



**Stakeholders laud TPA's port renovations**  
Page 3

**Minister orders that destroyed road warning signs be replaced**  
Page 4

**8th JNHPP power plant adds 235 megawatts to national grid**  
Page 6

**BoT targeting relatively tight monetary policy in 2024/2025**

**Toyota shareholders demand vote against Akio chairman**

**Tanga councils directed to respond to CAG queries**

**Stakeholders for ports authority on wharfage collection**

Page 13

# TATO discounts claims of Ruaha Park 'abuses'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

**K**ey tour operators are voicing their concerns over claims of human rights abuses by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) in its efforts to incorporate the Ihefu and Usangu wetland into Ruaha National Park.

Sirili Akko, the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) executive director, says claims by international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and allied media outlets on the issue are groundless.

In a statement, TATO highlights the negative impact the malicious allegations have created on the travel and tourism industry in the country, urging self-proclaimed whistle blowers to seek accurate information and take note of repercussions of spreading unsubstantiated claims.

TATO unequivocally defends TANAPA, condemning foreign actors who assert that the conservation and tourism agency is forcibly evicting people from their 'ancestral lands' for tourism purposes.

TATO's response was arguably directed at the US-based Oakland Institute, whose reservations and outright hostility to the conservation efforts on the wetland (an ecosystem covering land in two adjacent regions) recently led to World Bank funding of the conservation project being halted at two thirds mark.

A total of \$50m is reported to have been withheld by the global lender on account of the US NGO petitioning members of the US House of Representatives, which lately sent a team for a visit to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, whose plan to relocate arguably indigenous people from the area to preserve the now threatened wildlife sanctuary has met with withering criticism from a number of pro-indigenous people organisations.

Oakland Institute and its allies say that the government is engaged in forceful evictions of communities from ancestral lands, which TATO, housing over 300 professional tour operators, vehemently rejects.

It says that the decision dating 2008 to incorporate key water catchment areas of Ihefu and Usangu plains into Ruaha National Park was intended to curb unsustainable agricultural and pastoral practices.

Analysts recall that back in 2003, agricultural and pastoral activities in the context of population growth led to a drastic reduction in river flows across Tanzania. Hydropower generation suffered, resulting in widespread power outages, they say.

TATO points out that unlike neighboring countries with titles to ancestral lands, all land in Tanzania is vested in the public domain, so those offered land for any purposes are subject to relocation if it serves broader public interests.

The drying up of the Ihefu Valley and

TURN TO Page2

## SPORTS

Page 20



**Yanga reveal exciting pre-season tour and European training camp for 2024/25 season**

Page 18



**Clatous Chama's future with Simba to be decided this week**



**President Samia Suluhu Hassan welcomes children to State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday in marking June 16 as the International Day of the African Child, also known as the Day of the African Child. She underlined the need for the government, families and society to work together in safeguarding and promoting the upbringing of children, including by providing them with quality education. Photo: State House**

## CNG shift: Stakeholders faulting introducing levy

By Getrude Mbagu

MOTOR vehicle operators have raised concern over the government's plan to levy compressed natural gas (CNG) used in motor vehicles, saying that

the move will frustrate efforts to shift from petrol and diesel as fuel.

In separate interviews over the weekend, a number of drivers faulted the move saying that it will increase costs for users.

Vehicle conversion expenses to adapt to gas use costs \$800 (2m/-) per vehicle, 'which is still a challenge to many,' they said, seeing the levy as worsening costs of adapting to gas.

When tabling the 49.35trn/-

central government budget for fiscal 2024/25 Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba proposed amending the Road and

TURN TO Page2

## Regional states think of joint medical industries

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

EAST, Central and Southern African countries are examining the possibility of setting up joint pharmaceutical industries to reduce dependency on foreign imports.

This proposal is one among resolutions of the east, central and southern African regional best practices forum and joint consultative committee meeting here at the weekend.

Dr Dingani Moyo, a Zimbabwean professor of oc-

As a health-oriented organization we encourage regular exercise among our staff and the city residents for their physical and mental wellbeing

cupational health and key participant, told journalists that African countries intend to come up with joint pharm industries on a contractual basis, to contain diseases and

make treatments more affordable.

Frank Mmbando, a health sector official at the East African Community (EAC) secretariat said Tanzania was ready to offer land for such outlays would the need arise.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango is expected to grace the climax of the regional event on Wednesday, featuring a ministerial conference for the golden jubilee of the regional health community forum.

Prof Yoswa Gambisya, the East, Central and

Southern Africa (ECSA) health community executive director, said that throughout the week the various countries will be showcasing achievements of ECSA operations for the past half century.

The ECSA ministerial conference for the health community's 50th anniversary has achievements it is fielding, including efforts to fight 'mortality' rates of organizations in the region, in maintaining regional health com

TURN TO Page2

## Key ministers laud 1.2trn/- in tripartite Mkulazi pact

By Correspondent Paul Mabeja, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has signed agreements to lease 30,000 hectares of Mkulazi farms in Morogoro Region, to three companies for the production of sugar, soybeans and yellow corn with an investment pegged at 1.2trn/-.

TURN TO Page2





## TATO discounts claims of Ruaha Park 'abuses'

FROM PAGE 1

Usungu Plains water catchment areas, critical for the Great Ruaha River, had severe consequences as the river is the main water source to hydropower dams at Mtera dam on the border between Iringa and Dodoma regions, as well as Kidatu dam in Morogoro Region. Lately it also feeds the dam for the strategic downstream Nyerere hydropower station.

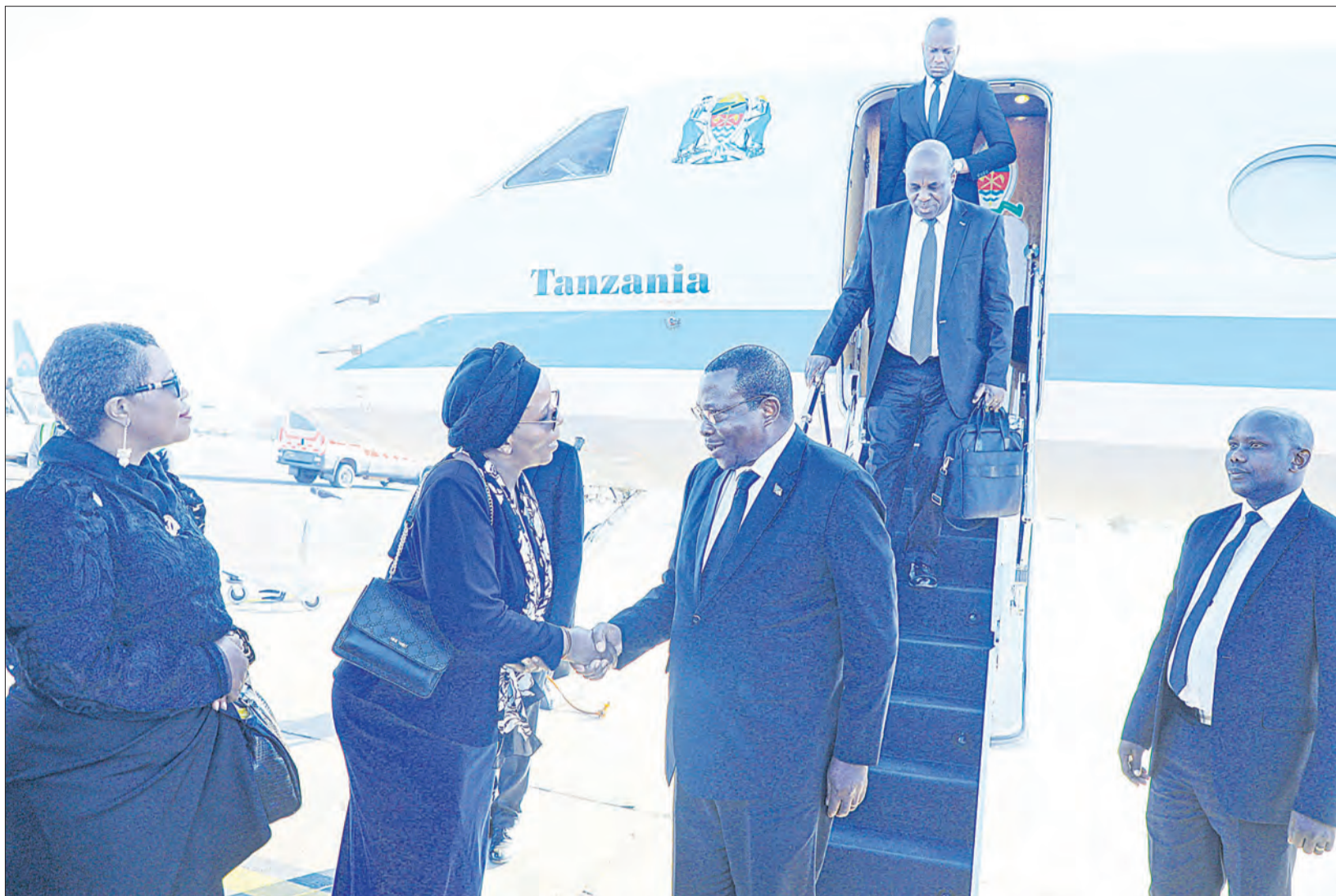
Opening the Nyerere hydropower station is expected to tilt the balance of sourcing of power back to hydro sources, as it has for a while been dominated by the more expensive natural gas generation. Findings of the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute indicate that the decline in the Great Ruaha and its tributaries significantly impacted the buffalo population and other fauna within the Ruaha National Park.

Similarly, the Sangu ethnic group, original pastoralists in the affected water catchment areas, were few in number and lacked sufficient cattle to raise alarm, while migrant pastoralists invaded the area in the decades after independence, as Tanzania had a population of nine million, increasing to over 61 million in the August 2022 census. Analysts say that pastoralists in the Ihefu and Usungu water catchment areas face critical

challenges, with cattle herds of 3,000 to 7,000 for one pastoralist, alongside a range of other water users downstream.

Last year, the Oakland Institute published a report accusing the Tanzanian government of expanding Ruaha National Park solely to boost tourism revenue, potentially at the expense of local villagers. The eviction process, coupled with routine park patrols, led to the confiscation of property—livestock, fish, and other trophies—from villagers residing near the water catchment. The World Bank, which supported Tanzania's Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project with a \$150m loan in 2017, faced scrutiny due to the Oakland Institute's claims.

The REGROW initiative is intended to enhance natural resource management and tourism assets across southern Tanzania, including Ruaha, Nyerere, Mikumi, and Udzungwa national parks. Despite bureaucratic delays, the REGROW project finally gained momentum in 2019. However, with the Oakland Institute's claims of forced evictions, rights abuses and environmental harm, the balance of \$50m in funding was withheld towards the end of the 2023/24 financial year.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured shortly after jetting into Lilongwe's Kamuzu International Airport yesterday ready to represent President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the funeral of Malawi's Vice President, Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima, who died in an air crash last Monday. Photo: VPO

## Regional states think of joint medical industries

FROM PAGE 1

munity cohesion during the period, he said.

ECSA organised a charity health walk which saw hundreds of participants trek five kilometres, within the vicinity of the conference complex in the city. "As a health-oriented organization we encourage

regular exercise among our staff and the city residents for their physical and mental wellbeing," he stated.

Dr Godfrey Philipo of the Surgeons College at ECSA-HC said that walking is among crucial exercises to help prevent non-communicable diseases that

of late have become a threat in society.

Organisers said of the five kilometers walk as 'step by step for better health and mental wellbeing,' as a curtain raiser for the golden jubilee events plus helping people to connect with fellow participants.

This will facilitate keener

celebration of the organization's achievements while promoting health and wellness, he stated, while Emmanuela Kaganda, the Arumeru district commissioner, chief guest at the health charity walk, praised ECSA HC for its half century milestone.

Kelvin Mboma, business officer for the KCB Bank

Arusha branch, said KCB regularly supports the charity walk as the institution is a reliable KCB partner.

The health walk was complemented with voluntary blood donation and free health diagnosis at the General Tyre grounds in Njiro area on the eastern outskirts of the city, organisers noted.



Kishapu district commissioner Joseph Mkude (2nd-R) cuts the ribbon yesterday to launch an office for the association of Masanga ward elders. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Ministers laud 1.2trn/- tripartite Mkulazi pact

FROM PAGE 1

Gilead Teri, the TIC executive director, signed the agreements with the companies, witnessed by the Planning and Investment state minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo, Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe and Exaud Kigaha, the Industry and Trade deputy minister.

The director said that the agreements are the first major agro-sector since economic reform started nearly 40 years ago, as part of implementa-

tion of the Mkulazi agricultural complex plan.

The companies will make a large investment in the cultivation of sugarcane for sugar production along with soybeans and yellow corn basically for export, he said, noting that the firms have each been allocated 10,000 hectares.

"This signing which took place today is historic in the agricultural sector," he said, noting that the landmark accord is one among fruits of the visits made by

President Samia Suluhu Hassan in various countries since taking office.

He listed the companies as Long Pin, a local firm, Eagle Hills and Food Platform from China and India respectively, likely to provide 9,000 direct jobs and up to 11,000 indirect opportunities.

Prof. Mkumbo hailed TIC for negotiating the agreements, citing a distant remark by founder President Julius Nyerere who said "It is foolish to seek an industrial revolution instead of an agricultural revolution," underlining that

it is agro-sector change that can anchor meaningful change, not expecting a vast number of industries being set up by foreign investors.

"We don't make cars, we don't sell weapons, so agriculture will be the area that will bring about a revolution in industries," the minister noted, paying gratitude to the president for efforts to find investors in various parts of the world.

"We promise that we will monitor this investment very closely," he added.

## CNG shift: Stakeholders faulting introducing levy

FROM PAGE 1

Fuels Tolls Act, CAP 220 to charge 382/- per kilogramme of CNG used in motor vehicles.

The measure is intended to increase government revenue for roads repair and maintenance, plus pushing for equity with vehicles using petroleum fuels in contributing to road maintenance and repairs, he said.

Christian Oswald, tricycle rider, said he was shocked to hear the move, thinking that it would deter people from converting their vehicles to using gas as there are costs to conversion. "The government knows how costly it is to convert petrol or diesel-fuelled vehicles to natural gas but it has decided to make things even harder," he said.

Miraji Salum, a car driver said that as CNG is locally produced no tax introduction to its use was needed as it will have an impact on the rate of conversion from petroleum products to natural gas.

This is not good in the face of major efforts invested by the government and development partners to transform the public view to adopting natural gas, he said, wondering what happens to petrol-diesel stations being built at a hectic pace.

Regani Munisi, a youth employed in connecting CNG systems in motor vehicles, said the move may snag the gas industry and e-mobility efforts.

Young people employed

in the industry will also feel the challenge on account of customers, he said, underlining that the government has lately invested a lot of efforts to encourage the public to convert vehicles to natural gas use.

"This gave us huge hopes, attracting us to enter into the business, but with this move, I am sure that the pace for motorists shifting to gas will slow down," he said. Yustin Mwalima, an environmental stakeholder said encouraging vehicle owners to convert to gas saves costs, promote the economy and helps fight pollution, as petrol, diesel are notorious for greenhouse gas emissions.

He urged the government to ensure that it focuses on creating supportive measures to attract more to convert their vehicles to natural gas.

He urged the government to favour green policies benefiting local industries to manufacture or assemble natural gas vehicles, quality spare parts, building enough CNG filling stations and a well-connected natural gas distribution infrastructure.

He referred to reports show that about 5000 vehicles have converted to gas at the moment, noting that the number is still too low. Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt have already mostly aligned the use of natural gas vehicles in energy policies, he added.



## 'Prioritise transparency to avoid disqualification of poll aspirants'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A CALL has been made for authorities to ensure that the processes of picking and returning nomination forms by aspirants are transparent to avoid the repeat of 2020 General Election where many office seekers were disqualified and their would-be opponents won unopposed.

Rev Fr Charles Kitima, Secretary General of Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) made the call here at the weekend when contributing at a stakeholders meeting organised by the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) on regulations for civic elections slated for later this year.

He advised that there should be transparency when aspirants return forms to eliminate complaints of unfairness emanating from disqualification of aspirants.

Peter Konki, Archbishop of Elim Pentekoste Tanzania, urged the government to increase the scope of receiving views on improvements to the draft regulations.

"Providing people with the freedom to air their views builds people's faith in the government," he said.

Dr Astronaut Bagile, Executive Director of Women in Social Entrepreneurship (WISE) said that gender-based violence has been hindering many women from participating in local government elections due to abusive treatment.

She thanked the government because this year's regulations have shown hope to eradicate the challenge by holding accountable those who insult women who come forward to compete for leadership positions.

Hemed Jalala, Chief Sheikh of Shia Ithnaasharia Tanzania (T.I.C) commended the government's move to engage religious leaders to provide their opinions on the regulations.

"Religious leaders are important stakeholders in elections as they are the ones who preach about peace, love and unity. So, bringing us here today is commendable," he said.

Opening the meeting, Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Dr Festo Dugange said the Local Government Act gives power to the minister in charge of the portfolio to prepare local government elections regulations as well as supervise the exercise.



Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (2nd-L, gesturing) issues instructions after assessing progress in the construction of Afya Tanzania health centre in Simanjiro District on Saturday. Right (foreground) is Simanjiro district commissioner Fakiu Lulandala. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## African airlines headed for 100m passengers milestone

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN airlines are likely to cross the 100 million passengers mark for the first time in 2025, on the back of an aggressive push to open new routes and increased frequencies by local carriers.

The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) projects the passenger numbers will reach 98 million by close of the year 2024 - a 15 percent rise compared to 2023 figures

and more than the highest ever figure of 95 million, recorded in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. "Despite ongoing post-pandemic hurdles, the airline sector sustained its recovery momentum this year, witnessing a resurgence in passenger demand...signifying a strong recovery for the industry," said AFRAA in latest industry report.

From the smallest to the largest, Africa's airline operators are

almost all increasing routes and frequency, mostly concentrated within the continent. The trend expected to boost Intra-Africa connectivity.

According to AFRAA, Intra-Africa connectivity surged across regions, with major hubs such as Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Abidjan, and Lome witnessing a notable uptick in connectivity.

Ethiopian Airline is leading local carriers in regional expansion

as it eyes a 30 percent growth in passenger numbers by mid-2024.

Among the airline's latest route expansion include start of three-weekly services to Maun, its second destination in the Republic of Botswana after Gaborone this June. In May, the airline launched another thrice weekly passenger services to Freetown, Sierra Leone via Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

"Ethiopian Airlines, committed

to its Pan-African roots, continues to connect every part of Africa and beyond," Ethiopian Airlines Group Chief Executive Officer, Mesfin Tasew said during the launch of Maun route.

Ethiopian Airline which champions a vast intra-Africa network operating to more than 60 destinations in the continent, airlifted about 13.9 million passengers in the year ending June 2023.

Over the past year, the airline

has also launched to new international routes including London Gatwick, resumed schedules to destinations like Madrid and Bangui, and increased frequencies on existing routes like Addis Ababa-Seoul.

Kenya Airways is also strengthening its network in the continent with plans to begin a new route connecting Nairobi directly to Maputo, Mozambique starting June 14, 2024. The national carrier cit-

## Stakeholders praise port upgrades, new operators

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) and some individuals have hailed transformation taking place at Tanzania's ports, attributing the same for increased revenue collection.

Commenting on dividends handed to the government by 145 companies on Tuesday whereby the TPA topped the list, TPSF Managing Director Raphael Maganga attributed increased port revenue to improved infrastructure, especially at the Port of Dar es Salaam where eight berths are managed by foreign companies and three are jointly managed by the TPA and DP World, a Dubai-based company.

"We have reached a stage where the port's ICT system is linked to that of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and other institutions. This explains TPA's increased revenue, profits hence the dividend to the government. It explains the huge contri-

bution of the private sector to this country," he said.

TNBC Executive Secretary Godwill Wanga commended TPA for giving the biggest dividend to the government, saying that its success is testament to how Tanzania has improved environment of doing business

"The government has made effort in ensuring that the environment of doing business remains enabling and friendly so that individuals and private companies do business profitably," he said, adding that improvements port operations is a good example of successful public-private partnership ventures.

Dr Tasco Luambano said TPA's huge dividend to the government has silenced critics of private investment in port operations. "I talked about the importance of having competition in running ports. TPA's 2023/24 dividend proves increased efficiency as a result of competition and that competition has contributed to increased revenue. Critics are now quite," he said.



Christina Mngara (2nd-R), a coordinator with the Dodoma Office of the Tanzania Foundation for Excellence in Disability, symbolically presents school bags to children with albinism yesterday in marking the Day of the African Child. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Ghana to delay more cocoa delivery as supply crisis ups

ACCRA

THE world's second largest cocoa producer Ghana is looking to delay delivery of up to 350 000 tonnes of beans to next season due to poor crops, five sources told Reuters in a further worsening of the outlook for the global chocolate industry.

Chocolate makers around the world are raising prices for consumers after cocoa more than doubled in value this year alone following a third year of poor harvests in Ghana and Ivory Coast, responsible for 60 percent of global production.

The market had previously estimated Ghana would roll forward some 250 000 metric tons of cocoa, equiv-

alent to about half its current crop. Cocobod, Ghana's cocoa regulator, said the country was looking to roll over "some volumes, but not in those (350 000 ton) quantities."

The country's cocoa crop has been ravaged by adverse weather, bean disease and illegal gold mining, which often displaces cocoa farms.

Cocoa prices have hit \$10,000 per ton due to supply and production concerns in Ghana. Prices skyrocketed in April because factories in Ghana and the Ivory Coast stopped production, citing high seed costs.

