers in colleges and universities.

He said despite the government's reports that school enrolment has increased; there is still an increase in the number of school dropouts as many pupils do not complete standard seven and form four.

"The report by the controller and auditor general for the year 2021/22 showed that between 2015 and 2021, 11 councils had 19,945 pupils (25 percent) out of 78,786 who were registered in 2015 who did not complete standard seven. It also showed that 22,039 pupils (28 percent) out of 82,236 pupils who joined form one in 2018 did not sit for their form four national exams," he said.

"In our analysis, we have discovered that there is a major surge in pupils dropping out of school before standard four and form two exams. For stance; for two years- 2021 and 2022- there were more than 240,000 pupils who did not sit for standard four tests while more than 55,211 pupils did not sit for their form two exams despite being registered to write the same."

The opposition party requested the government to ensure female pupils who were impregnated to be allowed to complete their studies as part of implementation of the re-entry programme.

ACT Wazalendo called on the government to completely address child abuse to ensure children have the freedom to participate and acquire education.

It added that the government should also improve learning infrastructure and build schools near residential areas, and called on parents to ensure children have access to education and complete their studies as required.

Kampala in preparations for forthcoming Uganda-Tanzania Business Forum

KAMPALA

THE 2nd Uganda-Tanzania Business Forum is set to take place from 23rd to 24th this month in Dar es Salaam aimed to strengthen the longstanding ties between the two nations and foster economic cooperation.

The forum, themed 'Enhancing our win-win bilateral partnership' will bring together government officials, private sector stakeholders and investors to promote trade, investment, and partnership opportunities between Uganda and Tanzania.

Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of regional affairs, John Mulimba, launched the forum on Thursday here, saying this will be a great opportunity for the private sectors of both countries to advance interests, especially economic and commercial ones, identify challenges they face while conducting business, and recommend the way forward.

The forum is being organized as a promotional event to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) between Uganda and Tanzania, mobilize the Diaspora for development, and promote Ugandan products to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth, industrialization, and job creation.

Speaking at the launch in Kampala, Minister Mulimba said the forum will, among others, highlight the investment opportunities in Uganda and Tanzania.

"The Forum will create awareness about the business climate and investment opportunities in Uganda's priority sectors. The focus will be on the following: the extractives sector (oil and gas, minerals), commercial agriculture, manufacturing and tourism," he said.

The forum will also create awareness and generate interest among business enterprises in Tanzania to invest in Uganda, provide a platform to exchange ideas on suitable approaches

for knowledge sharing, identify potential areas for partnerships and encourage joint ventures between Ugandan and Tanzanian companies, and create awareness of Ugandan products for market access in Tanzania and neighbouring countries.

"Holding the forum in a two-in-one format comprising a trade exhibition on the one hand and an investment forum on the other will enable both countries to showcase and demonstrate their manufacturing and trade capacities while highlighting their comparative advantages to promote and attract prospective investments in joint projects," Mulimba said.

"The event will also incorporate key investment presentations; interactive dialogue sessions, business-to-business, government-to-government and government-to-business meetings. By bringing together trade and investment policy makers, key business communities, and trade-support institutions from Uganda and Tanzania, the Business Forum will provide a perfect platform to network, exchange experiences, and explore win-win investment and trade opportunities that exist between our two countries."

Additionally, key among the Forum's objectives will be to further identify and set targets for products and services for which the two countries have a stronger comparative advantage and facilitate market entry for Uganda's export firms into Tanzania.

The Tanzanian High Commissioner to Uganda, Maj. Gen. Paul Kisesa Simuli, said the business forum is of great importance as it aims to foster greater economic collaboration between the two East African nations.

"Uganda and Tanzania share a special bond, and it is imperative that we strengthen this relationship through increased business partnerships. The Forum will serve as a platform to encour-



Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde (R) cuts the ribbon at the official presentation in Dodoma city on Thursday of an ambulance Benjamin Mkapa Hospital. He is with Others are the hospital's executive director, Dr Alphonse Chandika (L), and Dodoma regional administrative secretary Kaspar Muya. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

age the private sector to explore and invest in the numerous opportunities available in Tanzania," he said.

He added that Tanzania offers a wide array of investment opportunities, particularly in agriculture, mining, fisheries, and small businesses.

"Our country boasts vast arable land for agriculture, abundant mineral resources in regions like Mwanza and Geita, and rich aquatic resources along its water bodies and shores. Additionally, there are ample opportunities for small businesses to engage in cross-border trade and collaborations," he said.

The forum, he said, will be a significant step towards enhancing economic cooperation and building lasting partnerships between Uganda and Tanzania.

Head of Regional Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Richard Kabonero, said that the Ministry's strategic inclination towards commercial diplomacy is yielding resounding results.

"The SGR (Standard Gauge Railway) infrastructure in Tanzania, that is, the line from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza (through Lake Victoria), will reduce the cost of transport for businesses by 40 percent. The charge on trucks from Tanzania to Uganda has been reduced from \$500 to \$140, and the Ministry continues to work closely on harmonizing this tariff and many others within the stipulated EAC regional cost framework," he said.

The Uganda - Tanzania rock-solid ties are already consolidated by the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), which will transport Uganda's crude oil from

the Albertine region to the Tanga port in Tanzania for export to the international market.

According to the World Bank, the EACOP project will generate 20 billion dollars of revenues for Uganda and Tanzania, create over 10,000 jobs, and create immense opportunities for the private sector in telecommunications, transport, finance, and other service sectors.

Our country boasts vast arable land for agriculture, abundant mineral resources in regions like Mwanza and Geita, and rich aquatic resources along its water bodies and shores



Tanzania Electric Supply Company Ltd (Tanesco) technician repairs high-tension power cables in Dar es Salaam's Kitunda suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

OUT team scanning latest teaching tech in Germany

By Getrude Mbogo

A DELEGATION from the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) is in Germany for a six-day tour of the University of Bremen to learn more effective technology in teaching and learning.

The experts, who commenced the tour on May 6, are led by Prof Alex Makulilo, OUT Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Research and Consultancy.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, Prof Makulilo said that the tour has been important considering the ongoing technological changes which stimulate use of information and communication technology in teaching and learning for best outcomes.

"We have come here to see how our colleagues here have advanced in the area of e-learning techniques and we have visited the university's e-learning centre as well as the e-assessment centre," he said.

He said by learning from Bremen, OUT will be able to adopt more advanced technological systems to facilitate smooth learning and boost performance.

Prof Makulilo further added that the visit was a result of good relations between the two universities which have for years been in the areas of research, consultancy, teaching and learning.

Dr Harrieth Mtae, Director of Research, Publication and Innovation at OUT, said it was important to fetch expertise from others especially in the area of ICT in order to stimulate timely provision of quality education.

She thanked OUT's management for facilitating the tour which is meant to eventually help improve teaching and learning at OUT.

"We have learnt a lot and will use what we saw here to strengthen our systems and curricula as well as invest in research and come up with more innovative measures to boost learning in the country," she said.

New guidelines aim to reduce infections due to catheter use

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has published the first global guidelines to prevent the occurrence of bloodstream and other infections caused by use of catheters placed in minor blood vessels during medical procedures.

A statement issued by WHO on Thursday states that poor practices in the insertion, maintenance and removal of catheters carry a high

risk of introducing germs directly to the bloodstream, which can lead to serious conditions such as sepsis, and difficult-to-treat complications in major organs like the brain and kidneys.

Dr Bruce Aylward, WHO Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage, Life Course said: "Infections associated with health care delivery represent a preventable tragedy and a serious threat to the quality and safety of health

care." He added that implementing clean care and infection prevention and control recommendations is critical to saving lives and alleviating a great deal of avoidable suffering experienced by people around the world.

Up to 70 percent of all inpatients require the use of a catheter inserted into a peripheral vein or artery, also known as peripherally inserted catheters (PIVCs), at some point during their hospital stay. People who re-

ceive treatments through catheters often are particularly vulnerable to infections, as they might be seriously ill or have low immunity.

WHO estimated that between 2000 and 2018, average mortality among patients affected by health care-associated sepsis was 24.4 percent, increasing to 52.3 percent among patients treated in intensive care units.

Many bloodstream infections are caused by antibiotic resistant bac-

terial infections. It is estimated that bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was directly responsible for at least 1.27 million deaths and contributed to an additional 4.95 million deaths in 2019.

Developing and implementing guidance to prevent the spread of such infections has been a key priority for WHO.

The new guidelines include 14 good practice statements and 23 recommendations on key areas for

health workers, including education and training of health workers techniques of asepsis and hand hygiene practices insertion, maintenance, access, removal of catheters, and catheter selection

The WHO affirmed to continue to work with countries to develop and implement best practices to reduce the occurrence of bloodstream infections in hospitals, and to ensure all patients receive safe and effective care.

Travel fair showcases global tourism giants

By Special Correspondent

SEOUL International Travel Fair kicked off on Thursday at COEX, Samseong-dong and southern Seoul, to show the tourism potential of countries, cities, and provinces around the globe.

Organizers and participants of the event said the exhibition was held to address the need to diversify tourist demographics beyond their traditional strongholds, noting the growing interest from travellers.

Hafsa Mbamba, CEO of Zanzibar Commission for Tourism said the island has pristine beaches with mountaineering and safari tours, creating a compelling proposition for adventurous Korean travellers seeking unique experiences. "Koreans have shown a keen interest in mountaineering, making Mount Kilimanjaro an appealing destination. However, there's a need to raise awareness about Zanzibar's offerings and its connectivity with other attractions in mainland Tanzania," Mbamba said.

Mohamed Younes, Director of the Egyptian Tourism Authority also mentioned the growing interest from South Koreans and Egyptians in each other's culture.

"Egypt aims to introduce Korean travellers to both the ancient wonders and modern attractions of our country. We see great potential in promoting golf tourism and offering beautiful and cost-effective destinations," he said.

"K-culture is well known in Egypt. My daughter speaks Korean," Younes added.

According to Egypt's ambassador to Korea Khaled Abdel Rahman, Korean tourists will be able to experience not only ancient Egypt but also Egypt as a modern country through growing people-to-people exchange.

"One of Egypt's goals in the tourism ecosystem is to inform the Korean public about the beautiful and cost-effective golf destinations in coming months," the ambassador told The Korea Herald.



Akili Platform director Roghat Robert (2nd-R, squatting) joins Kitete Primary School teacher Maryciana Chidemi (L) and some of the school's pupils in a fruit-tree planting drive in Tabora municipality on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Heavy rains affect one million people in E. Africa - UNICEF

By Guardian Reporter

FLOODING and landslides in East Africa have affected a million people in Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya and Somalia, according to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The unusual heavy rains have pounded the region, exacerbated by the 2023-24 El Niño climate phenomenon whereas hundreds of lives have been lost, highlighting the urgent need for humanitarian assistance.

UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa Eteleva Kadilli said in a state-

ment on Thursday that the heavy rains and subsequent floods have disrupted lives, posing significant risks to children in the affected regions.

"Currently, safety and health, as well as access to food, clean water and vital services remain paramount. UNICEF is working closely with governments and local partners engaging with affected communities to identify the most urgent needs and ensure children are safe, able to continue learning and receiving psycho-social support as needed," said Kadilli.

She added: "mid the escalating crises of droughts and floods wrought by El Niño, the

vulnerability of communities across Eastern and Southern Africa intensifies, posing grave concerns about the future of children in the region."

She said children, young people and women, including those with disabilities are particularly at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation as humanitarian needs continue to increase.

She said UNICEF is actively engaged on the ground together with governments, civil society, and local communities in delivering life-saving interventions and bracing for potential surges in humanitarian needs.

"However, the cost, scale and complexity of climate crises are only going to increase across the region. Sustained and flexible support from donors and multilateral climate funds, including joint investments and other innovative financing with governments in climate prevention and preparedness programmes, will be vital in saving lives and strengthening the resilience of children repeatedly hit by climate emergencies," the official added.

Large numbers of people have been displaced and significant damage has been reported, including to homes, schools and

infrastructure, as well as loss of crops and livestock. Many families have been forced to leave their homes, seeking refuge in makeshift shelters or evacuation centres. These are the individuals already most vulnerable, often living in informal settlements, close to riverbanks and without resilient water and sanitation.

The situation has further exacerbated the lives of women and children, who already face high levels of discrimination in access to protection services and resources as well as vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation.

Boeing 737 plane crashes during take-off in Senegal

By Robert Greenall, Dakar

A BOEING 737-300 aircraft crashed during take-off in Senegal yesterday, injuring 11 people, four of them severely.

Air Senegal flight HC 301 bound for the Malian capital Bamako went off the runway in the early hours, Dakar's Blaise Diagne airport said in a statement.

The pilot was slightly injured, but most of the 78 passengers on board were not hurt in the incident.

Operations had since been halted at the airport. Emergency services at the airport were mobilised to evacuate passengers, the airport's statement said.

An inquiry was underway to determine the causes of the incident, which took place at around 0100 GMT.

Boeing has not commented on the incident, nor has Transair, the private company from which Air Senegal chartered the plane.

Though it is not yet known what caused the crash, it came as the manufacturer faces a deepening crisis over its safety record.

An unused door blew out of an Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 Max

in January shortly after take-off in the US. The company is facing a criminal investigation into that incident.

The Senegal crash comes as a former quality inspector at Boeing's largest supplier told the BBC that plane bodies regularly left the factory with serious defects.

The company, Spirit AeroSystems, said it "strongly disagreed" with the allegations.



Boeing has not commented on the incident, nor has Transair, the private company from which Air Senegal chartered the plane



Serengeti district administrative secretary Anjelina Marko (L) receives a set of magazines from Frankfurt Zoological Society project manager Masigeri Rural during Thursday's opening of a digital office meant to facilitate and expedite the control of destructive wildlife in the district. Centre is Serengeti District Council acting executive director Bwenda Ismael (C) and right is FZS public relations officer Samira Papillon. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Prince Harry, Meghan in Nigeria to support wounded war veterans

ABUJA

PRINCE Harry and Meghan have arrived in Nigeria to support the Invictus Games, helping wounded veterans, including Nigerian soldiers in a 14-year battle against extremists.

Invited by the military, the royal couple landed in Abuja early yesterday, said Defence spokesman

Brig. Gen. Tukur Gusau.

Harry and Meghan will be meeting with wounded soldiers and their families in what Nigerian officials have said is a show of support to improve the soldiers' morale and well-being.

"This engagement with Invictus is giving us the opportunity of the recovery of our soldiers," Abidemi Marquis, the director of sports at

Nigeria's Defense Headquarters, told reporters on Thursday.

Harry served in Afghanistan as an Apache helicopter co-pilot gunner, after which he founded the Invictus Games in 2014 to offer wounded veterans and service members the challenge of competing in sports events similar to the Paralympics. During their stay, they will attend basketball and vol-

leyball matches and will meet with local non-governmental organizations in Abuja and Lagos that are receiving support from them.

Meghan will also co-host an event on women in leadership with Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organization, according to their spokesman Charlie Gipson.

The news of Meghan's visit ex-

cited some in Nigeria where her life and association with the British royal family is closely followed.

The Nigerian military has touted the Invictus Games as one that could help the recovery of thousands of its personnel who have been fighting the home grown Boko Haram Islamic extremists and their factions since 2009 when they launched an insurgency.

"Eighty percent of our soldiers that have been involved in this recovery program are getting better (and) their outlook to life is positive," Marquis, the military's sports director, said.

"The recovery program has given them an opportunity to improve their personal self-esteem, to improve their mental health and emotional intelligence."



Construction of rapid transit bus station in progress near New Post Office in Dar es Salaam, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Chad's military ruler declared poll winner as opposition rejects results

N'DJAMENA

CHAD'S military leader, Mahamat Deby Itno, was declared the winner of last week's presidential election, according to provisional results released Thursday.

The results were contested by his main rival, Prime Minister Succès Masra. The national agency that manages Chad's election released results of Monday's vote weeks earlier than planned.

The figures showed Deby Itno won with just over 61 percent of the vote, with the runner-up Masra falling far behind with over 18.5 percent of the vote. Gunfire erupted in the capital following the announcement.

Preliminary results were initially expected on May 21.

Chad held its long delayed presidential election following three years of military rule, a vote that analysts widely expected the incumbent to win.

Deby Itno, also known as Mahamat Idriss Deby, seized power after his father, who spent three decades in power, was killed while fighting rebels in 2021.

The oil-exporting country of nearly 18 million people hasn't had a free-and-fair transfer of power since it became independent in 1960 after decades of French colonial rule.

Hours ahead of Thursday's announcement, Masra published a speech on Facebook accusing the authorities of planning to manipulate the outcome.

Kenya hosts South Sudan's peace talks attended by African leaders

NAIROBI

HIGH-LEVEL mediation talks for South Sudan were launched on Thursday in Kenya with African president in attendance, calling for an end to the conflict that has crippled the country's economy

for years.

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir who attended the launch thanked his Kenyan counterpart, William Ruto, for hosting the talks and said that his government would negotiate in good faith and with an open mind.

Kiir said he hoped opposition groups shared, "a similar conviction and desire for peace in South Sudan, which, when fully achieved, will bring everlasting stability and economic development in the region."

The talks are between the

government and rebel opposition groups that were not part of the 2018 agreement that ended the five-year civil war that left 400,000 people dead.

"We need to leave the mindset of conflict; we need to stop seeing ourselves as

enemies. We are brothers and sisters, President Kiir, we are brothers and sisters," said Pagan Amum Okiech, leader of the Real-SPLM group

Ruto reiterated Thursday the need for inclusive and home-grown solutions to African issues.

"President Salva Kiir walked into the room and he made a statement to my colleagues here and said 'Your Excellencies I need your help.' It was a very, very touching statement," Ruto said.

Malawi's President Lazarus

Chakwera, Zambia's Hakainde Hichilema, Namibia's Nangolo Mbumba and Central African Republic's Faustin-Archange Touadera also attended the meeting that took place after an African Union agricultural summit earlier in the day.

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**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Synergies in industry require all-out industrialisation drive

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has underlined the need for Tanzanian industries to come up with a block chain arrangement under which manufacturers can supply production tools to one another.

Just from a conceptual viewpoint, plenty is being raised as to whether industries are capable of this sort of sourcing mechanism, and there is an overlap in options and choices on such needs. It is surprising from a market point of view, as somewhat close to virtual currency stratagems.

The president made this reflection when launching a vehicle assembly plant initiated by a local firm that is an outlet for Chinese-made vehicles, especially trucks, and now seeking to set up shop in Tanzania.

It is quite possible that the company has the regional market on the horizon, with local assembling having largely failed to take off in the two or three decades of East African customs union and even common market ambitions.

With super-tankers bringing down freight costs tremendously, the old argument for the appeal for the delocalisation of industries from the West or the Far East has declined.

Even with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), there are still significant customs duties for entry of equipment for all sorts of manufacturing, in which case localisation can change some of the quotations.

Meanwhile, the construction of the standard gauge railway (SGR) promises ease of accessing regional markets. This stands to sort out another factor in lack of local assembly plants, that is, the transport cost mark-up before adding custom duties, etc. The chances of its finding markets are significant enough to merit a decision to localise truck assembling, but sourcing components

at the local level may be tricky.

