



Guardian BUSINESS DSE indices gain further as firms' share prices increase

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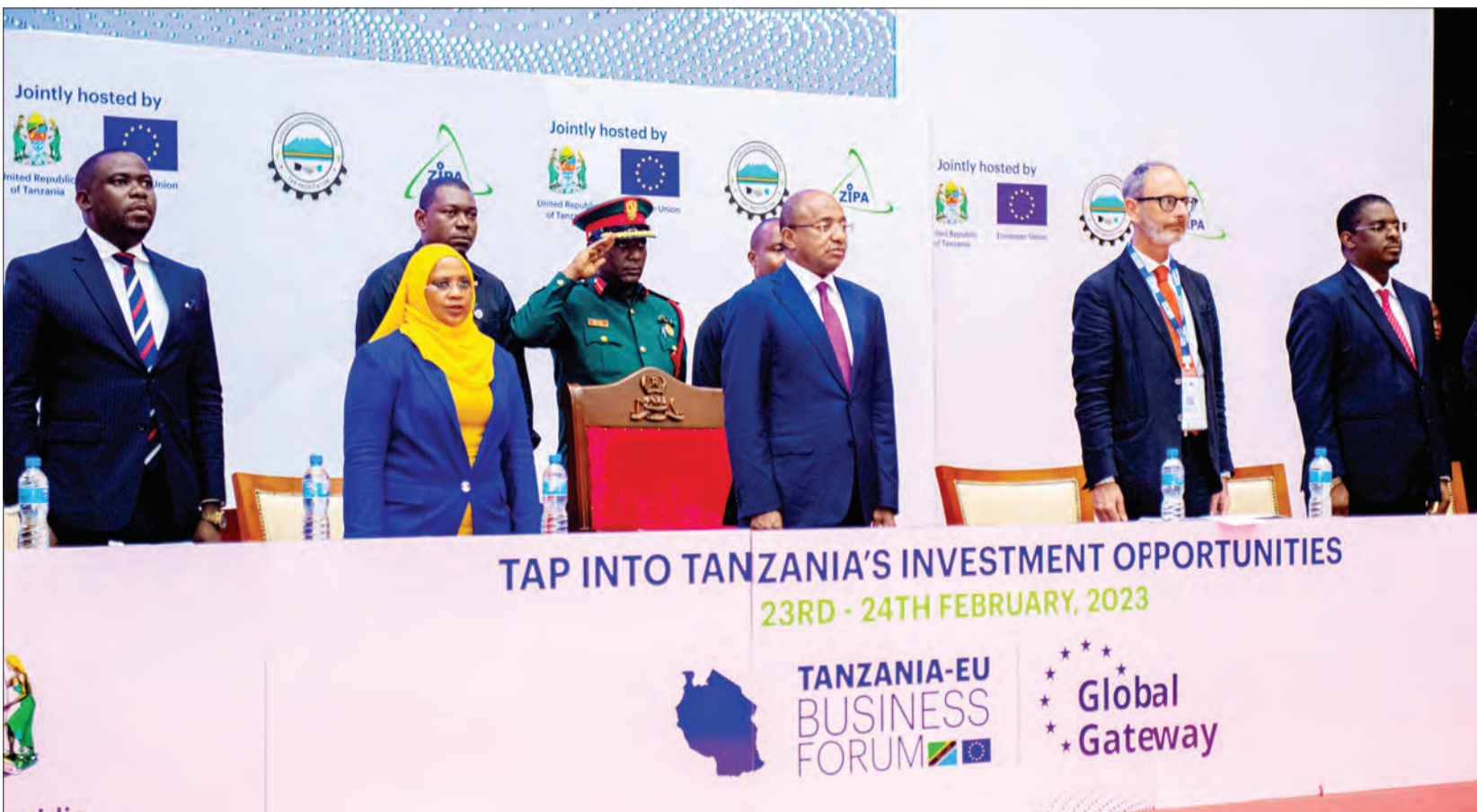


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TAP INTO TANZANIA'S INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES 23RD - 24TH FEBRUARY, 2023