The ton price on the Intercontinental Exchange hit a record \$11,722 at that time. The main reasons for sup-

ply issues were unfavourable weather conditions and the phenomena such as El Nino, and plant diseases.

After the surge in April, supply concerns eased toward the end of the month and the first week of May, as prices fell 24 percent between April 27 and May 4, dipping below \$7,000 per ton, which was its fastest decline of all time.

Currently, cocoa prices are on the rise with weather concerns on the agenda, as the ton price hit \$9,980 on Wednesday, up 7.8 percent on a daily basis.

Analysts said the surge in price stemmed from supply concerns in Ghana, as the country plans to postpone the deliveries of up to 350,000 tons of cocoa beans until next season

due to poor crops, and cocoa production in Ghana has been on the decline for some time due to climate change and illegal gold mining overshadowing cocoa farms.

Additionally, news that Ghanaian farmers are allegedly smuggling cocoa beans to neighboring countries to sell for higher profit also influenced the rise in prices.



## Minister wants warning signs put at damaged section of road

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

WORKS deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya has instructed Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) to put warning signs as well as conduct regular inspections at the Mount Busunzu area where part of the infrastructure has been destroyed.

According to him, the 100-metre part of the road which has been destroyed poses risk to road users if it remains without signs to communicate the dangers ahead.

He made the directive at the weekend here when inspecting construction of the 260km-Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu road, saying that the government has already spotted the challenge and that a team of experts will recommend what exactly should be done to renovate the destroyed section. "Putting warning signs in the area is important because we have new road users every day; it is important to inform them how to use the area to prevent avoidable accidents," he said.

The deputy minister further said that the government continues with the con-

struction of the Manyovu-Mnani-Kasulu whereby 26km of the road have already been constructed at tarmac level with expectation to complete it by October this year. He wanted the Tanroads Manager for Kigoma Region to continue to supervise contractors to ensure that they complete all projects on time and at the required standards.

In addition, Kasekenya thanked the government for the efforts to open up and connect Kigoma Region with various opportunities through modern transport infrastructure.

According to him, with the investments, it is now easy for Kigoma residents to travel to neighbouring regions as well as countries like Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, a situation which stimulates trade and economic development.

Hamisi Juma, an engineer with M/s Conseil Ingenierie Limited (CIRA SAS), said construction of the 59.35-km Mvugwe-Nduta road has reached 81.49 percent and that it is expected to be completed in August this year.



Works deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (L) has a word with Tanroads' Kigoma regional manager Narcis Choma (gesturing) and other officials yesterday during an inspection tour of progress in the implementation of the 260-km Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu road project. This is at a point along the Mvugwe-Nduta stretch. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

## Election official anticipating over 100,000 voters in Iramba District

By Correspondent **Thobias Mwanakatwe, Iramba**

A TOTAL of 141,521 people in Iramba District, Singida Region are set to be registered in the permanent voter register ready to exercise their rights in the forthcoming local government elections later this year.

Elia Ziwa, Iramba District Election Officer, said this at the weekend here when addressing leaders and residents of Mgongo, Ntwike and Tulya wards on the importance of registering.

According to him, the number is an increase by 9,985 people from

the 131,536 people who were expected to be registered in 2019 whereby the exercise ended up registering 98,000 voters only.

Ziwa said that it is important for everyone to register in the permanent voter register to have their information at the hamlets, villages and wards so that they participate in this year's local government elections.

"We will ensure all eligible voters are registered. Eligible voters are those who have attained 18 and years and above or would attain that age before the election," he said. He reminded those who have moved from one place to another

for settlement to also update their information in the voter register.

Michael Ngomo, Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Officer in Iramba District, said the bureau is well prepared to ensure that it prevents bribery incidents during elections.

He advised ward leaders to ensure that they respect election laws and procedures to enable people to freely elect leaders of their choice.

By June 15, Iramba District Council had already reached 20 wards, educating the public on the importance of registering so as to exercise their right to vote or be voted for in the coming elections.

## Africa needs \$100bn annually to meet its electricity demand

ABUJA

OVER \$100 billion investment is needed annually to meet Africa's electricity demand by 2030, Director General, National Office of Hydrocarbons and Mines of Morocco (ONHYM), Amina Benkhadra, has said.

Benkhadra disclosed this recently when speaking at the 2024 Africa Gas Innovation Summit (AGIS) in Abuja, Nigeria.

She explained that Africa faces several challenges including a low electrification rate, low agricultural yields, a low integration rate, and a deficit in advanced structures.

This, according to her, heightens the need for investment in the region, a need for the development of innovations and new technology.

"And when we see the energy needs, it is important to highlight that to satisfy the increasing African electricity demand, a large investment of over \$100 billion is needed annually in the power sector by 2030," she said.

At the same time, she said Africa's growing electricity concept requires substantial investments in power infrastructure up to \$3 trillion by 2050.

"We can also see that with its huge reserves of gas, the current gas infrastructure project pipeline can equate to \$245 billion, with more than 90 percent in the concept stage. To unlock Africa's energy future, we will need to develop major infrastructure projects both at the level of national and local projects.

"So we have to raise the ambitions of Africa's energy strategy to increase the power generation capacity, to deepen the reforms of our energy governance, to encourage public and private partnership investment, mobilise those international investments that we have seen just before and contribute to development through technology and innovation approaches," she said.

She added that Morocco would continue to work with Nigeria and other African countries to ensure the delivery of the Nigeria-Morocco Atlantic Gas Pipeline project estimated to cost over \$25 billion.

Ekperikpe Ekpo, Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas) said: "The transition to a sustainable energy future demands that we embrace innovative technologies and practices that minimise environmental impact while maximising efficiency and productivity."

This, according to him, entails investing in cutting-edge research, promoting the deployment of advanced gas technologies, and encouraging the adoption of best practices across the industry.

Ekpo said with its abundant natural gas resources, Africa stands at a pivotal juncture and Nigeria must play a leading role in that.

## Fish stocks dwindle in Lake Victoria amid high demand

By Special Correspondent, Kisumu

THE shores of Lake Victoria in Kisumu city bustle with fishermen selling their catch.

There has been a surge of demand for one particular fish - Nile perch. The species fetch high prices at the market here.

But it's not the flesh that buyers are after - it's their swim bladders or maw, known in local Dholuo as 'mon-do'. These vital organs, essential for buoyancy, are predominantly found in mudfish and Nile Perch.

The swim bladders are in demand in Asian markets such as China where they are considered a delicacy, thought to have anti-aging properties and are also used in the manufacture of surgical threads.

But overfishing is leading to a fall in the population of Nile Perch in the lake.

"In the past, fish were abundant, unlike now, when a whole day's catch might yield only five Nile perch. Nowadays, the fish maw is considered as valuable as gold," said fishmonger Gladys Okumu.

Okumu extracts fish maw from Nile Perch and sells it to brokers, who then pass it on to Chinese agents.

At the quayside market, maws can fetch up to Ksh 5000 (approximately \$38) per kilogramme, a stark contrast to Nile perch flesh, which sells at Ksh 450 (\$3.40) per kilogramme according to Okumu.

A 2020 report published in *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, entitled "Lake Victoria's Bounty: A Case for Riparian Countries' Blue Economic Investment" reported that fish maws, on average, can command a retail value ranging from USD 127 to USD 287 per kilogramme.

The inflated prices likely reflect the involvement of the middlemen who then sell the maws to Chinese buyers. "We usually collect fish maw from fishermen and sell it to brokers, who then sell it to the Chinese. They use it to make surgical suture and other products we're not fully aware of," said Okumu.

According to Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRRI), only 2 percent of the Nile perch by-product comprises the swim bladder.

The surging demand has spurred clandestine harvesting methods targeting breeding and juvenile stocks. Fisherman Victor Ndonga is out on the water of Lake Victoria, trying to catch some fish.

"Today seems like my lucky day. Most of the time, our fishing trips don't yield any Nile perch. However, Tilapia is always abundant, filling crates, while only one Nile Perch might be in the entire batch," he said.

Over the years, Nile Perch numbers have plummeted, making each catch a stroke of luck. Even dead, inedible Nile Perch are considered profitable.

"The fish maw is far more valuable than the flesh. Occasionally, during our fishing trips, we come across large Nile perch that are dead and inedible. However, we still consider ourselves fortunate, as extracting the fish maw from these fish can still bring in good money,"



### UI/UX ANALYST - RESEARCH ASSOCIATE - NAIROBI/ ARUSHA

#### THE ORGANIZATION

The Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

The Alliance works with local, national, and multinational partners across Sub Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia, and with public and private sectors. The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services.

#### Background of the position

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT have initiated a project, titled Artemis. Artemis is developing AI technology to enable on-farm breeding. Crop breeding is one of the foundations of agriculture, under the current breeding systems a common assumption is that it takes 10 years to develop a new variety. Given the pace of climate change this timeframe is no longer viable. New approaches are needed to speed up the breeding cycle and enable a greater synchrony between plant breeding and on-farm conditions, shifting breeding from a majority on-station to majority on-farm process. Artemis is addressing this issue by leveraging the power of technology to enable breeding programs with a new generation of AI-powered and smartphone-deployable tools. The principal technology is computer vision phenotyping, with explorations into multimodal data that integrates speech and text to actively integrate farmers into the plant improvement process. Artemis is currently in the second investment phase, having been featured recently in Reuters.

The Research Associate will be responsible to act on the ground and support our team in conducting user research activities, following a human-centered design approach. The successful candidate will play a key role in understanding user needs and enhancing the user experience of the Artemis suite of tools.

#### Key duties & responsibilities

##### 1. Plan and Conduct Context Exploration Research:

- Apply evaluative methods (e.g., field observation, interviews, diary studies) to comprehensively understand the needs of breeding programs in different target countries.
- Draft and translate interview scripts to facilitate effective data collection.
- Lead the organization and coordination of research activities on the ground.
- Document methodologies and insights derived from research activities.
- Support information synthesis activities to transform findings into actionable insights

##### 2. Plan and Conduct Context Exploration Research for the on-farm context in Tanzania:

- Utilize evaluative methods to understand the needs of Artemis tool users in the on-farm context in Tanzania.
- Draft and translate interview scripts for effective data gathering.
- Coordinate research activities on-site and ensure thorough data collection.
- Document methodologies applied and insights gathered for reference.
- Assist in synthesizing gathered information to inform design decisions.

##### 3. Plan and Conduct Usability Testing:

- Support the planning and coordination of usability testing sessions for the Artemis tool interface.
- Draft and translate usability testing scripts to guide the testing process.
- Conduct usability tests with breeding teams and on-farm users to gather feedback.
- Measure tool performance based on user interactions.
- Document insights gathered during usability testing and contribute to information synthesis efforts.

##### 4. Support Testing and Development of Onboarding Material:

- Assist in creating onboarding material for the Artemis tool.
- Conduct user testing sessions with the created onboarding material to assess effectiveness.
- Document user feedback and insights gained from testing sessions.
- Contribute to synthesizing feedback to refine and improve onboarding materials.
- Work with the user research group to better understand breeding and agronomic process flows as well as iterative testing of app model development

#### Required qualifications and experience.

- Master's or Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Plant Sciences, Data Science, or a related field.
- 3-5 years of experience in conducting user research, applying evaluative methods such as interviews, field observations, and diary studies.
- Strong analytical skills for synthesizing complex information into actionable insights.
- Full professional proficiency in Swahili and English; proficiency in other local languages is advantageous.
- Previous experience in UX/UI design
- Proficiency in Figma for UI/UX design tasks.
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills for effective teamwork.
- Familiarity with Agile methodologies and iterative design processes is desirable
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail
- Strong communication and collaboration skills, with the ability to work effectively across teams and stakeholders in the agricultural and research fields.
- Ability to apply evaluative methods and analyze data to understand user needs and tool performance.
- Good Organizational and time management skills: Coordinating and managing research activities, documentation, and synthesis of information to meet project deadlines

#### Terms of employment

This is a nationally recruited position based in either Arusha, Tanzania or Nairobi, Kenya. The initial contract will be for one year subject to a probation period of three months and is renewable depending on performance and availability of resources. This position is graded at BG06 level in a scale of BG01 to BG14 (BG14 being the highest level according to the Alliance job classification framework policy). We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits including but not limited to insurance, retirement plan, staff training and development, paid time off and flexible working arrangements.

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# Govt forms taskforce to check sale of low quality pyrethrum

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

THE government has formed a taskforce to conduct house-to-house crackdown to identify unscrupulous farmers who sell low quality pyrethrum flowers to save the crop from collapsing in the international market.

Edwin Margwe, Tanzania Pyrethrum Board (TPB) representative in the Southern Highlands disclosed this here at the weekend when speaking at a training organised for pyrethrum agents.

Margwe said that the team will be monitoring the quality of pyrethrum flowers from the

farm to the agents' centres, noting: "All pyrethrum companies agreed at a meeting with Mbeya District Commissioner, Beno Malisa not to buy pyrethrum flowers that are of poor quality and that whoever is found to do so will face legal action."

According to him, the taskforce involves security agencies, TPB officials, Mbeya Rural District officials, pyrethrum companies, and DC office.

Margwe said that the flowers should be hung on the canvas so that the agents are not supposed to buy pyrethrum from farmers if it is not yet dry or picked when the flowers are not yet ripe.

"If the value chain is managed

from the farm to the market, we will protect quality of our pyrethrum; let's make sure we harvest and sell flowers that have acceptable standards," he said.

Musa Malubalo, pyrethrum officer in Songwe and Mbeya regions, said that the problem of poor quality flowers has caused a loss of 1bn/- to PCT due to sale of immature flowers.

He urged agents not to buy poor quality flowers, promising that in the next farming season, companies will increase commission on each kilogramme of the crop.

"Let's prepare to produce flowers of good quality," he said.



Kisesa constituency legislator Luhaga Mpina pictured in Dodoma city on Saturday giving a summary of "evidence" he said he had presented to National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson in connection with a submission he made in the legislative body on June 4 suggesting that Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe had lied to the House on a number of points. It was then the Speaker ordered the MP to substantiate the claims in writing - as evidence. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# Pilot study uses 'sangoma' to test for HIV in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

IN an attempt to tackle stigma and reluctance of people to test for HIV, South African authorities have started recruiting traditional healers.

The healers, locally known as sangoma, are part of a pilot study to encourage more people, especially the

young, to have the test and to seek medical treatment if needed.

Shadrack Mashabane is a traditional healer in the small town of Buskuckridge in Mpumalanga province. His home is covered with traditional fabrics and there are glass bottles with herbs and medicines. But what stands out is a white

box containing an HIV testing kit. Mashabane is one of at least 15 traditional healers who are taking part in a pilot study run by the University of Witwatersrand.

Researchers have trained them to carry out HIV testing and counselling to encourage more South Africans to be aware of their HIV status

and prevent the spread of the disease. It is the most significant public health programme to involve traditional healers.

Mashabane says at first patients found it difficult to believe he was offering HIV testing, because it's a service they associate with health clinics. "Many were not convinced. I had

to show them my certificate to prove I was qualified to do this," he said.

The process includes the signing of a consent form to be tested, along with a follow-up to ensure that patients who test positive receive treatment from the local clinic.

"For some clients, going to the clinic (after their results) is a big

problem. More so, especially among men," said Mashabane.

South Africa has one of the highest rates of HIV in the world.

And although antiretroviral medication and pre-exposure prophylaxis are free, the stigma around testing and treatment remains high in many communities.

# West African women learn new farming model in India

JAIPUR

A WOMEN'S self-help group (SHG) model in Rajasthan's Dholpur district has helped 12,500 women in West African countries of Mali and Senegal earn livelihoods, conserve environment and establish cooperative societies to take up farming, biogas production, poultry and goat rearing.

Women leaders from nine cooperatives in the two countries were on a visit to Rajasthan recently to get trained in new avocations. Women from Dholpur's SHGs, established by Rajasthan Grameen Ajeevika Vikas Parishad (Rajeevika), had earlier travelled to Mali and Senegal to share their expertise in rural income generation activities.

Dholpur's SHG model is based on five principles of Rajeevika - weekly meeting, weekly savings, internal borrowing, loan repayment and maintenance of records.

Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development) Abhay Kumar said the 'Pancharatra Mission' had immensely helped in the reach of SHG's products in the market.

"As the rural women in Rajasthan have good exposure to agricultural technology, they have ensured success of the SHG model," Kumar said.

Women representatives from Mali and Senegal, who are saving up to 17 crore a year and utilising the money for inter loaning to connect other women with income generation activities, have supported one another with funds during emergencies. The model has empowered the rural communities to take collective action for promoting economic development and self-governance.

Women from Dholpur gave training in the two African countries for the formation of SHGs, followed by the establishment of cooperative federations. The African women learnt about running the federations and manufacturing of products.

The African representatives visited Dholpur, Bharatpur, Ajmer, Jaipur and Udaipur districts to get training from the Rajeevika groups. Mr. Kumar said since the climate in Rajasthan, suitable for millet production, was similar to that in the two African countries, the federation members received tips about growing millet during the training.

Kumar, who interacted with the African women at Indira Gandhi Nahar Mandal's headquarters here, said the cooperation between the two sides would continue in future. He said the Rajeevika had played an important role in the socio-economic development of rural communities. Throwing light on similarities in the vegetation in Africa and Rajasthan, Mr. Kumar said the coarse grains were suitable, like Rajasthan, for the environment of African countries as well.

Fatouma Diallo Sero, president of a women's cooperative federation in Mali, said she was impressed with the election process of the federation leaders in Rajasthan. She said her federation would adopt a similar process and train other women in entrepreneurship.

Niama Ivonne Sacko, another woman leader from Mali, said she would implement the five principles of Rajeevika with an emphasis on the institution building to enable them to play a meaningful role in increasing the income of women farmers. She said she would motivate the farmers to adopt water harvesting techniques, which she had witnessed in Rajasthan, to irrigate their agricultural fields in a productive manner.

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## Eighth JNHPP power plant adds 235 megawatts to national grid

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE 8th power generation plant at the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) has started generating electricity and has already injected 235 megawatts into the national grid.

This was said at the weekend by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko when launching a report about performance of electricity, natural gas and oil sub-sectors for the year 2022/2023 in Dodoma.

He said that a total of 470 Megawatts were being produced from the JNHPP dam and fed into the national grid.

Speaking of the private sector, Dr. Biteko said it has helped the government a lot in oil, gas and electricity generation and called on its actors to take advantage of any opportunities that arise.

"I ask institutions under the Ministry of Energy to see players in the private sector as important development stakeholders instead of seeing them as competitors," he said.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy Felchesmi Mramba said that assessment conducted shows that energy sector has made progress in many areas, including

availability of electricity and supply of fuel.

He cited the World Bank report for developing countries which indicates that energy sector in Tanzania is doing well among developing countries and African continent.

Mramba said the area that performed best is rural electricity supply and other energy projects such as JNHPP and the Tanzania-Zambia Transmission Interconnector Project (TAZA).

He added that WB has approved \$300 million for Tanzania to develop electricity subsector thanks to success seen in the energy sector.

Speaking about the performance of energy sector, Director General of Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) Dr James Andilile said the sector continues to improve due to huge investments made in electricity infrastructure.

He said that the investment has increased production, transportation and distribution, adding that electricity loss was decreasing and that electricity customers have increased from 3.8 million in 2021/22 to 4.4 million in 2022/2023.

He said that the biggest challenge identified in the report is the deterioration of infrastructure which requires heavy investment for repair works.



Health minister Umyy Mwalimu shows a gift packet presented to her by the managers of a campaign meant to raise awareness on – and combating – antimicrobial resistance and priority zoonotic diseases at a meeting held in Dodoma city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## UN adds Tanzania to list of food-shortage nations

HARARE

THE UN has said an estimated 60 million people in southern Africa are food insecure due to the El Nino-induced drought, adding Tanzania to the list that initially included Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe which have made international appeals for

help.

In a statement at the weekend, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said Angola, eSwatini, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania are also being affected by the drought hitting southern Africa.

Plaxedes Madzikatire, who lives about 100 kilometers

south of Harare, is one of the millions struggling to cope with the drought. She is getting \$65 a month from the World Food Program (WFP) which she is using to take care of her four children after her crops dried up and died.

She said from the money, \$25 is used to pay for food

and \$20 for school fees. She uses the remaining \$20 to finance and upgrade her business of selling hoes and axes she makes from scrap metal. She's hoping the WFP can extend its assistance by a few more months.

WFP winds up assistance in Madzikatire's area next month, but the organization

hopes to restart soon -- and in the whole of Zimbabwe -- as the effects of the El Nino drought intensify.

In a recent interview via Skype from Zambia's capital Lusaka, WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain, who was visiting the region to assess the impact of drought, described it as a disaster.

"These people have lost everything," she said. "They have no income. They have no way of surviving without assistance for the whole year because their next growing season will not be harvested until next May. These people depend on the stores they get from their crops, they didn't get any this time."

McCain said the recurrence of droughts due to climate change calls for greater investment into weather forecasts so people can be prepared for what is coming.

And that's not all, she said. Drought-resistant crops and good water-management practices can help, too.

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## Dar to stage 10-day free health screening camp

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

AUTHORITIES in Dar es Salaam Region have organized a 10-day free health screening camp in all its five districts.

The camp was announced at the weekend by Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila when speaking to reporters.

He said the camp is scheduled to start on June 20 until 30 and was being coordinated by Regional Commissioner's office in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Chalamila said the aim of the camp is to motivate the residents to build a culture of health screening to support efforts of the government to improve health sector.