This is primarily what the president was suggesting, with a mental application of the 'block chain' method, which however is dealing with a chain of values more or less like an assembly line or bottling plant with no extraneous inputs expected.

Applying that kind of model on industry will likely be somewhat different, as the easiest way might be having the same firm set up its own spares or accessories window, though to do so it would have to have a fairly solid market outlet projection.

Given the fact that the spares being talked about would be of well over 2,000 types, there would be need for a much bigger market for some inputs for someone to set up that kind of industry at the local level.

The president hinted that Tanzania can benefit from industries producing spare parts and machines, particularly considering that we have under-utilised iron ore and coal deposits in Mchuchuma and Liganga fields in the southern highlands zone.

While the raw materials are definitely important, that has been so for five long decades – since he highway and then the railway to Zambia were built, with seers or analysts at that time pointing at a basic requirement for industrialisation. The 1975 Basic Industries Strategy was geared in that direction, but it depended on crops producing good foreign exchange inflows and its being used in a rigorous manner with little room for 'luxury goods' – and, by 1977, this had collapsed.

Using the iron for such purposes requires that the area is untaxed in inputs or sales, only personal tax. And who sees that dream coming true any time soon?

ICT can be expected to enhance efficiency, not curbing mischief

INTERNATIONAL providers of computer-based services are making more and more inroads into the Tanzanian market.

We are witnessing this as various levels of business and even governmental functions are increasingly being initiated online before anyone has need to visit a particular office.

Some of these applications have been imposed at lower levels of business merely for the regulatory bodies to monitor business, without services improving or to the contrary. One is assured of a bus seat if, moving to an upcountry destination, one takes tickets at the bus office – as booking online at times leading to frustration.

That is why an ICT executive handling the software of a global service provider was only partially right when he said midweek that the most up-to-date technology will both enable public institutions to improve efficiency and foster transparency and accountability.

That kind of assertion is pegged to an axiom, 'everything else remaining equal, as if that was the case ICT use provides an instant datum to whatever one requires or needs to know. In a situation where the maxim does not necessarily apply – that is, where those behind ICT tools aren't always well meaning, ICT enables the precise opposite in its use.

Taking the booking issue as an illustration, visiting company offices and obtaining a ticket implies that one knows who actually provided that ticket, which similarly makes it hard for the ticket issuer to falsify what he or she gave by his or her own hand. But when one prints a ticket from a mobile money operator or is given an impression of it on his or her phone, it is altogether an

other issue finding out who issued that ticket. The fellow who visited the bus office would have a ticket with the right seat, while the one who obtained it online may not have a seat – assuming that the bus crew don't deny the ticket later.

An executive with the East Africa branch of the US software firm Oracle said that both government and private institutions will be more resilient with steady application of cutting-edge technologies, seeking to illustrate that view with visiting different hospitals.

Information on the patient ought to be the same and there is no need to conduct a new diagnosis, in which case there needs to be access to systems that work together in different institutions.

That assertion was similarly partially true, as visiting different hospitals implies experiencing unsatisfactory results, meaning that visiting another hospital and recounting the scene could bring a medic to see a different angle in diagnosis for possible links to ailments.

Events during the past year, especially when our legislature was receiving the annual report of the Controller and Auditor General, showed that some officials at the district level create alternative accounts in which revenue is deposited, and that is fitted within an electronic revenue system for the district authorities, municipality, etc.

While the extent is not mindboggling, one wonders who will be faster in the near future: the government, meaning the regional authorities as a supervising secretariat involved in creating applications to ferret out fake revenue accounts, or the tricksters who will always have an upper hand.

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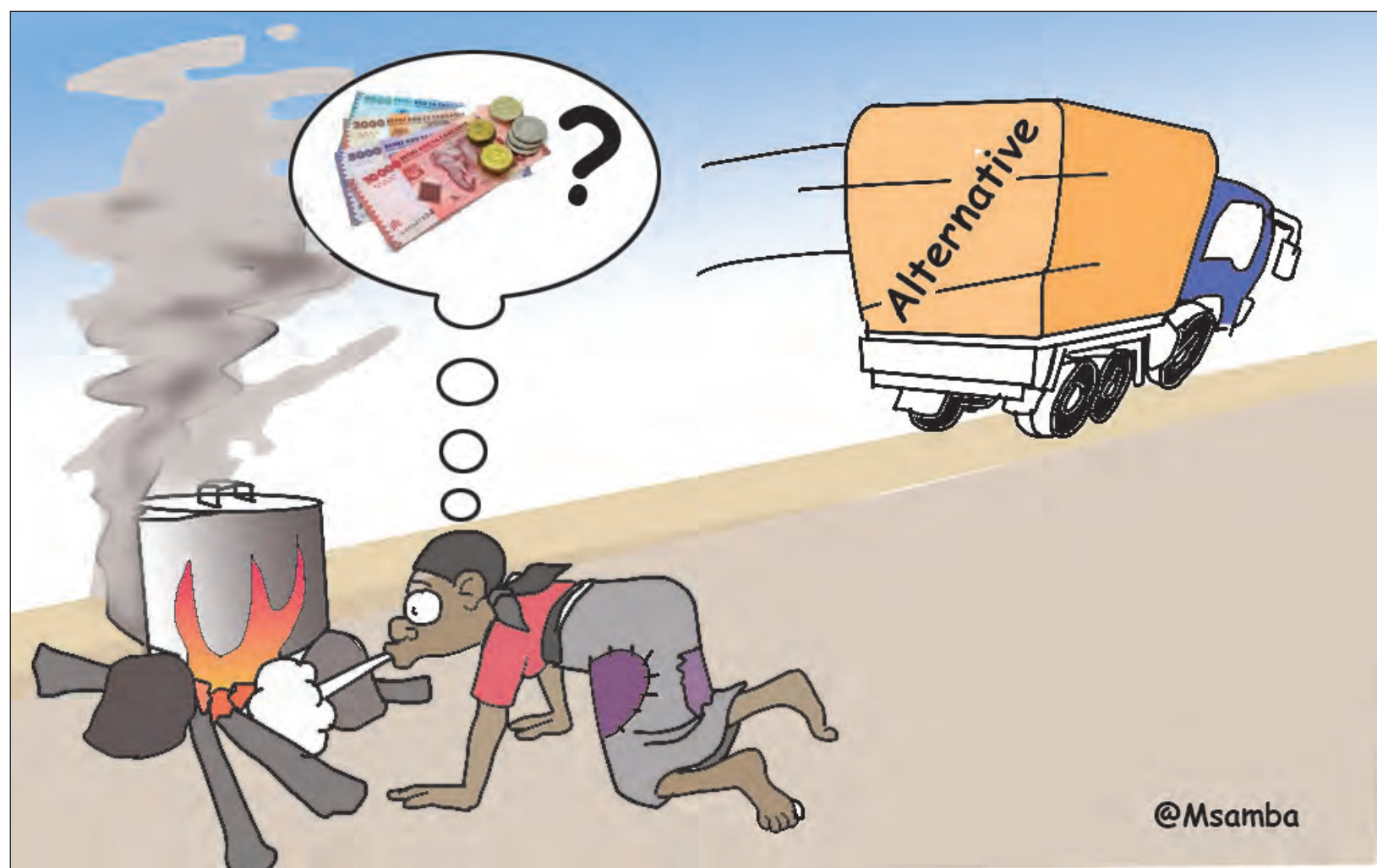
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Angola's salvation lies in the hands of its own people

By Greg Mills

ON a hill to the south of Lubango, Angola's second-largest city, is a giant statue – Cristo Rei – depicting Jesus, arms outstretched, looking over its 900,000 inhabitants. While it may offer some comfort, it has been of scant help over the past two generations, watching over collapse, four decades of war and desperate poverty.

Nestling in a valley atop the Huila Plateau in Angola's southwest, the city offers cool relief from the relentless humidity of the coast. It is no surprise that the colonialists picked the spot to settle 140 years ago.

Most of the original settlers, around 1,000 of them, came from the Portuguese island of Madeira. The settlement gradually expanded with the construction of the railway to Moçamedes, later named Namibe, 190km away on the coast, and the development of commercial farming in the area. In the 1920s the city was renamed Sá da Bandeira and laid out in a Portuguese style around a cathedral, commercial and banking centre, theatre, post office and schools. It is still possible to time its colonial heyday from the proliferation of Art Deco buildings in the city.

After Angola's independence from Portugal, the city was renamed Lubango. During the Angolan Civil War which followed and the related Namibian War of Independence, the city served as a major base for Cuban, Swapo and Angolan government troops. Its strategic importance is still hinted at by the presence of MiG-29s at its airport.

The rise, fall, and excruciatingly slow recovery of its once vibrant economy is a metaphor for all of Angola.

Fifty years ago, on 25 April 1975, a segment of Portugal's military took matters into their own hands, staging a coup which removed a 70-year dictatorship and setting the country on a path towards democracy, European integration and greater prosperity.

Hope becomes despair

The effect in Portugal's African colonies was similarly electric, the independence process snowballing as the Portuguese authorities stepped back, most of them grateful for a reprieve from 15 years of guerrilla war. The effect, however, was much less positive than in the colonial metropolises as ill-prepared regimes and ill-thought-out transitions turned hope into despair.

It became, in the context of the Cold War, a winner-takes-all vacuum. The Alvor Agreement of 15 January 1975, named after the Algarve town where it was signed by the government of Portugal, the MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola), FNLA (National Liberation Front of Angola) and Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), formally granted Angola its independence.

Despite establishing a transitional, representative government, the agreement soon fell apart in an environment of mistrust, superpower meddling and naked self-interest. The war of independence was

replaced by a civil war which continued, despite various peace attempts, until Unita leader Jonas Savimbi died in combat in 2002.

Extractive and corrupt

Unita's political failure in the early 1990s, which reached its nadir with Savimbi's death, cemented a political economy that was extractive and corrupt, essentially designed around distributing the rents (mostly from oil, but also property, diamonds and import/export revenues) to the elite. In terms of stolen and wasted revenue, this had severe costs for Angola, a country of 35 million people where the GDP per capita is just \$2,300. A 2011 International Monetary Fund report identified that public funds of \$32-billion linked to the state oil company, Sonangol, were unaccounted for.

Oil accounted for about half of Angola's GDP of \$67-billion in 2022 and more than 90% of its exports. Much of these proceeds were wasted for 40 years by people linked to the regime spending money on activities unconnected to the domestic economy – "property, parties and Champagne", as one observer put it. This was supplemented by a feast of debt to fund mega-projects, rising to \$49-billion by 2024.

This wastage may have eased the political transition, but it increased Angola's economic challenges arising from a civil war that displaced four million people. Coupled with a plunging oil price, declining oil production (from 1.8 million barrels per day in 2008 to 1.1 million in 2023), failure to develop alternative economic sectors – diversification – and to encourage private sector investment, and a poor regulatory (and thus investment) framework, annual oil revenue has declined from \$80-billion to \$30-billion.

One-third of this amount is payable to the state in taxes and royalties. But with external debt service costs at \$9.9-billion in 2024, effectively all money collected from oil is payable to debtors. As a result, an additional \$15-billion has had to be borrowed each year to fund government expenditure, around one-fifth of GDP. Angola left Opec in 2023 to expand its production capacity, but this will not happen without considerable external investment, given the deep-water nature of its known oil reserves.

Rising unemployment

The result has been low growth, high inflation and rising unemployment. More than 550,000 new workers joined Angola's labour force in 2023, according to the World Bank, but just 10,000 jobs were added. As a result, urban and youth unemployment surged to 42% and 58%, respectively, up from 39% and 53% a year earlier, with 36%, or 13.5 million Angolans,

now living on less than \$2.15 a day.

Luanda, the largest Portuguese-speaking city outside Brazil, is the scene thus of both dearth and excess for its 8.3 million people. The high-rise offices, hotels, monuments, museums and historic buildings of the splendid Marginal, the seafront promenade alongside Baía de Luanda, the Bay of Luanda, which sweeps towards the peninsula of the Ilha do Cabo, home to beaches, bars and restaurants, hides behind its glamorous façade a vastly different, febrile city.

Whereas the state has sunk vast amounts into the reconstruction of the Marginal, stadiums, a new airport and other "big" infrastructure such as the satellite city of Kilamba, for the three-quarters of Luandans who live in informal settlements, known locally as musseques or bairros, life has not changed significantly. If anything, it has probably got worse, as land without title has been seized for elite-driven property developments. Throw in galloping inflation and rising unemployment, and little wonder that the opposition dominates the vote in Luanda. The situation is worse, still, in the provinces, far away from markets and the spigot of government largesse. Commercial agriculture in these areas has failed since 1974 – for example, Angola, once the world's third-largest coffee producer with more than 209,000 tonnes in 1973, now produces just 16,200 tonnes a year.

The development answer here requires improved inputs, a revolution in land ownership, an aligned banking system and opening up access through a network of roads and ports connecting markets.

Angola is blessed with oil, gas, diamonds, natural harbours at Lobito and Luanda, and nearly 60 million hectares of arable land. The development problem rests in the intersection, again, between politics, governance and economic policy choices which, far from changing with the end of the war, has continued in the same pattern.

Relentless pursuit of power

Abel Chivukuvuku was among the senior Unita officials wounded in the MPLA attacks after the abortive 1992 elections. A long-standing member of Unita, Chivukuvuku broke away in 2012 to form his own party, PRA-JA Servir Angola, after disagreements with the Unita leadership.

For the 2022 election, however, he was in a coalition with his old party under Adalberto Costa Júnior.

"Everything that [the MPLA] does," Chivukuvuku reflects, "is to take power. They have no ideological convictions. Everything they do is subordinated to remain in and control power, not to build the society."

This includes the practice of blaming outside influences and the con-

stant denial of responsibility for their actions. In the circumstances, the only way that the liberation movements can be "removed from power" is "by splitting the ruling party, consolidating power among a broad opposition front, assuaging the external fears about change, particularly in Europe and the US, and [in the case of Angola] to rebrand Unita".

Political power is key to retaining commercial and financial privileges among the MPLA-linked elite. The economy is controlled, says Chivukuvuku, by "three or four enterprises which get all the contracts". This is why, in the face of the growing electoral threat to the MPLA, "Angola is slipping into mild authoritarianism". In the government, jobs and promotion, and thus access to contracts, are linked to party membership.

Unita's leader, Costa, an electrical engineer by training, claims that his party won the 2022 election with about 67% of the vote, a result partly due to divisions within the MPLA, between factions headed by former president José dos Santos and his successor, João Lourenço, who took over in 2017.

Winning the vote and winning the election are different challenges, however, says Costa, for Angola "lacks a democratic system", not least in that the courts are not independent.

"To take power in countries like Angola, Uganda, Congo and Mozambique," he says, oppositions need to have a strong organisational basis, a media system that can operate independent of the state, to invest in technology, to protect the vote by building links with civil society and inside the regime, especially the security forces, to lobby international and regional partners, and to draw in the youth.

Better the devil...

Filomeno Vieira Lopes leads the Bloco Democrático. He has a similar message, that the opposition lost the 2022 elections "because the state institutions were captured. The only thing that will change this," he notes, "is pressure."

All agree that change has to come from within. In a version of "better the devil...", for all of the preaching about the values of democracy and good governance, the West has continued to back the Luanda regime, given the importance of Angola's oil and other mineral resources and the multibillion-dollar plan to revive its railway line to the southern Congo to access minerals needed for renewables.

The population is hungry for change. The turnout at recent launches of Estado Rico, Estado Pobre – the Portuguese translation of my book Rich State, Poor State – in Angola is but one hint that Angolans are keen for answers.

By Telesphor Magobe

Breakthrough as 20 prisoners' death penalty commuted to life incarceration

LAST week, we briefly looked at World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2024, which is marked each year on April 28. We said Article 22 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended until 2005) provides for the right to work and that "work means any legitimate activity by which a person earns a living" [Article 9(e)].

We also said Article 23 provides for just remuneration and Article 25 provides that work shouldn't be forced, cruel or humiliating labour. Forced, cruel or humiliating work is inconsistent with the meaning of work as "any legitimate activity." We concluded that both employees and employers, besides having rights, have duties to fulfil to each other. This symbiotic relationship between them leads to greater productivity and fulfilment.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the death penalty. On Union Day (April 26, 2024), President Samia Suluhu Hassan granted an amnesty for 1,082 prisoners. Of all the prisoners who were granted an amnesty, 20 of them had initially been convicted of murder or treason and sentenced to suffer death by hanging as provided for in section 26(1) of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022), but their penalty was commuted to life imprisonment. What a sigh of relief to the 20 prisoners who were waiting on death row, their families and friends!

A 2023 Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) report states that the last execution in Tanzania was in 1994 under President Ali Hassan Mwinyi. "No execution warrant was signed by President Benjamin Mkapa, President Jakaya Kikwete, and President John Magufuli." The latter is reported to have commuted nearly all death sentences to life imprisonment in 2020. However, by December 2021, according to LHRC (2023), there were at least 24 new death sentences.

Section 26(1) of the Penal Code states: "When a person is sentenced to death, the sentence shall direct that he [or she] shall suffer death by hanging;



provided that, if a woman convicted of an offence punishable with death is alleged to be pregnant, the court shall inquire into the fact and, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that she is pregnant the sentence to be passed on her shall be a sentence of imprisonment for life instead of a sentence of death."

Article 14 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended until 2005) provides for a right to life. It states that "Every person has the right to live and to the protection of his life by society in accordance with the law."

Since the Article states "in accordance with the law" and since the law states that "when a person is sentenced to death, the sentence shall direct that he [or she] shall suffer death by hanging...", then the constitutional right to life in Tanzania is qualified (restricted). In other constitutions like the Constitution of Namibia the right to life is unqualified (unrestricted).

Article 6 of the Constitution of Namibia, 1990 (as amended until 2010) states: "The right to life shall be respected and protected. No law may prescribe death as a competent sentence. No Court or Tribunal shall have the power to impose a sentence of death upon any person. No executions shall take place in Namibia."

Based on Amnesty International (AI) report of May 2023, which covers January-December 2022, Tanzania is among the 23 countries categorised as "abolitionist in practice". These are countries which still retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes such as murder and also treason (for the case of Tanzania), "but can be considered abolitionist in practice in that they have not executed anyone during the past 10 years and are believed to have a policy or established practice of not carrying out executions. The list also includes countries which have made an international commitment not to use the death penalty."

It is on record that the last execution in Tanzania was in 1994, according to the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC, 2023). Since then no prisoner on death row has been executed. This has earned Tanzania the status of an "abolitionist in practice".

As of December 2022, abolitionists for all crimes were 112 countries, abolitionists for ordinary crimes were only 9 countries, abolitionists in practice were 23 countries, total abolitionists in law or practice were 144 countries and retentionists were 55 countries.

Death penalty has been challenged by critics and human rights activists from all walks of life across the world and is being referred to as the "cruellest penalty" to be entertained

in any civilised society. One of the reasons given is that it does not afford a person an opportunity to change and also once it is implemented it cannot be reversed.