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured with the EU Head of Delegation to Tanzania, Manfredi Fanti (2nd-R); Zanzibar's Trade and Industrial Development minister, Omar Said Shaaban (R); Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Labour, Economic Affairs and Investment), Mudrick Soraga (L); and Tanzania's Industry, Trade and Investment minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji; stand for the National Anthem in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly before the closure of the two-day Tanzania-EU Business Forum. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ruto launches Taifa Gas LPG facility project, hails new trust

By Henry Mwangonde, Mombasa

KENYAN President William Ruto has welcomed Tanzanians to invest in his country saying his government is implementing a new policy aimed at ending state mistrust that existed previously.

Gracing a foundation stone laying ceremony for a 30bn tonnes

between the two countries. Reiterating, he threw a blanket over the perennial mistrust, emphasising "the need to work together to develop our nations."

The project would have been launched five years ago but failed due to political impediments, resolved after there was change on either side of the border, he stated while the Taifa Gas Group investor said this was the largest Tanzanian investment since the country got independence. It has opened room for more investments, he affirmed

"We want to be part of the desire by Kenya to ensure there is clean and affordable energy for the majority by 2025," he said, noting that LPG is the only alternative way to mitigate climate change effects through reducing gas emissions. This initiative shows it is the time for East African countries to do business together, he asserted.

The facility will be one of Kenya's largest recent private sector investments and among the first at Mombasa's special economic zone, with the plant having installed capacity for handling 30,000 metric tonnes, dwarfing similar facilities in the region when it is operational within a year.

Taifa Gas is a Tanzanian firm with extended operations in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, DRC and South Africa, with interests in exports and retailing LPG products in these countries. It plans to cover more countries following increased capacity from the new facility.

“We want to be part of the desire by Kenya to ensure there is clean and affordable energy ...”

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) handling facility here, the president said Kenya has adopted strategies for mind-set shift for investors in both countries to promote investments.

He commissioned a \$200m (450bn/-) handling facility inspired by Taifa Gas chairman Rostam Aziz, a Tanzanian businessman.

"We are lucky that our countries are now being led by presidents who understand the importance of working together as neighbours and facilitating our people to invest in all sectors," the Kenyan leader declared.

It is the time for East African countries to work together in various areas by facilitating inter-country investments, he stated, highlighting that initiating the facility was the beginning of a new investment era between the two countries. Doubting each other's purposes was now eclipsed, he told the gathering.

He praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for helping to address key trade issues hitherto derailing development interaction

Dr Mwinyi vibrant as EU forum ends on high note

By Getrude Mbago

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has urged European investors to take up Tanzania as preferred investment destination, for its conducive business environment and untapped investment opportunities.

Closing the two-day EU-Tanzania business and investment forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Mwinyi said the government's vision is to promote a vibrant private sector that significantly contributes to the country's economic and social development.

"We want to transform the private sector through an improved business environment, and empowerment to achieve the goal of an inclusive and broad-based middle-income economy by 2025," he declared.

The sixth phase government under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan is committed to creating a competitive business and investment climate for private sector development, he said, noting that the EU has consistently been top investor in Tanzania.

“We greatly appreciate the European Union's assistance in this regard, including the generous aid of 23m euros (56bn/-). This grant will support the investment and business environment improvement program, known as the Blueprint”

The forum served to strengthen those critical ties, fully in line with promoting sustainable economic growth through increased trade and investment, he said, praising the keen interest shown by several EU firms in developing production bases in Tanzania.

Such initiatives will promote val-

ue addition, skills and technology transfer, fostering strong partnerships between companies in Tanzania and in the EU, he affirmed.

EU firms will have plenty of reason to see Tanzania as a preferred investment destination, given its conducive business environment and untapped investment opportunities, he stated. The government has put investment at the forefront of its agenda and is committed to creating a competitive business and investment climate for private sector development, he elaborated.

"We greatly appreciate the European Union's assistance in this regard, including the generous aid of 23m euros (56bn/-). This grant will support the investment and business environment improvement program, known as the Blueprint, he stated.