He said some of the improvements made in the sector include the programme to sharpen skills of government health experts inside the country and abroad as well as employment of many health workers of various cadres.

In addition, Chalamila said that through the camp, various diseases will be screened, including non-communicable diseases by specialized health experts.

He said the experts will visit each district, adding that the launch of the initiative will be held in Ubungo District on June 20.

Chalamila called on stakeholders, including financial institutions, to support the efforts of the government and appealed to residents to attend in large numbers.



**Through the camp, various diseases will be screened, including non-communicable diseases by specialized health experts**



Saifuddin Jamali (4th-R) Dawoodi Bohra community supervisor in Dar es Salaam, slaughters a goat yesterday for Eid el Adh - in marking the completion of the Islamic Hajj pilgrimage. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Experts laud growing agricultural cooperation between China, Africa

SANYA

WILLY, a farmer on Santiago Island in Cape Verde, has learned to identify soil nutrients thanks to the training by Chinese experts. He also learned to replenish soil nutrients with goat waste and crop straw, which helped bring higher crop yields.

"I saved money on fertilizer, and now I can invest in other areas of

the farm," he said.

The training that Willy participated in forms part of a soil management and pest control training programme organized in Cape Verde by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under FAO-China South-South Programme.

Drought, soil erosion, pests, and diseases have severely affected food production in Cape Verde, and the programme pro-

vides agricultural technical assistance through Chinese experts to improve food production and nutritional security in the country. Under the above programme, many Chinese experts have been working in Africa for a long time, carrying out technical assistance in areas such as food production, plant protection, rural energy and agricultural mechanization, Ye Anping, director of the FAO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Division, said at the Workshop on China-Africa Agricultural Science and Technology Cooperation under FAO South-South Triangular Cooperation Framework in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province. "Many of China's agricultural technologies are easy to understand, highly operational, and low-cost, which means strong practicability for Africa," Ye said.

China-Africa agricultural technological cooperation has enabled

Africa to increase food production. For instance, the total plantation area of super rice varieties provided by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences has reached 57,000 hectares in Africa, registering an average yield of more than 20 percent higher than those of local varieties.

A cassava variety introduced to Africa by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences produces four times more cassava

than local varieties.

Felix Dapare Dakora, former president of the African Academy of Sciences, has a heartfelt wish: to end the plight of African children going to bed hungry and ensure that all Africans have access to nutritious food.

"Learning from China is the right path," he said, lauding China's remarkable achievements in solving food shortages through technological innovation.



Members of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo cast votes in Dar es Salaam on Saturday to show the party's position on whether upcoming local government elections should be supervised by the Independent National Electoral Commission just like presidential and parliamentary ones. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Funding commitments show UK as force for global good at G7 summit

APULIA

UK Prime Minister will make the case for a world economy that is more peaceful, stable, and prosperous and for bold reforms to global governance to make it more inclusive and responsive to citizens as he attends the second day of the G7 Leaders Summit in Italy over the weekend.

During a global outreach session focused on Artificial Intelligence and Energy, and Africa and the Mediterranean, he will argue that this means reforming the international financial system to unlock the finance we need to accelerate progress against the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthening the voices of the most vulnerable at the top table of international politics.

He will outline the importance of supporting countries in delivering their own clean energy transitions, and in harnessing the opportunities presented by AI.

To support this he will announce multi-year ODA funding which could exceed £100m, including several high-impact African projects and a £20m expansion of the AI for Development programme into Asia - building on £38m the UK is already investing in Africa.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said: "The UK is committed to driving a more effective international system that improves lives for people across the globe and at home."

"The green transition and the development of AI are key components of this, and the funding announced today will help ensure that these seismic changes happen in a way that works for all."

The AI for Development programme, was launched at the Bletchley Park AI Safety Summit in November 2023 to fund safe and responsible AI projects for development around the world, beginning in Africa.

The UK-Canada partnership, with support from the US, Australia, and other partners, will help ensure this ground-breaking technology is accessible to as many people as possible across the globe as well as deliver new AI labs to train the next generation of developers, policymakers and thought leaders, to drive responsible and inclusive AI policy.

## Africans who visit Europe legally also face problems

ALGIERS

FRANCE has twice rejected visa applications from Nabil Tabarout, a 29-year-old web developer from Algeria who hopes to visit his sister there this year.

He's among the many people navigating the often-arduous visa process throughout Africa, which faces higher visa rejection rates than anywhere else in the world when it comes to visiting Europe's Schengen Area.

Appointments are often difficult to secure. Applicants often must prove a minimum bank balance, substantiate the purpose of their visit and prove they plan to return home.

"That's how it is. Every pleasure deserves pain," said

Tabarout, who has succeeded just once in obtaining a French visa.

Though much of Europe's debate about migration centres on people who arrive without authorization, many more people choose to come by legal means. It's painful, then, to discover that following the rules often fails.

The disproportionate rejection rates - 10 percent higher in Africa than the global average - hinder trade, business and educational partnerships at the expense of African economies, according to an April study from UK-based migration consultancy firm Henley & Partners.

The study called the practices discriminatory and urged Schengen countries to reform them.

Nowhere are applicants more rejected than in Algeria,

where more than 392,000 applicants were rejected in 2022. The 45.8 percent rejection rate is followed by a 45.2 percent rejection rate in Guinea-Bissau and 45.1 percent in Nigeria. Only one in 25 applicants living in the United States was rejected.

While the study found that applicants from poorer countries experienced higher rejections in general, it noted that applicants from Turkey and India experienced fewer rejections than applicants from the majority of African countries.

The reasons for that anti-Africa bias could be political, according to the study's author, Mehari Taddele Maru of the European University Institute's Migration Policy Centre. Visa rejections are used as a political tool by Euro-

pean governments, including France, to negotiate deportation of those who migrate to Europe without proper authorization. North African governments have refused to provide consular documents for their citizens facing deportation.

In an interview, Maru said Algeria has continent-high rejection rates because its number of applicants outpaces those from other African countries for geographic, economic and historical reasons. Many Algerians apply for visas in France, where they speak the language and may have family ties. And North Africa's proximity to Europe means flights are short and cheap compared to flights from sub-Saharan Africa, leading more people to apply, he said.



MONDAY 17 JUNE 2024

**Taking A New Look  
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## South Africa's unity pact reassuring, even as work is only just beginning

HISTORY is just being made with 40 years of rule by the African National Congress formally ending and the ANC joining the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA) and the conservative Zulu political formation Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) to form a government of national unity.

This was the predictable outcome of negotiations as these were indeed the groups that formed the first majority rule government in 1994, after which each group went through fairly profound convulsions. At the end of the day, each party stands as it was at first. Trying to form a leftist coalition was on the lips a wide cast of observers in South Africa and far beyond, with a cardinal demand by the party of former president Jacob Zuma being that President Ramaphosa quits as president.

That would imply choosing an even more leftist leader in the ANC to head a coalition with the breakaway uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), even without having Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). It is a far-left faction not bent to join government soon.

The steep loss of its outright majority in the May 29 election has brought home to the ANC that the country needs to be governed from the centre, if not from the right, first to ensure a competitive and efficient economy. The ANC has for 30 years failed to grasp this need owing to the deafening post-apartheid demand for an inclusive economy - by wealth redistribution. This was the anchor of the ANC as a movement for most of its 80-year history up to taking office - from, 1912 to 1994. This thinking has dragged South Africa into economic lows.

Even in the current election, trying to figure out that the South African public has a clear idea of what is needed would amount to an overstatement, as adding the 40.7 per cent or thereabouts that ANC obtained with MK's 15 per cent

brings back the 57 per cent votes that the ANC obtained in the 2019 elections.

There is at best a one or two percentage gap that could have aided either the EFF another group - like a Patriotic Alliance, whose battle horse is to oppose immigration. Inclusive economy hardliners wanted an ANC-MK alliance to form a majority.

The ANC, though a long way back since Mandela and then Vice President Thabo Mbeki were excluding a rainbow nation as the vision of what needs to take place, has not forgotten these roots. And in President Ramaphosa they have a person who was deeply involved in sorting out the agreements for a cohesive post-apartheid design so that the country goes forward.

If there is anyone in the ANC leadership who understands why an alliance with the Democratic Alliance is vital, it is Ramaphosa. He has seen where the wide-ranging distaste with Mbeki and the massive clamour for Zuma took the ANC in the economy and society generally.

Yet the political atmosphere has scarcely changed, as the ANC never made a 'critique' of its outlook to adopt a reformist orientation, outside adding a few innovations to what is basically a state-based economy.

Much of South Africa's precipitated economic decline has to do with its electricity monopoly, its nearly feudal land holding structures with royal families holding large swathes of land, and then urban areas being asked to absorb swelling surplus labour where agro-sector credit is out of range but for a narrow section of Afrikaner farmers, etc.

Inclusive economy stalwarts like EFF legislators wish to nationalise this anchor of productivity and thus obtain results close to what Zimbabwe obtained after 'land grabs' in the 1990s. It's a scenario that could prove as tricky as intriguing.

## Manslaughter charge for driving accidents not easy to substantiate

DEBATE has started in low tones in relation to recent remarks by the Finance minister pointing to proposals for higher fines in the event of traffic accidents, whose rationale isn't difficult to see.

It was in proposing the charge of manslaughter for drivers found guilty of reckless driving resulting in death.

It is apparent even on the outside that it could become one of those amendments to the law that fail to meet constitutional criteria, of imputing intentions that aren't ordinarily part of driving per se.

Manslaughter more often than not relates to situations of adversity, animosity and physical reaction causing death.

This proposition was part of a wider review of miscellaneous tax amendment proposals, covering companies being registered in virtually any situation by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

Only TRA issues trading licences and the arc of tax obligation is being brought to lower levels, for the simple reason that everyone is of late digitally registered and can thus be easily traced for compliance if not carrying the objects needed. Anyone with a fixed place even on a street side so long as the business is registered can now be followed.

This proposal wasn't totally in isolation from past events the minister opted to bring up, apparently as an aspect of why it is rational for measures to be taken to make it out of place for anyone to engage in reckless driving.

There may be useful attachments for postulating the manslaughter idea, but this could hardly provide the icing needed for proof.

Some propositions may possibly have more to them than the public may be given to understand, as they could be due to a communication hiatus as is often the case in such changes.

Political wisdom may view it as an accident, while in fact it is a much less serious occurrence. It is shorthand for not wishing to delve into the matter as to 'who, what, where, when and how' it happened. It is easier to put things that way so that we retain wider sympathy for one another, simply so.

One parameter where this proposition may refuse to make much sense is that it may presume that the case of accidents, in the majority on the basis of global statistics, is careless driving - the worst form of it being drunk driving.

Until recent months, night travel by commuter bus was banned - viewed generally as a cause of accidents induced by sleepy driving.

However, with improved roads, few fatalities have been reported from night travel thus far except in respect of one or so night-time speeding newspaper delivery van.

The point is that we ought to be realistic and admit that we can't talk of the broad spectrum of what causes accidents. Going for manslaughter charges may mean unjustly penalising suspected offenders without as much as that serving as a feasible deterrent.

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## Education for All: Imperative of Day of the African Child

By Valerie N. Msoka

EVERY year, the Day of the African Child (DAC) serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges faced by - and opportunities available to - the youth of Africa.

Under the theme 'Education for All - The Time is Now', DAC provides the continent time to reflect on and reaffirm its commitment to providing equitable and quality education to every child.

DAC, which is commemorated each June 16, honours the memories of the brave children who marched for their rights in Soweto, South Africa, in 1976.

The African Union designated June 16 as the Day of the African Child to honour the memory of those students and to raise awareness about the issues facing African children, promote children's rights, and encourage collective action to improve the lives and prospects of children across the continent.

In Tanzania, where education stands as a cornerstone of progress promising to unlock the nation's boundless potential, the theme 'Education for All - The Time is Now' serves as a resounding call to action, propelling the country towards addressing all manner of challenges hindering children's access to quality education.

Tanzania has witnessed significant advancements in education, this marking a positive trajectory towards inclusive learning.

School, college and university enrolment rates have surged, reflecting increased access to educational opportunities across the country.

Government initiatives have expanded access to primary and secondary education, contributing to improved literacy rates and educational attainment levels. Additionally, investments in infrastructure and teacher training have bolstered the quality of education in many regions.

Despite these strides, various challenges persist in Tanzania just like in many other African countries, threatening to undermine progress registered in the education sector.

There are still discrepancies in the quality of education between urban and rural areas, with rural schools often short of some vital resources and qualified teachers.

There is also the challenge of insufficient infrastructure, including classrooms, libraries and sanitation facilities, this posing obstacles to effective teaching and learning, with some parts of the country hit harder than others.

Deep-rooted cultural norms and socio-economic factors meanwhile perpetuate gender disparities and hinder the realisation of inclusive education.

Furthermore, girls face unique hurdles in accessing education - one being child marriages. These hinder their academic achievement and perpetuate cycles of inequality.

But even amidst these challenges lie opportunities, with the way forward



including prioritisation of investment in educational infrastructure, curriculum development and teacher training to ensure equitable access to quality education for all children.

Being the developing country it is, Tanzania is duty-bound to address all the socio-economic barriers on the way with all the resources it is blessed with.

This includes implementing targeted policies and initiatives meant to alleviate financial and other burdens, for some including the provision of free uniforms and textbooks as well as other forms of support to needy or vulnerable children.

These policies should also be inclusive so as to cater for the needs of all learners, among them children with disabilities and those from genuinely resource-poor backgrounds.

With the deeply entrenched cultural and other norms in existence in Tanzania, gender equality initiatives are called for.

The government and civil society and various other organisations have generally been working hard to promote gender equality.

With particular respect to the education sector, this should include strategies to address gender disparities so as to promote girls' enrolment in schools and colleges, multi-faceted awareness campaigns, provision of menstrual hygiene facilities in schools, and enforcement of laws generally protecting girls' rights to education.

Digitally there is room for innovation and collaboration. Tanzania can embrace and consolidate initiatives such as distance learning and digital literacy programs so every region and district can access and benefit.

Furthermore, partnerships between government, civil society and other agencies as well as communities ought to be strengthened to enhance accountability, promote parental involvement in education, and address socio-cultural barriers to learning.

Fortunately for Tanzania, steps to strengthen the education sector have for long been a priority, more recently with President Samia Suluhu Hassan having reiterated the government's commitment to advancing education as a catalyst for national development.

Education continues to be seen and treated not only as a basic human right but also a pathway to prosperity. This underscores the importance of the nation redoubling its efforts to ensure that all Tanzanian children have equal access to quality education.

In that endeavour, Tanzania simply cannot work in isolation and expect much success; it just will not work.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 very correctly emphasizes the critical importance of education as a catalyst for socio-economic transformation and sustainable development across the continent.

Through initiatives like the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25), the AU is determined to promote inclusive and quality education for all the continent's children.

As an AU member state, Tanzania must leverage the resources and partnerships at the organisation's disposal if it is to rewardingly advance its education agenda, ensuring that not a single African child is left behind.

Similarly, the United Nations ought to feel duty-bound to play a

pivotal role in supporting Tanzania's efforts to realise the right to education for all children.

Through the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4 - on quality education - the UN has rightly set ambitious targets to ensure the attainment of inclusive and equitable education for all by 2030.

Moreover, UN specialised agencies including UNESCO and UNICEF boast extensive experience and expertise in devising and implementing education programmes and projects and can provide valuable support in such areas as curriculum development and teacher training as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Immense investment is doubtless needed, with the 'if you think education is expensive, try ignorance' saying coming readily to mind here.

The saying conveys a powerful message about the true cost of remaining uninformed or uneducated where a sound way out hangs about.

It serves as a reminder of the importance of prioritising education as a means of self-improvement, societal progress and human advancement generally.

The saying also underscores the notion that while education may require initial investments in the form of time, expertise as well as financial and other resources and effort, the price of remaining ignorant will ultimately always much higher.

As Tanzania marks DAC 2024, we all need to heed the call to action - 'Education for All - The Time is Now' - by relentlessly reaffirming our commitment to realising the vision of inclusive and quality education for every child in Tanzania.

Let there be consistent government will and a collective responsibility from families, communities and civil society organisations across the board to translate this vision into reality.

Guided by the AU's Agenda 2063 and the UN's 2030 target, we all need to work together in confronting heads on challenges including quality disparities, gender inequality, and infrastructure deficits.

Only doing so - that's it, marching as to war, as a united army - will ensure us lasting victory in paving the way for a sustainably prosperous future for all our children.

**Valerie Ndeneingo-Sia Msoka (pictured) is a co-founder and one-time executive director of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa), founded and registered on November 17, 1987 as a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental and human rights organisation.**



By Correspondent Constantine Akitanda

## Powering progress: Potential of the Rufiji basin Water Board as heart of Tanzania hydro power

THE Rufiji River Basin, stretching over 177,429 km<sup>2</sup>, stands as the largest river basin in Tanzania and East Africa, covering 20 percent of Tanzania's total land area. The Rufiji Basin Water Board (RBWB), under the Ministry of Water, plays a critical role in managing this vast and diverse region.

The Basin's significance extends beyond its sheer size; it is a vital artery of Tanzania's economy and a crucial source of hydroelectric power, supporting major dams such as Mtera, Kidatu, Kihansi, and the newly built Julius Nyerere Hydro Electric Dam.

The Rufiji Basin spans a remarkable elevation range from sea level at the Indian Ocean to approximately 3,000 meters in the Mbeya Region.

This geographical diversity results in a wide range of climatic conditions, from tropical humid zones in the east to temperate climates in the Southern Highlands.

Such varied conditions contribute to the basin's rich biodiversity and agricultural productivity, making it a microcosm of Tanzania's natural wealth.

Four major rivers - the Great Ruaha, Kilombero, Luwegu, and Rufiji - drain the basin. The convergence of the Ruaha and Luwegu rivers forms the Rufiji River, which goes to the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Dam and later on it flows into the Indian Ocean.

Eng. Florence Mahay, the Director of the RBWB says management of the water resources by the RBWB is crucial for sustaining the region's agriculture, biodiversity, and hydroelectric power generation.

Often referred to as the "bread basket" of Tanzania, the Rufiji Basin is endowed with fertile soil and a favorable climate, making it a hub for agricultural production.

The basin supports a variety of crops, contributing significantly to the national food supply and economy.

The agricultural abundance not only feeds millions but also provides livelihoods for a large segment of the population, underscoring the basin's role in Tanzania's food security and economic stability.

The Rufiji Basin is home to several national parks and game reserves, including Kitulo, Ruaha, Mikumi, Udzungwa, and Uluguru, along with large game reserves such as Mwalimu Nyerere, Selous, Rungwa, Usangu, Mpanga/Kipengere, and Lumda.

These protected areas are vital for conservation efforts, housing numerous species of flora and fauna. The RBWB's role in managing water resources is integral to maintaining the ecological balance and supporting the biodiversity that thrives in these regions.

The Rufiji Basin is indispensable to Tanzania's hydroelectric power generation. The basin's rivers are harnessed to power four major dams, namely Mtera, Kidatu, Kihansi, and the newly constructed Julius Nyerere Hydropower Dam.

These dams collectively contribute a significant portion of the country's electricity, driving industrial growth,



The Rufiji Basin Water Board is crucial for sustaining the country's agriculture, biodiversity and hydroelectric power generation.

urban development, and rural electrification.

The Julius Nyerere Hydropower Dam, a recent addition, exemplifies the government's commitment to expanding renewable energy sources, aiming to meet the growing energy demands sustainably as stipulated in the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal, (SDGs) under Goal Seven.

The basin spans 11 administrative regions and 26 districts, influencing the lives of millions.

According to the 2022 national census, the population within the basin's districts is over 11 million, up from 3 million in 2002.

This rapid population growth has led to dynamic changes in land use, with increasing areas being brought under cultivation.

The RBWB's management strategies must therefore balance the needs for agricultural expansion and conservation.

The Rufiji Basin Water Board is a cornerstone of Tanzania's economic and environmental management.

Its role goes beyond ensuring the sustainable use of the basin's vast water resources, supporting agriculture, conservation, and energy production.

The RBWB's role is not merely administrative but profoundly impactful on the livelihoods of millions of Tanzanians and the overall economic health of the nation.

Agriculture in the Rufiji Basin is a lifeline for the local population, providing employment and sustenance.

The RBWB oversees water allocation for irrigation, ensuring that farms receive adequate water supply while maintaining ecological balance.

Innovative irrigation techniques and efficient water management practices are promoted to boost crop yields and support the agricultural economy; as a result, the basin continues to be a major contributor to Tanzania's food security.

Water resource management in the Rufiji Basin is complex, involving the regulation of river flows, maintaining water quality, and ensuring equitable distribution among various users.

The RBWB implements policies and projects aimed at sustaining water use, protecting watersheds, and preventing pollution. Through maintaining the health of the rivers and reservoirs, the board ensures a reliable water supply for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses.

The Rufiji Basin's rivers are the backbone of Tanzania's hydroelectric power generation. The Mtera, Kidatu, Kihansi, and Julius Nyerere dams are critical infrastructure projects that supply a substantial portion of the country's electricity.

The RBWB collaborates with the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and other stakeholders to manage the water flow and reservoir levels, optimizing power generation while mitigating the risks of flooding and drought.

The basin's rich biodiversity and protected areas are vital for ecological balance and tourism. National parks and game reserves within the basin attract tourists, generating revenue and creating

## Chilli fencing helping villagers in Tunduru District to keep elephants out of farm

By Felister Peter

IN many rural communities like Mbati village in Mbati ward, Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region which is located near the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor that connects the Selous Game Reserve with Mozambique's Niassa Reserve.