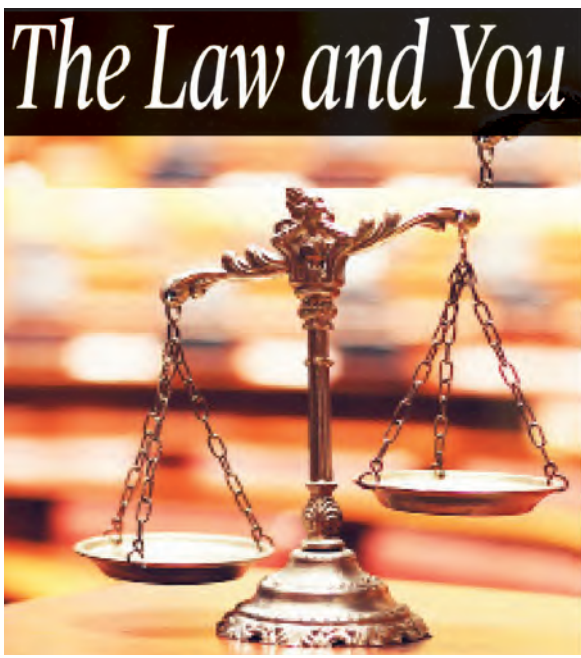
For instance, a person may be convicted of a criminal offence and be sentenced to life imprisonment. One day such a person could be released if outweighing evidence emerges that it is not the one convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment or the person may be granted an amnesty and be released from prison or may have his or her sentence commuted to a lighter one. But in the case of the death penalty there is no such an opportunity.

There are also those who say that in criminal justice, there are five main reasons for criminal punishment, namely retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation and reparation. So, if a person is executed how can punishment help such a person?

Punishment is for those meant to live and are given an opportunity to change so that they may later be responsible and law-abiding citizens. Punishment is justified based on what it will achieve in the future. If a person is executed nothing will be achieved from him or her in the future. Accordingly, critics are of the view that in criminal justice the death penalty is out of place as it serves more or less like revenge than punishment because it is meant to help the offender to change and be a better person and not finish him or her altogether. Death penalty amounts to barbaric, cruel and degrading punishment that shouldn't be practised in a country like Tanzania.

While the commutation of this year's 20 prisoners' death penalty sentence to life imprisonment is the continuation of the practice initiated by President Magufuli and a breakthrough in Tanzania's criminal justice, it shouldn't remain at the level of amnesty; it should rather go a step further - it should be a legal provision. As it is in Article 6 of the Constitution of Namibia, the right to life should be respected and protected and no law should prescribe death as a competent sentence. Neither court nor tribunal should have the power to impose a death sentence on any person and no execution should take place in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Today's proverb: 'Reckless youth makes rueful age'
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Africa's brain drain crisis: Stemming the trend of sustainable development

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

IN recent years, Africa has been grappling with a profound challenge across various sectors - a significant brain drain, with skilled professionals seeking opportunities abroad.

Reports from research firms New World Wealth and Henley & Partners illuminate the scale of this issue, revealing staggering figures of high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) leaving the continent in pursuit of better prospects.

With approximately 138,000-dollar millionaires calling Africa home, the departure of an estimated 18,500 HNWIs over the past decade has reverberated across multiple industries. Destinations ranging from the UK, the USA, the UAE, Australia, Canada, France, to Switzerland have become primary magnets for these individuals, lured by promises of economic prosperity and enhanced opportunities. However, this exodus isn't confined solely to the realm of affluence.

Africa is witnessing a parallel trend of critical brain drain in sectors vital to its development, particularly in healthcare. Tanzania, for instance, stands out as a poignant example, bearing the brunt of losing a substantial portion of its skilled medical workforce. According to a joint report by Sikika and the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT), 8.2 percent of Tanzanian doctors have sought opportunities abroad, leaving the nation grappling with a severe shortage of healthcare professionals.

The ramifications of this medical exodus are dire, with Tanzania alone hemorrhaging over \$11.22 million as 184 graduate doctors bid farewell to their homeland. Such migrations echo throughout neighbouring countries like Uganda and Kenya, exacerbating concerns about the broader brain drain phenomenon.

Beyond healthcare, this phenomenon extends its tentacles into various sectors, including engineering, academia, and technology. Skilled professionals are drawn to the allure of foreign lands, enticed by the promise of better pay, working conditions, and avenues for personal and professional growth.

The repercussions of this exodus reverberate deeply, undermining Africa's efforts towards sustainable development and hindering progress across multiple fronts. In response to these alarming trends, stakeholders are sounding the alarm, calling for decisive action from gov-

ernments and relevant authorities.

Addressing the root causes of brain drain requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing improvements in working conditions, investment in education and infrastructure, and the creation of conducive environments for innovation and entrepreneurship. Moreover, the dearth of medical personnel exacerbates existing healthcare challenges, with Tanzania struggling to meet the World Health Organization's recommended doctor-to-population ratio of 1:1,000.

Currently, the ratio stands at a staggering 1:30,000, posing a severe impediment to quality healthcare provision, particularly in rural areas. The strain on the healthcare system is further compounded by the concentration of medical professionals in major urban centers, leaving underserved regions grappling with inadequate medical care.

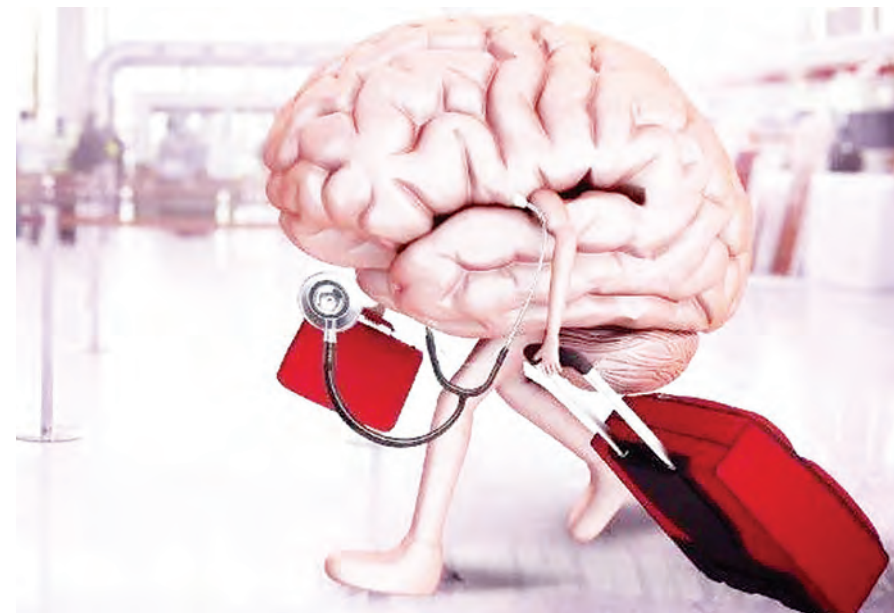
The root causes of this healthcare crisis are multifaceted. While financial incentives undoubtedly play a significant role in enticing doctors abroad, deeper issues such as demotivation during medical training and a lack of investment in healthcare infrastructure contribute to the exodus.

Surveys indicate that a large majority of medical students' report diminishing motivation throughout their training, raising concerns about the quality and commitment of future medical professionals. In response to this alarming trend, stakeholders urge decisive action from the Tanzanian government and relevant authorities.

Irenei Kiria, executive director of Sikika, emphasizes the need for comprehensive reforms aimed at attracting and retaining qualified healthcare workers. Improving financial incentives, working conditions, and ensuring the availability of medical supplies and equipment are cited as crucial steps to stem the tide of medical brain drain and revitalize the healthcare sector.

A comprehensive analysis by analyst Scott Firing based in the UK delves into the broader dynamics of Africa's brain drain. Despite challenges in accurately tracking migratory numbers, estimates from the UN indicate a substantial increase in migration from the continent, with over 40 million Africans seeking better opportunities elsewhere since 2010.

Notably, intra-African migration remains predominant, accounting for the highest percentage of this movement. The labour component of intra-African migration



is substantial, with approximately 80 percent of migrants employed in various industries. Countries like South Africa, Nigeria, and Cote d'Ivoire attract migrants seeking employment opportunities.

Meanwhile, the exodus of highly educated and skilled individuals towards destinations like France, the UK, the US, and Canada persists. Visa data from these countries reveals a notable rise in African emigration, particularly in study and work visa categories. The consequences of Africa's brain drain are profound, particularly in critical sectors such as healthcare and engineering.

The departure of skilled professionals raises questions about the impact on Africa's socio-economic landscape. Yet, amidst these challenges, there is a glimmer of hope in the form of financial remittances, which have surged alongside migration numbers. The consequences of brain drain extend far beyond the immediate loss of skilled professionals.

It cripples local economies, hampers innovation and development, and perpetuates a cycle of dependency on foreign expertise. In healthcare, the departure of doctors and nurses exacerbates already strained systems, leading to

inadequate access to medical care, particularly in rural areas.

This, in turn, contributes to increased morbidity and mortality rates, hindering progress towards achieving health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, brain drain stifles innovation and hampers economic growth.

Skilled professionals often drive technological advancements and entrepreneurial endeavors, which are essential for diversifying economies and creating sustainable livelihoods. When these individuals depart, their expertise and potential contributions to local industries are lost, stifling economic progress and perpetuating dependency on imports and foreign expertise.

To grapple with the challenge of brain drain, Africa must adopt a multifaceted approach. Firstly, there is a need to address the root causes driving professionals to seek opportunities abroad. This includes improving working conditions, offering competitive salaries, and providing opportunities for career advancement and professional development.

Additionally, investment in education and research infrastructure is crucial to nurture local talent and encourage innovation. Fostering regional cooperation can also play a significant role in mitigat-

ing brain drain. By sharing resources, expertise, and best practices, African nations can create an environment conducive to retaining skilled professionals and fostering collaboration across borders.

Initiatives such as joint research projects, academic exchanges, and regional accreditation frameworks can help strengthen local institutions and reduce the incentives for professionals to seek opportunities abroad.

Furthermore, investing in sectors beyond healthcare, such as sports, can help retain talent and contribute to national pride and identity. For instance, African countries have seen a significant exodus of sports gurus to foreign leagues and teams, lured by lucrative contracts and better infrastructure.

To address this, African nations can invest in developing local sports infrastructure, coaching programs, and talent identification systems, creating opportunities for athletes to thrive and succeed domestically. In essence, addressing brain drain requires a concerted effort from governments, institutions, and stakeholders across various sectors.

By improving working conditions, fostering regional cooperation, and investing in education and infrastructure, African nations can stem the tide of brain drain and unlock the full potential of their human capital, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of their citizens for generations to come.

By Sreevas Sahasranamam

Sustainable growth: Ways businesses can help to alleviate poverty



Businesses can help alleviate poverty by enabling people to access the skills and capabilities to make a living.

At least 1.1 billion people globally are currently experiencing poverty, many in low and middle-income countries. Recent research suggests such deprivation is often caused by a significant lack of resources, opportunities and capabilities such as a lack of employment or property rights, few or no assets, social exclusion and inadequate skills for employment.

As such, for-profit businesses can - and should - play a central role in efforts to alleviate poverty. But it's important to recognise that, even as these organizations are trying to alleviate poverty, they could also be aggravating it by preventing people from participating in markets - for example, when they pay unfair wages, hinder self-employment or perpetuate marginalization.

Our recent research delves into how organizations have been engaging with poverty over the last 40 years to determine how market-based economies can become fairer for all. There are five main drivers that for-profit organizations can use to help alleviate poverty.

Creating a digital identity

Under the Aadhaar scheme in India, people are given a unique 12-digit digital identity that is linked to their biometrics. They can use it to open bank accounts and receive digital payments, or to get access to government services, or even receive credit on more favorable terms. This is because the ID creates a digital audit trail, which can also help people who might be working in jobs in the informal economy.

By accepting and even supporting the development of this kind of proof of identity, organizations can help low- or no-income people to participate in markets such as financial services or to enter the labour force.

Preventing illegitimate work practices

While organizations can help to alleviate poverty, it is also sometimes important to shield impoverished populations from illegitimate or influential entities that might stop them from earning a living in certain industries.

For instance, a study of waste pickers in Colombia found that the power hegemony of elites such as private companies, local authorities and media negatively affected the waste pickers. They were barred from access to waste, offered empty promises by local authorities, and had their voices silenced by the media and private companies when they tried to speak out about this lack of market access.

In such instances, it's important to provide less powerful people - whether they are workers or customers - with regulatory support using local or international frameworks or agreements. An example of this is the agreement between the global banana giant Chiquita and the Latin-American Coordination of Banana Workers Unions (COLSIBA), struck in 2001. This was a first-of-its-kind international framework agreement for the agriculture industry and it aims to ensure minimum labour standards, adherence to national laws and regulations, and continuous monitoring of the agreement's terms.

Another example is the Dindigul agreement signed in 2022 in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, India.

This saw worker-led unions, textile mills and multinational organizations agree to work to end gender-based harassment in factories. It focused on measures such as enabling collective action, adopting global standards and establishing protections against discrimination.

Providing collective safety nets

In sub-Saharan Africa, Ubuntu (sometimes translated as "humanity towards others") is a cultural characteristic that promotes community, creates solidarity among different groups and models humane leadership qualities. Organizations can work with community leaders to draw on such indigenous cultural values to overcome issues of corruption, violence and tribalism. This is important because societal inequalities and inter-group differences rooted in race or gender, for example, can stymie organizational poverty alleviation efforts.

Successful examples of this can be seen within the microfinance industry of some developing economies, where loans have been offered to self-help groups with great success.

These self-help groups typically comprise women with strong social bonds, which instills elements of both peer support and peer-led discipline when it comes to the use and the repayment of these loans.

Thinking local

Similarly, organizations can integrate efforts to alleviate poverty into the local cultural fabric, using indigenous knowledge systems to help them to succeed. This could foster trust and reciprocity, mitigate information gaps and create more certainty for people engaging with these efforts.

Even when the benefits of a poverty alleviation scheme or intervention might be obvious, some communities might be less likely to participate if it is not sufficiently embedded within their local culture and ecosystems. For instance, even though the benefits of clean, efficient cook stoves are obvious, adoption has been poor in Guatemala because the use of these stoves goes against local social and cultural customs.

On the other hand, the tribal entrepreneurship efforts of

Indian sustainable development group Shivganga Jhabua are based on forest-based produce and wood crafts. Similarly, the Beggars Corporation in the Indian city of Varanasi trains people who would otherwise be begging on the streets to become entrepreneurs and also provides support for them to sell their products and services. These entrepreneurs produce bags made of discarded locally-produced Banarasi silk patches, for example, or offer religious services linked to a local Hindu temple.

Creating partnerships

Collaborating with a range of stakeholders is vital, particularly when organizations lack the necessary capabilities for poverty alleviation. Government and civil society organizations can extend the reach of these initiatives, for example by enhancing local services or tailoring products to local needs. They might also help reduce programme costs by engaging closely with impoverished communities.

For example, organizations that receive support from India's Universal Service Obligation Fund - which provides affordable, quality mobile and digital services in remote areas - can access benefits such as cost recovery, subsidies and market exclusivity through government partnerships. Similarly, large multinationals like Danone, Essilor and Renault have partnered with governments, NGOs and social enterprises to form the Action Tank - a non-profit association that aims to tackle poverty in France.

By understanding these drivers, businesses can help to create more successful ways to alleviate poverty, as management and entrepreneurs refine how they approach this crucial issue. It is only by fully recognising the role businesses play in both alleviating - but also aggravating - poverty that we can spark the important policy discussions and changes that will encourage a shift in how companies and governments think and act when trying to alleviate poverty.

Investment in manufacturing of clean energy technologies surges

By A Special Correspondent

BOOMING investment in the manufacturing of clean energy technologies, especially solar PV and batteries, is becoming a powerful economic driver globally, creating new industrial and employment opportunities, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency.

The report, Advancing Clean Technology Manufacturing finds that global investment in the manufacturing of five key clean energy technologies - solar PV, wind, batteries, electrolyzers and heat pumps - rose to \$200 billion in 2023, an increase of more than 70% from 2022 that accounted for around 4% of global GDP growth.

Spending on solar PV manufacturing more than doubled last year, while investment in battery manufacturing rose by around 60 percent. As a result, solar PV module manufacturing capacity today is already in line with what is needed in 2030 based on the IEA's net zero emis-

sions scenario. For battery cells, if announced projects are included, manufacturing capacity is 90 percent of the way towards meeting net zero demand at the end of this decade.

The report finds that many projects in the pipeline will be operational soon. Around 40 percent of investments in clean energy manufacturing in 2023 were in facilities that are due to come online in 2024. For batteries, this share rises to 70 percent.

IEA executive director Fatih Birol commented, "Record output from solar PV and battery plants is propelling clean energy transitions - and the strong investment pipeline in new facilities and factory expansions is set to add further momentum in the years ahead."

Birol added, "While greater investment is still needed for some technologies - and clean energy manufacturing could be spread more widely around the globe - the direction of travel is clear. Policy makers have a huge opportunity to design industrial strategies with clean

energy transitions at their core."

Clean energy manufacturing is still dominated by a few regions. China, for example, is currently home to more than 80% of global solar PV module manufacturing capacity. However, the report finds that the manufacturing of battery cells could become less geographically concentrated by the end of this decade; if all announced projects are realized, Europe and the United States could each reach around 15% of global installed capacity by 2030.

New data and analysis based on plant-level assessments of more than 750 facilities indicate that China remains the lowest-cost producer of all clean energy technologies. Battery, wind and solar PV manufacturing facilities are typically 20% to 30% more expensive to build in India than in China, and 70% to 130% more in the United States and Europe.

However, the vast majority of total production costs for these technologies (70 percent to 98 percent) is estimated to come from op-

erational costs, which include inputs such as energy, labour and materials - implying that production cost gaps seen today are not immutable and can be influenced by policy.

The report - produced in response to a request from G7 Leaders in 2023 - provides guidance for policy makers as they prepare industrial strategies with a strong focus on clean energy manufacturing. Acknowledging that there is no "one size fits all" approach, it lays out guiding principles that can inform future planning.

Advancing clean technology manufacturing incorporates insights gathered during a high-level dialogue on diversifying clean technology manufacturing held at the IEA's headquarters in Paris in November 2023. It also builds on analysis conducted as part of the latest edition of the IEA's flagship technology publication, Energy Technology Perspectives, and two special briefings on clean technology manufacturing published last year.

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 UMUJAYO 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

Dissenting voices at Nairobi soil health forum over increased use of fertiliser

By Isaiah Esipisu

AS the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit convened in Nairobi to review the progress made in terms of increasing fertilizer use in line with the 2006 Abuja Declaration, experts, practitioners, activists, and even government officials pointed out that accelerated fertilizer use may not be the magic bullet for increased food production in Africa.

During the opening ceremony of the summit, Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary, Musalia Mudavadi, who was also the guest of honour, said that in Kenya, there are places where fertilizer has been used optimally, but maize yields have stagnated.

"Though fertilizers are estimated to contribute more than 30 percent of the crop yield, we have witnessed in our country that fertilizer alone cannot sustain increased agricultural productivity and production," he said.

Studies have also shown that the use of nitrogen-based fertilizers has had a significant impact on soil acidity in many African countries, which is a major constraint on crop production and the sustainable intensification of smallholder farming systems.