The support will also improve the regulatory function of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), to ensure that local products meet international quality standards, facilitating access to global markets including the EU, he explained.

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Nehemia Mchechu

Samia appoints new Treasury Registrar, NHC, TPDC CEOs

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday appointed National Housing Corporation (NHC) Nehemia Mchechu director general the new Treasury registrar and Mussa Mohamed Makame as new Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) director general.

A State House statement signed by Zuhura Yunus, the director of presidential communications, said Mchechu replaces Mgonya Benedicto who will be assigned other duties, while Makame replaces Dr James Mataragio who will similarly be assigned other duties. Prior to the new appointment

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AfDB applauds work in projects it finances

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has expressed satisfaction with implementation of various development projects it is financing, chiefly in the energy sector. Ronald Cafrine, an executive in the AfDB country mission, made this assessment here on

Thursday during a visit to one such project, the Zuzu electricity cooling center, accompanied by senior officials from the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO), plus ministerial executives. The visit was geared at inspecting electricity projects AfDB finances, for which he said project work had reached a good stage,

specifying that AfDB shall work with the government in construction, water and energy sectors. He praised the Energy ministry and its institutions for proper use of the funds disbursed and supervision of the specific projects, noting that the AfDB was committed to support government development pursuits.

Christopher Bitesigirwe, a ministerial executive, said Tanzania as a developing country needs more electricity to grow its economy. Reliable, sufficient and cost-effective electricity will enable the country to successfully achieve its

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Dr Mwinyi vibrant as EU forum in Dar ends on high note

FROM PAGE 1

During the closing ceremony, three financing agreements by the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank (FMO) and French development finance Institution (Proparco) were signed to support local major banks.

The EIB, with EU guarantee, will provide new credit line to local partner banks for lending to the Tanzania private sector, for up to 370m euros (more than 750bn/-).

Thomas Östros, the EIB vice president, said the EU and EIB lately approved a euro 270m lending to private sector companies - mainly small and medium enterprises in the Mainland and Zanzibar. The funds will be channelled through NMB, CRDB and KCB as intermediaries, he stated.

A total of euros 150m has been directed to CRDB, euros 100m to NMB and euros 20m to KCB. Further loans to other local banks are expected to be approved in the coming months or year, he said, specifying that the local banks will lend at least 30 percent of the funds to women-led firms or companies active in the blue economy sector.

This investment will be accompanied by a euro16m grant from the EU enabling participant banks to invest in the blue economy and gender companies, by training companies on how to build projects eligible for this type of finance. The funds will be used to train banks to better understand gender and

blue economy clients, meanwhile as participating local banks are supported to develop reporting systems desegregated by gender, age and sector, to highlight blue economy activities, the EIB executive intoned.

Dutch FMO and French Proparco loans to local partner banks intended for lending to the Tanzania private sector with FMO arranging a \$125m (close to 292bn/-) senior loan facility for long-term client, NMB Bank.

The senior loan is provided in partnership with Proparco, contributing \$50m to the total facility and will be used for financing small firms, women owned - firms and agri-businesses. The facility demonstrates FMO and Proparco's commitment to driving Tanzania's growth in partnership with solid local institutions, he asserted.

The third agreement was of FMO (with EU guarantee) new investment to NMB Bank for lending to women and youth related projects, totalling \$11m (27.7bn/-), where the risk sharing facility will be used to support NMB Bank in increasing financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

FMO's NASIRA risk sharing program supports financial institutions to increase financing for MSMEs with a focus on underserved business segments, such as women-based and youth-owned businesses, who often remain under banked due to high risks - both perceived and real - involved in lending to such groups, he added.

AfDB applauds work in projects it finances

FROM PAGE 1

development goals, he stated.

AfDB has made a significant contribution in electricity projects countrywide, including projects to generate hydro power at Kakonko, Malagarasi, a 400 kilovolts power transmission project from Iringa to Dodoma and onward to Shinyanga and Namanga.