Villagers in Mbati have been clashing with the big animals for many years as wildlife visits villages near wildlife migratory routes in search of food. The Human-Wildlife-Conflict (HWC) challenge is not only in Tunduru District's Mbati village, but across the country and the continent.

According to authorities, elephants are said to mostly invade villages in Mbati ward because villagers cultivate a lot of food and cash crops, thus attracting wildlife to eat the matured crops. The most cultivated crops include rice, peas, sesame, corn, cashewnuts and groundnuts.

"Recently, elephants invaded and destroyed two acres of my groundnuts and maize farm. The problem is getting serious each day; most incidences occur between January and July every year," said Hamida Said, Chairman of Ruvuma Division.

Mohamed Magawa from Mbati village said the challenge is posing threat to both people and farms. He said there is no specific time for the unexpectedly invasions as elephants may cross between the farms at morning, afternoon and during night.

Magawa commended the German Development Agency (GIZ) through the German Government (BMZ) for coming up with the Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict in Tanzania project to help them combat elephants invasions into their farms, saying before such interventions they were spending the whole night in the cold near farms to guard their crops.

The project is implemented in the Ruvuma Landscape targeting rural populations in villages south of the Nyerere National Park and the Selous Game Reserve in the districts of Masasi in Mtwara Region, Namtumbo and Tunduru in Ruvuma Region.

"We are thankful to GIZ for assisting us to build a chilli fence to protect our farms. The fence has proved efficiency as for the first time in several years we have been able to record bumper harvests. In building the fence, we fill up water bottles with chilli powder - a spice the elephants hate and hang them across our farms using a sisal rope," he narrated, adding that sometimes they use sound as a means of distraction as well as beating loudly on steel buckets at intervals to scare the animals away.

Yassin Mkwanda is one of the three Village Game Scouts (VGS) in Mbati village who have just graduated from the Community Based Conservation Training Center (CBCTC)-Likuyu Sekamaganga in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region. He is planning to share the acquired knowledge with fellow villager but also assist them in chasing away elephants whenever they invade farms and human residences.

Construction of the chilli fence has reduced the challenge by 85 percent, he added.



Yassin Mkwanda, a village game scout (VGS) says the fence has reduced elephant invasions by 85 per cent

"I am planning to educate villagers on the importance of the fence, but also, they should not go to the farms early morning to avoid crushing with elephants," said Mkwanda as he appeals for the village government and donors to provide them with needed equipment.

Mbati Ward Executive Officer, Baslom Mnkondya said the village which was established in 1972 and officially registered in 1974 has a population of 3,575 people, of whom, 1,759 are male and 1,808 females as per statistics of the 2022 national housing and population census.

Mnkondya noted that the HWC is serious at the area whereas in the 2022/2023 financial year, between 85 and 100 people had their crops eaten and farms destroyed by elephants. He said this year more than 150 have been destroyed.

He said the problem is more serious in the Ruvuma, Mwinini, Mbati ya Leo, Muungano, Mandeka and Nyasa divisions. Mbati Ward Councillor, Rashid Swalehe appealed to the government to employ more wildlife officers as their number is small compared to the size of

the district.

"We have only seven wildlife officers in our district; we are thankful to GIZ for sponsoring three VGS to undergo training on tackling HWC," said Swalehe underscoring the need for education to the villagers so that they support efforts towards expanding and freeing up wildlife corridors, so the animals can roam more freely without encountering humans.

Bosco Mwingira, Acting Tunduru District Executive Director said the problem is more serious at the area as it borders Mozambique's Niassa Reserve whereas elephants have been moving from one side to another.

Mwingira noted that farm invasion incidences are currently on the rise as most crops are matured, thus attracting the animals. He said the district which has 157 villages and 39 wards faces a shortage of wildlife officers.

"We call upon the central government to assign more wildlife officers to our district; we also appeal to donors and other organizations to support us with equipment to enable VGS to perform their duties accordingly," he added, noting the district allocates

15m/- each financial year for procurement of various equipment used to scare and chase away elephants.

He said the district revenue collections have now increased to 5.6bn/- from the previous 4.8bn/- whereas most of the funds are directed on provision of social services.

Shafii Msuya is the Technical Advisor, Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region, he said they are working in 30 villages across the region whereas a number of activities have been done whereas through the Training of Trainers (ToT), a total of 59 people have been trained on HWC mitigation methods such as smelly repellent, beehives and metal strips fences.

He added that in 24 villages, 1304 farmers have been trained on the methods, adding more than 27 kilometers of smelly repellent fences have been installed, thus protecting more than 1300 acres of crops.

"With the fences we have largely managed to reduce the rate of elephant intrusion attempts. We empower communities to reduce the negative impacts of HWC on their livelihoods and security," remarked Msuya.



By Shoaib Mir and Parthu Venkatesh

# Working in 'hellfire': Gig workers bear the brunt of India's heatwave

EVERY morning before stepping out of his rented accommodation in New Delhi, India, gig worker Aman fills three plastic bottles with water from a small earthen pot and packs them with some leftover food inside a sling bag. To support his family, in 2018 the 26-year-old moved from Bihar to New Delhi to work as a delivery person at a logistics company. And it's the hottest work he's ever experienced; he's never endured such scorching working conditions, he says.

Parts of India are currently engulfed by an extreme heatwave. In the last month, the mercury in Delhi rose to the highest temperature ever recorded: 52.9 degrees Celsius (127.2 degrees Fahrenheit); however, weather officials later issued a statement pushing the maximum temperature lower, in the high 40s (113-120F). In 2021, a report identified India as one of the top five countries in the world with the most exposure to extreme heat.

"When I am driving my two-wheeler during work, the hot air blowing on my body makes it feel like I am sitting outside a furnace," says Aman, who goes by a single name. Last month, he fainted due to the heat while making a delivery in a remote area of Delhi, he recounts, adding that a shopkeeper came to his aid and poured cold water over his head. "Since that incident, I make sure to carry small water bottles and sprinkle water over my head and face multiple times during the day to remain conscious," says Aman, his clothes drenched in sweat.

According to a recent report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the rising temperatures in India will reduce daily working hours 5.8 percent by 2030. With 90 percent of workers in the country employed in the informal sector, the loss of labour hours brings significant challenges.

Aman's family has been worried about his health and safety. However, quitting or switching to another job is not an option. "While driving, I think about what would happen if something unforeseen happens to me due to heat," he says. "That scares me, but unfortunately, I have no other skills than driving - and a family to look after - so I cannot leave this job at any cost."

The scorching temperatures affect him mentally, he says, but also economically because they impact his ability to meet his delivery targets. In the winter, his daily earnings were around 750 Indian rupees (\$9). That has now dropped to 500 rupees (\$6). "It really haunts me how I will take care of my family," he laments while getting ready to deliver the last parcel of his day, finishing a 10-hour shift.

According to a report by government think-tank NITI Aayog, there are 77 million gig workers in India - a number that is expected to grow to 23.5 million by 2029-30.

Outside a small eatery in South Delhi, Sharukh, 25, who works with a food delivery platform Zomato, stands opposite an old, rusted cooler installed by the owner. "Posh restaurants don't even allow us to stand in front of their outlets while we are there to collect orders," Sharukh says, adding that delivery people also have to ask for water in the unbearable heat and are made to feel like "untouchables".

Since the heatwave began, Sharukh has avoided accepting orders from higher-end restaurants, preferring small establishments where "they have the humanity to offer us water and a place to rest while they prepare the order".

"After all, I am not a machine who can work all day in this unbearable temperature," he says, disheartened, while waiting to collect the seventh order of his shift. Each day he typically brings home 500 to 650 rupees (\$6 to \$7.80)

From March to May, there were approximately 25,000 cases of suspected heatstroke and 56 fatalities in India's severe heatwave. May was the worst month, with 46 heat-related deaths alone, according to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). News outlets including Reuters and The Hindu have reported that heatwave-related deaths could be as high as 80 or even 100.

Last month, while delivering an order, Sharukh experienced extreme pain and cramps in his stomach. Since then, he has been skipping heavy meals to stay light and drinking lemonade from roadside stalls to keep hydrated.

"My health has been badly impacted due to heat this year. After work, I feel exhausted and, at times, have se-



A delivery worker rides his bike on a hot summer day on May 20, 2024 in Gurugram, India



Delivery driver Aman pours water over his head to cool himself after making a delivery

vere headaches," he says. The high temperatures also impact him at home, where frequent power outages prevent him from getting proper rest, making his condition worse. He says his mother insists that he find a

different job, but that's not an option considering the nation's high unemployment.

"Also, our companies aren't doing much for our safety and wellbeing," Sharukh says, wrapping a gamcha

(soft cotton towel soaked in water) around his face before leaving to deliver his next order.

Situations such as prolonged working hours, pressure to meet delivery targets, carrying heavy loads, irregu-

lar income and lack of social security like health insurance all negatively impact gig workers' physical and mental wellbeing, according to a 2024 report by Janpahal, a Delhi-based non-profit

"Although we all live in similar temperatures, the burden of heat isn't shared equally," explains Selomi Garnaik, a campaigner at Greenpeace India. "Heatwaves disproportionately impact outdoor workers, forcing them to endure extreme temperatures and putting their health and safety at grave risk."

She says that Greenpeace India is demanding the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) declare heatwaves as a national disaster to ensure "effective fund allocation for heatwave adaptation, mitigation and relief".

"Unfortunately, the heat action plans are reduced to being mere guiding documents; this needs to change," Garnaik adds. "The heat action plans should prioritise outdoor workers and pay attention to their needs, including reducing working hours during peak heat, providing work absence allowances, and ensuring accessible basic public goods like electricity and water. It's high time to address this inequity and protect those at the forefront during these challenging times."

Govinda Shah, 27, who works for Zepto, a grocery delivery platform, says: "The temperature in Delhi is like hellfire... for people like me who earn hand to mouth." He sits under a tree waiting for his next order outside a housing society in India's second-largest IT hub, Gurugram, a major satellite city of New Delhi.

He works 10-hour shifts to make ends meet, earning about 600 rupees (\$7.20) daily. The excessive heat is both physically and mentally challenging. "I have got rashes, making it painful to walk, and also my clothes stink very unpleasantly, making me feel embarrassed in front of the customer," Shah says. "Before going to sleep, I pray this heatwave ends soon, or else survival will be difficult."

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Day of African Child: Education underlined

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

EXPERTS and decision-makers attending a special event ahead of the annual Day of the African Child has underscored the crucial imperative of ensuring the right to education for children in Africa.

The Day of the African Child is commemorated annually on June 16, as a significant occasion to reaffirm the continent's collective commitment to the well-being and educational rights of children across Africa.

On Friday, a special event was held at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, to mark this year's edition of the annual commemorative event under the theme "Education for All Children in Africa: The Time is Now."

Addressing the commemorative event, Mohamed Belhocine, the AU commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, stressed that the theme underscores the critical role of education financing in ensuring that every child in Africa has access to inclusive, acces-

sible, and relevant learning opportunities.

This year's edition of the day was celebrated in alignment with the AU theme of the year 2024: "Educate an African fit for the 21st century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, life-long, quality, and relevant learning in Africa."

"Commemorating the Day of the African Child in the year of education as the AU theme is a testament to our unwavering commitment to unlocking the potential of Africa's most valuable resource, our children," Belhocine said.

The AU commissioner also called for concerted efforts in driving tangible progress towards inclusive and equitable education in Africa.

As part of the commemorative event, a joint AU-UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) report was launched focusing on education financing.

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current state of education financing in Africa and outlines practical strategies to increase investment, improve re-



Namibian children dance during a celebration of the Day of the African Child in Windhoek with education taking centre stage.

source allocation, and ensure equitable access to quality education for all children, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable.

Noting that education is a fundamental human right and a key driver of social and economic development, the report stressed that

"Too many children in Africa continue to face barriers in accessing inclusive and quality learning."

The report warned that the learning crisis on the continent will become a huge development challenge if investments in education are

not enhanced. It says expanding funding for education, both domestically and from external sources, is a key pathway to addressing this challenge.

The International Day of the African Child, also known as the Day of the African Child, has been celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991.

# Zambian children embrace sports amid power cuts

LUSAKA

IT was 12:00 pm, and 11-year-old Zanele Mbewe, a resident of Northgate Gardens in the Zambian capital of Lusaka, had just come home from school.

After completing her homework, Zanele would head next door to play Nsolo, a simpler form of chess. She would also participate in other traditional and indigenous games with other children. This has been her routine for the past five days.

"This week, the power goes off at 5 a.m. and comes back on at 5 p.m.," she explained while looking at the power rationing timetable from Zambia's national electricity supply company, ZESCO, stuck on the door of the refrigerator in her household.

As homes and communities endure more than 10 hours of power cuts each day, children in Zambia are finding themselves with a newfound opportunity to engage in traditional indigenous games, replacing hours spent in front of televisions and other electronic devices.

For years, children in Zambia's urban areas, as in many parts of the world, have been drawn to screens, spending hours in front of televisions, computers, phones, and gaming devices. However, the power cuts have forced them to find alternative ways to entertain themselves, leading to a resurgence of traditional and indigenous games.

In the densely populated community of the Mandevu Compound, on the northern side of Lusaka, children can be seen playing a variety of games, such as skipping rope, hopscotch, and tag, which were once part of the daily routine of previous generations.

"Before the power rationing started, children were always indoors, glued to their screens, watching TV or playing video games. Now, with the lack of electricity for several hours each day, they have turned

to playing traditional games," Herald Kakomai, 62, a senior citizen residing in Mandevu Compound.

He also noted that the lack of electricity has compelled children in his neighborhood to engage in various sports activities, building relationships that go beyond the virtual world.

Justine Nyirenda, a traditional and indigenous sports promoter, asserted that the current electricity rationing in Zambia has unintentionally encouraged a return to age-old pastimes that involve teamwork, creativity, and physical activity, which are often overlooked in a digitally dominated world.

Nyirenda, who heads Kombolani, an indigenous sports association, further said the resurgence of traditional and indigenous games has allowed children to connect with Zambia's cultural heritage

and learn about traditions that have been passed down from previous generations.

"These games not only provide entertainment, but also serve as a way for children to connect with their roots and foster a sense of pride in their cultural identity," he said.

Interactions with different members of the public have shown that the decrease in screen time has also resulted in children becoming more physically active, decreasing sedentary behavior, and improving their overall health and well-being. Electricity rationing in Zambia has often been necessitated by low water levels at the Kariba Dam, a key hydroelectric generation point for the country. Low water levels at the dam are caused by insufficient rainfall and drought conditions.

Zambian Minister of Energy Peter Ka-

pala said in a statement in May that the Kariba Dam power station was producing only 166 megawatts out of an installed capacity of 1,080 megawatts, leaving communities without electricity for more than 10 hours a day.

While the lack of access to electricity has posed challenges for households and businesses, it has created opportunities for children to embrace age-old games that were once at risk of being forgotten.

As children across the country trade the glow of screens for the warmth of community interaction, the positive ripple effects of this unexpected situation will continue to serve as a silver lining to Zambia's power cuts.

# 'Training key in empowering workers and enhancing national development'

By Guardian Correspondent

TRAINING has been described as one of the crucial aspects in empowering employees and enhancing national development and this is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path, ensuring that no one is left behind.

SDG 4 ensures inclusive and equitable quality education, promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all.

PanAfrican Energy Tanzania (PAET) has been sailing through the SDGs path by having a robust staff training programme, which has not only empowered its employees but also significantly contributed to the development of Tanzania's workforce and its overall economy.

Over the past decade, PAET has invested over \$3.2 million in training initiatives, cultivating a skilled and knowledgeable workforce that has driven the company's operational excellence and strategic growth.

In an interview recently, Andy Hanna PAET managing director said: "I am immensely proud of our commitment to nurturing a highly skilled and talented workforce that reflects the community and culture of Tanzania."

"Our focus on training and development is not just about enhancing the capabilities of our employees; it's about contributing to the broader economic development of Tanzania. By investing heavily in training and upskilling, we ensure that our team is equipped with the technical expertise needed to thrive in our industry. This investment in our people has allowed us to build a predominantly Tanzanian leadership team, demonstrating our dedication to providing long-term and rewarding careers for our employees," he said.

He said that PAET's training initiatives span a wide array of technical and professional development programmes—from the maintenance of raw gas compressors to international certifications in health and

safety, PAET has ensured that its employees are equipped with cutting-edge skills and knowledge.

According to him, training programmes include raw gas compressor maintenance, that has been instrumental in enabling employees to maintain and troubleshoot newly installed compressors, minimizing production downtime and associated costs, gas engines technology, which is focused on the overhaul and maintenance of V36 engines, this training has enhanced the mechanical and technical skills of PAET's workforce.

Other issues are environmental, social, and governance (ESG)—an International Sustainable Business Specialist Levels 1 and 2, the program that helped establish a robust ESG committee within PAET, driving the company's sustainability objectives, health & Safety Certification, which provide comprehensive knowledge in health and safety, this certification ensures the safe supervision of all company operations and well integrity management and gas conditioning & processing. These specialized trainings have fortified PAET's operational capabilities in critical areas.

The impact of these training programs is evident in the remarkable professional advancements within PAET. When operations started, various skills were absent in the country or in short supply, since then numerous positions that were previously held by expatriates and consultants are now occupied by Tanzanian professionals, demonstrating the effectiveness of PAET's training initiatives in building local expertise. Some key positions now occupied by Tanzanians include: the Deputy Managing Director; the Operations Manager; 2 Site Managers; 2 Deputy Site Managers; a Downstream Manager; 3 Reservoir Engineers; 2 Project Engineers; a Geologist and Logistics Manager. Currently, 99% of all PAET employees are Tanzanian nationals.

These appointments highlight the development of a competent and confident Tanzanian workforce capable of leading complex projects and driving the company's strategic



Training beneficiaries in one of the CNG plants

goals.

Vincent Edward, a geologist at PAET shared how the company has helped his professional and personal development, saying: "PAET has given me exposure to international training and experiences that have advanced my knowledge and helped me acquire new skills. The company has the tools to enable me to become a better version of myself every day and I also have an opportunity to work closely with international consultants on various projects, specifically the 3D seismic project that I was involved from the design phase, tender management, and execution phases. Moreover, the company has built my professional capability and confidence, preparing me to manage and lead future projects in my area of expertise."

Since 2020, PAET has also been running a highly successful internship program, designed to nurture young talent and provide practical industry experience. The program

initially started with three engineering interns and has since expanded significantly. In 2022, nine university graduates from various disciplines joined the program, with placements in logistics, commercial, HR, finance, and oil and gas engineering departments. Following the success of the 2022 program, PAET continued its commitment by engaging ten more graduate interns in 2023, spread across IT, HSE, finance, procurement, and oil and gas engineering departments.

The internship program offers invaluable opportunities for graduates to gain hands-on experience, apply theoretical knowledge, and work alongside seasoned PAET professionals. This not only enhances their skills but also boosts their confidence and readiness for future roles in the industry.

Lydia Mwasakyene, an intern in the Health & Safety and ESG department is incredibly happy with the results of the internship

program saying, "The program has equipped me with the practical skills, industrial knowledge and networking opportunities that have prepared me to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities within the natural gas industry. I have learned to adapt to dynamic work environments, collaborate effectively within multidisciplinary teams and prioritize safety and the environment."

PAET's internship program has become highly competitive and attracts the highest performing applicants. Moreover, the company itself benefits as indicated by the fact that 78% of the 2022 cohort are now employed full time employment with the Company.

Employees gain advanced technical and professional skills, which open doors to higher career opportunities and leadership roles within the company. Many employees have become active members of their professional boards, further validating their expertise and commitment to their fields.

As PAET's employees become more skilled, they contribute to the efficiency and reliability of Tanzania's energy sector, ensuring a stable and sustainable supply of electricity.

By explicitly aligning its staff training with the principles outlined in Tanzania's Local Content Policy, PAET is not only meeting regulatory requirements but is actively contributing to the nation's self-sufficiency and resilience in the oil and gas sector.

The program stands as a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to the socio-economic development of the country, ensuring that the benefits of the industry are maximized for the local population, and the nation as a whole reaps the rewards of its invaluable natural resources thus paving the way for a brighter and more sustainable future for Tanzania.



# Malawi farming experiment shows how simple changes can boost maize yields and improve soil

By Alan Dixon

**M**ALAWI'S increasingly unpredictable rainfall and higher than usual temperatures are causing problems for smallholder farmers. Soil erosion has increased, causing soil fertility and water availability to decline.

Farmers are already struggling financially. Many farm only one crop: maize. They can't easily afford chemical fertilisers that would boost the soil's fertility and sustain yields.

Agriculture accounts for just over 25 percent of Malawi's gross domestic product. About 80 percent of the population depend on smallholder farming for their survival.

We are soil fertility and sustainable development specialists. Together with sustainable agriculture and environmental researcher Augustine Talababie Phiri, we set out to discover how we could use different combinations of plants to improve soil fertility so that farmers wouldn't need expensive fertilisers.

A woman in a yellow dress stands in a flourishing plot of cowpea and maize growing taller than her head

We conducted trials on farms in northern Malawi where we tested a combination of different crops grown together. We then measured changes to the soil fertility in each field over a two year period.

Our research found that growing maize with cowpea and pigeon pea in raised "deep beds" led to much greater soil fertility.

### What we researched

Traditional farming techniques involve tilling the soil each year and then planting and cultivating one crop on narrow ridges. However, these ridges are extremely vulnerable to soil erosion.