According to an ongoing research project known as Guiding Acid Soil Management Investments in Africa (GAIA), 15 percent

of all agricultural soils in Africa are affected by acidity issues and this has led to land degradation, decreased availability of soil nutrients to plants, and decreased plant production and water use.

According to Dr George Oduor, a soil scientist and international research consultant, African farmers should now consider or scale up the use of the Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) approach with a focus on return on investment and consider the use of lime on acidic soils.

"There is a need for governments in Africa to develop locally responsive tools that can advise farmers on how to combine different organic and inorganic fertilizers, how and when to intercrop with legumes for nitrogen fixation, and what crops to prioritize in different agroecological zones," said Oduor.

However, some activists feel that there is a need for a complete shift from synthetic fertilizers to organic methods of farming such as agroecology, the regenerative agriculture (RA) approach, and permaculture, among other sustainable farming techniques.

"The heavy financial burden placed on African nations to support the purchase of expensive, imported fertilizers drains local economies and diverts funds from more sustainable local agricultural investments," said Bridg-



et Mugambe, the Programme Coordinator at the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA).

She called on governments and policymakers at the summit and across Africa to recognize the enormous potential of agroecology to sustainably increase food security and food sovereignty, so as to reduce poverty and hunger while conserving biodiversity and respecting indigenous knowledge.

So far, Kenya is one of the African countries that is in the process of developing policies for agroecology. The country also launched the National Agriculture Soil Management Policy (NASMP) alongside the Nairobi AFSH summit. The policy will help facilitate the restoration and maintenance of agricultural soils in order to increase productivity, improve food security, and contribute to poverty reduction while conserving soil and water resources for future generations.

Within the local governments, Murang'a County in Central Kenya was the first to develop the legal framework for agroecology, through which the gov-

ernment can easily allocate resources for organic fertilizer and pesticide production.

"The main reason why we had to pioneer in this is that our region is highly impacted by climate change, and therefore agroecology became a priority as a way of adapting to the phenomenon," said Daniel Gitahi, the Director for Agriculture Value Chains, Policy, and Strategy.

"The second reason is that, as a county government, we observed that our yields were going down despite optimal use of fertilizers, and after research, we discovered that our soils had become more acidic due to overuse of nitrogen based fertilizers," he said.

Other solutions showcased at the summit include the use of 'bokashi' fermented organic fertilizer, which has transitioned from small-scale production to a commercial scale in a few African countries.

"I have been able to transform my tea plantation using bokashi; as well, I no longer use fertilizers

on my maize farm in West Pokot County, and yet my yields have almost doubled," said Esther Bett, the Executive Director at the Resources Oriented Development Initiative (RODI Kenya).

RODI Kenya is already packaging and selling bokashi fertilizers through agrovets shops across the country, and has the capacity to produce up to 10 tonnes per month.

Allan Ligare from Mzuri Organics in Kakamega County, working in collaboration with the International Centre for Insect Ecology (ICIPE), brought along organic fertilizer made using black soldier flies while in the process of making animal feeds. "This fertilizer contains all the important nutrients; it adds organic matter to the soil; and it helps in the retention of soil moisture," he said.

A 2022 study published in the Journal of Nature scientific found that insect frass fertilizers made from all the insect species had adequate concentrations and contents of macronutrients, nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), secondary nutrients (calcium, magnesium, and sulphur), and micronutrients (manganese, copper, iron, zinc, boron, and sodium).

The main objective of the 2024 AFSH Summit is to highlight the central role of soil health transformation in stimulating sustainable, pro-poor productivity growth in African agriculture and food systems and to adopt the 10-year Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan.

Related story on page 13

The surprising healing powers of common spices and herbs

By Rachna Pande

SPICES and herbs have been used to enhance the flavour of food for centuries. Until about a decade ago, it was believed that spices were responsible for causing stomach ulcers and digestive issues. However, numerous scientific studies have now demonstrated that herbs and spices offer multiple health benefits for humans.

During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an emphasis on foods that boost immunity, with spices being considered for that purpose.

Turmeric, which provides yellow colour to curries and vegetables, is one of the widely used herbs. It is known to enhance immunity and prevent wear and tear of body cells. Thus, it slows changes with ageing and protects against cancer. It also has strong anti-inflammatory properties which help heal wounds and it reduces cough and cold.

Ginger is known to impart a pleasant pungent taste to juice, tea, or cooked food. Ginger aids in digestion, improves cold and cough, and prevents the clotting of blood, thus preventing clot-related problems like stroke or heart attack. It is also helpful in fighting nausea and prevents and cures motion sickness, (sickness which develops while travelling). It also relieves joint pain caused by ageing.

Pepper has been considered "harmful" for a long time, being implicated in causing stomach ulcers. But now, its benefits are being revealed by scientific studies. It is a rich source of vitamin C, which helps the body to fight infections and inflammation. It also contains an alkaloid, which is useful as a pain-relieving substance.

Research has proven that garlic is useful in reducing high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol and helps in keeping healthy lipids in the blood.

Mint helps in digestion and is a very good first-aid remedy for stomach aches, diarrhoea, and or vomiting.

Cumin aids digestion and reduces flatulence. It increases urine output in kidney problems. Sexual desire is also increased by cumin, as it functions as an aphrodisiac.

Carom is also good for digestion. Fenugreek is useful for improving digestion and is also known to lower and stabilise high blood sugar, thus it is beneficial for diabetic patients. It helps reduce painful menstrual cramps and treat polycystic ovarian syndrome. Fenugreek can also aid in



reducing obesity.

If one has a dry cough, cloves serve as lozenges, relieving it. Clove paste or oil applied directly to painful gums eases inflammation and reduces pain. They are also helpful in curing foul-smelling breath.

Cardamom adds a delicious flavour to curries and desserts. It is good for digestion. Cinnamon is loaded with anti-oxidant properties

which rejuvenate body cells. It prevents cancer, ageing, and heart problems. Due to its anti-inflammatory properties, it helps in the healing of infections. Cinnamon is also very useful in lowering high blood sugar.

The list of beneficial effects of various spices is very extensive. However, I have only mentioned the commonly known herbs and their main benefits. In different ways, they help

to improve and maintain health and prevent diseases, both infectious as well as non-infectious. A strong immunity prevents the occurrence of infectious diseases, even if exposed to microbes. Good digestion ensures the smooth process of absorption of nutrients by the digestive system, thus ensuring the body gets the necessary nutrients and remains strong. Good digestion keeps the metabo-

lism in good shape, thus making sure that all body functions are carried out smoothly.

These spices can be used raw or as decoction in hot water or tea or as an ingredient in dishes, depending on local cuisine, culture, and individual choice. A word of caution here; like any other medicine, any spice can cause allergy in a susceptible individual, and adverse effects can occur.

Ginger can cause bleeding from any site in the body and can be harmful during pregnancy. Garlic can cause abdominal pain, a bloating sensation in abdomen, and a bad smell from the mouth.

It would be prudent to use small quantities of spices, every day. But excess use should be avoided.

Zambia's drought crisis calls for climate-health solutions

By Friday Phiri

FOR most families in Zambia, April is traditionally a month of plenty—it is typically the beginning of a harvest season for various food and cash crops. Both fresh and dried maize, groundnuts, pumpkins, and a whole variety of both traditional and exotic food crops are usually in full supply and readily available for consumption, supporting household food security and nutrition.

Similarly, during this period, most families' income levels tend to be high and sound, supportive of family demands ranging from school fees to health care and grocery needs, as they sell various cash crops. It is, in summary, the beginning of the crop marketing season and a period of positive expectations.

This farming season, however, the story of millions of households, including that of Laban Munsaka of Pemba District in Southern Province, is gravely depressing. Munsaka's family is part of the over six million people from over a million households in Zambia estimated to be facing acute food shortages and possible malnutrition until the next growing season, which is twelve months away.

Due to the El Nino climate-induced prolonged dry spell, half of the estimated 2.2 million hectares of maize planted in the 2023-24 farming season have been destroyed. According to Zambia's President, Hakainde Hichilema, the debilitating dry spell lasted for more than five weeks at a time when farmers needed rain the most.

"In view of these challenges, urgent and decisive action is required from

all of us," Hichilema said in his address when he declared the situation a disaster and national emergency, earlier in March 2024. "The government, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2010, and other relevant legislation, declares the prolonged dry spell a national disaster and emergency," he said, adding that the prolonged dry spell had affected 84 of the country's 116 districts, negatively impacting more than a million farming households.

"It's really difficult to compare last season to what has happened this farming season," Munsaka narrates. "I harvested 100 by 50kg bags of maize last season but I don't know what we might get from this destroyed field, it is just zero work this season," he laments, pointing at his destroyed maize crop field.

With a relatively huge family of over 20 members to support, Munsaka is not only worried about the eminent food insecurity but also nutrition and other health-related challenges that may likely emerge from poor nutrition intake.

"I have a bigger family," he says. "As you know, in such situations, our focus is only on food availability. Our focus is survival. We don't usually care about the nutrition component."

With dwindling pasture for grazing and expected water scarcity for livestock, animal welfare is likely to be compromised, leading to possible disease outbreaks such as nutritional anthrax, putting at risk both animal and human populations.

In a climate-induced drought environment, Munsaka's worries about food insecurity, reduced nutrition options and

eminent health challenges may not be far-fetched. There is increasing scientific evidence indicating how climate change is, and continues to significantly impact the physical, biological, and mental health of individuals.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth assessment report (AR6), climate-related illnesses, premature deaths, malnutrition in all its forms, and threats to mental health and well-being are increasing.

For example, scientific evidence indicates that dwindling water security is leading to rising cases of waterborne diseases and an overall collapse of sanitation and hygiene, while frequent and intensified droughts and floods are said to be contributing to loss of agricultural productivity, leading to food insecurity and subsequently malnutrition.

Similarly, science experts are pointing fingers at rising temperature conditions as a contributing factor to the expansion of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever into higher altitudes and previously colder regions of the world.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that if urgent interventions to tame climate change are not implemented, approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year could be recorded from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress alone. This is in addition to estimated economic losses of USD 2-4 billion per year by 2030.

While the situation is as dire as described, health is not part of the mainstream agenda of climate negotiations at global level.



Laban Munsaka of Pemba District in Southern Province, his farm is impacted by El Nino climate-induced prolonged dry spell. Photo: IPS

across disciplines, including environmental science, public health, epidemiology, economics, and social sciences, to address the multifaceted nature of climate change impacts on health."

Based on this call, Amref Zambia is actively engaging the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MGEE) on the intersectionality of climate change and health, in view of not only the current situation but also future circumstances likely to emerge from the negative effects of climate change on the health sector.

Amref Zambia Country Manager, Viviane Sakanga, expresses delight at the opportunity to engage and Amref's desire to collaborate on key climate and health interventions for better health outcomes amid the climate crisis.

"Evidence is abounding on how climate change is affecting health. It is for this reason that we believe, and have included the climate crisis as a key social determinant and driver of change in our 2023-2030 Corporate Strategy. We are keen to collaborate on climate and health," said Sakanga when she recently met with the Director of Green Economy and Climate Change at the Ministry, Ephraim Mwepya Shitima.

On his part, Shitima welcomed Amref's patronage and pledged the department's readiness to work with like-minded institutions for meaningful climate action at all levels and in all sectors.

Ephraim Mwepya Shitima said, "it may interest you to know that Zambia identified the health sector for climate intervention as early as 2007. In implementing Article 4.9 of the Climate Convention, the COP in 2001, established the Least Developed Countries (LDC) work programme that included the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) to support LDCs to address the challenge of climate change given their particular vulnerability. In 2007, Zambia identified health as one of the priority sectors that required support under this work programme. Equally, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which was submitted last year also highlights health as a priority sector. We are therefore delighted and welcome your active involvement in the climate change and health action space."

Amidst all, Munsaka and other millions of Zambians affected by the current and future climate-induced challenges are yearning for holistic support interventions focused not only food availability but also nutrition and health.

With the situation already declared a disaster by the Republican President, government and stakeholders continue to seek for integrated interventions.

It is worth noting, however, that there have been efforts at the global and regional levels to address the impacts of climate change on health. At COP26 in Glasgow, the health community reached an important milestone in bringing human health to the forefront of climate change work.

For the first time in the UNFCCC negotiations, a health programme was promoted, led by the UK government as the President of COP26, the World Health Organization (WHO), Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) and the UNFCCC Climate Champions.

Two of the programme's key initiatives were to support countries in developing climate resilient and low carbon sustainable health systems, with countries announcing their commitments to develop and invest in climate resilient and low carbon sustainable health systems and facilities.

Since COP26, Amref Health Africa, working with WHO and other partners, has been leading climate and health efforts, culminating into the first ever Health Day dedicated to health issues at COP28, at which stakeholders made further commitments in a health declaration.

As parties prepare for the UNFCCC 60th session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60) in Bonn, Germany, next month, the health community is also gearing to continue playing an active role in the negotiations.

"This is the time to seize the growing momentum across the globe, on the need to pool resources, knowledge, and creativity towards a forward-looking climate and health agenda to respond not only to the challenges of today but also anticipate the challenges of tomorrow," says Desta Lakew, Amref Health Africa Group Director for Partnerships and External Affairs. "We must encourage and foster collaborations

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 102 -

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

ACROSS:

1. A person that finds someone
7. a mental impression
8. wet mud at the bottom of a river
10. ruled as monarch
12. past and past participle of sit
13. chew and swallow food into the mouth

DOWN:

1. the wife of the President
2. thoughts
3. not either
4. a lock of wool matted with dung hanging from the hindquarters of a sheep.
4. a small deer with a reddish summer coat that turns greyish in winter
5. strike repeatedly and violently so as to hurt
9. A lyric poem
11. Oslo is her mother city
14. a white vestment worn by clergy and servers in some Christian Churches
16. Nine in Kiswahili
18. Palace of Kabaka of Uganda
19. Former black President of USA

HEAD START

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

GEAN	D-LAYER	ANGELS
UNITE	MATTERS	NEC: ECS
OMAN	BATAK	YIELD
BOY: AMID	ANLAGEN	DYELINE
EASTER	TAE:GUST	MOURN

Yesterday's solution

R	O	M	E	G	B	P	A	I	N	E	D			
O	P	E	N	A	R	O	M	A	U	T	T	E	R	M
A	D	S	R	E	A	R	M	T	H	E	M	E	A	
D	U	A	L	A	S	T	I	E	R	E	R	E	L	
M	L	A	N	G	O	I	A	N	A	S	A	Z	I	
G	V	I	E	N	N	A	A	S	T	I	E	R		
A	G	R	E	E	A	E	R	O	R	E	A	T	E	R
Z	O	E	C	A	N	A	D	A	G	E	E			
A	D	D	E	T	R	O	T	H	O	T	E	L	X	

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALYOYO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS HOJA YA LEO 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALYOYO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALYOYO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALYOYO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS HOJA YA LEO 20:10 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:05 HRS SPOTI LEO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MITA YA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAYU ZANGU 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

African leaders endorse declaration on enhanced fertiliser use, soil health

By Guardian Correspondent, Nairobi

The African Heads of State and government gathered here mid this week for the Africa soil health summit have endorsed the Nairobi Declaration on Fertilizer and Soil Health, underscoring the crucial commitments to revive the nutritional balance of the continent's exhausted soils.

The Nairobi Declaration encapsulated the key discussions among African leaders, with a focus on fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships and investments to drive policies, finance, research and development, markets, and capacity building for fertilizer and sustainable soil health management across Africa.

The declaration has committed to ensure tripling of domestic production and distribution of certified quality organic and inorganic fertilizers by 2034 to improve access and affordability for smallholder farmers.

It also commits to make available by 2034, to at least 70 percent of smallholder farmers on the con-

tinental, targeted agronomic recommendations for specific crops, soils, and climatic conditions to ensure greater efficiency and sustainable use of fertilizers.

The heads of state have committed to support efforts of natural gas producing Member States in fertilizer production to increase their production and ensure availability at stable prices and fully operationalize the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) to improve production, procurement, and distribution of organic and inorganic fertilizers, and soil health interventions.

The AU Commission has been urged to mobilize financial and technical resources to execute these commitments in close cooperation with the various existing climate funds and ensuring that at least 70 percent of smallholder farmers have access to quality extension and advisory services on fertilizer and soil health both from public and private extension systems.

It was also agreed to ensure that at least 70 percent of smallholder farmers have access to quality extension and advisory

services on fertilizer and soil health both from public and private extension systems.

Ministers of finance in African states have also urged to mobilize and allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the recommendations in this Declaration. The declaration also outlined the specific actions to achieve the envisioned outcomes.

Speaking during the event, Dr. William Ruto, President of Kenya, welcomed the summit's timeliness, coinciding with the launch of his government's new framework for sustainable soil management, which will guide investments and efforts to improve the health and resilience of the country's soil.

"Sixty percent of the world's uncultivated arable land is in Africa, we possess the largest potential for food production and become a global food basket. Prioritizing investments in nitrogen fertilizer production facilities is essential. Secondly, developing mechanisms for real time tracking of fertilizer market trends to ensure timely availability is crucial. Additionally, we need sustainable strate-



Dr William Ruto, President of Kenya

gies to make fertilizers more affordable and accessible. Enhancing last-mile logistics for fertilizer distribution is equally critical. Moreover, building farmers' capacities for effective fertilizer use and soil health improvement is imperative," he said.

Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, reiterated the imperative of accelerated action on the commitments of the Nairobi Declaration to make up for lost time and advance towards the goals of earlier declarations, including the Abuja, Malabo, and Maputo Declarations, as well as the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development

Programme (CAADP).

"Some African countries produce fertilizers but we depend mostly on fertilizers, making them very expensive for our farmers. Yet the African Center for Fertilizer Development based in Zimbabwe has been in existence since the 1980's," he said.

"We must optimise use of such existing Continental assets to boost local fertilizer production and deliver quality fertilizers to African farmers at affordable prices. This is imperative if we are to improve the Continent's agricultural sector, key for our food sovereignty and security. These investments should also be reflected in our national budgets."

It is estimated that the continent loses over US\$4 billion worth of soil nutrients each year, severely risking Africa's ability to feed itself.

Yet, a broad base of African farmers neither has access to fertilizers nor can they afford inputs needed to add life to their soils to reverse the downward spiral of the degradation of the physical environment.

"Safeguarding the health of African soil is a key. It's not just about



Hakainde Hichilema, President of Zambia

enhancing food security but also in securing environmental sustainability," said the Former Ethiopian Prime Minister and board chair of AGRA, Hailemariam Dessalegn.

President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa underscored the need to deliberately support and increase investments in agriculture.

"It is unfortunate that despite the inherent potential, Africa currently spends billions of dollars in food and fertilizer imports per year. Greater efforts must be made to leverage the availability of raw materials for the local production of mineral fertilizers and reduce our

over-reliance on imports," he said.

Hakainde Hichilema, President of Zambia, called for synergy and collaboration between policy makers and the private sector.

"We shouldn't depend on others to supply us with fertilizers from outside the continent, therefore we need to invest to increase the capacity to produce fertilizers internally using our raw material that are available. The continent has these raw materials which must be exploited effectively and we need to invest in order to exploit this resources. When we invest we must ensure that we mobilize capital which is fairly priced otherwise there will be a cost push on the fertilizer that will produce" he said.

Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi observed that the missing link to Africa's food security is the health of the soil, adding that Malawi has developed a 10 year action plan on fertilizer and soil health to domesticate the continental framework.

"Our goal is to improve soil health. Improve the usage of organic and inorganic fertilizers, improve

soil productivity and reduce soil degradation and soil erosion," he said.

Nangolo Mbumba, President of Namibia, underscored the importance of a holistic approach as a critical element for addressing food demands in Africa and ensuring the long-term sustainability of global food production systems.

President Faustine Archange Touadera, Central African Republic emphasized the urgency for increased productivity to boost agricultural growth and sustainable economic development.

"Fertilizer has to be affordable and available to farmers because if it's not then we will not achieve the intended objective of increasing productivity and increase use to 50kgs/ha," he said.

The Summit from the 7th- 9th May 2024 gathered over 4,000 participants, including 57 ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs other government leaders, scientists, private sector representatives, heads of development organizations, civil society leaders, and leaders of farmer organizations.

Forex headwinds drag Airtel Africa into losses

LAGOS

Airtel Africa has reported a loss after tax of US\$89 million during the year ended in March 2024, from a profit of US\$750 million reported at the end of March 2023, primarily due to the significant foreign exchange headwinds, amid increase of mobile money revenue.

The company's consolidated financial information shows voice revenue declined by 12.5 percent to US\$2.17 billion from US\$2.49 billion, while data revenue went down by 3 percent to US\$1.73 billion from US\$1.78 billion respectively.

Mobile money revenue recorded positive trend, after increasing by 21 percent to US\$837 million during the year ended in March 2024, against US\$692 million recorded at the end of March 2023.

Basic EPS was negative (4.4 cents) compares to 17.7 cents last year while EPS before exceptional items was 10.1 cents, a decline of 25.9 percent.

"Both EPS before exceptional items and basic EPS were primarily impacted by significant derivative and foreign exchange losses during the year," the financial statement says.

EPS before exceptional items and derivative and foreign exchange losses was 18.3 cents compared to 20.5 cents in the prior period.

Average revenue per user (ARPU) also dropped by 13.3 percent to US\$2.8, compared to US\$3.3 respectively, amid increased total customer base of 152.7 million compared to 140 million.

Data customer increased by 17.8 percent to 64.4 million from 54.6 million.

The results show that mobile money customer went up to 38 million at the end of March this year from 31.5 million recorded at the end of March 2023, on continued investment into distribution to drive increased financial inclusion across our markets.

Olusegun Ogunsanya, Chief executive officer, explains: "The consistent deployment of our 'Win with' strategy supported the acceleration in constant currency revenue growth over the recent quarters which has reduced the impact of currency headwinds faced across most of our markets. This strong revenue performance is a reflection not only of the opportunity that is inherent across our markets, but also the resilience of our affordable offerings despite the inflationary pressure many of our customers have experienced."

"The investment in our distribution to catalyse growth, and the technology required to support this growth has been key. Furthermore, our rigorous approach to de-risking our balance sheet and our capital allocation priorities has materially reduced the risks that the currency devaluation has had

on our business," he says.

Ogunsanya further asserted that key initiatives include the reduction of US dollar debt across the business and the accumulation of cash at the HoldCo level to fully cover the outstanding debt due.

"We will continue to focus on reducing our exposure to currency volatility. At the beginning of March, we launched our first buyback programme reflecting the strength of our financial position," said Ogunsanya.

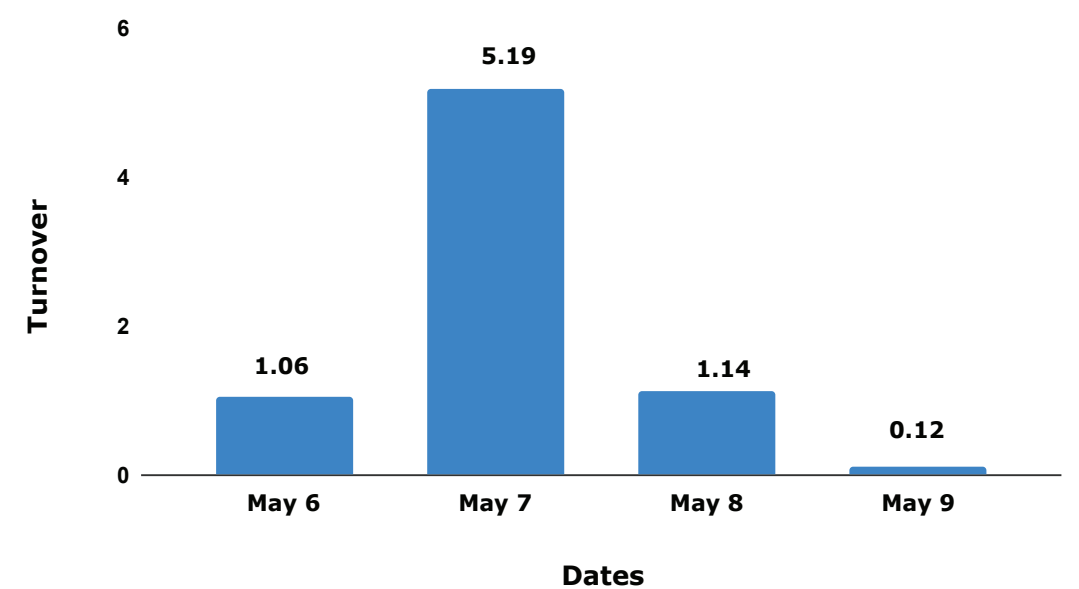
"The growth opportunity that exists across our markets remains compelling, and we are well positioned to deliver against this opportunity. We will continue to focus on margin improvement from the recent level as we progress through the year."

During the reported period, the company board approved a share buyback programme of up to \$100m, over a period of up to 12 months.

On 1st March 2024, the company announced the commencement of the first tranche of this buyback up to a maximum of \$50m. During March 2024, the company purchased 74 million shares for a total consideration of \$9m.

The board has therefore recommended a final dividend of 3.57 cents per share, making the total dividend for FY24 5.95 cents per share.

DSE's daily turnovers May6-May9, 2024 (in billion shillings)



DSE registers 7.5bn/- turnover in four days

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) recorded a turnover of 7.5bn/- during the first four days of this week, which is equivalent to a third of total turnover which has been recorded since the start of this quarter.

The amounts recorded involved the transactions of 11.3 million shares traded in 935 deals, of which CRDB counter emerged the top mover by transacting 9.5 million shares.

On Monday, the daily report shows a total turnover of 1.06bn/- was recorded following the transactions of 1.8 million shares traded in 286 deals.

CRDB counter was top mover during the opening day of the week, after transacting 1.7 million shares valued 986m/-, of which 1.12 million were transacted through pre-arranged block trade.

The second mover during the day was Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC) counter, which recorded the transactions of 14,236 shares valued 61m/- traded in 17 deals.

Local investors dominated the activities during the day, while foreign investors participated in buying shares valued 0.68m/-, which was 0.06 percent of total value of shares bought.

On Tuesday, a total turnover of 5.19bn/- was recorded, following the transaction of 8.9 million shares in 209 deals.

CRDB counter also emerged the top mover after recording transactions of 7.8 million shares valued 4.4bn/-, of which 7.6 shares were transacted through pre-arranged block trade.

The second mover of the day was TOL Gases (TOL) counter, which recorded a transaction of 1.03 million shares traded through pre-arranged block trade market.

Foreign investors participated the activity by buying shares valued 773.3m/-, which accounted for 14.88 percent of total value of shares bought. All shares during the day were sold by local investors.

The Wednesday's market report shows that during the day, a total turnover of 1.14bn/- was recorded through the transaction of 0.54 million shares traded in 286 deals.

Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC) emerged the top mover, after recording the transactions of 217,376 shares valued 938m/- in 11 deals of which 208,931 shares were traded through pre-arranged block trade.

CRDB counter was top mover, after recording the transaction

of 275,757 shares valued 154m/- traded in 168 deals.

On Thursday, the DSE market report shows a total turnover of 116.7m/- was recorded, following the transactions of 77,208 shares traded in 154 deals.

During the day, the report shows CRDB counter was top mover after recording the transactions of 35,356 shares valued 19m/- traded in 154 deals at a weighted average price of 540/- per share.

Other active counters during the day were NICO which recorded transaction of 16,777 shares valued 12.8m/- traded in 19 deals at a weighted average price of 770/- per share and NMB counter, which recorded a turnover of 31m/- after transacting 6,472 shares in six deals at a price of 4,800/- per share.

TPCC counter recorded the transaction of 12,132 shares valued 52m/- traded in 12 deals at a price of 4,300/- per share.

The market reports show since the start of the quarter to May 9, 2024, local investors dominated the activities by accounting for 82.55 percent of total value of shares sold and 93.93 percent of the value of shares bought.

Foreign investors have so far bought shares valued 1.29bn/- and sold shares valued 3.68bn/-.



Global stocks enjoy a bounce from rate-cut fever

LONDON

Global shares rose to one-month highs on Friday while the dollar held steady, giving commodities a boost, after softer US jobs data gave investors' confidence that interest rates will start to decline this year.

In currencies, the pound headed for a modest weekly loss after the Bank of England (BoE) on Thursday paved the way for the start of rate cuts as soon as next month, while data showed the UK economy exited a mild recession in the first quarter of this year.

The MSCI All-World index was up 0.3 percent, as equities in Asia and Europe took their lead from a rally on Wall Street overnight, after data showed the number of people filing for jobless benefits for the first time rose more than expected, suggesting the US economy is beginning to slow.

Rather than putting the brakes on the stock market, the numbers are giving investors confidence in the ability of the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates this year, as central banks in Europe have started



to lower borrowing costs.

The STOXX 600 rose 0.8 percent towards record highs on Fri-

day, heading for one of its strongest weekly performances this year. US stock futures were up

0.3-0.4 percent.

"What could have been a crack in the overall market bullishness

appearing has turned into an opportunity to get long again and that's what we're seeing now in May," David Morrison, market strategist at Trade Nation, said.

Thursday's weekly jobless data followed last week's report that showed US job growth slowed more than expected in April and the increase in annual wages fell below 4.0 percent for the first time in nearly three years.

Markets will be closely watching the April US producer price index and the consumer price index out next week for signs that inflation has resumed its downward trend towards the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target rate.

Hotter-than-expected inflation reports last month quashed any lingering expectations of near-term US rate cuts. Markets are now fully pricing in a cut only in November though there is still a chance of the Fed moving in September.

In contrast, markets now imply a 50-50 chance of a BoE cut in June and are almost fully priced for August. They also imply an 88 percent chance the European Central Bank will ease in June.

BOE Governor Andrew Bailey said there could be more reductions than investors expect, the latest sign of the growing divergence between the Europe and US rate outlooks.

Sterling was steady at \$1.2524, having touched a more than two-week low of \$1.2446 on Thursday.

Traders currently anticipate roughly 45 basis points of cuts this year from the Fed. In comparison, traders are pricing in 58 bps of easing from the BoE this year, while anticipating 70 bps of cuts from the ECB.

The dollar index, which measures the US currency versus six others, was up 0.1 percent at 105.28, as the euro held steady at \$1.0779, set for its fourth straight week of gains on the dollar.

The yen remains in focus after last week's suspected rounds of interventions from Japanese authorities totalling nearly \$60 billion aimed at pulling the yen off its 34-year lows of 106.245 per dollar touched on April 29.

On Friday, the yen was last at 155.74 per dollar, with Japan's Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki repeating Tokyo's recent warnings that it was ready to take action against disorderly currency moves.

Coal mining scores safety milestones, new targets

By Tasneem Bulbulia

The South African coal mining industry has made progress in reaching its goal of zero harm; however, programmes and initiatives must be bolstered to ensure this is achieved and then maintained.

This was outlined by speakers during the Coal Safe 2024 conference, held on May 9, at Emperors Palace, in Gauteng.

Delivering the keynote address, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) chief inspector of mines David Msiza emphasised that the department would continue to work with the industry to achieve zero harm.

He presented statistics that showed that while there has been some improvement in coal sector airborne pollutant exposure, this is still a concern as mineworkers are over-exposed to coal dust. He



called for collaboration to mitigate this.

Msiza highlighted another positive achievement - a reduction in noise exposure levels, which he attributed to measures and interventions that were implemented by the sector.

Moreover, there was a reduction in occupational

diseases in the sector, with Msiza noting considerable efforts undertaken by the industry to ensure this.

He also highlighted significant improvement in reducing the amount of silicosis, pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) and pneumoconiosis cases in the industry.

Msiza commended the industry for interventions it had implemented for TB and HIV, with the majority of the sector being screened.

Msiza said that there had also been a downward trend of noise-induced hearing loss cases in the industry.

He also informed that,

in terms of fatalities, there was a slight regression last year compared with 2022, which was the safest year on record. There were six fatalities reported in the industry in 2022, while eight were reported last year, which Msiza said showed that the industry had not yet arrived at where it needed to be in

terms of safety.

The industry also last year committed to benchmark against international safety standards, despite the complexity of the country's coal mining industry, with deep mines, Msiza said.

He said it fared favourably when compared with the US and Australia, which were the best performing at the time.

Msiza also highlighted a reduction in fall-of-ground incidents, which were a major contributor to fatalities. He also mentioned a reduction in transport-related fatalities, owing to proximity detection systems coming into place, which he said the industry would continue to be encouraged to implement.

Minerals Council South Africa CEO Mzila Mthenjane highlighted that the industry had made notable progress over the years, and that it would soon reach the goal of zero harm. He averred that the real challenge would begin at this point, to maintain this.

Oil prices record first weekly gain

By Irina Slav

Crude oil prices started moving higher early on Friday, set to book their first weekly gain in several weeks as China reported growth in exports and imports, and ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas broke down.

China reported a 5.45 percent increase in crude oil imports specifically for last month, equal to a daily rate of 10.88 million barrels. This was lower than the March average, which stood at 11.55 million bpd but was still strong enough to warrant a change in sentiment among traders.

One reason for that was the news that the latest round of ceasefire talks between Hamas and Israel had failed to produce a deal, with Israel bombing Rafah despite warnings from Washington not to do it.

Separately, the latest weekly US jobs report showed new unemployment benefit claims hit an eight-month high, fueling hopes of rate cuts despite recent indications from Fed officials they were going to take their time with the cuts. These hopes also helped oil prices tick higher.

OPEC+ meanwhile signaled it had no intention of changing its production policy at the next group meeting on June 1. While the update was not really unexpected, especially with the latest decline in prices despite the continued cuts, it did highlight the significance of OPEC policies for global supply dynamics.

"The crude oil market will remain beholden to OPEC supply policies," ANZ analysts said in a note as quoted by Bloomberg. "Ongoing curtailments should support prices, but the market is susceptible to geopolitical issues."

"Our balance sheet shows the market to be in deficit by around 1m b/d in the second quarter of the year before returning to a small surplus in the second half of 2024," ING commodity analysts said in a Thursday note. "However, this surplus could disappear quickly if OPEC+ members decide to roll over their additional voluntary cuts of 2.2m b/d."



HK Tourism Board locates potential prospects with Emirates airline

Hong Kong

Tourism exchanges between the Greater Bay Area and the Middle East are expected to gain momentum following a co-operation pact between Emirates airline and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb), under which the Dubai-based carrier will aim to drive increased traffic flows to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

In a press release issued on May 9, Emirates announced that it will work with the HKTb, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding, to enhance inbound tourism to Hong Kong from key target markets in the Middle East as well as Europe.

Orhan Abbas, senior vice-president for commercial operations (Far East) at Emirates, said in the statement that the carrier is "delighted to establish" what he called a "strategic partnership" with the HKTb to "spur growth in the local travel and tourism industry".

Hong Kong "has always been popular among our global customers" and it attracts visitors all year round, he said, citing the city's "unique cosmopolitan attractions".

Through its extensive global network, Emirates will work closely with HKTb to introduce



Deputy Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourism Board Becky Ip and Emirates Senior Vice-President for Commercial Operations (Far East) Orhan Abbas sign a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation.

travellers from key Middle East and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries - UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar - to "the vibrant culture, Michelin-starred cu-

linary scene and dynamic attractions" that Hong Kong has to offer.

Under the MoU, which was signed amid the Arabian Travel Market trade show that concluded in

Dubai on May 9, Emirates and HKTb will pursue various joint activities including familiarization trips, a comprehensive promotional plan, and targeted advertising campaigns.

The MoU not only reaffirms Emirates' commitment to supporting Hong Kong's rebounding travel and tourism industry, but also sets out joint initiatives by the two parties to

drive trade and tourism into the city.

The airline also signed similar agreements with Tourism Seychelles and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau.

Biden set to impose tariffs on China EVs

NEW YORK

President Joe Biden's administration is poised to unveil a sweeping decision on China tariffs as soon as next week, one that's expected to target key strategic sectors while rejecting the across-the-board hikes sought by Donald Trump, people familiar with the matter said.

The decision is the culmination of a review of Section 301 tariffs first put into place under Trump starting in 2018. The new tariffs will focus on industries including electric vehicles, batteries and solar cells, with existing levies largely being maintained. An announcement is scheduled for Tuesday, two of the people said. While a decision could be delayed, it nonetheless represents one of Biden's biggest moves in the economic race with China. It builds on his call last month to hike tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminum, and the formal launch of a fresh probe into China's shipbuilding industry.

The yuan weakened on the news, while the CSI 300 Index of Chinese shares fell as much as 0.6% in early trading before rallying.

"It'll definitely cause investors to pause on stocks that are potentially exposed," said Xin-Yao Ng, director of investment at abrdn, adding that many green-tech brands such as battery giant Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd, already have limited US exposure. "Everyone knows



it's a risk." China's Foreign Ministry said the tariffs imposed by the previous US administration "seriously disrupted" economic

and trade exchanges between the two countries. It called on Washington to cancel the restrictions, and added that China will take steps to defend its

rights and interests. "Instead of correcting its wrong practices, the United States continued to politicize economic and trade issues," Lin Jian, a ministry

spokesman, said at a regular briefing on Friday. "To further increase tariffs is to add insult to injury."

President Xi Jinping's strat-

egy of ramping up manufacturing to arrest an economic slowdown at home has triggered alarm abroad. US and European Union leaders have scolded Beijing over state support that they say has fueled a deluge of cheap exports that threaten jobs in their markets. The EU launched an EV subsidy investigation in October that may lead to additional tariffs by July.

The US is standing up to China's "unfair economic practices and industrial overcapacity," Biden said last month. "I'm not looking for a fight with China. I'm looking for competition, but fair competition." The tariffs would likely have little immediate impact on Chinese firms, since its world-beating EV manufacturers have steered clear of the US market due to tariffs. Its solar companies mostly export to the US from third countries to avoid curbs, with US firms seeking higher tariffs on that trade, too.

Biden and Trump are jockeying to be seen as tough on China as they head toward an election

rematch in November. Biden signed into law a bill last month that began a countdown for video-sharing platform TikTok to divest from its Chinese parent ByteDance Ltd., or quit the American market.

Trump has promised to hike tariffs on China across the board if reelected, vowing a 60% tax on all Chinese imports. Many Democrats have dismissed that approach, in part because it would raise prices for US consumers grappling with inflation.