We looked into the results of combining intercropping with deep bed farming. Intercropping means growing two or more crops side by side, instead of just one. Deep bed farming is a new practice developed in Malawi where a farmer digs with a pickaxe all the way through the hard layer of soil near the surface. This hard layer - the compacted soil hardpan - prevents plant roots from growing well, and usually stunts the growth of the crop. Breaking it up allows the crop roots more room to grow.



Smallholder farmers in northern Malawi preparing deep beds to plant with peas and maize

The other part of deep bed farming involves planting seedlings on piles of soil 30cm higher than ground level. The farmer then digs a ditch next to these beds to catch and hold rainwater, and keep the soil moist for months. A graphic showing maize growing next to peas with ditches in between to catch water

We worked with a Malawi non-governmental organisation, Tiyeni, which

has been training farmers in sustainable and climate-smart agriculture since 2004. Tiyeni had found that the maize yield from deep beds was much higher than maize grown the normal way.

We decided to work with smallholder farmers in Msongwe, near the city of Mzuzu, to see if intercropping peas with maize in deep beds would give even better results.

Our experimental design compared agricultural plots across two growing seasons, one after another. We tried growing different combinations of maize in traditional cultivation ridges (ordinarily sown in lines) and in deep beds, both on its own and intercropped with cowpea or pigeon pea. We then analysed the amount of nitrates in the soil - one of the most important nutrients to help plants grow. We also analysed the amount of phosphates (or phosphorous, another important nutrient) in the soil and measured the amount of maize that was grown.

### Inexpensive climate-smart solutions

Our research found that intercropping improves the soil a lot. Legumes such as beans or peas take nitrogen from the atmosphere and turn it into ammonium and nitrate in the soil. This is a natural fertiliser. It improves soil health and supports better growth for other crops, like maize, that are planted alongside legumes.

When cereal-legume intercropping is combined with deep bed farming, the results are even better. We found that:

A female farmer stands in a field after harvest with big cobs of maize in one hand and small cobs in the other hand, indicating the success of intercropping combined with deep bed farming

Soil is more fertile: The nitrogen-fixing ability of pigeon pea and cowpea enriched the soil even more than ordinary fertilisers did. In the test areas with deep bed farming, the soil fertility improved even more and remained very fertile across the two growing seasons.

Crops produce more: Intercropping with legumes showed higher crop yields compared to the fields where only maize was grown. Again, these effects were higher in the deep bed farming fields across the two

growing seasons.

### Why this matters

This new method of farming improves the quality of the soil and its ability to grow more crops.

Farmers can reduce their dependence on chemical fertilisers, which are often expensive and out of reach. This makes farming more sustainable and cost-effective.

Higher yields of maize, cowpea and pigeon pea mean a greater quantity and diversity of nutritious food can be produced on the same amount of land.

Because farmers don't have to buy fertilisers, their profits are greater and it costs less to grow more crops to sell. Farmers used these profits for many different things, from paying school fees to investing in business enterprises.

Deep bed farming reduces soil erosion and compaction. When soil is compacted, or pressed together too tightly, it does not retain water. This is important in Malawi, which has suffered a number of El Niño droughts. The natural nitrogen-fixing process of legumes also reduces the environmental impacts of farming.

In short, combining deep bed farming with legume intercropping can enhance the benefits already being achieved by both systems independently. As climate change continues to negatively affect agriculture worldwide, innovative approaches like these will be essential in creating more resilient and productive agricultural systems.

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT-116

1 keep out of sight  
 2 a plant of a genus that includes the pansies and violets  
 3 'believe' according to users in England  
 4 willful in Kiswahili  
 5 notice in Kiswahili  
 6 party in Kiswahili

Down:  
 1 make great efforts  
 2 Capital city of U.K  
 3 self-consciously playful  
 4 Set again  
 6 loss or impairment of the power of voluntary movement  
 8 mammals  
 9 formal and dignified  
 13 a space or or partly inside the roof of a building  
 16 Steal in Kiswahili

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.

HOE INTO	KOALA	IGLOO
SKY, ELM	ATHANOR	MEANS
HER, SHY	DORMER	THEME
TEL, YEN	YANG, LEAD	ROTOR
ARM, ETE	TASH, TACO	CREAM

Yesterday's solution

M	A	L	A	W	I	S	F	A	M	O	U
O	O	A	B	U	T	L	A	N	S		
M	A	N	Y	E	M	A	O	Y	A	C	H
E	D	D	O	B	O	A	R	O	R	E	O
N	D	O	L	A	B	Y	V	E	R	O	N
T	I	N	K	U	A		V	E	R	O	N
C	E	D	I	B	L	E	E	N	A	M	E
S	T	A	D	I			V	R	A	T	E
							T	H	E	M	E
							S	E	N		

Across:  
 1 a watery liquid secreted into the mouth by glands  
 5 a measure  
 7 go hurriedly through a place stealing things and causing damage  
 10 combining form in linguistics term

# RADIO One

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 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 RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS NAKUKA 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 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## Toyota shareholders demand vote against Akio chairman

TOKYO

Toyota's chairman Akio Toyoda will be facing some disgruntled shareholders this week, as two major proxy groups demand a vote against keeping the grandson of the founder on its board.

The vote expected at the June 18 annual shareholders meeting comes after Toyota apologized recently over fraudulent certification tests for vehicles, a major embarrassment for a company that prides itself on a reputation for excellent quality.

The raft of problems at Japanese automakers including Toyota are said not to involve any safety problems and no recalls were announced. But Toyota suspended production of three models produced by group companies in Japan.

Toyota's stock prices had tripled over the last five years to nearly 3,800 yen (\$24) before cascading downward amid its latest troubles. Its shares are now trading at above 3,000 yen (\$20) – a loss of about 3 trillion Japanese yen (\$18 billion) in market value.

Institutional Shareholder Services, majority owned by the German capital market company Deutsche Borse Group, which advises investors, said in its proxy report that Toyoda "should be considered ultimately accountable."

It noted his promises for change did not involve reshuffling of the board. While Toyoda said it plans to communicate better with workers on the ground, that likely wasn't enough to prevent a recurrence of problems with cheating on testing, ISS said.

"The company's propensity to preserve its corporate culture is in fact suspected, and Toyoda should be held accountable for that," it said.

ISS is not opposing appointments of other board members, including Toyota Chief Executive Koji Sato, who took up his post in 2023.

The past year has brought a flurry of scandals involving improper checks on vehicles, including collision tests, at group companies Daihatsu Motor Co., which makes small models, truckmaker Hino Motors and Toyota Industries Corp., a manufacturer of forklifts and other machinery.

Japanese officials say such violations were also found at Honda Motor Co., Mazda Motor Corp. and Suzuki Motor Corp.

Another major shareholder, proxy advisory company Glass Lewis & Co. recommended voting against the reappointment of Toyoda and Shigeru Hayakawa, another top executive.

"More specifically, we believe that Mr. Toyoda holds responsibility for failing to ensure that the Group maintained appropriate internal controls and for the failure to ensure appropriate governance measures were implemented at Group companies," it said in its proxy report.

"Moreover, given the widespread occurrence of issues throughout the Toyota Group, this further raises questions concerning the corporate culture which has developed under the leadership of Mr. Toyoda."

Hayakawa oversaw appointments of board members, and more independent board members should be added, according to Glass Lewis, which is based in San Francisco. It also recommended voting against a proposal on lobbying by Toyota on climate change, stressing a need for more disclosure.

Under Toyoda, the automaker has pushed a "multi-pathway" approach to ecological vehicles, emphasizing hybrids, which have both a gasoline engine and electric motor, and using hydrogen for fuel instead of focusing on battery electric vehicles that some ecologists favor for cutting auto emissions.

Toyoda is unlikely to be ousted at the general shareholders' meeting, to be held at the company's headquarters in the central Japanese city named after the maker of the Prius hybrid, Lexus luxury models and Camry sedan.

The biggest of Toyota's nearly 1 million shareholders are Japanese companies such as Japanese banks and financial institutions that are unlikely to challenge the automaker. Toyota Industries, a group company, is the No. 2 shareholder.

Tightly held cross-shareholdings among affiliates, long the rule in Japan, are gradually unraveling but longstanding loyalties are likely strong enough to keep Toyoda in his post. Last year, he won re-election with nearly 85 percent of the vote, although that was down from 96 percent in 2022.

In a recent report on Toyota, Kazunori Maki, an auto analyst at SMBC Nikko Securities, noted that the shipments Toyota suspended affected just 1 percent or 2 percent of its global sales.

though reports say the tax collection authority remains reluctant to release the source of revenue.

Port expert Emmanuel Mallya said if the government will continue to allow the collection of port services fees by TRA, will limit the port's efficiency, which will be brought by the private sector players.

"It is like they want to suffocate TPA because wharfage is not tax but is paid for port services in order to enable it to finance its activities for sustainability," said Mallya.

Mallya who also serves as the chairman, board of trustees of Tanzania Ship Agencies

# Stakeholders for ports authority on wharfage collection

By Guardian Reporter

The government has been advised to allow the Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) to start collecting port services fees (wharfage) which is currently being collected by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

The call was made recently by transport stakeholders and economists in supporting to the recent advices given by the Members of Parliament (MPs) during an ongoing budgetary parliamentary session.

They said giving the mandate to TPA in collecting the fees will increase efficiency, al-

By Guardian Reporter

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has said the stance for monetary policy for 2024/2025 will be relatively tight, responding to the path-through effects of the recent exchange rate depreciation and high oil prices on inflation.

"The bank will execute this policy stance using the interest rate-based policy monetary policy framework," reads part of the BoT's Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) for June released late last week.

The statement said monetary policy for 2024/2025 will continue focusing on achieving the inflation target of 5 percent and facilitating the economic growth of 5.4 percent in 2024 and 5.8 percent in 2025 for Tanzania mainland and 7.2 percent and 6.8 percent for Zanzibar.

In line with this, the BoT says will review the Central Bank Rate (CBR) on quarterly basis and use monetary policy instruments to steer the 7-day Interbank Cash Market rate close to the CBR.

The central bank raised the CBR rate to 6 percent for the second quarter of this year ending at the end of June, from 5.5 percent



during the first quarter of this year to purposely contain inflationary pressure emanating from depreciation of exchange rate on the inflation outlook.

From January to May 2024, BoT says the implementation of monetary policy succeeded to contain the 7-day Interbank Cash Market rate within the band of +/-200 basis point of CBR.

During the ten months period of the current financial year, inflation averaged 3.2 percent; lower

than 4.7 percent recorded in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

The low inflationary environment was largely associated with the implementation of prudent monetary policy, adequate food supply in the country and moderation in the price increase of essential imports.

Food inflation declined to average of 3.4 percent from 8.9 percent in similar period in 2022/2023, while energy, fuel and util-

ity inflation averaged 4.1 percent from 7.2 percent, reflecting price movement in the global market.

In addition, the central bank has said will continue implementing reforms in the financial sector, including measures to enhance efficiency in the distribution of liquidity amongst banks, financial stability and inclusion to help improve monetary policy transition and effectiveness.

However, the MPS indicates that the interest

rate policy will continue to be determined by market forces and the interest rate-based monetary policy framework is expected to be guide interest rate determination and improve monetary policy transmission.

The statement indicates that the exchange rates policy will continue to be market-driven and a primary means of insulating the economy from shock and BoT will participate in the internal foreign exchange market in accordance with foreign exchange intervention policy.

The ongoing implementation of measures to address foreign currency shortage is expected to ensure the adequacy of foreign reserves and easing of monetary policy in advanced economies is expected to increase foreign currency liquidity, specifically the US dollar, thereby reducing pressure on foreign reserves and exchange rate.

During the current financial year, under the monetary targeting framework, BoT implemented less accommodative monetary policy to contain the inflationary pressure emanating from global and domestic shocks while supporting economic growth.

## Tanga councils directed to respond to CAG queries



Mkinga District councillors follow remarks by Tanga regional commissioner Dr Batilda Buriani at a recent council meeting. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari.

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Mkinga

TANGA regional commissioner (RC) Dr Batilda Buriani has directed all 11 councils in Tanga region to respond to the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) queries raised on his report for the finan-

cial year ended in June, 2023.

She also insisted that before submitting such reports to the responsible authorities, the responses must be reviewed by the councils' external and internal auditors.

RC Dr Buriani issued the directives in Mkinga district council,

when she was attending the special councilor's meeting summoned to discuss the CAG queries on their audited financial reports for 2022/2023.

She said there are some recommendations that are within district council's mandate, but others need permits.

"There are some recommendations are out of your mandate, can you please start processing of asking permit before June 30 before in order to compile them," she said.

She said in that district council there are seven CAG audited financial reports recommendations for past years and nine new, both must be responded on their respective areas.

She further stated that out of 11 councils of Tanga region, only Kilindi district council received doubts sheet, the rest received clean sheets.

In another development, RC Buriani said as there about 68m/- sent to the district council and allocated to development projects and should be used into targeted areas not otherwise.

"I would like to direct such amount of money must be channelled to their respective areas of implementation before June 30, and must be proper supervised how will be used for, although there are hearsays that fund was allocated purposely for local government election 2024, that is wrong, do not make conflict between village chairpersons and residents" stressed RC.

At total of 72 CAG annual financial report recommendations that includes 32 recommendations of 2022/2023 fiscal year have been responded and compiled, whilst 40 recommendations equivalent to 60 percent were not responded.

Special Seats, said apart from good work done by the port authority, the government should now change its policies to allow it to start collecting port services fees.

Zacharia Alie, an economist based in Dar es Salaam said allowing the tax authority to continue collecting port services fees, is limiting the port capacity to increase its capacity.

"The port authority has shown good capacity of self-managing and if they will be allowed to collect wharfage, it will enable it to do more," he said.

Tabling the national budget for financial

year 2024/2025 in Dodoma last week, minister of finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba proposed for the amendment of Port Act 2004 to return the mandate of collecting port services fees to TPA.

He said the funds collected will be deposited to the TPA's special account at the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and its use will be made after the authority of the government paymaster general.

"The aim of this decision is to enable the port authority to raise funds for infrastructure improvement," he said



# Building the next generation of capital markets



By Katerina Liu

Market participants have been talking about using distributed ledger technology as a tool to improve capital markets infrastructure for at least a decade. But despite numerous pilots and experiments, few distributed ledger technology-based capital markets systems have reached production-grade scale. If these systems are really as promising as they seem, what's taking so long, asked panellists and participants at the Digital money summit hosted by OMFIF in London last month.

Reducing settlement times is generally agreed among market participants to reduce risk and improve capital efficiency. Whether DLT can provide a safe and compliant means of doing so is being put to the test.

Financial markets are regulated spaces, so while building the technology is important, convincing regulators of its soundness is at least equally so. To their credit, regulators are providing the opportunity to conduct the necessary tests under their supervision. In 2023, the European Union began the blockchain pilot regime, providing the legal framework for the trading and settlement of transactions with finan-

cial instruments as tokenised assets, aiming to preserve 'investor protection, market integrity, financial stability and transparency, while avoiding regulatory arbitrage and loopholes'.

The Bank of England and the Financial Conduct Authority set out to introduce the Digital Securities Sandbox that will enable firms to issue, trade and settle securities using DLT and other developing technologies. The sandbox would provide the regulators with the opportunity to 'design a permanent technology-friendly regime for the securities market'.

## Technical barriers

Participants across different panels highlighted technical interoperability as a key problem. On account of the many players, their infrastructures are not sufficient in linking up the various systems. Interoperability is important for avoiding fragmentation. It can ensure a seamless flow of data while upholding trust and security across the different systems. The ecosystem players will need to consider factors such as whether interoperability would occur within the same technical stack but with different applications, or as full interoperability among different applications and different technical stacks. These include other technical factors

such as data storage and how these systems communicate with each other.

If these systems are not interoperable, they run the risk of liquidity fragmentation, creating 'digital islands' where the system can only function within itself. New systems will need to consider access to established payment rails, and to each other, to prevent this from happening.

Both the pilot regime and the DSS impose strict limits on the volume of assets that can be transacted. Scaling up for a full marketplace, however, may not simply be a question of removing these limits.

Scalability is a technical challenge. Though some in the industry believe they have solved it, demonstrating that a system that worked for a few assets in a sandbox can also work for trillions of euros of financial instruments will be an important prerequisite before advancing to widespread adoption.

## Governance and regulatory hurdles

Capital markets should operate as close to globally as possible for maximum efficiency and liquidity. Frictions across borders may be important for policy reasons regarding the flow of capital and funds. But new form factors should not introduce new constraints.

For this to be so requires globally cohesive regulatory frameworks. Working on these projects on a national basis makes sense initially, but for these markets to function internationally requires collaboration on operating standards.

During the summit, panellists raised the issue of shifting responsibilities of settlement from intermediaries and custodians to platforms, addressing questions like: could platforms be held accountable in the same way as current financial market infrastructure?

While some 73 percent of the summit audience believed that settlement would take place on DLT rails in the future, they were split on whether these rails will be operated by CSDs (43 percent) or if DLT would make those institutions redundant (30 percent).

The blockchain pilot regime and DSS are exploring whether central securities depositories will be needed with DLT infrastructure. Part of the work now will involve deciding on which roles market participants will play in these new ecosystems.

Katerina Liu (pictured), is Research Analyst at the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, an independent forum for central banking, economic policy and public investment.

## Ground handling firm to pay 1.8bn/- in 2023 dividends

By Henry Mwangonde

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed ground handling company - Swissport is set to pay 1.8bn/- in dividend to its shareholders after recording a 3.6bn/- profit in 2023 up by 26-percent compared to 2022.

Speaking at the company's annual general meeting held over the weekend, the company's Managing Director Mrisho Yassin said the dividend has increased to 51.33/- per share from 41/- paid for the financial year 2022.

He attributed the increase to various factors which have led to revenue increase including expansion of number of flights handled and operationalisation of a lounge at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA).

"The number of cargo that we handled at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) but also the opening up of various businesses, the company's performance in the past year has been impressive," he said.

Yassin also hinted at the company's plans to start operating in other airports namely Zanzibar and Mwanza among others.

He said the government efforts to market the country's tourism destinations including the 'Royal Tour' and increase in marketing of investment destinations have also led to the increase of the company's revenue.

Yassin said the company was now operating at between 60 to 70 percent of its normal operations for ground handling business, while the cargo business has remained stable compared to the ground handling business.

One of the shareholders Haika Shauri said the company was showing signs of growth despite challenges saying the Covid-19 pandemic derailed growth of the company among other issues.



## Rice farmers trained on modern farming technology

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RICE farmers from Tanga, Mbeya and Coast regions have trained on modern farming technologies to enhance productivity of the food and cash crop.

Senior Business Development Officer with the state-owned agricultural bank, Angelina Nyamsambo said the capacity building training was also aimed to ensure they shift from subsistence to commercial rice farming.

She said they are mandated to provide

short, medium and long-term affordable credit facilities to farmers to achieve inclusive socio-economic development.

"We have been training rice farmers so that they are able to adopt modern farming technologies for enhanced harvests. We also provide them with loans for expansion and improvement of their farming activities," she said.

Nyamsambo said those benefitted with the training includes rice farmers

from the Ruvu Irrigation Cooperative Society (CHAURU) and Tanga's Mombi Irrigation Cooperative Society.

She said apart from acquiring the knowledge, farmers also visited one of the rice milling factories in Mbeya-Raphael Group Company Limited as well as rice farmers of the Mbuyuni Irrigation Cooperative Society also based in the region.

Rice is the second most important food grain crop after maize, produced in 64 districts and widely consumed in the

country, according to the national rice development strategy 2019-2030.

About 71, 9 and 20 percent of rice cultivation in Tanzania takes place under rain fed lowland, lowland irrigated and upland conditions, respectively.

More than 70 percent of rice production in the country originates from six leading rice producing regions-Shinyanga, Tabora, Mwanza, Mbeya, Rukwa and Morogoro. Other regions include Songwe, Katavi, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Kigoma, Manyara, Iringa, Mara and Tanga.

## Djibouti-Addis corridor gets digital fleet management system for trucks

DJIBOUTI

The government of Djibouti, the Djibouti Ports Corridor Road (DPCR), and the Delegation of the European Union in Djibouti and IGAD has launched a digital vehicle fleet management system expected to transform the movement of goods between Djibouti and Ethiopia.

This system will directly impact the efficiency of goods transported along the corridor routes.

This is the first practical step of a strategic partnership between the EU and the Republic of Djibouti: the EU's support for the Horn of Africa initiative strategy, in collaboration with the governments of the Republic of Djibouti and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The EU has committed €32 million to a programme dedicated to the "Promotion of Regional Economic Integration in the Horn of Africa through the Development of the Djibouti

Corridor, implemented by the French Development Agency (AFD) and TradeMark Africa (TMA).

The programme aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of one of Africa's busiest economic corridors while promoting inclusive trade.

The objective is to contribute to a 10% reduction in trade costs, a 15% decrease in exchange time, and a 30 percent reduction in customs clearance times at certain border crossing points. The EU-supported programme will also increase exports in targeted sub-sectors by 15 percent and enable a 15 percent growth in income for targeted vulnerable groups, especially women, in trade.

The initiative with the Djibouti Port Corridor Road (DPCR) Fleet Management System - a digital vehicle fleet management system, is the first to be launched in Djibouti under this programme.



The aim of this digital system is to extend the network of vehicle transmission terminals operating on the corridor using RFID (radio frequency identification) technology.

It will secure revenues by extending the network to strategic intersections, including border points, and beyond PK51. It will enable comprehensive control of vehicle routes and transit times.