During Trump's last administration, Washington and Beijing became embroiled in a tit-for-tat trade war in which China retaliated with measures that aimed to exact pain in the American heartland by targeting agricultural exports.

US Senator Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican, expects Beijing to respond again. "We know how China reacted when Trump put tariffs on," he said. "They hit agriculture with it. I can't be sure that China would hit agriculture the same as they did in the Trump ones, but they're going to hit back."

Gold price attracts customers despite hawkish Fed speak

By Lallal Srijandorn

Gold price gained momentum on Friday despite the modest rebound in US Dollar.

The yellow metal edges higher as many economists expect a weakening labor market could prompt the Federal Reserve (Fed) to cut interest rates sooner than currently expected to stimulate economic growth.

Furthermore, the renewed geopolitical concerns are likely to be a positive factor for gold's value on the market.

However, the hawkish US Fed talks on the interest rate, and the stronger US dollar (USD) might weigh on gold prices.

Gold traders will keep an eye on the first reading of the US Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index for May, along with the speeches from the Fed's Bowman, Goolsbee, and Barr. Next week, the US Consumer Price Index (CPI) report will be in the spotlight.

San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly said that uncertainty over the inflation outlook makes policy projections difficult until the Fed gets more clarity.

The US Initial Jobless Claims for the week ended May 4 rose to 231K from the previous week of 209K, higher than the market consensus of 210K. This figure registered the highest level since August 2023, signaling the labor market was cooling.

Coupled with April's downbeat US Nonfarm Payrolls (NFP) of 175,000 new jobs. These reports paint a picture of a cooling US economy.

Israeli forces massed tanks and opened fire close to built-up areas of Rafah on Thursday after President Joe Biden said the US would withhold

weapons from Israel if its forces mounted a major invasion of the southern Gaza city.

The rise in global gold demand was mainly driven by strong over-the-counter market investment, persistent central bank purchasing, and growing demand from Asian buyers, according to the WGC's report.

The preliminary US University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index is expected to drop in May from 77.2 in April to 76.0.

The yellow metal keeps the bullish vibe unchanged as it holds above the key 100-day Exponential Moving Average (EMA) on the daily timeframe. In the near term, XAU/USD breaks above a descending trend channel that formed in mid-April, with the 14-day Relative Strength Index (RSI) standing in bullish territory around 67.50, which supports the buyers for the time being.

If gold bulls step in at the \$2,400 psychological mark, then yellow metal could see a rally to an all-time high near \$2,432, en route to the \$2,500 figure.

On the flip side, the first downside target will emerge at the resistance-turned-support level at \$2,340. Extended losses for gold price expose XAU/USD to a potential support level at the \$2,300 round mark, followed by a low of May 2 at \$2,281.

If gold bulls step in at the \$2,400 psychological mark, then yellow metal could see a rally to an all-time high near \$2,432, en route to the \$2,500 figure.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 11 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 AJ Jazera
9:00 Watoto wetu
9:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu
13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Haikufuma
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma
21:30 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Min Jackpot
21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 AJ Jazera

SUNDAY 12 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 AJ Jazera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45 Mjuzi zaidi
13:30 Usafiri wako
14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Haikufuma
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Mzengwe
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
22:15 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Kipindi maalum: Vodacom na Vodabima
22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 AJ Jazera

MONDAY 13 May

5:30 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha michezo

TUESDAY 14 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Jagina
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Aja ya jamaa
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
13:20 Usafiri Wako rpt
13:50 Shikabamba
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shikabamba
14:25 Igizo: Haikufuma
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
18:50 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni

WEDNESDAY 15 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 AJ Jazera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nymbura
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
14:00 Kipindi maalum: Sema na Mahakama
14:30 DW: Afrimax rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:30 Jiji Ietu
00:30 AJ Jazera

THURSDAY 16 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamba lulu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Vodacom na Vodabima
11:20 Ripoti maalum
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 AJ Jazera

FRIDAY 17 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 AJ Jazera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nymbura
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
14:00 Kipindi maalum: Sema na Mahakama
14:30 DW: Afrimax rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:30 Jiji Ietu
00:30 AJ Jazera

FRIDAY 17 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamba lulu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Vodacom na Vodabima
11:20 Ripoti maalum
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 AJ Jazera

SATURDAY 18 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha

SUNDAY 19 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
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13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
14:00 Kipindi maalum: Sema na Mahakama
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18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:30 Jiji Ietu
00:30 AJ Jazera

SUNDAY 19 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
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14:00 Kipindi maalum: Sema na Mahakama
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18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:30 Jiji Ietu
00:30 AJ Jazera

SUNDAY 19 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha

MONDAY 20 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 AJ Jazera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nymbura
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
14:00 Kipindi maalum: Sema na Mahakama
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18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:30 Jiji Ietu
00:30 AJ Jazera

MONDAY 20 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
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18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:30 Jiji Ietu
00:30 AJ Jazera

MONDAY 20 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha

TUESDAY 21 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 AJ Jazera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nymbura
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
14:00 Kipindi maalum: Sema na Mahakama
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17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:30 Jiji Ietu
00:30 AJ Jazera

TUESDAY 21 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 KumeKucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 KumeKucha kishindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
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11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
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12:00 AJ Jazera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
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WEDNESDAY 22 May

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FRIDAY 24 May

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WORLD

Hundreds of faculty, staff demand UCLA chancellor's resignation

LOS ANGELES

NEARLY 900 members of University of California (UC) faculty and staff have been calling on Gene Block, chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), to resign over the university's response to pro-Palestinian protests on campus.

"We will not stand by as our students are assaulted and silenced," said the group in an online petition. "We remain committed to protecting our students' safety and their right to protest, assemble, and speak freely."

A total of 895 people from the 10-campus public university system have signed the petition as of Thursday night.

Of them, 642 are from UCLA.

The group said in the petition they demand that UCLA recommend all legal charges be dropped and grant full amnesty to all students, staff and faculty who were involved in the encampment and peaceful protest.

"Following the violent and aggressive police sweep of the Palestine Solidarity Encampment on May 2, 2024, resulting in more than 200 students, faculty, and staff arrested while peacefully protesting, it has become obvious that Chancellor Block has failed our university," said the petition.

UC faculty and staff members also demand that UCLA issue a report within 30 days to fully disclose all investments



UCLA faculty and staff members march on the school campus in Los Angeles, May 9, 2024. AP

so that students may understand how the university prioritizes their finances, and call on UCLA to divest from all military weapons production companies and supporting systems.

The UCLA Academic Senate, which represents the university's faculty, said in a message to its members earlier this week that "recent events that transpired on our campus deeply dismayed and disappointed many faculty, staff, students and alumni."

The UCLA Academic Senate said it

will hold an emergency meeting on Friday to consider a no-confidence resolution and a censure resolution of Block, who has been chancellor of UCLA since 2007.

UCLA's Undergraduate Students Association Council also passed a resolution on Tuesday night calling for the resignation of Block if he does not meet the demands of the Palestine Solidarity Encampment, according to Daily Bruin, the university's student newspaper.

Xi's trip boosts China-Central and Eastern Europe cooperation

BUDAPEST

CHINA and Hungary on Thursday elevated ties to an all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership for the new era, marking the most recent stride in China's effort to deepen cooperation with Central and Eastern European (CEE) nations.

The decision was announced during Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Hungary, the final stop of his three-nation swing across Europe.

It also came one day after China and Serbia decided to build a community with a shared future, an upgrade of their relations from the comprehensive strategic partnership established eight years ago.

The inclusion of Serbia and Hungary -- major countries in Central and Eastern Europe -- in Xi's first trip abroad for the year and his first visit to Europe in nearly five years underscores China's commitment to fortifying cooperation with the region.

During the talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Thursday, Xi said that China-CEE cooperation has a strong internal momentum, expressing the hope that Hungary will continue to play an important role in promoting China-CEE cooperation for the benefit of their respective people.

China-Hungary relations are currently at the best period in history and their comprehensive strategic partnership has maintained high-level development. With deepening political mutual trust and fruitful cooperation in various fields, the two countries have set a model for building a new type of international relations, Xi said.

Most CEE countries are emerging markets, holding substantial potential, notably in connectivity and energy investment.

By synergizing their strengths with China's since 2012, deeper cooperation has not only advanced their economic and social development but also fostered the European integration process.

This strategic alignment has been solidified by robust investment flows. From January to March 2024 alone, China's investment in CEE surged by 36.35 percent compared to the previous year, reaching about \$450 million. As of March 2024, the cumulative total of Chinese investment in the CEE region soared to \$5.2 billion.

Take Hungary as an example. In 2023, Hungary was able to attract a total of 13 billion euros (about \$13.86 billion) in foreign direct investment, of which about 8 billion euros (about \$8.53 billion) were from China, said



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban hold a joint press conference after their meeting in Budapest, Hungary on Wednesday. XINHUA

Hungarian Minister for National Economy Marton Nagy in an interview with Xinhua.

The Hungarian side is looking forward to further cooperating with China in the fields of foreign trade, capital investment, infrastructure, logistics, artificial intelligence, and new energy, among others, he said.

That is also the case for Serbia. "During the past two years, China has emerged as the largest foreign direct investor in Serbia, bringing numerous benefits to the country," said Jelena Grubor Stefanovic, director of representative office of Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China.

"Now Serbia has more opportunities to systematically focus its efforts on attracting investments from China in industry sectors with high added value like life sciences, digital economy, automotive industry, smart agriculture sector and green development," she said.

These investments, coupled with collaborative projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), such as the Belgrade-Budapest Railway and Port of Piraeus in Greece, continue to benefit the people in the CEE region.

The Belt and Road cooperation has provided Serbia with important opportunities to strengthen connectivity and promote economic development with neighboring

countries, said Ivona Ladjevac, deputy director of the Institute of International Politics and Economics in Serbia.

Key infrastructure projects such as the Belgrade-Budapest Railway and the E763 highway have enhanced Serbia's status as a regional transportation hub, the expert said.

Xi's Europe visit unfolds as Washington is maneuvering to rally its allies in Europe to "derisk" from China, and slow down the country's high-tech progress, alongside escalating protectionist rhetoric concerning the so-called "Chinese overcapacity" in clean energy sectors.

Chen Fengying, a researcher at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said that China's enhanced cooperation with Serbia and Hungary has spurred local economic growth and uplifted living standards.

This success is a compelling example of the tangible benefits obtained from forging partnerships with China and progressing collectively, said Chen.

Such an achievement has also exerted a noteworthy inspirational and motivational influence on other CEE countries, she added. Xinhua

UNRWA closes headquarters in E. Jerusalem after repeated attacks

GAZA

THE United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on Thursday that it has decided to close down its East Jerusalem head-

quarters after Israelis repeatedly set fire near the site.

Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner-general of UNRWA, said on social media platform X that the fire, the second in less than a week, took place

when their staff were on the compound.

There were no casualties among the staff, but the fire caused extensive damage to the outdoor areas, said Lazzarini.

He noted "it is an outrageous development and the lives of UN staff were at serious risk." Over the past two months, "Israeli extremists" have been staging protests outside the compound, said

Lazzarini.

This week, the protest became violent while demonstrators threw stones at UN staff and the buildings of the compound.

Xinhua

Putin submits Mishustin's candidacy for post of prime minister to State Duma

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has submitted the candidacy of Mikhail Mishustin for the post of Prime Minister to the State Duma, lower house of the parliament, State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin announced.

"President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin has submitted a proposal on the candidacy of Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin for the post of Prime Minister to the State Duma," Volodin wrote in his Telegram channel.

The politician recalled that the State Duma "for the first time in the history of modern Russia will form the line-up of the government: approve the chairman of the government, his deputies, and federal ministers."

"The deputies will exercise their new powers established by amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation in 2020," Volodin said.

"We are entering a new stage of joint work between the legislative and executive powers. If earlier problems were often explained by shortcomings of the government or one of the ministers, now both the government and deputies of the State Duma will bear responsibility for the result," Volodin concluded.

The discussion of the candidacy

"The discussion of the candidacy for the chairman of the government will take place in all factions, and at 02:00 p.m. the plenary meeting of the State Duma will begin," Volodin wrote.

According to him, at the plenary meeting, Mishustin will first make a report, then deputies will ask him questions, after which speeches from all five factions in the State Duma are planned.

Following the discussion, a vote will be held on the approval of the candidacy of the Prime Minister. According to the rules of the State Duma, the result of voting on the candidacy of the chairman of the government of the Russian Federation is formalized by a resolution of the house of parliament.

58-year-old Mikhail Mishustin has headed the government since January 2020 (4 years, 3 months and 21 days). Mishustin was the head of the Federal Tax Service before replacing Dmitry Medvedev as Prime Minister.

Mishustin is one of the three prime ministers in the modern history of Russia who served the longest term - after Medvedev (7 years, 8 months, 8 days in 2012-2020) and Viktor Chernomyrdin (5 years, 3 months and 9 days in 1992-1998).

According to the law, the cabinet resigned after the presidential inauguration which was held on May 7. The former ministers and deputy prime ministers continue to work, but now in an acting capacity. They will remain "acting" until the new government is appointed. Agencies



Israel to continue Rafah operation as Gaza truce talks collapse - official

JERUSALEM

THE Israeli army will continue its operation in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah "as planned," after the talks on the Israel-Hamas truce held in Egypt's Cairo collapsed on Thursday, an Israeli official told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, a Xinhua correspondent covering the developments reported mass Israeli troops stationed on the border with Rafah.

The unnamed Israeli official confirmed that the Israeli delegation has left Cairo after talks with Hamas, the United States, Egyptian, and Qatari negotiators on a deal to end the hostilities and secure the release of hostages in Gaza.

The official did not elaborate on whether Israel will expand the offensive to more areas in Rafah at the southern end of Gaza, where about 1.2 million internally displaced Palestinians were taking refuge.

According to Israel's state-owned Kan TV news, the talks were halted due to Israel's ongoing ground assault on Rafah.

CHINA'S production capacity is deeply rooted in the country's vast market.

China is a developing country with a population of over 1.4 billion. The fundamental purpose of its production is to meet the ever-growing expectation of the people for a better life.

Since the reform and opening up, China has transitioned from a planned economy to a socialist market economy, which has boosted production in different sectors and enhanced its supply capabilities.

As China's economy continues to grow steadily and with the incremental upgrading of Chinese industries, the potential of China's domestic demand has been consistently expanding and unleashed, which will enhance produc-

Where does China's production capacity come from?

tion capacity in a cycle of mutual reinforcement.

China boasts a large and steadily expanding middle-income group, with per capita GDP surpassing \$12,000, creating a huge consumer market.

In 2023, China's total retail sales of consumer goods exceeded 47 trillion yuan (\$6.5 trillion), with final consumption expenditure contributing 82.5 percent to economic growth. Consumption has become the main engine driving economic growth and the primary driver of China's expansion of production capacity.

Over the past few years, China has been the world's largest consumer of automobiles, home appliances, clothing,

and jewelries, among others. This wouldn't have been possible without massive domestic production capacity, as relying solely on imports wouldn't have been enough.

Technological innovation and enhanced production efficiency are the driving forces of China's production capacity.

Innovation serves as the engine of productivity. China adopts the innovation-driven development strategy and keeps expanding investment in scientific and technological innovation. It ranks second in the world in terms of total R&D investment. A total of 679 Chinese companies were listed among the world's top 2,500 R&D investors last year.

Technological innovation has enhanced China's production efficiency and forged more comparative advantages. In recent years, China's traditional top three products, or the "old three" -- mobile phones, computers and home appliances, and three major tech-intensive green products, or the "new three" -- new energy vehicles (NEVs), lithium-ion batteries and photovoltaic products, have gained widespread popularity in the global market. This success is attributed to the continuous technological innovation and efficiency improvements in the extensive and specialized industries in China, along with the unwavering commitment

to excellence by Chinese entrepreneurs.

It is particularly important to see that China is the only country in the world that possesses all the industrial categories in the United Nations industrial classification. By harnessing the well-established industrial ecosystem and leveraging market dynamics, China can quickly transform technological innovation achievements into high-quality production capacity.

A Bloomberg article said that the global energy transition is largely attributed to China's provision of low-cost and clean products.

China is embracing the new round of sci-tech revolution

and industrial transformation worldwide and has no intention of criticizing or suppressing other countries that are leading in areas such as artificial intelligence, commercial aerospace, and low-orbit satellites. Instead, China is genuinely committed to learning from others with an aim to promote scientific and technological development through mutual learning and exchanges.

Similarly, developed countries should embrace China's technological advancements in areas like new energy with fairness and openness, keeping in mind the benefits of all humanity.

A large portion of China's production capacity is attrib-

uted to multinationals.

Foreign-invested enterprises have played a significant role in the growth of China's manufacturing. As China becomes more integrated into the global economy, many foreign enterprises have chosen China as their primary production base, producing goods for sale on a global scale. Among them are many American companies.

For instance, the remarkable success of Apple as the second most profitable and highest-valued company in the world can be largely credited to the dedicated Chinese workers and efficient Chinese enterprises along its supply chain. Apple has announced to expand its R&D labs in China to better support its production line.

People's Daily

Erratic weather patterns upend traditional agriculture in Kenya

NAIROBI

RAINS have long been a blessing to Kenyan farmers, the vast majority of whom rely on them to grow crops. However, as the country continues to experience heavier rains season after season, flooding has become farmers' worst nightmare.

Many now wish that the ongoing heavy rains pounding the east African nation would stop, even only for a week, to give their crops time to grow.

For the past one month, most areas in Kenya have been receiving up to 200 mm of rain, resulting in heavy flooding and the death of over 220 people, authorities said.

The latest onslaught of heavy rains came after Kenya experienced prolonged drought and rains last year, effects of climate change ravaging the country in quick succession.

Most farms are now flooded, and some farmers have lost their entire crop due to surface runoff, while others are experiencing stunted or yellowing crops as rains wash away nutrients.

"I have lost all my potato crop on two acres due to the heavy rains," Arnold Maina, a banker in Kenya's capital Nairobi, told Xinhua. "I have the crop planted in Nyandarua, just before the onset of the rainy season, hoping that all would be well," he said of his farm some 250 km from Nairobi. "But it's gone with floods."

The crop sprouted well but then the worst happened – the intensity of the rains increased, Maina said.

His investment of 250,000 shillings (about 1,865 U.S. dollars) are now gone with the floods. Common food crops cultivated by farmers in East Africa include potatoes, onions, tomatoes, capsicum, cucumbers, maize, beans, and various other vegetables.



A woman walks beside a deep gully near a residential building in Rongai, Nakuru County, Kenya, May 7, 2024. Xinhua

For export, they grow French beans, sugar snaps, avocados, herbs, and garden peas, among other crops.

These essential crops are now facing severe threats due to widespread flooding. "I don't know which crop can withstand the current heavy

rains that are going to last until the end of May, when they are expected to reduce in intensity.

I planted French beans for export, and they are not doing well due to leaching," Violet Wanjiku, a farmer from Nakuru, said in a telephone interview.

While remaining optimistic, Wanjiku, who sells the produce through an exporter, noted that the heavy rains that are predicted to last until July and the expected cold season that usually starts in June do not portend good times for farmers. "The cold weather normally starts in June and lasts until August. During this period, frost affects many horticultural crops. Very few survive to end up at the market," she said.