At the ceremony, Djibouti's Minister of Infrastructure and

Equipment, Hassan Houmed, highlighted the anticipated benefits in terms of reduced truck turnaround times and the optimisation that the system offers to the logistics and transport sector. "This fleet management system aligns perfectly with the Djibouti government's Vision 2035, which aspires to bring the logistics and transport sector into the digital age.

By integrating advanced RFID technology, we will be able to track

goods trucks in real-time on the Djibouti-Ethiopia corridor, thereby optimising logistics operations and reducing port wait times," he commented.

Djibouti Minister of Trade and Tourism, Mohamed Warsama Dirieh said, "Driving forward the agenda of regional economic integration in the Horn of Africa through the strategic development of the Djibouti Corridor is paramount. By aligning Djibouti's trade policies with key WTO agreements like the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), we are creating a seamless trade environment between Djibouti and Ethiopia."

The President of the Ports & Free Zones Authority, Aboubaker Omar Hadi, stated: "This project is of utmost importance for our ports and free zones, as it represents a significant advancement in our port community interconnection strategy. By

integrating RFID technology, we will enhance the competitiveness of our trade corridor and improve the efficiency of goods transport. This modern system will allow us to better plan, manage, and the efficient flow of goods, contributing to our vision of making Djibouti a leading logistics and economic hub in Africa."

TradeMark Africa Chief of Programmes and Deputy CEO, Allen Asimwe, commented, "This fleet management system is a game-changer in promoting digital trade and sustainable trade practices along the Djibouti-Ethiopia corridor. By leveraging technologies, we are not only enhancing operational efficiency but also setting a new benchmark for sustainable trade infrastructure in the region. Our commitment is to ensure that trade is not only seamless but also inclusive and sustainable, driving economic growth and development across the Horn of Africa and beyond."



# AfDB launches debt managers' initiative network to spur home-grown solution

ADDIS ABABA

The African Development Bank's African Development Institute has launched the African Debt Managers Initiative Network (ADMIN), a new program to provide home-grown solutions to Africa's debt challenges.

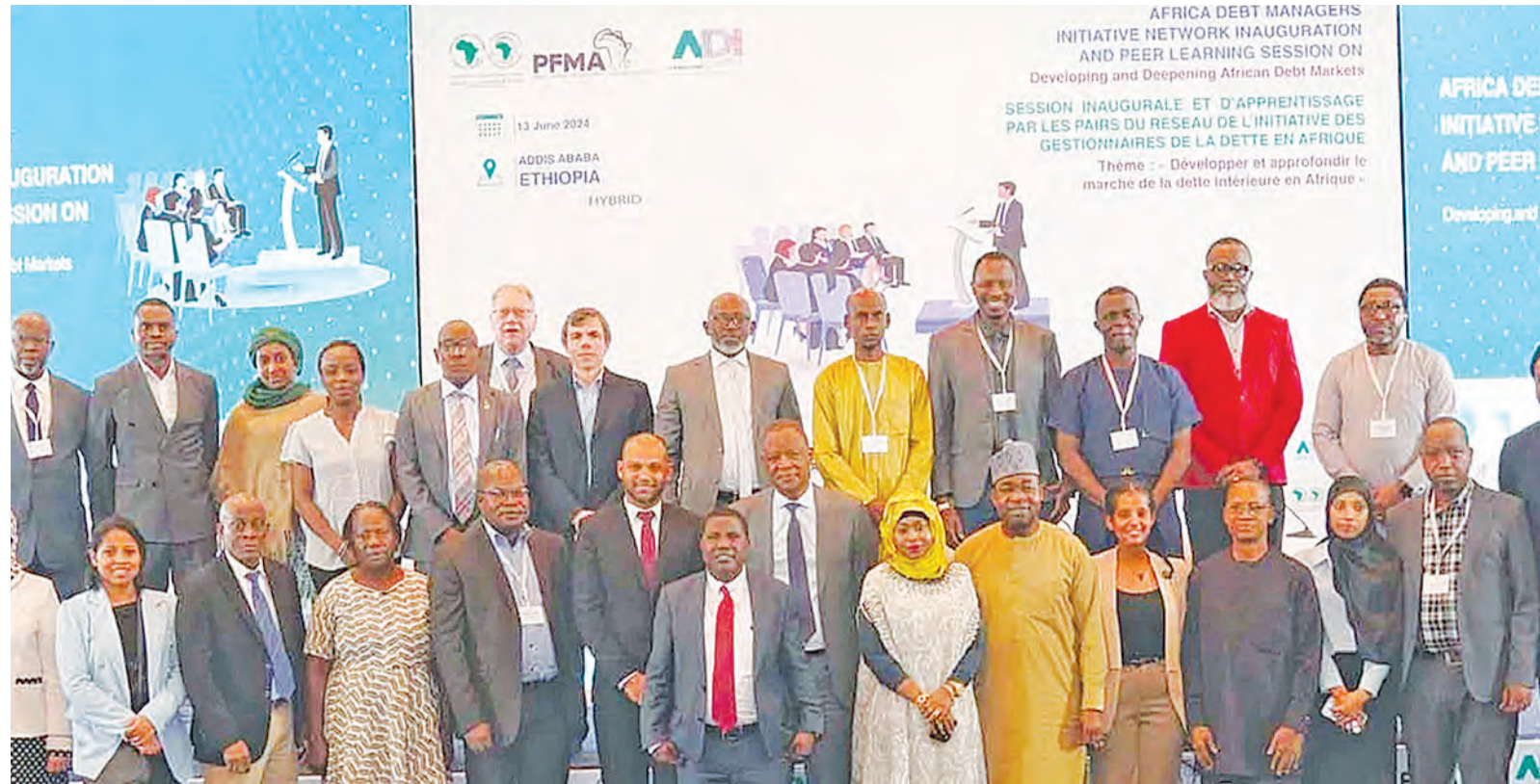
The inauguration and first peer learning event took place in Addis Ababa under the theme: Developing and Deepening Domestic Debt Markets in Africa.

African Development Bank, Director Coulibaly Abdoulaye said the network would provide tailored and home-grown solutions to the continent's debt challenges.

He said the network would also strengthen the debt management capacity of African countries' officials and institutions to rapidly resolve the debt challenges faced by these countries, restore macroeconomic stability and support inclusive growth, as well as promoting the exchange of experiences among debt managers in regional member countries.

African Development Institute Director, Eric Ogunleye, said that the growing financing needs for infrastructure development, poverty reduction, mitigating climate change, and tackling insecurity are driving African countries to increase their borrowing, further increasing debt vulnerability.

He said rising debt vulnerability and weak debt management capac-



ity in many African countries have continued to worsen macroeconomic outcomes and hamper effective policy responses to shocks, exacerbating debt distress in some countries.

"There is, therefore, a growing need to strengthen debt management capacity in African countries," Ogunleye told participants.

As of 30 April 2024, of the 38 African countries for which debt sustainability assessment data are available,

13 countries are at high risk of debt distress and 6 are already in debt distress, Ogunleye said. A larger share of African debt is now owed to external bondholders and creditors outside the Paris Club who deal directly with debtor countries; this high-cost debt imposes a significant burden of debt servicing on African countries averaging 18 percent of total government revenue, he explained.

The meeting underscored how developing an African domestic debt

market has been identified as a way in which the continent can develop cheaper and more stable sources of debt financing for its many development needs.

Discussions focused on sound debt management frameworks, networking, and peer learning to support the development and deepening of domestic debt markets in Africa to promote debt sustainability.

Former Director of Debt Management at South Africa's National

Treasury, Johan Krynauw, encouraged African countries to work more closely together to promote knowledge-sharing and support each other on debt management issues.

"In recent years, there have been many institutional initiatives from outside the continent to help African countries. The question is always why it did not work, and why we still have public finance and debt management problems today," Krynauw said. Africa has reached a stage

where it has enough skills, knowledge, and experience to determine what works for its countries.

"Context matters and we need to find solutions to local problems. That was one of the reasons the initiative was created for public debt managers in Africa to work together. The question has always been where African debt managers can work together," Krynauw said.

Jean Yves Naka, Director of Research and Strategy at the Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières or BRVM, the regional stock exchange of the West African Monetary Union, underlined the importance of domestic markets.

"Debt vulnerability remains a major challenge for African countries, especially in achieving development goals such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063 (link is external). However, the development of the African domestic debt market is one way to better address the situation," he said.

The session was attended by debt managers and heads of debt management offices in Africa, capital market operators, commercial bankers, and regulators, including securities and exchange commissions and central banks. They shared practical ways to develop and deepen domestic debt markets on the continent and offered lessons for countries that have either nascent or no domestic debt markets to consider how to develop or deepen them.

# Onion shortage blamed on poor quality seeds

NAIROBI

Onion farmers want the government to offer quality seeds and storage facilities in an effort to beat competition from Tanzanian producers. Around 50 per cent of onions sold locally are imported, despite the fact that the crop can thrive in many parts of Kenya.

Murriki Gatimbu, a large-scale onion producer in Isinya - Kajiado County - says red bulb onion is the most preferred variety and that farmers have been doing their best to meet the local demand. According to Gatimbu, the sector needs to be regulated and allocated more funds if smallholder farmers are to benefit. He says the government needs to offer expert guidance on easy cultivation techniques to maximise pro-

duction.

"The high cost of production has driven onion farmers to other ventures. This has led to onion prices shooting up beyond the reach of many families," he said. Apollo Owuor, the Coordinator for Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa, says good stores, handling and transport of farm produce will help increase onion production in Kenya.

Owuor says there is a need to come up with methods of reducing post-harvest losses, adding that food insecurity in Kenya remains elevated, with more than 60 per cent of produce going to waste. "We also have to look at technology and adopt climate-smart farming to improve production," he said.

Agencies

# Uganda doubles its oil industry budget

KAMPALA

Uganda more than doubled its annual budget for the oil and gas industry as it moves closer to the start of production, targeted for the next financial year.

The government allocated 920.9 billion shillings (\$246 million) to the sector for the year through June 2025, Finance Minister Matia Kasajja said Thursday in a speech in the capital, Kampala. That compares with 447 billion shillings in the previous budget.

Funding will be centered on the 900-mile East African Crude Oil Pipeline, or EACOP, which will transport crude from fields in landlocked Uganda to Tanzania's port of Tanga.

TotalEnergies SE is leading development of the country's oil fields and the \$5 billion pipeline, along with partners Uganda National Oil Corp., Tanzania Petroleum Development Corp. and China's Cnooc Ltd.

Money will also be channeled to a planned 60,000 barrel-a-day refinery. Uganda in January said it had picked Dubai-based Alpha MBM Investments to lead development of the \$4 billion plant, which will supply local and regional markets. The government is targeting startup in 2028.

Funding will also be allocated to a petroleum geoscience laboratory, and to procuring thousands of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders for clean cooking, Kasajja said.



## ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 15 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Ai Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto Wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba 5  
10:35 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: Mizingwe  
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma  
17:00 Shamsam 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: Hakufuma  
21:35 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 Ai Jazeera

TUESDAY 18 June

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  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
11:50 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Aya ya jami  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Usufiri Wakati  
13:30 Shikabamba  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Shikabamba  
14:20 Igizo rpt: Hakufuma  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza Huru  
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: Hakufuma  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe  
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa  
Jackpot  
Mjuzi Zaidi  
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Ai Jazeera

MONDAY 17 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Ai Jazeera  
9:00 Our Earth

WEDNESDAY 19 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Ai Jazeera  
9:00 Our Earth

9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt  
10:00 Watoto Wetu  
11:00 ITV Top Ten rpt  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jungu Kuu  
8:55 Habari za saa  
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## WORLD

## G7 summit ends in quarrels, problems

FASANO, Italy

THE Group of Seven (G7) Summit concluded on Saturday with member countries each having their own strategic considerations, which makes the next steps uncertain.

During the drafting process, the joint communique issued on Friday afternoon sparked intense debates and disagreements among the G7 members.

## Rubber cheque

According to the communique, the group has reached a deal to use the interest of frozen Russian assets to finance around \$50 billion of loan for Ukraine.

On Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the measure as "theft" and vowed that it would not go unpunished.

Previously, the group has been long divided over how such a plan could be outlined. The details of the loan deal were still not clear, which could take months in the following negotiations.

The United States also signed a security deal with Ukraine during the summit, but analysts told Xinhua that the agreement could be undone before its terms run out. That could be key, since US President Joe Biden faces a tough election battle later this year against former President Donald Trump, whose support for the Ukrainian cause is not as strong as Biden's.

## Declining influence

Leaders from over 10 other countries

were invited to attend the summit, including emerging economies such as India, South Africa and Brazil.

According to Alberto Bradanini, chairman of the Contemporary China Study Center in Italy, G7, especially the United States, perceives itself in decline.

"A minority of nations (G7) represents no more than 10 percent of the world population, with stagnant economies and lower growth rates than emerging countries. Their pathological claims are more evident than ever," said Bradanini.

"Inviting only a few of the BRICS (the acronym for an emerging-market cooperative mechanism that initially includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries to the G7 summit was a big mistake," Vito Petrocelli, the president of Italy BRICS Institute, told Xinhua in a written interview. "In this way, the West made it clear that it is interested in souring relations between BRICS rather than in real collaboration with them."

The agenda of the G7 is a succession of impromptu measures, said Petrocelli, adding that every time their actions harm the rules such as free markets they promote.

## Divided alliance

Days ago was the 2024 European Parliament Election, during which German and French governing parties suffered a heavy setback: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democratic Party saw its record low in votes during the election. French President Emmanuel Macron had to take the



Protesters make a Trojan horse to satirize the G7 Summit which started on Thursday in Fasano in southern Italy. Protests were held in the vicinity of the venue on the same day. XINHUA

risk of calling new legislative elections after suffering losses to the far-right opposition.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a snap general election for July 4 last month, as the Conservative Party faces an uphill battle to extend its 14 years in power. Canada's Justin Trudeau, who has been involved in a series of scandals, will likely host next year's edition of the G7 summit amid a difficult electoral campaign. In Japan, Fumio Kishida has seen his approval levels fall to a historic low of just 16 percent.

However, last week, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's arch-conservative Brothers of Italy group upped its share of the vote to 29 percent in the European parliamentary election, boosting her standing both at home and abroad, which made Meloni boast that Italy "had the strongest government in the G7."

Oreste Massari, a professor of political science at Rome's Sapienza University, told Xinhua that Meloni's rise is due to an overall rise in the fortunes of right-wing and nationalist parties across Europe and beyond.

Meloni pushes priorities important in Italy, including migration and African issues. "Mattei Plan," the Italian official project, was promoted by Meloni during her talks with President Biden, aiming to

reshape Italy's strategy towards the African continent.

## Disputes on AI, abortion

The communique mentioned that the group will promote "safe, secure, and trustworthy AI," vowing to step up efforts to enhance interoperability among AI governance approaches.

Stressing the impact of AI on the military domain, the group said military use of AI should be ensured to be responsible.

But so far they have differed on how to do so. According to widespread media reports, the European countries in the G7 favor tighter regulations, while the United States favors an approach using markets.

Leaders seem to have postponed making definitive decisions on a rulebook regarding the topic until their next summit in Canada next year.

Abortion emerged as one of the key contentious issues among member states, with France and Canada taking a progressive stance, while Italy's right-wing Meloni advocated for a more conservative approach.

While last year's G7 summit in Japan did include a commitment to ensuring safe and legal access to abortion, it is noteworthy that this year's final communique did not mention the word "abortion" at all.

Xinhua

## South Africa ready for presidential inauguration, says minister

JOHANNESBURG

THE South African Minister in the Presidency Khumbuzo Ntshavheni said on Saturday that the country is ready for the presidential inauguration on June 19, calling for all South Africans to be part of it.

Ntshavheni made the remarks when briefing the media about the state of readiness for the inauguration of Cyril Ramaphosa, who was re-elected as the president of South Africa on Friday at the first sitting of the National Assembly.

The constitution stipulates that the president-elect must be sworn in within five days after his or her election.

According to Ntshavheni, the inauguration ceremony will be held at the Union Buildings, which houses the offices of the president, in Pretoria. The ceremony will commence with an entertainment program at 9 am and the formal proceedings scheduled to start at 11 am.

"The president-elect will be sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Justice Raymond Zondo," she said. "The South African National Defense Force will perform the ceremonial elements of the inauguration as they pledge their allegiance to both the Republic and the



President of the African National Congress (ANC) Cyril Ramaphosa addresses members of parliament after he was announced President of South Africa after members of parliament voted during the first sitting of the New South African Parliament in Cape Town on Friday. AFP

Commander-In-Chief."

The newly sworn-in president will also deliver his inaugural address, she

added.

She noted that the public is also invited to attend the proceedings and

roads around the Union Buildings precinct will be closed off to traffic.

Meanwhile, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Grace Pandor said at the briefing that invitations have been sent to a number of heads of state and government to attend the presidential inauguration and they are receiving confirmations.

She said some of those who have been invited include presidents in Southern Africa, Central and Eastern Africa, as well as chairpersons of regional blocs like the Southern African Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC) and the African Union Commission. Heads of diplomatic corps and international institutions based in South Africa have also been invited.

## SADC seeks 50 bln USD to deepen integration, foster development

GABORONE

AT least 50 billion U.S. dollars is needed for Southern African countries to implement the strategic plan which seek to further deepen regional integration and foster development.

Elias Magosi, the executive secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), made this revelation during the visit of

President Manuel Lourenco of Angola on Friday, who is also the incumbent SADC chairperson to the secretariat headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana's capital city.

"The estimated resources envelope required implementing the priority projects identified in our Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 is over 50 billion U.S. dollars," said Magosi.

In the past financial year, which

ended in March 2024, he said the secretariat was able to mobilize 185 million U.S. dollars to support implementation of the strategic plan premised on industrial development, market integration, infrastructure development in support of regional integration, and social and human capital.

SADC will continue to engage both traditional and non-traditional international cooperating partners seek-

ing further technical and financial support towards the implementation of regional programs, said Magosi.

He further encouraged the general SADC membership to explore innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms to bridge the financial resource gap.

The strategic plan was approved by the 40th Ordinary SADC Summit in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique in 2020.

## Xinhua president meets UNICEF deputy executive director, signs MoU

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua on Thursday met here with Kitty van der Heijden, deputy executive director for partnerships, at the global headquarters of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Together, they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNICEF and Xinhua News Agency.

Fu said that Xinhua has maintained long-standing friendly cooperation with UNICEF, adding that "UNICEF was among the first UN agencies to establish a cooperative relationship with Xinhua."

In 2009, the two parties signed a cooperation memorandum and have jointly organized multiple large-scale international public welfare events ever since.

"With UNICEF's support, Xinhua has conducted global journalistic activities that promote the protection of children's rights and their healthy development, effectively raising international awareness of child-related issues, achieving positive social responses, and receiving widespread acclaim," said Fu.

Fu said that he looked forward to this signing event because it served as a new beginning to further strengthen cooperation in news reporting and thematic activities, opening a new chapter in the strategic partnership between Xinhua and UNICEF.

In the future, Xinhua will continue to enhance its cooperation with UN agencies, including UNICEF, exploring more innovative cooperation methods to contribute more significantly to the betterment of human welfare.

Fu thanked the UNICEF office in China for sending a representative to attend and speak at the fifth World Media Summit and welcomed UNICEF leaders to visit China, attend the upcoming sixth World Media Summit, and visit Xinhua.

Van der Heijden expressed appreciation for the long-term friendly cooperation between UNICEF and Xinhua, emphasizing that as an international news agency, Xinhua has been playing a significant role in the development and promotion of UNICEF's global initiatives.

The organization will further strengthen its cooperation with Xinhua to jointly promote the healthy development of global children's initiatives, she said.

Van der Heijden also presented Fu with a certificate of appreciation to recognize his support and contribution to UN children's initiatives.

Xinhua



Kitty van der Heijden, deputy executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), presents President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua with a certificate of appreciation to recognize his support and contribution to UN children's initiatives at the global headquarters of the UNICEF in New York, on Thursday. Fu and Van der Heijden signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNICEF and Xinhua News Agency. Xinhua

## Putin's peace initiative being last chance to save Ukrainian state, says politician

MOSCOW

THE peace initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin is the last chance to preserve the Ukrainian state, Viktor Medvedchuk, the former leader of the Opposition Platform-For Life party now banned in Ukraine, told TASS in an interview.

"The new peace initiative of Vladimir Putin is the last chance to preserve the Ukrainian state. Ukraine at present with its illegitimate president, the regime adversary to the people, legal nihilism and the Nazi state ideology cannot be considered to be the state anymore," the politician said. "Vladimir Putin suggests returning the state to Ukrainians, making it neutral, sovereign, demilitarized and denazified," Medvedchuk said.

"The peace proposals returns not only the peace to Ukraine but also rights of Ukrainian citizens criminally overturned by the regime of [Vladimir] Zelensky," he stressed.

Agencies

## Why EU, the world should be worried about tariff plan for Chinese EVs

BEIJING

THE European Union's plan to impose additional duties on imports of Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), widely criticized as protectionist in nature, will have major implications in multiple spheres.

The move will damage China-EU trade ties, aggravate the consumer burden in Europe, and dampen the global transition to a greener future. Moreover, it may even put the bloc's reputation for fair competition in danger.

Although Chinese-brand EVs account for just a small share of the EU's EV imports, the European Commission on June 12 unveiled provisional

tariffs ranging from 17.4 percent to 38.1 percent for Chinese EV makers despite widespread market concerns and China's objections.

In a brief statement, the European Commission accused China of "unfair subsidization" in its EV value chain, but did not provide further information to explain the factual or legal bases for its tariff plan.

China expressed its disappointment and dissatisfaction, rebuking the action as "blatant protectionism" and asserting its right to file lawsuits with the World Trade Organization and take all necessary response measures. It urged the EU to stop moving in the wrong direction and re-

solve trade frictions through dialogue.

Like a double-edged sword, tariffs cut both ways, with governments, market players and relevant stakeholders voicing concerns over the move's potential implications that should necessitate second thoughts from the EU.

## DAMAGE TO TRADE ENVIRONMENT

The EU's tariff plan, aimed at depressing China's robust EV industry, will cause severe damage to trade ties between China and the EU, both each other's second-largest trading partners.

It could also lead to unfavorable consequences, in-

cluding countermeasures from China. China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) has warned that the EU move will create and escalate trade frictions.

Various EU member states and European carmakers have expressed their disapproval of trade barriers and the imposition of additional tariffs on Chinese EVs.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China's top economic planner, said the EU auto industry is highly dependent on the international market, creating a trade surplus of nearly 100 billion euros every year. China accounts for more than 30 percent of sales of

European car brands such as Volkswagen, Audi, Mercedes-Benz and BMW, and more than 80 percent of China's fuel-powered cars with large-displacement engines are imported, with many coming from the EU.

"If the EU insists on going its own way, abusing protectionist measures and creating and escalating trade frictions, China will not sit idly by but will take all necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests," the NDRC said in an article.

In response to a media inquiry about whether Chinese industries are lobbying the government to launch an anti-subsidy investigation into

EU dairy products or an anti-dumping investigation into pork imports from the EU, MOC spokesperson He Yadong said on Thursday, "If the conditions for filing a case are met, the investigation agency will start the filing procedure, and disclose and release announcements in accordance with the law."

## HIGHER COSTS FOR CONSUMERS

Under a post from the European Commission on social media platform X about its planned tariff hike against Chinese EVs, commentators doubted the EU move.

"This will hardly improve the unfavorable price/per-

formance ratio of European legacy automakers EVs compared to the Chinese, Korean and American," commenter Armin Pfeiffer replied.

For consumers, product quality and affordability are important for spending decisions, and Chinese EVs can offer both. But the planned increased duties will make it more difficult for European consumers to find good value for money.

A recent Reuters report said that every additional 10 percent on top of the existing 10 percent levy would cost EU importers of Chinese EVs about 1 billion U.S. dollars, based on 2023 trade data.

Xinhua



# China's high-quality production capacity boosts global green development

By Chen Mingjian

RECENTLY, there have been voices suggesting that China faces "overcapacity" and is exporting such "overcapacity" to the outside world. This type of statement directly points to China's "new three" industries of new energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products. Is this "overcapacity" or "overprotection"? I would like to brief our Tanzanian friends on the actual situation.

## 1. There is no "overcapacity" in China.

Firstly, the theory of "overcapacity" runs counter to economic laws. The amount of production capacity is determined by the market supply and demand relationship, and the balance of supply and demand is relative while the imbalance is universal. To a large extent, the global market share or export volume of a particular industry in a country is the result of countries leveraging their comparative advantages and engaging in mutually beneficial cooperation, and relevant indicators cannot be simply used as a standard to measure overcapacity. Some countries politicize economic issues such as capacity and trade, which goes against economic laws and the general trend of globalization, exacerbates the risk of fragmentation of the world economy, and is not conducive to global prosperity, stability and development.

Secondly, there is no excess production capacity in China from the domestic supply side. In recent years, China has vigorously implemented supply-side structural reforms and resolutely reduced production capacity in industries such as steel. In 2023, the utilization rate of industrial production capacity in China has rebounded quarter by quarter, with four quarters being 74.3%, 74.5%, and 75.9%, respectively. China is currently the world's largest market for pure electric and hybrid vehicles, with new energy vehicles mainly supplied to the domestic market. In 2023, the production and sales of new energy vehicles in China were 9.586 million and 9.495 million respectively, of which domestic sales accounted for 87.3% and foreign exports accounted for



only 12.7%.

Thirdly, there is no excess production capacity in China from the perspective of global market consumption. The current global production capacity of new energy products is far from meeting market demand. According to the International Energy Agency, the global demand for new energy vehicles will reach 45 million by 2030, 4.5 times that of 2022. Global demand for new PV installations will reach 820 GW, about four times that of 2022. The vigorous development of artificial intelligence industry in various countries also requires the basic support of new energy generation and energy storage facilities.

Fourthly, the advantages of China's relevant industries have been formed through full market competition. After decades of development, the current competitive advantage of China's new energy industry is rooted in the advantages of China's ultra-large scale market, complete industrial system and rich human resources, and cannot be separated from the huge investment in R&D and innovation of enterprises and the unremitting spirit of entrepreneurs. These factors have combined to reduce costs and enhance global competitiveness.

The true intention of the so-called China's "overcapacity" is to curb and suppress the development of China's emerging industries. Under the guise of "overcapacity", protectionism is being implemented to prevent China's high-quality and affordable new

energy products from entering the global market. This not only harms consumer interests, but also hinders global green transformation and the development of emerging industries.

## 2. China's high-quality production capacity makes important contributions to the world.

The current global climate change situation is increasingly severe and has become a common challenge for all humanity. China is actively developing the new energy industry, conducting extensive international cooperation, and promoting global low-carbon transformation and green development. The International Energy Agency report points out that in 2023, the world's newly installed renewable energy capacity will reach 510 million kilowatts, with China contributing more than half. Over the past 10 years, the average KWH cost of global wind power and photovoltaic power generation projects has decreased by more than 60% and 80%, respectively, and a large part of this is attributed to China. China exports wind and photovoltaic products to more than 200 countries and regions worldwide, resulting in a total global emission reduction of 2.83 billion tons, accounting for approximately 41% of the world's equivalent carbon reduction during the same period. Furthermore, China has collaborated on green energy projects with over 100 countries and regions, effectively addressing the problems of difficult and expensive electricity supply in relevant countries and regions. Fatih Birol, Director of the International Energy Agency, stated that China has significantly improved the accessibility of clean energy technologies and reduced the global cost of using green technologies.

## 3. China's high-quality production capacity effectively promotes cooperation between China and Tanzania.

Tanzania is rich in solar energy, wind energy and other resources, and has great potential for developing new energy. According to the National Power System Development Master Plan, by 2044, the proportion of new energy generation will reach 12% in Tanzania. During H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to China in 2022, the two heads of state jointly witnessed the signing of a memorandum of cooperation on green development, pointing out the direction for cooperation in new energy production capacity between the two countries.

At present, China-Tanzania new energy cooperation has taken solid steps. The first centralized ground photovoltaic power station built by the Power Construction Corporation of China in Tanzania - Shinanga 50 MW photovoltaic power station is steadily advancing, and after the completion of the project, it is expected to generate 87.5 million KWH per year, equivalent to saving 2.6 tons of standard coal and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by about 72,000 tons. In addition, more and more Chinese companies are showing strong interest in investing in the fields of solar photovoltaic and wind energy in Tanzania, and are coming to Tanzania to explore market opportunities.

I believe that, under the guidance of the heads of state's diplomacy, the two countries will further enhance cooperation in new energy and production capacity, promote Tanzania's transition to a green economy, stimulate new economic growth opportunities in sustainable development, jointly tackle the challenge of climate change, and implement the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Chen Mingjian (pictured) is the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania

## GAVI to rollout preventive Ebola vaccine for African healthcare workers

NAIROBI

THE rollout of a vaccination drive to prevent healthcare workers in Africa from contracting the Ebola virus while on duty is in the works, a senior official from GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance has said.

Francisco Luquero, GAVI's head of High-Impact Outbreaks said that inoculating frontline workers in the Ebola-endemic African countries will mark a giant stride in reducing caseload and fatalities linked to the highly infectious disease.

"Our new support is to make sure this specific population of frontline workers that will be involved in future outbreak response can be protected," Luquero told Xinhua during a virtual interview in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, on Friday evening.

According to Luquero, GAVI



will rely on the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines to advise Ebola prone African states on how to lay down structures for facilitating vaccination targeting health workers.

Some of the health workers have been vaccinated with doses sourced from the global stockpile, according to Luquero, adding that Guinea Bissau, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have carried out the exercise in the recent past.

He said preventive Ebola vaccination targeting health ser-

vice providers is informed by recommendations from the WHO affiliated Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE).

He added that inoculating high-risk groups like first responders in countries prone to regular Ebola outbreaks will protect them from severe illness besides averting disruptions in public healthcare systems.

Currently, there are two Ebola vaccines that have been prequalified by WHO, having met safety and efficacy thresholds and their licensing for use by national regulatory agencies has boosted the Ebola war in Africa, Luquero said.

He disclosed that through a randomized clinical trial conducted in Guinea, one of the Ebola vaccines demonstrated a nearly 100 efficacy rate in preventing infections.

Since its discovery in 1976, two major Ebola outbreaks have occurred with the first one hitting the West African countries of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone from 2014 to 2016 where 28,652 cases and 11,325 deaths were documented.

## Villages in Xinjiang's Kashgar enjoy free shipping services thanks to improved logistics network

DURING a break from farm work, Seytnisa Mamat pulled out her phone to track the shipping status of the items she bought online.

"The detergents I bought have arrived. Let me go and get them," the woman said, hurrying towards a courier service station in her village.

On the shelves of the station, parcels were stacked neatly. They were shipped from all parts of China, including Hebei, Shanxi, Zhejiang, Shandong and Guangdong...

Based on a pick-up code sent to her phone, Seytnisa Mamat walked to the corresponding shelf and soon found her parcel.

Seytnisa Mamat lives in Keshlak village, Ishkul township of Yarkant county, Kashgar, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. Last year, online shopping gained popularity there. Picking up express parcels became a source of delight for villagers.

In the past, bazaars, a type of marketplace consisting of multiple small stalls or shops, were the only place where Seytnisa Mamat and her fellow villagers could buy stuffs. However, the limited variety of products available at bazaars was no longer sufficient to meet everyone's needs.

Later, when courier services were extended to the county

town, some villagers would use their relatives' addresses there for online orders, only able to pick up their parcels when visiting the town.

"It was beyond my imagination that we could receive express parcels in such a remote place, with free shipping," Seytnisa Mamat told People's Daily, in a delighted tone. How remote is the place where Seytnisa Mamat lives?

If she buys an item from Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang province, it has to travel about 4,000 kilometers first to reach Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, and then keep going around 1,500 kilometers before arriving at Keshlak village.

How is it possible for Seytnisa Mamat to get this item shipping-free, after all it has to travel 5,500 kilometers?

"The key lies in the lowered transportation costs," said an official with the postal administration of Xinjiang.

Since last year, postal and courier enterprises have joined forces with e-commerce platforms to implement a collective shipping model, which integrates resources across transportation, sorting, and delivery processes, significantly boosting parcel handling efficiency and reducing operational costs, according to the official.

Merchants used to face high

costs when they sent parcels to Xinjiang. Today, commodities bought by Xinjiang consumers on e-commerce platforms are distributed first to transit warehouses in different places such as Hangzhou in Zhejiang province and Xi'an in the northwest province of Shaanxi, and then be shipped to their destinations in Xinjiang.

If a village generates sufficient parcel volume, a "village bulk" would be created, which means all the parcels to the village will be shipped directly from a transit warehouse, thus avoiding sorting and repackaging in Urumqi. This greatly saves time and lowers costs.

Besides, the lowered logistics cost is also attributed to China's efforts to shift more freight transport from road to railway. On March 26 this year, the first intermodal express train loaded with containers of e-commerce goods departed from Xi'an, and reached Urumqi 38 hours later.

According to Yue Wei, director of operations at the Urumqi branch of China United International Rail Containers Co., Ltd., the Xi'an-Urumqi train route is around five hours faster than road transportation, improving delivery speed by 12 percent while reducing freight costs by approximately 57 percent. After arriving in Urumqi, parcels car-

ried by the train are then distributed to villages via a "last-mile" delivery network, Yue said.

At a courier transfer center of delivery company J&T Express in Yarkant county, baskets labeled with village names were neatly arranged on the floor.

"Once the parcels arrive, we directly sort them into the corresponding baskets, pack them up and send them out. Delivery to the villages is possibly even faster than to the county town," said Zhang Haitao, head of the Yarkant office of J&T Express.

Wang Xiaohu, director of the Kashgar postal administration, told People's Daily that since last year, express delivery services in Kashgar have significantly improved, with free shipping services extended to over 2,000 villages.

"Xinjiang has established e-commerce public service centers, logistics distribution centers, and village-level courier stations. Over 800 e-commerce service sites are integrated with postal and courier functions," said an official with the Xinjiang postal administration.

This will promote e-commerce development in rural Xinjiang and facilitate more agricultural products from the autonomous region to reach markets outside Xinjiang, the official explained.

People's Daily



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks to the media during the G7 summit, June 14, 2024, in Borgo Egnazia, Italy. (PHOTO / POOL VIA AP)

## UK polls point to 'electoral extinction' for PM Sunak's Conservatives

LONDON

THREE British opinion polls released late on Saturday presented a grim picture for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party, and one pollster warned that the party faced "electoral extinction" in July 4's election.

The polls come just over halfway through the election campaign, after a week in which both the Conservatives and Labour set out their manifestos, and shortly before voters begin to receive postal ballots.

Sunak surprised many in his own party by announcing an early election on May 22, against widespread expectations that he would wait until later in the year to allow more time for living standards to recover after the highest inflation in 40 years.

Market research company Savanta found 46 percent support for Keir Starmer's Labour Party, up 2 points on the previous poll five days earlier, while support for the Conservatives dropped 4 points to 21 percent. The poll was conducted from June 12 to June 14 for the Sunday Telegraph.

Labour's 25-point lead was the largest since the premiership of Sunak's predecessor, Liz Truss, whose tax cut plans prompted investors to dump British government bonds, pushing up interest rates and forcing a Bank of England intervention.

"Our research suggests that this election could be nothing short of electoral extinction for the Conservative Party," Chris Hopkins, political research director at Savanta, said.

A separate poll by Survation, published by the Sunday Times, predicted the Conservatives could end up with just 72 seats in the 650-member House of Commons - the lowest in their nearly 200-year history - while Labour would win 456 seats.

The poll was conducted from May 31 to June 13.

In percentage terms, the Survation poll had Labour on 40 percent and the Conservatives on 24 percent, while former Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage's Reform UK party - a right-wing challenger to the Conservatives - was on 12 percent.

A third poll, by Opinion for Sunday's Observer and conducted from June 12 to June 14, also showed Labour on 40 percent and Reform on 14 percent, with the two largest parties yielding ground to smaller rivals.

Agencies



**A separate poll by Survation, published by the Sunday Times, predicted the Conservatives could end up with just 72 seats in the 650-member House of Commons - the lowest in their nearly 200-year history - while Labour would win 456 seats**





Simba SC midfielder Clatous Chama. Agencies

## Clatous Chota Chama's future with Simba to be decided this week

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA are striving to retain their talented attacking midfielder, Clatous Chota Chama, whose contract with the club is nearing its end.

The Zambian international's contract is set to expire on June 29, but Simba remain hopeful of securing his services for the future.

Chama, currently in Zambia for a break, has been in discussions with Simba regarding a contract renewal. However, initial negotiations failed to reach a consensus due to differences in the terms proposed by both parties. Despite this, the club is determined to continue negotiations and reach an agreement that satisfies both Chama's needs and Simba's strategic interests.

In a strategic move, Simba are said to have dispatched representatives to Zambia with a dual mission. The primary objective is to finalize the signing of Power Dynamos winger Joshua Mutale, but while in Zambia, the officials are also expected to re-sumo talks with Chama in a bid to secure his commitment to the club.

This renewed effort to retain Chama comes shortly after the club's major announcement regarding their new registration processes. Mohammed Dewji, a key figure in Simba's administration, has taken charge of all registration activities, signaling a more hands-on approach to player management and acquisition.

Retaining Chama is of paramount importance to Simba, given his significant contributions and the interest he has garnered from rival clubs in Tanzania.

Chama's performance on the field has been nothing short of exemplary. He has introduced a level of skill and

composure that has set him apart in the Premier League. Last season, he led the club in assists, delivering six decisive passes that underscored his vision and technical prowess.

Chama's impact extends beyond domestic competitions. He has been instrumental in Simba's campaigns in the challenging CAF competitions, where his calmness and extraordinary execution under pressure have often turned the tide in favor of his team.

His ability to maintain composure in high-stakes situations has made him a critical asset to Simba.

Moreover, Chama's dedication and football intelligence have not gone unnoticed by rival clubs, particularly Young Africans, who have shown a keen interest in acquiring his services, even if just for a single season. This interest from competitors only heightens the urgency for Simba to secure Chama's future with the club.

As one of the senior players in the Simba squad, Chama's experience and leadership on the field have been invaluable. Throughout his tenure at the club, he has remained a cornerstone of the team, providing stability and inspiration to his teammates. His potential departure would undoubtedly leave a significant gap in Simba's lineup.

The club's commitment to retaining Chama is reflective of their broader ambitions. Simba recognize that maintaining a player of Chama's caliber is crucial for their continued success and competitiveness both domestically and on the continental stage. His skills in delivering accurate assists, scoring, and navigating complex match situations are attributes that the club cannot afford to lose.

## Why did Yanga wait for Aziz Ki to turn free agent?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IT has been four years since a top-flight football player in Tanzania scored 20+ goals in a domestic season.

The last time such a feat was achieved was in the 2019/20 season, when Rwandan attacker, Meddie Kagere, then playing for Simba SC, scored 23 goals in his second season at the club.

In the just-ended season, Young Africans' talisman - Burkinabe midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki - scored 21 goals to win the top flight's top goal scorer award. In comparison, Azam FC midfielder Feisal Salum ended second after notching 19 goals.

Aziz Ki has produced a stellar performance in one of the best seasons of his playing career. He has become the first attacking midfielder to win the accolade in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League in recent years.

When Aziz Ki arrived at Young Africans in 2022, his prowess was not top-level compared to his showing in the just-ended season.

Most fans compared him to Simba SC's midfielder Clatous Chama, as with any other foreign player who arrives in the league.

Prominent Zambian midfielder, Chama, is among the best foreign players in the modern era of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

Therefore, for any of the league's foreign players - particularly midfielders - to be considered the best, he has to beat Chama's quality, and that is why the supporters were busy comparing Aziz Ki to Chama.

The Burkina Faso national team player arrived at Young Africans when Congolese striker, Fiston Mayele, was at his peak during his two seasons with the Jangwani Street-based outfit.

Mayele took Young Africans' fans by storm, having scored in his first match for the club - the Community Shield match versus long-time rivals Simba SC - and he went on to bang in important goals. His iconic goal celebration was the most noticeable aspect that made him more famous.



Yanga's Burkinabe midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki.

The Congolese attacker was Young Africans' talisman in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup. He led the team to the showdown final by scoring important goals and was the top goal scorer of the competition.

Aziz Ki almost carried Young Africans on his shoulders in the just-ended season. The footballer's quality helped the club clinch the season double, the Mainland Tanzania Premier League and Federation Cup silverware, while scoring important goals.

The Burkinabe sensation's hugely impressive season, again, puts Young Africans in a position to lose another important player now that he is a free agent.

Aziz Ki's last match as a player contracted to Young Africans was the just-ended season's Federation Cup final against Azam FC, held in Zanzibar recently and concluded with a Young Africans win. The midfielder is now free to sign with any club.

But the question is, why did Young Africans wait until he became a free agent so the outfit could begin talks of sign-

ing a new contract with him?

A player who has already proved that he has what it takes to be a game-changer should not be left to turn into a free agent whereby chances of losing him become much bigger, especially when offers from North Africa arrive.

Although Aziz Ki had, in a recent interview with a local media outlet, said that he is open to signing a new contract with Young Africans, the truth is that the club has a huge task to ensure he signs the new contract that will see him demand a lot.

As a free agent, he already has offers from North African and South African teams, with football giants such as Mamelodi Sundowns and Orlando Pirates having already expressed their desire to acquire his services.

These teams have the financial muscles to sign and offer any player in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League the services he requires.

They have done this before, given Morocco's RS Berkane signed Chama from Simba whereas the club's winger Luis Miquissone went to Al Ahly

after the 2020/21 season. Both players were contracted to Simba before moving to the other clubs.

It might become a huge loss for Young Africans if Aziz Ki will leave as a free agent and the outfit will not benefit from his sales. Just like previous players that have once departed as free agents, Aziz Ki will bag his signing fee and sign-on fees altogether. The question is, why do local teams sign players on short-term contracts? If Aziz Ki was required to sign a three-year deal back in 2022, it means Young Africans would have one more season to convince the player to sign an extension.

All top players in the world sign long-term contracts, Young Africans should have done that with the squad's in-form Ivorians Pacome Zouzoua and Kouassi Yao, and the rest of their star players.

The same short-term contracts are the ones that have seen Simba put themselves in trouble, fighting to keep Chama every season.

Why does the club sign him on short-term deals? It is a question that can best be answered by the club's leadership.

What Azam are doing at the moment, signing players for three up to four-year contracts is something that has to be replicated by many teams in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

Signing top players on a long-term contract helps clubs focus on bringing players that would strengthen other areas, Young Africans are now also focusing on keeping Aziz Ki who scored 21 goals.

Simba are also battling to keep Chama and Kibu Denis - who scored one goal last season - and bolster the outfit's squad that has failed to qualify for the next season's CAF Champions League.