Wanjiku, who has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and conducts farming as a business, said farmers would rather deal with drought than excessive rains. "With drought, you can irrigate your crops and effectively battle pests," she said.

"But with heavy rains, a farmer has little control over the flooding." "You cannot even spray the crops because the chemical is washed off. Further, sometimes you cannot even access your farm," Wanjiku said.

The erratic weather that many farmers did not plan for has also not spared livestock farmers, with the ongoing rains increasing cases of diseases like foot rot and pneumonia among goats, sheep and

cattle.

According to the Kenya Red Cross, about 10,000 animals, including sheep, cattle, goats and camels, have been swept away by floods while 36,344 acres of croplands have been damaged across Kenya.

Caroline Musyoka, an agronomist, said that with heavy rains, very few crops can do well, because of the flooding.

"Due to flooding, oxygen gets depleted in the soil, affecting the plants' ability to make their own feed. Some plants die; others remain stunted," she said.

Another common problem farmers are grappling with, she said, is leaching, where the rainwater carries nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus deeper into the soil, making them unavailable for plants.

The ongoing heavy rains in Kenya pose a significant threat to the country's food security, Musyoka said.

"Most crops certainly won't do well due to the extended rain period. Therefore, a few months down the lane, Kenya would start to experience food shortages due to poor harvest," she said.

Russia knows how to deal with Ukrainian drones – Putin

MOSCOW

UKRAINIAN drones "fly like flies over the heads" of the fighters in the special military operation, but Russia knows how to deal with it, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a meeting with military on May 7, following the inauguration ceremony. The video was released on May 9 by the Kremlin press service.

"We know how difficult it is for our fighters, who are faced with the fact that enemy drones are flying overhead like flies, we all know this. We are working on this, and I am sure we will see results," Putin (pictured) said.

The Russian leader noted that those tasks that until recently were solved exclusively with the help of aviation systems are now being solved with small means, but with great effect.

The Russian people show their best qualities in difficult moments, their courage and heroism, which is confirmed by the special military operation, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a meeting with military on May 7, following the inauguration ceremony. The video was released on May 9 by the Kremlin press service.

"When such difficult,

key moments come, the Russian people show their best qualities - courage and heroism, regardless of their age. It's in our blood," Putin said.

He noted that he considers it important to have a frank conversation with the military so that tasks on the battlefield during Russia's special military operation are solved with minimal losses.

"I really look forward to such a frank conversation about what and how we are doing on the battlefield, what else needs to be done so that the actions of our combat units are even more successful, so that tasks are solved with minimal losses and so that we achieve all the tasks given to us by our Motherland," Putin said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin believes that on the battlefield Russia needs to be one step ahead in terms of high technology, he said during a meeting with military on May 7, following the inauguration ceremony. The video was released on May 9 by the Kremlin press service.

"To be successful, we need to be one step ahead in high technology," the president said.

Putin added that Russian engineers and scientists work virtually around the clock so that the military personnel of the Russian Armed Forces can stay ahead of the enemy. This is one of the main conditions for achieving victory, he added.

"Our developers, scientists, and engineers also work around the clock to stay ahead of the enemy. I would like to repeat - we are generally successful. This is one of the main conditions for ensuring our overall success and victory," he said.

At the same time, Russia manages to obtain dual-use and civilian developments on the international market, which can also be used for combat operations, Putin said.

The key condition for Russia's development is success in a special military operation, Russian President Vladimir Putin believes.

"We have every opportunity - absolutely every opportunity - to ensure that all our tasks are fully realized. But only under one condition - subject to your successful work



on the battlefield," he said during a meeting with military on May 7, following the inauguration ceremony. The video was released on May 9 by the Kremlin press service. "This is the key condition today," he added.

The Western community, which works for Ukraine, wants to see Russia as a "weak link", Putin added. "The enemy has enough modern means, because the entire Western community is working for our enemy. It dreams about Russia no longer existing in its current form," he said.

At the same time, the president is certain that Russia will win the special military operation, with Russian soldiers' courage and heroism serving as its fundamental conditions. "We are aware of instances of courage and heroism," he said, adding. "This is absolutely crucial, this is one of the key prerequisites for our triumph, and I have no doubt about it."

Russia will continue its mutually beneficial partnership with all countries that share the values of freedom and justice and stands for equal and indivisible security, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"I would like to emphasize - Russia will continue to develop a mutually beneficial partnership and friendship with everyone who shares the values of freedom and justice, advocates strict compliance with international law and a comprehensive, equal, and indivisible security system," Putin said.

He emphasized that this is a duty to everyone who went through the terrible trials of World War II.

In this difficult period for Russia, its fate depends on everyone, so we need to look up to the generation of victors in the Great Patriotic War, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the Victory Parade.

"Russia is now going through a difficult, milestone period, the fate of the Motherland, its future depends on each of us," he said.

"Today, on Victory Day, we realize this even more acutely and clearly and invariably look up to the generation of victors - brave, noble, and wise, for their ability to cherish friendship and persevere in the face of adversity, for their confidence in themselves and their country, and for their sincere and unselfish love for their Motherland," Putin emphasized.

He added that Russia rejects the claims of any states and alliances to exclusivity. "We reject the claims of any state or alliance to exclusivity. We know what such ambitions lead to," he said.

Relations with Russia are really important for Israel – Ambassador to Moscow

MOSCOW

RELATIONS with Russia are really important for Israel, Israeli Ambassador to Moscow Simona Halperin said in an interview with TASS.

"The relations between Israel and Russia is really important to us. I think it's mutual. I have very good contacts on a personal level, on a professional level, and I'm grateful for that," Halperin (pictured) noted.

The diplomat stressed that dialogue between Israel and Russia is important, including on those topics where the parties "absolutely disagree."

She was commenting on her summons to the Russian Foreign Ministry shortly after starting work in this position in connection with "unacceptable statements."

The ambassador added that her

task is not only to identify existing differences, but also to develop relations between the countries in general. According to her, during the several months of her stay in Russia, this process proceeded "quite seriously."

"One of the most valuable things that describes the relationship between Israel and Russia is that we can frankly tell each other everything we need to say. And I personally believe very much in direct, frank dialogue," she went on.

"I'm happy to say that I communicate well with many people [in Russia], often with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, with other departments. It is important that Russia, my Russian colleagues, know Israel's position. It is important that I can hear Russia's position from them, even if they absolutely disagree," the diplomat said. **Agencies**



China's tunnel boring machine industry achieves leapfrog development

A TUNNEL boring machine (TBM), also referred to as full-section tunnel boring machine, is a machine used to excavate tunnels. It combines multiple technologies such as machinery, electronics, information technology, and artificial intelligence, being acclaimed as the "king of construction machinery."

More than two decades ago, China did not have its own TBM. Today, Chinese-produced TBMs account for nearly 70 percent of the global market.

How did the Chinese TBMs make this giant leap? People's Daily reporters delved into the TBM manufacturing companies to uncover the secrets.

In early 2000, when China Railway Group Limited (hereafter referred to as China Railway) decided to develop its own TBM, some thought it was an unrealistic idea.

Wang Dujuan, chief engineer of China Railway Hi-Tech Industry Corporation Limited (CRHIC), a subsidiary of China Railway, said that a TBM has over 20,000 components, and its control system alone has more than 2,000 control points. "Many colleagues at that time had never even seen a TBM before," she recalled.

Thanks to substantial efforts and investments, China's first domestically developed earth pressure balance TBM with independent intellectual property rights made its debut in 2008, known as the "China Railway No. 1" TBM.

On February 6, 2009, the China Railway No. 1 TBM started working for a metro project in north China's Tianjin municipality. Four months later, a tunnel of the Tianjin Metro Line 3 was holed through, with ground settlement carefully controlled within 3 millimeters and passing all expert inspections.

Since then, the Chinese TBM industry has gained momentum, with a number of competitive manufacturers emerging and growing, such as China Railway Engineering Equipment Group Co., Ltd. (CREG), China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Corporation Limited (CRCHI), and CCCC Tianhe Mechanical Equipment Manufacturing Co., Ltd. affiliated with China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC).

Today, China boasts the world's largest TBM fleet, with approximately 5,000 units. Over 90 percent of China's metro tunnels were constructed using TBM technology.

A TBM stands several stories high and is as heavy as hundreds of elephants. It consists of tens of thousands of components. To enhance the resilience of the industrial and supply chains, every link of the industry must collaborate effectively.

"China's TBM industry follows a development path where the manufacturing of complete TBMs drives the manufacturing of components," said Zhang Zhiguo, general manager of CREG. Ten years ago, bearings and gearboxes needed to be imported due to weaknesses in

the industrial chain, and today, these weaknesses are gradually being resolved, Zhang told People's Daily.

Crafting main bearings proved to be one of the most challenging tasks due to the extreme and harsh operating conditions they face as the "heart" of a TBM, including ultra-heavy loads, large eccentric loads, and frequently varying loads. Besides, they need to meet critical standards such as high reliability and long service life. The material selection, design, manufacturing, and testing of them also presented immense difficulties. That's why they are considered the pinnacle of the industrial chain of large-scale, high-end, precision bearings.

To finalize the design for main bearings, the Chinese research and development team experimented with hundreds of materials and processes, conducted thousands of theoretical verifications and design optimizations, and analyzed tens of thousands of inspection and test data sets.

In collaboration with leading specialty steel companies in China, CRCHI conducted in-depth research on material elemental matching and methods for controlling impurities and carbides, ultimately overcoming the bottleneck in the materials used for main bearings.

On October 12, 2023, a TBM main bearing with a diameter of 8.61 meters rolled off the production line at a CRCHI facility in Changsha, central China's Hunan prov-

ince. It was the world's largest-diameter main bearing for TBM, boasting the heaviest weight and highest bearing capacity.

"It marked that China has become a global leader in the development and manufacturing of ultra-large diameter main bearings. Chinese-produced TBM main bearings now cover the full range from small to ultra-large diameters," said Liu Feixiang, chief scientist of CRCHI.

Additionally, Chinese enterprises are consistently moving towards intelligent and automated TBM operations, exploring autonomous excavation and remote control capabilities.

For instance, China's independently developed TBM "Linghang" is equipped with a system to monitor the status of key components in real-time, including the wear and temperature of cutting tools and slurry circulation pipes. It also provides damage predictions, effectively improving the construction efficiency.

The "Linghang" TBM also provides functions of intelligent excavation, intelligent assembly, advanced geological forecasting, and tail-end seal safety warnings. Therefore, it can automatically adjust parameters and excavate in ordinary geological conditions and can be controlled remotely from the ground surface under special circumstances.

People's Daily



Simba SC interim head coach, Juma Mgunda.

Mgunda, Matola carry Simba SC's hopes in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

SIMBA SC's interim head coach Juma Mgunda and his assistant Selemani Matola have been touted as tacticians with what it takes to appease the club's frustrated fans.

The notion came about after Simba SC had gone through a difficult period, which had the club suffering losses and posting draws in several Premier League ties.

Simba SC's less satisfactory outcomes handed its long-time rival, Yanga, an advantage in the race for the NBC Premier League title. Yanga, the league leader, is eyeing the NBC Premier League top honour for the third season in a row.

Yanga is leading the rest of the pack in the league, having collected 68 points, followed by second-placed Azam FC with 57 points while third-placed Simba SC has amassed 56 points and has one match in hand.

Even though Simba SC brought in foreign coaches and players, aiming to embark on an impressive run, the situation at the club is smoky, with some of the squad's fans pointing fingers at the officials claiming the latter are inefficient.

According to some soccer stakeholders, a series of less impressive outcomes attained by the Msimbazi Street outfit has left its fans frustrated, and the latter have directed their anger to the management—calling for the resignation of some of the officials.

Several other fans who are rooting for Simba SC have, on several social media sites, been demanding that some of the outfit's

players have no future in the club, insisting such footballers should leave given their performance is below standard.

A section of the squad's fans have claimed on social media that the two defeats the outfit had faced when locking horns with long-time rival, Yanga, have become the key reason for the fury and decision to part ways with two foreign coaches within five months.

Brazilian tactician Roberto Oliveira, alias 'Robertinho', was fired by Simba SC after the outfit's humiliating 5-1 loss to Yanga in the first phase of this season's NBC Premier League.

Algerian coach Abdelhak Benchikha also parted ways with the side a few days after the team had gone 2-1 down to Yanga in the second

phase match of the league.

The Msimbazi Street outfit, therefore, has had two foreign coaches leaving the club within one season.

Why has Mgunda and his technical bench had the squad staying optimistic about facing what is seemingly a strong tide?

While Simba SC was struggling with poor showing, some of the squad's fans had called for Mgunda's return to the club's technical bench.

The former Coastal Union forward was earlier handed Simba SC's women's side, Simba Queens—which is featuring in this season's Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League.

Mgunda has made his way back to Simba SC's technical bench for various reasons, one of which is his tolerance. The gaffer has, since coaching his beloved Coastal Union, been a coach who has an element of tolerance when a club is in a worse situation.

The charismatic gaffer moreover has what it takes to motivate his players, who have been affected psychologically once they are exposed to rumours of contract termination.

Mgunda further has techniques that can enable his outfit to win remaining league matches, particularly when the club is in the relegation zone and is battling to hold on to its place in the top flight.

The gaffer, for one, had Simba SC booking a place in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group Stage, having cruised to victory in the Second Preliminary Round.

His curriculum vitae also highlights positiveness. While he was Coastal Union head coach, he twice helped the side hold on to its spot in the NBC Premier League and also propelled the squad to the then Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final and lost to Yanga in the penalty shootout.

With such pedigree, Mgunda and his technical bench face the daunting task of having Simba SC regain form and excel in the remaining clashes.

Mgunda's return to the squad's technical bench was marked by a 2-2 draw with Namungo FC and thereafter a 2-0 victory over Mtibwa Sugar.

He needs to pull up his socks to ensure Simba SC achieves more positive results and secure the second spot in the NBC Premier League because the club's fans are eager to see it make it to the 2024/25 CAF Champions League.

'Mashujaa FC still a feared outfit in Premier League'

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

EVEN though Mashujaa FC went down 1-0 to Yanga in the ongoing NBC Premier League clash that took place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma recently, the Kigoma outfit should hardly be underrated.

A section of local soccer analysts have insisted that no club in the top flight should underestimate Mashujaa FC, given the squad still has what it takes to hold on to its place in the NBC Premier League.

The soccer analysts' caution has come about after the Kigoma outfit, coached by Abdallah Mohamed, displayed an improved performance marked by impressive tactical approaches in the past three matches of the second phase.

Mashujaa FC's leadership and players seem to have collaborative plans, aiming at seeing to it the side outfoxes opponents in the remaining league games and assures itself of featuring in next season's top flight.

Mashujaa FC, which was earlier playing in the Championship League, booked a place in this season's NBC Premier League thrillingly, defeating the then top-flight outfit, Mbeya City FC, in the relegation/promotion playoffs.

Mbeya City FC which participated in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League had, upon the league's conclusion, been languishing in the 15th position, while Coast Region's Ruvo Shooting was sitting 16th.

Mtibwa Sugar and Mbeya City FC had an opportunity to honour the relegation/promotion playoffs and—fortunately—Mtibwa Sugar man-



Mashujaa FC's head coach, Mohamed Abdallah.

aged to hold on to its spot in the top flight, whereas Mbeya City FC was relegated following defeat to Mashujaa FC in the playoffs.

Mashujaa FC had taken third place in the Championship League, thereby, landing an opportunity to battle it out in the relegation promotion playoffs with a top-flight squad.

Kitayosce FC, now known as Tabora United, and JKT Tanzania garnered automatic promotion to the Premier League as the army-owned JKT Tanzania had won the league and Tabora United had finished second in the showdown.

In the first 15 rounds of NBC Premier League ties, Mashujaa FC had posted poor results—having recorded many losses—but the second phase has witnessed the outfit showcasing changes with the club's management making good signings during the mini-transfer period.

With such changes, positive

results have come to the Kigoma outfit, with the side having managed to bundle Simba SC out of the CRDB Bank Federation Cup tournament, following victory over the latter in the Round of 16.

Mashujaa FC consequently secured qualification for the showdown's quarterfinals but the side's fairytale run ended with a loss to Ifeju SC in the stage, following a 4-3 loss in the penalty shootout at CCM Liti Stadium.

The Kigoma outfit thereafter forced Yanga to knuckle down to a 1-0 win when they met in a league clash that took place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium.

Ivorian forward Joseph Guede scored the lone goal in the 41st minute of the tie to propel Yanga to the much-needed victory.

It was Guede's sixth goal of the season, with the muscular forward's other goals having been netted whilst coming in as a substitute.

The soccer analysts pointed out that Mashujaa FC unexpectedly showcased great determination when the club took on Yanga. It was a tough duel, particularly in the second half.

Despite trailing 1-0, Mashujaa FC players were not discouraged, given they severally made their way into Yanga's box, forcing the Jangwani Street side's center-back Ibrahim Abdallah to make crucial tackles to keep the attackers at bay.

The Kigoma heroes' efforts to open up Yanga's defense succeeded and one of the former's strikers had his shot hitting the crossbar in what turned out to be a dangerous attempt.

The host's spirited showing between the 74th minute and 80th minute prompted Yanga's head coach Miguel Gamondi to make substitutions, in which midfielder Shekhan Ibrahim

and center-back Bakari Mwamnyeto came on to strengthen the defense.

Ally: Simba SC still eyeing CAF Champions League spot

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally is adamant his club will strive to secure one of the top two places in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League so it can feature in next season's CAF Champions League.

"Once you become a football fan, you should be ready for two situations, sorrow, and happiness, that is given, Simba SC is struggling at the moment in terms of goals we had this season, we have not fulfilled our plans at all," the official said.

"Our fans' presence in venues in various stadiums has been low, we need our fans to show up for their team, they need to support us during this period, we still have a chance to finish in the top two and play in CAF Champions League... we need them to come in big numbers," he remarked.

Ally had, mid this week, said his club was ready to lock horns with Azam FC which is flying high in the NBC Premier League, having a four-point gap with the Msimbazi Street outfit.

Simba SC, currently sitting third in the league, went on to garner a comprehensive 3-0 win over Azam FC in the top-flight clash which was played in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to narrow its points margin to just one point. Second-placed Azam FC has collected 57 points from 25 games.

"Our goal is to make sure



Simba SC Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally.

we win every game, Azam FC is in top form, that's not a secret, we need to prepare for the game," Ally stated before the tie.

"We know our players and technical bench understand what is in front of us, we are optimistic that we have the best squad to do the job and we are ready," the official pointed out.

Simba SC fielded a strong squad—with DR Congo defender Henock Inonga expected to start and partner Cameroonian Che Malone Fondoh after returning to full fitness.

Zambian midfielder Clatous Chama, now nursing an injury, missed out on the duel considering the midfielder also had a three-match suspension.

Ivorian forward Freddy Kouablan was expected to lead the striking force after regaining his goal-scoring form, winger Edwin Balua was further set to play on the right flank whereas Cameroonian Willy Onana was set to be fielded on the left flank.

After witnessing his squad regaining winning ways in the NBC Premier League, Ally called on the squad's supporters to make their presence felt in the clash against Azam FC.