Aziz Ki will, in the end, test Young Africans' financial muscles - finding out whether the Jangwani Street-based side can keep him - and, once the side succeeds, signing him to a three to four-year deal would be a good solution.

## Celtics take season's worth of lessons into Game 5 of NBA Finals with latest chance to secure title

BOSTON

THE Celtics picked the most inopportune time to play their worst game of the season.

Boston's 122-84 Game 4 loss to Dallas had all kinds of superlatives, and none of them were good.

It ended the Celtics' 10-game playoff win streak. It was the Celtics' lowest scoring output of the season and marked the first time the Celtics have allowed the Mavericks to eclipse 100 points in the series on a stellar night for Dallas stars Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving.

It also reminded the Celtics that putting a championship bow on what has been one of the franchise's most successful seasons will require the same resilience they've shown during a postseason in which they haven't lost consecutive games.

"It's a learning lesson, for sure. Got to show up and show out every night. They're not going to roll over," Celtics reserve Sam Hauser said. "They're down 3-1 now. They're desperate. ... They're not going to make it easy on us."

As humbling as Game 4's loss was, history will be on the Celtics' side for Game 5.

While Friday's loss was the seventh time that the Celtics have lost by 20 or more points in the finals, they are 5-1 in the previous six.

The game Monday also falls on



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives to the basket against Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving (11) during the first half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball finals, on Friday, June 14, 2024, in Dallas. AP Photo

the 16th anniversary of Boston clinching its last championship in 2008.

"It's a great opportunity to respond," said Celtics forward Jaylen Brown, whose finished Game 4 with a minus-19 plus-minus - his second-worst of these playoffs and third-worst of his entire playoff career. "We just regroup. We keep our same mentality, and we come out and get ready to fight in another battle on our home floor."

It's also the latest chance for coach Joe Mazzulla to reinforce the lessons he has tried to instill in his team. Hauser recalled Boston's Game 3 win when Dallas rallied to cut a

21-point fourth quarter lead to just one with less than four minutes to play.

"The Mavs were on that big run, the start of the fourth there. He came in and said, 'That was great. That makes us hungrier,'" Hauser said. "He didn't even focus on the win, he focused on that, which was cool. It keeps all of us grounded and knowing that we have more work to do."

It was the same tone Mazzulla tried to set during the regular season.

Boston opened the season by winning its first five games before losing in overtime at Minnesota. Postgame Mazzulla expressed excitement for his

team experiencing an opponent challenging it to play its best basketball. Following another loss two nights later at Philadelphia, the Celtics reeled off six straight victories.

In February, the Celtics lost on their home court to a Los Angeles Lakers team without both LeBron James and Anthony Davis. Then Boston reeled off a season-high 11-game win streak.

The Celtics are now just one more bounce-back win away from seeing those instances of adversity bear championship fruit.

If they need any more consolation - each of the Celtics previous three title-winning teams in 1984, 1986 and 2008 all lost with close-out opportunities on the road and then returned to win at home.

"Close-out games are hard. Close-out games are tough," Brown said. "They always have been like that, and you've got to have extreme focus. You've got to come out and meet their intensity to finish things out."

Jayson Tatum is expecting the TD Garden crowd to bring the energy to match the moment.

"I think it's going to be as loud as it's ever been in my seven years of being a Celtic," he said. "Excited to go back home. Celebrate Father's Day on Sunday and compete for a championship on Monday."

AP



## Mbappé wants to erase bad memory of decisive penalty miss and leave Euro 2024 as a champion

PARIS

THE last time Kylian Mbappé kicked a ball at the European Championship, it sent France out of the competition.

He was the only player to miss in a penalty shootout against Switzerland, and France was eliminated from Euro 2020 in the round of 16 in a game where they led 3-1.

Mbappé, who received hateful abuse online following the miss, is desperate to make amends at Euro 2024 in Germany.

"It was a slap in the face when we failed at the Euro," the 25-year-old striker said earlier this month. "It's a big stain on my CV in the national team. I'm in a vengeful mood."

France is in Group D, where it faces Austria on Monday, followed by the Netherlands on Friday and Poland on June 25.

Mbappé, the team captain, was missing from practice at France's team based in Germany on Thursday but was back training with his teammates the following days.

"He took some rest but he's not going to lose his physical condition just because he missed one or two training sessions," France veteran Olivier Giroud said Friday. "He still has the same legs that we all know and the determination to achieve a great competition. So don't worry he's going to be ready for the first match."

Mbappé was too young to play for France when it reached the final at Euro 2016, bursting onto the scene as a teenager with Monaco the following season. At 19 he won the World Cup with France in 2018, scoring in the final. In Qatar four years later, he became only the second player after Brazil great Pelé to score a hat trick in a World Cup final, though France still lost the match on penalties to Lionel Messi's Argentina.

"I've always wanted to shine for Les Bleus," the 25-year-old Mbappé said on June 4 before a friendly against Luxembourg. "I've always felt this pride, this ambition to leave my mark on French soccer."

With 47 international goals, he is third on the all-time scoring list behind Giroud (57) and Thierry Henry (51). If Mbappé remains injury free he could well pass 100 goals, a tally reached by just three men in soccer history – Messi, Ali Daei and 130-goal record holder Cristiano Ronaldo.

At club level, Mbappé recently left Paris Saint-Germain as its all-time leading scorer with 256 goals. He won the French league title six times with PSG and once with Monaco.

AP

## Ronaldinho's criticism of Brazil's Copa América squad part of ad campaign for a deodorant

By Sean Leahy

Hours after Ronaldinho delivered a harsh criticism of the team's roster for the upcoming Copa América on Instagram, the Brazilian soccer legend clarified to say that his words were part of an advertising campaign for a deodorant brand.

Ronaldinho posted on Saturday that Brazil was entering "one of the worst teams in recent years" into Copa América, which begins on Thursday. He added that he was boycotting watching the tournament and would not celebrate any victory by his country.

Later in the day, he backtracked on his original message and said that those words were from a collection of posts from Brazilian fans on social media reacting to head coach Dorival Júnior's squad and that his goal was to inspire fans to back the team.

"I would never abandon Brazilian football, ever," Ronaldinho wrote. "And I would never say those things that you saw... In fact, these words came from real Brazilian fans, they are real comments that I saw on the internet... Imagine hearing these messages before playing? It's not possible, motivation goes down... The support of the fans makes a huge difference for the player. I know what I'm saying."

"Guys, what our boys need is support at this time. The more confidence we show, the more confidence they will have on the field."

The follow-up post ended with him promoting a deodorant brand.

Ronaldinho knows what it's like to deliver success to Brazil fans, having played for the national team when it won Copa América in 1999 and the 2002 World Cup.

Before the comments were clarified, one member of the current Brazil squad, Raphinha, spoke out in support of his teammates.

"It was a surprise not only for me but for everyone," Raphinha said. "I believe you must know me a lot more than I do. He never made a statement like that. He always showed support. He surprised a lot of people."

yahoo!sports

# Italy concedes goal after 23 seconds but recovers to beat Albania 2-1 at Euro 2024

DORTMUND, Germany

BY conceding a goal after just 23 seconds, Italy made the worst possible start to its European Championship title defense.

Thankfully for the Azzurri, it soon got much better.

Italy recovered from letting in the quickest goal in the tournament's 64-year history to beat Albania 2-1 in Dortmund on Saturday in an atmospheric Adriatic derby that immediately threatened an upset.

Nedim Bajrami thrilled a heavily pro-Albanian crowd at Westfalenstadion by pouncing on a throw-in by Italy left back Federico Dimarco that failed to reach teammate Alessandro Bastoni, before taking a touch and smashing a rising shot inside the near post.

Within 16 minutes, the Italians were ahead as Bastoni headed in Lorenzo Pellegrini's cross to the back post in the 11th then Nicolo Barella struck home a swerving first-time shot from the edge of the area.

Barella was one of five survivors from the team that started for Italy in the penalty-shootout win over England in the 2021 European Championship final.

The pressure was on Italy's new-look side under Luciano Spalletti to win its opener given the other teams in Group B are three-time champion Spain and Croatia, a World Cup semifinalist in 2022. Spain beat Croatia 3-0 earlier Saturday.



Italy's Alessandro Bastoni, left, scores his side's opening goal during a Group B match against Albania at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dortmund, Germany, Saturday, June 15, 2024. AP Photo

Bajrami's goal gave the Azzurri a jolt and created some history – it was much quicker than the previous fastest in the tournament's lifespan, which was 67 seconds by Russia's Dmitri Kirichenko in 2004.

Yet they controlled the game after that, dominating possession to a backdrop of jeers and boos from a sea of Albanian red in the crowd.

"They showed there was a gulf in class by playing good football... we played the game the right way," Spalletti said.

"The scoreline doesn't reflect the difference between the two teams."

It's now just one loss in 12 matches under Spalletti, who took over last August – three months after leaving Napoli following its Italian league triumph – and was tasked with restoring national pride after Italy failed to qualify for the World Cup for a second straight time.

Italy is clearly more at home in the European Championship these days as it goes for a

record-tying third title.

Making its second appearance at a European Championship, Albania – coached by former Barcelona and Arsenal defender Sylvinho – nearly grabbed a draw in stoppage time only for Rey Manaj's deft chip to deflect just wide of the back of Gianluigi Donnarumma, Italy's goalkeeper and captain.

"We need to play in lots of Euros and World Cups so we can get better," Sylvinho said. "The first 25 minutes were

tough but we were up against one of the favorites to win the comp. "We didn't play those first 25 minutes well but we stayed in the game."

Euro 2024 has gotten off to a fast start.

Saturday started with Switzerland beating Hungary 3-1 in Cologne and that, after host Germany's opening-night 5-1 thrashing of Scotland on Friday, means there has been 16 goals so far – an average of four a game.

AP

# Yamal, 16, leads Spain's new generation to 3-0 win over Croatia at Euro 2024

BERLIN

LAMINE Yamal became the youngest player to appear in a European Championship as Spain's new generation brushed aside Croatia's challenge 3-0 in their opening game on Saturday.

And the Spanish did it without dominating ball possession for the first time in 136 competitive games tallied by stats analyst Opta. Spain had only 46% possession against Croatia, according to UEFA.

Yamal, aged 16 years, 338 days, also became the youngest to set up a goal at the tournament when he crossed for Dani Carvajal to score Spain's third goal before the break.

The 21-year-old Nico Williams starred on the other flank for Spain, which is going for its fourth European title.

Midfielder Fabián Ruiz scored one goal and set up the opener for captain Álvaro Morata in a dominant performance from the team in red.

"We have to stay wary, stay calm and be proud. We have to keep improving in the next game," Spain coach Luis De La Fuente said. He warned Spanish journalists not to get carried away. "We just have to stay calm and be professional."

Spain goalkeeper Unai Simón saved a penalty in the 80th from substitute Bruno Petkovi, who thought he scored when Ivan Perišić sent in the



Spain's Lamine Yamal dribbles the ball during a Group B match against Croatia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Berlin, Saturday, June 15, 2024. AP Photo

rebound. But the goal was ruled out after a VAR review as Perišić was too keen and encroached on the penalty area before Petkovi took the spot kick.

The Croatia fans, who greatly outnumbered their Spanish counterparts, tried rousing the team before the end at Berlin's Olympiastadion, where the final will be played on July 14.

Hundreds gathered before the game near the Brandenburg Gate in the center of Berlin, and also at Breitscheidplatz in the west of the city, where they set off flares, waved flags, jumped up and down, and sang along to Croatian folk songs.

Croatian emigrants were among those who moved to Germany as so-called guest workers

to help the country's post-war economy and never returned. Germany also became home to many Croatian refugees, who fled the country's war of independence

in the 1990s. But it was a disappointing start to Euro 2024 from Zlatko Dali's team. The Spanish players were faster, more committed, and cleverer. Last-ditch de-

fending from Spain defenders Marc Cucurella and Nacho snuffed out any other danger.

"We weren't aggressive enough, we were too far from the (Spanish) play-

ers, and when you give such players so much space, you don't have opportunities," Dali said.

Croatia star Luka Modri, who played at Euro 2008 before Yamal was even born, was unable to assert his usual influence. The 38-year-old Modri was given a warm embrace by Real Madrid teammates Nacho and Carvajal before the teams walked out onto the field, getting a kiss on the cheek from each.

When Modri and Mateo Kovacic went off in the 65th, it was clear Dali was already thinking of the next game.

"They played for an hour and we realized we have two difficult matches in front of us. We didn't want to force them to the end," Dali said.

Croatia plays Albania in Hamburg on Wednesday, while Spain faces Italy in Gelsenkirchen on Thursday.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





Italy concedes goal after 23 seconds but recovers to beat Albania 2-1 at Euro 2024

PAGE 19

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

**Y**OUNG Africans are gearing up for a thrilling pre-season tour and training camp in Europe as they prepare for the upcoming competition season.

Following a remarkable season in which they secured the Premier League title for the third consecutive year, the club is poised to elevate their performance to new heights.

Ally Kamwe, the club's Information and Communication Officer, revealed the club's plans during a press briefing in Dar es Salaam.

According to him, Young Africans are set to embark on a tour to South Africa and Kenya, marking a significant shift from their usual pre-season routine.

"We expect to visit South Africa at the invitation of the Mamelodi Sundowns," Kamwe announced. "Additionally, we have been invited to Kenya for the inauguration of a new stadium. These tours are not only a testament to our growing reputation but also provide our players with valuable exposure and experience."

The Mamelodi Sundowns' invitation is particularly noteworthy, given that Young Africans faced them in the CAF Champions League quarter-finals this past season. The tours will offer a unique opportunity for the team to test their mettle against formidable opponents and gain insights from different playing styles.

One of the most significant changes this season is Young Africans' decision to establish their training camp in Europe, departing from their traditional base in Kigamboni.

Kamwe emphasized that the club is committed to ensuring top-notch preparation for the new season.

"This time, our camp will not be in Kigamboni. Instead, we will head to Europe," Kamwe stated. "The specific country will be disclosed soon. After a brief break, our players will reconvene in Kigamboni before embarking on the journey to Europe."

This strategic move underscores Young Africans' ambition to enhance their training regimen and benefit from the advanced facilities and competitive environment available in Europe. The

## Yanga reveal exciting pre-season tour and European training camp for 2024/25 season



Young Africans' Information and Communication Officer Ally Kamwe.

European camp is expected to provide the team with a rigorous and enriching pre-season experience, setting the stage for a successful CAF Champions League and Premier League campaign ahead.

In addition to outlining the tour and training plans, Kamwe addressed the club's approach to player signings.

Young Africans are determined to build a squad that surpasses the achievements of the previous season, and careful consideration is being given to the transfer market.

"Registration is open, and our financial year of the

club starts in July," Kamwe explained. "We didn't sign big names last year, but we had exceptional players like Pacome Zouzoua, Maxi Nzengeli, and Yao Koassi, whose performances stunned Tanzanians. We are not driven by propaganda or social media hype. Our focus is on securing talent that will genuinely enhance our team."

Kamwe hinted at the possibility of bringing in both under-the-radar talents and high-profile players. He said the club's strategy is to balance proven performers with emerging stars, ensuring a well-rounded and formidable squad for the upcoming season.

The past season has been a period of unparalleled success for Young Africans. Winning the Premier League for the third time in a row, the club also clinched the FA Cup and made a commendable run to the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League.

Their elimination by Mamelodi Sundowns underscored the competitive level they have reached, and the experience has fueled their determination to aim even higher.

Kamwe expressed the club's resolve to build on this success and surpass their previous

achievements.

"We want to make a better team than last season. Our goal is to exceed the success we achieved last year," he affirmed.

As Young Africans prepare to embark on their international tours and European training camp, the excitement among fans and members is palpable. The club's forward-thinking approach and dedication to excellence are evident in their meticulous planning and strategic initiatives.

The tours in South Africa and Kenya will not only enhance the team's readiness but also strengthen their international presence. Meanwhile, the European training camp promises to equip the players with the skills and resilience needed to tackle the challenges of the forthcoming season.

With a balanced strategy for player signings and a commitment to continuous improvement, Young Africans are poised to maintain their dominance in Tanzanian football and make a significant impact on the continental stage. The upcoming season holds great promise, and the club's supporters eagerly await the unfolding of this exciting journey.

## Azam FC, Fountain Gate Princess sign one-year partnership

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM Football Club and Fountain Gate Princess have signed a one-year partnership for the 2024/25 season.

The development was announced by Azam FC on Saturday night.

"Azam FC is happy to announce to the public that we have signed a one-year cooperation agreement with the women's soccer club, Fountain Gate Princess.

"With the agreement, it is now official that Fountain Gate Princess, which is based in Dodoma, will be Azam FC's sister club from next season," read a part of Azam's management press release.

The club moved to align with CAF rules that made it mandatory for all clubs taking part in the inter-club continental competitions to have women teams in their ranks.

"Specifically on the sporting criteria in the CAF Men's Club Licensing Regulations (edition 2022), CAF has now introduced a requirement for women's football teams, which means that clubs intending to participate in the CAF Interclubs competitions must have at minimum one (01) women's first team participating in a competition sanctioned by the member association.

"To comply with this requirement, clubs may operate the women's team(s) itself or have a written agreement with another entity who operates the team(s)," CAF said.

Azam will represent Tanzania Mainland in the CAF Champions League in the forthcoming 2024/25.

Last season, Azam took part in the CAF Confederation Cup. To comply with the CAF club licensing regulations, they entered into a one-year working relationship with Dodoma-based club, Baobab Queens.

In a statement, Azam confirmed the partnership deal with Baobab Queens has since expired at the end of the 2023/24 campaign.

Coastal Union, who will raise the Tanzanian flag in the CAF Confederation Cup, are also rushing against time to fulfill the requirements of having a women's team in their ranks before next season.

The other two continental representatives, Simba and Young Africans have their own full-fledged women's football teams playing in the spotlight.

Simba Queens were crowned Champions while Yanga Princess finished third in the 2023/24 Women's Premier League season that concluded last weekend.

## Pamba confirm Goran Kopunovic as new coach

By Correspondents Michael Mwebe & Seth Mapoli

PAMBA have appointed Goran Kopunovic as their new head coach.

Kopunovic, 57, has agreed a one-year contract with the Lake Zone club.

The Serbian-born coach was present at a media unveiling in Mwanza and will start work immediately ahead of the club's pre-season training early next month.

He takes over from Mbwana Makata who oversaw last season's promotion to the Premier League – the club's first return to the Tanzanian top tier since 1999.

Pamba finished second behind KenGold to secure automatic promotion to the Premier League.

Kopunovic, who enjoyed a nomadic playing career in Serbia and Hungary, was last involved in management with Tabora United last season.

He was appointed to guide Tabora United at the start of last season following their promotion from the Championship.

However, he parted ways with the club in February following a series of poor results amidst a financial crisis for the Bees.

Before joining Tabora United, Kopunovic coached Hun-



Goran Kopunovic (R) is introduced as Pamba FC's head coach by one of the club's officials. Agencies

garian side Maglodi TC.

He also had a coaching spell at Rwandan club Police FC, where he spent three seasons and won the Peace Cup.

Pamba will be his third Tanzanian club. He was in charge of Simba in the 2014-15 season.

In his six-month spell at Simba, he guided the club to Mapinduzi Cup triumph but finished third in the league.

Kopunovic is the latest coaching change in Tanzanian football this pre-season following in the footsteps of JKT Tanzania who sacked Malale Hamsini after a challenging first season in the Premier

League.

It is understood JKT Tanzania are in the final stages of negotiations for compensation to secure Hamad Ally, with the coach already agreeing personal terms after the club accepted his requests for his coaching staff.

Ally announced his resignation from Tanzania Prisons on Saturday and the club confirmed the mutual decision to part ways a day later.

Former Young Africans goalkeeper Makata is now the frontline candidate to replace Ally ahead of the new season.

Makata was last in charge of Ruvu Shooting in the Premier

League before joining Pamba last season.

After being announced as the head coach of Pamba, the Serbian coach stated: "I thank the team's management for believing in me and appointing me as the head coach. The club's leadership and everyone involved have worked hard to return the team to the Premier League after many years. As a coach, I believe I will contribute to making new history for this club."

Regarding his football philosophy, Kopunovic said: "I come from a European country, so I believe in modern football and I hope to transform that into this club."

The team's managing director, Ezekia Ntibikeha, stated that the team has offered Goran a one-year contract with the possibility of extension based on his performance in leading the team back to the Premier League. This return comes after more than 20 years since their relegation in 2001 from the Premier League.

"We have given Goran a contract for one year, with the option to extend if he successfully leads the team," Ntibikeha explained. "After 20 years out of the Premier League, we want to ensure our return is marked by strong performances and sus-

tained success."

In addition to appointing Kopunovic, Pamba are focusing on building a robust technical bench. It is reported that the assistant coach will be a Tanzanian, and the club plans to retain other key assistants who played a crucial role in the team's promotion.

After the head coach's arrival and introduction, he will work closely with the management to register players who will strengthen the squad in preparation for the next Premier League season.

The club is determined to make strategic player acquisitions and enhance their squad depth, aiming for a strong presence in the Premier League.

Kopunovic's appointment has been met with enthusiasm from the team's supporters, who are eager to see their club thrive in the top tier of Tanzanian football. The new coach's task will be to harness this enthusiasm and translate it into on-field success.

As Pamba embark on this new chapter, the management, players, and fans are united in their ambition to establish the club as a formidable competitor in the Premier League. With Kopunovic at the helm, the team is poised for an exciting season ahead, full of promise and potential.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

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