The two teams met at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in a tense duel, with both fighting for the top-two finish. The clash's host-Azam FC, sitting second, has 57 points while third-placed Simba SC had—before the fixture—recorded 53 points.

Simba SC fans have—in their club's recent league clashes—not been attending in big numbers after the squad's hopes of clinching the NBC Premier League dwindled.

The fans' decrease in number in the club's ties was also brought about by its failure to secure a place in the CAF Champions League semi-finals.

The Msimbazi Street squad also crashed out of the CRDB Federation Cup, losing 6-5 to a 10-man Mashujaa FC in the Round of 16 clash which took place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma recently.

Despite clinching the season opener, Community Shield, and the re-introduced Muungano Cup showdown, Simba SC's goals have hardly been met.

American 14-year-old talent signs MLS pro deal with Man City awaiting

PHILADELPHIA

THE Philadelphia Union have signed 14-year-old talent Cavan Sullivan to a professional contract with the player expected to join Manchester City when he reaches 18.

Sullivan, an academy product, already plays for the Union's reserve team but the new deal will allow him to play in Major League Soccer and other competitions for the first team.

Sullivan, a United States Under-15 international, had attracted interest from a number of big-name foreign clubs.

Premier League clubs are not allowed to sign foreign players until they are 18 so Sullivan is expected to stay with Philadelphia until he reaches that age in September 2027.

"The collaboration between the Union and the City Group was -- I think (the thing) that did it for me," Sullivan told ESPN.

"I always watch Man City. They're like every kid's dream team. For them to come together and agree on something -- I sat with my family and my agents and we decided that it was the best plan."

Sullivan's older brother, Quinn, plays for the Union's first team and two other brothers, Ronan and Declan, are in the club's youth academy.

"I've been watching my home team, the Union, for as long as I remember and hoped that one day I'd get the chance to play for my city in front of my family, friends, and fans," Sullivan said in the club's release.

"Being able to not only play for the Union but to be able to play with my brother is a dream come true. I will give everything I have to this club and hope to help bring home some hardware. I'm thankful for the opportunity and hope to make Philadelphia proud."

Union coach Jim Curtin, speaking at a press conference, declined to discuss when the player would make his first team debut.

The youngest player to take the field in MLS was Freddy Adu, who made his MLS debut at 14 years and 306 days old in 2004.

"Cavan is 14. His job here will be to be a kid and play and reach his full potential. Our job here is to create an environment where can thrive," Curtin said.

"Cavan is a generational talent. That is not the opinion of just the Philadelphia Union. That is globally through scouts, clubs all over the world."

Sullivan stuck a slightly different tone, however, noting he has a lot of development still to undergo.

"To be honest, nothing really has happened yet and the work starts now. I still have a lot to do," he said.

"My main goal is to win MLS Cup, so development starts now. It does feel nice but there's still a lot of work to do for my part and a lot of room to grow."

AFP

FIFA claim Club World Cup schedule 'harmonious' as legal threat looms

WARNED of legal action over their plans for the 2025 Club World Cup, FIFA said Thursday they would guarantee player welfare in a harmonious schedule.

FIFA is however facing the threat of legal action from domestic leagues and player unions if there is no rescheduling of the 2025 Club World Cup.

A letter to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, seen by AFP, claims the sport's worldwide schedule is now "beyond saturation".

FIFA were swift to react.

"The FCWC tournament dates (15 June - 13 July) have been set to ensure that the scheduling of the tournament is harmoniously aligned with the IMC to allow sufficient time between the tournament final and the start of the season in many domestic leagues globally, and considering that a minimum of three days of rest between matches should be guaranteed in order to safeguard player welfare," a FIFA statement said.

The original letter sent by the World Leagues' Association (WLA) and FIFPRO, the international players' union, which include the Premier League and England's Professional Footballers' Association among their respective memberships warns changes are needed.

These include the new 32-team Club World Cup -- scheduled to take place in the United States in June and July 2025 -- have created "economic harm" to domestic leagues and pushed players "beyond their limits".

The letter urges FIFA's ruling council to reschedule the Club World Cup and re-open talks on the international calendar for the years up to 2030.

"Should FIFA refuse to formally commit to resolving the issues, as set out above, at its upcoming council, we shall be compelled to advise our members on the options available to them, both individually and collectively, to proactively safeguard their interests," the letter said.

"These options include legal action against FIFA, on which we have now commissioned external expert advice."

The football schedule will already expand next season, with the Champions League and Europa League to have eight first phase games compared to six this term.

AFP

Time running out now for Arsenal as Man City hunt Premier League glory

LONDON

ARSENAL have barely put a foot wrong in the Premier League in 2024 but, as the title race approaches the finish line, they desperately need a favour from Fulham, who host relentless Manchester City this weekend.

Mikel Arteta's Gunners, who travel to Manchester United, are one point clear at the top of the table with two matches to play but Pep Guardiola's men, crucially, have a game in hand.

Nottingham Forest will take a huge step towards safety if they beat in-form Chelsea, who are battling Newcastle and Manchester United for a European spot.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of the action.

"Arsenal cling to hope of City slip-up

When the 2023/24 fixture list came out, tomorrow's trip to Manchester United would have seemed a tricky task for Arsenal, but it is not looking that way now.

The Gunners, chasing their first Premier League title for 20 years, are likely to have been dislodged from the top



Mikel Arteta

Erik ten Hag

of the table by the time they kick off at Old Trafford tomorrow.

That is because second placed City, in the hunt for a historic fourth straight Premier League title, are in action at Fulham the previous day.

City are unbeaten against the London side in 21 games in all competitions.

Arsenal will be confident they can beat a spluttering United team, who appear increasingly likely to miss out on European football next season after their embarrassing 4-0 defeat at Crystal Palace on Monday.

City's game in hand is next week at Tottenham, where they have never even scored a goal in the league, but Spurs' form has deserted them and Erling Haaland is back to his marauding best.

Arsenal, boasting a superior goal difference, need City to stumble but the signs are not promising.

Newcastle, Chelsea battle for Europe

Newcastle and Chelsea are both making a late-season charge for a European place, helped by Manchester United's slump.

Eddie Howe's Newcastle are

in pole position to take either a Europa League or UEFA Conference League spot, depending on results in the last few rounds of the Premier League and in the FA Cup final between Manchester City and Manchester United.

They could even finish in fifth spot if Tottenham implode further.

Sixth-placed Newcastle, who host Brighton today, have won five of their past seven league games.

Free-scoring Chelsea were well off the pace just weeks ago, but a run of one defeat in their past 12 league games has given them hope of salvaging a troubled season.

Mauricio Pochettino's men travel to relegation-threatened Nottingham Forest knowing a win will keep alive their hopes of a European spot.

"Forest eye safety after turbulent campaign

Nottingham Forest learned this week that an appeal against their four-point penalty for breaching Premier League financial rules had been unsuccessful, but they are still close to securing top-flight safety.

If Forest better Luton's result against West Ham they will be on the brink of securing a third straight year in the

top-flight.

It has been a rollercoaster season for Forest, who were charged with improper conduct by the Football Association earlier this month after the club criticised VAR Stuart Attwell on social media following their defeat to Everton.

Forest boss Nuno Espirito Santo said he had "already moved on" after the failed appeal over their points deduction.

They are favourites to avoid the drop but if results go against them this weekend, they could yet face a shootout for survival with Burnley on the final weekend.

Fixtures Today (1400 GMT unless stated)

Fulham v Man City (1130), Bournemouth v Brentford, Everton v Sheff Utd, Newcastle v Brighton, Tottenham v Burnley, West Ham v Luton, Wolves v Crystal Palace, Nottingham Forest v Chelsea (1630)

Tomorrow Manchester United v Arsenal (1530)

Monday Aston Villa v Liverpool (1900)

AFP

Man U have gone past embarrassment – but they are still a danger to Arsenal

By Miguel Delaney

IT'S got to the point where, after nights like Monday, Erik ten Hag doesn't really know what to say any more. That's part of the problem at Manchester United right now. The manager's approaches aren't getting responses, and many of the players have stopped listening. That's what makes a defeat like that 4-0 to Crystal Palace inevitable, while also inuring the squad to the effects of such humiliations.

It's worse because there have now been so many. This was no longer abnormal, even for a club like United. There have been at least nine matches in Ten Hag's two seasons alone that have descended into farce. That is merely a conservative count, too, and it says much that one of them wasn't even a defeat. It's impossible not to include the recent penalty shootout victory over Coventry City in the FA Cup semi-final. That included a three-goal collapse that foreshadowed so much that happened against Palace. Ten Hag's United are so easy to play through, which means that Coventry game is obviously on this list.

It obviously isn't just about the scoreline but the nature of these games. That's why there's even an argument to be made for some victories, let alone draws. For Ten Hag's part, United had many similar games before his appointment, which points to the huge structural issues he has had to contend with. This isn't all on the Dutch coach. A clearout of the squad is obviously needed. Ineos are well aware of that, and have been especially critical

of recruitment in their audit of the club.

It's just Ten Hag has visibly made this worse. It's a shambles. Even allowing for the multiple personnel issues that Ten Hag has, they have been compounded by the inability to impose a proper tactical system. There's something bigger here than the embarrassment of one bad loss. They're not sudden football implosions. They're because the team doesn't work properly. They're undoubtedly the easiest side to face in the Premier League, relative to resources, but maybe even outright. Conceding so many goals to Coventry and Palace is a direct consequence of constantly allowing so many shots on goal.

Given all of that, as well as how Ineos are assessing the club, it's hard to think they will continue with Ten Hag. The constant speculation about Gareth Southgate won't go away. Ineos do see him as a top candidate. He has a strong relationship with many of the club's key figures. There are multiple complications with potentially getting Southgate this summer, however, since he wouldn't even be free until England's Euro 2024 campaign ends. That could be into late July. As with Dan Ashworth, though, Ineos have shown they are prepared to wait if it's the right man. They don't think inconveniences of time should completely condition such decisions, as it just puts off the future, otherwise.

They do have to be conscious of Profit and Sustainability Rules. That weighs over the entire summer for almost all Premier League

clubs. It will at least influence some decisions, given that it has so far dictated why Newcastle United are so intransigent on letting Ashworth go. Many in the game would chuckle if such concerns did affect United making the changes they want and need.

It would only lend to the chaos surrounding the club at the moment. That is the wider feeling from such humiliations, and why it feels a threshold has been crossed. We've gone way beyond embarrassment to comedy.

There is an unfortunately more infantilised term for that, that Arsenal will be all too familiar with. The extent of the humiliation for United makes it unavoidable. It is the club's "banter era". Every time you think it can't get worse, it does. So much for the Ralf Rangnick season proving a nadir. This is that again, but more extreme, since Ten was supposed to be the first modern coaching appointment of the post-Sir Alex Ferguson era.

It is for all those reasons it might actually be worse than Arsenal's era, too. For one, United are a bigger

and wealthier club with a more distinguished history of success. There was also the fact that Arsenal knew what the problem was. Arsene Wenger stayed for too long and there were then multiple institutional issues to resolve. Once they realised, they did fix everything quite quickly. A mere two and a half years after Mikel Arteta came in, they were ready to compete for a title. That should offer some hope for Ineos. It can be fixed quite quickly. It's just there is so much to fix.

All of which brings us to this Sunday, which has immense potential to offer another game on the humiliation list. United are now making so many errors that Arsenal should be able to comfortably win if they just perform with some degree of competence. Arteta's team have the capacity to destroy United.

Except, there is a conspicuous absence from that list, that also goes back much further. If you extend it past Ten Hag's time, after all, Tottenham Hotspur would get on for their 6-1 victory at Old Trafford in 2020. Arsenal wouldn't

appear, though. Their record at Old Trafford is so poor, having won just once there in their last 16 league visits. That has included a mere five draws, too. There is obviously an emotional history to this game for Arsenal, and that is the one spin on recent form. It was the same with United's recent matches against Liverpool.

Logic suggested they should get destroyed. Instead, football displayed its capacity to surprise. Something else happened, even if it's hard to pin down what that something was. This Arsenal, meanwhile, have their own form for being emotionally affected by such encounters. A clear example was the 2-2 draw at Liverpool last season. That was in the heat of the title race and this is even more of a furnace. These could well be the five days that decide the title either way. If Manchester City slip against Fulham on Saturday, Arsenal have this immense chance. If City win, Arsenal absolutely have to do it against United, to put maximum pressure on the champions

for a Tuesday trip to Tottenham.

There's so much swirling around. It just says an awful lot that there must be an appeal for some kind of chaos for United to have any chance. That is almost the most embarrassing element of all - but not quite.

For Arsenal's part, their own propensity for blow-ups appears to have calmed of late. You only have to look at the response to the defeats to Bayern Munich and Aston Villa that were expected to bring the implosion of last season. They have instead been the model of composure. It has maybe even been their best spell of the season, where the Gunners have been at their most convincing. Arteta is also responsible for Arsenal's one league win at Old Trafford since 2006, which was in his very first trip there in 2020.

Arsenal can't concern themselves with any of that. They just have to focus on the basics here, to perform to a competent level. Manchester United must do the same, but in a very different way, for very different reasons.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Time running out now for Arsenal as Man City hunt Premier League glory

PAGE 19

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kaili Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSEELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kaili Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SSPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

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05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Azam boss Dabo admits players lacked personality in Simba loss

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM boss Youssoup Dabo slammed his players for the lack of character shown in their humiliating defeat to Simba on Thursday.

Azam went into Thursday's contest bidding to keep their NBC Premier League title hopes alive, mathematically at least but lost 3-0 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

After missing a first-half penalty, the defeat for Azam was sealed with second-half goals by Sadio Kanoute, Fabrice Ngoma and substitute David Kameta.

Dabo was left frustrated and was critical of his players who performed particularly poorly in the second half to concede three unanswered goals.

"I said before the game that you need to play with a big personality in these kinds of games. And the personality is when you have the opportunity to score you do so, when you control the game you need to force yourself to score.

"In the first half, we controlled the game. The opponent had a lot of difficulties managing our game positions but sometimes we kept the ball a lot. We did not run to attack in the final third, and the only time we did it resulted in a penalty," he said.

Dabo's side remain second in the table, 11 points behind leaders Young Africans and just one point clear of third-placed Simba who have a game in hand.

Before the loss to Simba, Azam had managed to stay in the title race thanks to their incredible 18 consecutive league matches without a defeat.

In chasing their 19th consecutive game without defeat they ultimately collapsed to only their third league defeat of the season.

The result also means that the second spot that guarantees CAF Champions League football next season is no longer in their own hands.

With five games to play, Simba now have the upper hand in the battle to finish second but they have to win their game in hand against Dodoma Jiji.

Both sides will return to the pitch tomorrow as Simba make the long trip to the Lake Zone to face Kagera Sugar while Azam are entertained by KMC at Chamazi Complex.

Mgunda heaps praise on Simba players after Azam victory



Simba SC striker David Kameta (Duchu) scores their third goal against Azam FC during their NBC Premier League match at Benjamin Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Simba won 3-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA interim head coach Juma Mgunda has expressed delight with his players for their determination and zeal in the team's 3-0 win over Azam at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Thursday.

Second half goals from Sadio Kanoute, Fabrice Ngoma and David Kameta handed Simba a decisive victory over their direct and city rivals Azam.

Speaking to the press after the game, Mgunda was first asked what he said to his players to provoke the significantly improved performance.

The manner in which they won by totally outclassing Azam left the tactician a pleased man as he spoke glowingly of his largely players who managed to give themselves the advantage in the second spot race heading into the last five games of the

season. "I thank my players because sometimes we talk to them like a father to his children and tell them the importance of all these matches. We sat down to talk and that's why I say I should take this opportunity to congratulate my players because they themselves said that we want this match, so we will do our best to get a result.

"I thank them for the good

work they did. I always say that all players registered with Simba have the right and responsibility to serve the club. In any office, there are rights and responsibilities. Serving Simba is their duty, therefore they have fulfilled their duty to serve Simba, and that is why they were signed by the club.

"We gave each other responsibilities because this match was difficult. It was a

decisive match to see where we are going. It had tension and pressure. And the weight of the match itself because we were playing against a good team with good players and their performance can be seen by all," he said.

Simba remain third on the table but are now just one point behind Azam but with the advantage of a game in hand as the two

sides battle for the second spot in order to play CAF Champions League football next season.

Simba will now face Kagera Sugar, Dodoma Jiji, Geita Gold, KMC and JKT Tanzania in their last five matches this season.

First is tomorrow's trip to play Kagera Sugar at Kaibata Stadium followed by a visit to Dodoma on Thursday.

Katwila inspires confidence in Mtibwa Sugar's Premier League survival journey

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

MTIBWA Sugar reignited their hopes of remaining in the NBC Premier League next season with a convincing 3-0 victory over Tabora United on Thursday.

The win, their first in over two months, comes at a critical juncture for the Turiani-based team, who were languishing in the relegation zone.

The match, played at Mtibwa Sugar's home ground, Manungu Complex, was a relegation scrap for both sides.

Mtibwa Sugar entered the game in the 16th place with a mere 17 points from 25 matches, desperately needing a win to climb the table. Tabora United, just one position above them with 23 points, were equally determined to avoid the drop.

The home side took the initiative from the outset, and their efforts were rewarded in the 15th minute when Jimyson Mwanuke opened the scoring after a well-placed pass from Charles Ilanfy.

Ilanfy then turned scorer himself in the 56th minute, heading home a Seif Karihe cross to double Mtibwa Sugar's advantage.

Nickson Mosha sealed the victory with a third goal in the 79th minute.

Najim Mussa, Tabora United's attacking midfielder, was a constant threat throughout the match, but his efforts were ultimately in vain as Mtibwa Sugar held firm for the crucial win.

The most notable aspect of the game was the urgency displayed by both teams. In a rare occurrence, the players returned to the field for the second half before the referees even arrived, highlighting their desperation for a positive result.

The victory marks a significant turnaround for Mtibwa Sugar, who had gone winless in their previous six matches. They had suffered defeats against KMC, JKT Tanzania, Simba, and Azam, and could only manage draws against Kagera Sugar and Geita Gold.

Despite the win, Mtibwa Sugar remain in the 16th place with 20 points after 26 games. They have scored 17 goals and conceded 26.

Tabora United also remain in the 15th place with 23 points.

After the match, Mtibwa Sugar's head coach, Zuberi

Katwila, praised his players for their commitment and fighting spirit.

"This victory gives us the confidence we need to win the remaining games," he declared. "We haven't given up hope; anything can still happen."

Looking ahead to the remaining four matches, Katwila emphasized the team's desire to stay in the top league.

"We will fight tooth and nail in the remaining games," he said. "Our goal remains to play in the NBC Premier League next season."

Mtibwa Sugar's upcoming fixtures are crucial - they face Young Africans at home on Monday, followed by home and away clashes against Namungu and Mashujaa respectively. Their final match of the season will be against Ifhefu on May 28.

The victory has provided a glimmer of hope for Mtibwa Sugar. However, their fight for survival is far from over.

The next four matches will be a true test of their character and determination, and only time will tell if they can maintain their winning momentum and secure their place in the NBC Premier League next season.



Mtibwa Sugar head coach Zuberi Katwila. (Agencies)

Flexibles by David Chikoko