There is also a 220 kilovolt power transmission project linking Rusumo and

Nyakanazi, plus a 400 kilovolt power transmission project, linking Nyakanazi and Kigoma. Jonathan Nzayikorera, the AfDB executive director for BDIR-16, said early this week that the bank was impressed with the ongoing construction of the Msalato International Airport. He was pleased to hear that phase one of construction set for April 2025 completion has been brought forward to December, 2024.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (R) engaged in talks with Canada's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Kyle Nunas, who called on him in Dar es Salaam yesterday to introduce himself. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia appoints new Treasury Registrar, NHC, TPDC CEOs

FROM PAGE 1

Makame was a member of the TPDC board, as a leading consultant in Tanzania's oil and gas industry, the statement noted. All appointments were effective from yesterday, the statement said. Hamad Abdallah becomes NHC director general, leaving his post as director general for Gimcofrica Ltd, a property valuation firm.

Mchechu was brought back at the helm of the NHC last March, after the late Dr John Magufuli dropped him in October 2018 leaving a slew of real estate projects unfinished. Dr Mataragio who has guided TPDC for more than a decade was pushed out on April 3, 2021 and then the president reversed the decision, just hours later. The Office of the Treasury

Registrar (OTR) is holds all public investments comprising the paid up capital of public and statutory corporations along with stakes in private enterprises in which the government owns shares. Among others, the registrar manages all activities, all assets of public entities, institutions and government agencies, to review the financial performance of public and

statutory corporations on behalf of the government. The office is tasked with recommending measures aimed at amalgamation, disestablishment or improvement of public financed commercial or service rendering institutions to uplift their performance. The office renders advice to the government on establishment of new public or statutory corporations, consolidating or vesting of

any business or property in those organizations to enhance efficiency, plus assist organisations with unique problems. It is also charged with setting financial targets and other performance indicators for public institutions and statutory corporations, advise on the need to invest or to dispose-off investments in public institutions or statutory corporations to the government.



Neophita Lukiringi (2nd-L, in specs), an occupational therapist with the Moshi centre of CCBRT Hospital, shows how to take the measurements of wheelchairs in accordance with World Health Organisation guidelines. She was making the demonstration yesterday to members of the hospital's board of directors who were on a tour of Kilimanjaro Region ahead of the climax of the centre's 25th anniversary commemorations today. Second-left (standing) is the board's president, Dr Willibrod Slaa, and right is the hospital's CEO, Brenda Msangi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Onion shortage threatens new chapter in world food crisis'

By Special Correspondent

ONIONS are the staple of cuisines across the world, the most consumed vegetable after the tomato. About 106 million tons are produced annually - roughly the same as carrots, turnips, chillies, peppers and garlic

combined. Now, all over the world, prices are soaring, fuelling inflation and prompting countries to take action to secure supplies. Morocco and Turkey have halted some exports, as has Kazakhstan. The Philippines has ordered an investigation

into onion cartels. Restrictions have also gone beyond onions to include carrots, tomatoes, potatoes and apples, hampering availability worldwide, the United Nations and the World Bank warned this month. In Europe, empty shelves have forced UK supermarkets to ration

purchases of some fruit and vegetables after a weak harvest in southern Spain and North Africa. The jump in prices is a knock-on effect from disastrous floods in Pakistan, frosts damaging stockpiles in Central Asia and Russia's war in Ukraine. In North Africa,

meanwhile, farmers have battled severe droughts and an increase in the cost of seeds and fertilizers. Poor weather has hit Moroccan growers particularly hard. At a market in the Ocean district in central Rabat, Fatima said vegetable prices remain "exorbitantly high" even with the ban on

sending onions and tomatoes to West Africa introduced by the government this month. In Kazakhstan, the spike in prices has prompted authorities to tap strategic stockpiles while its trade minister urged people not to buy onions by the sack amid a panic rush to secure supplies in local supermarkets.

President Mwinyi urges tourism stakeholders to improve services

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has urged stakeholders in the tourism sector to improve services to meet the needs and requirements of visitors coming to Tanzania.

Dr Mwinyi made the statement when opening the tourism and business forum, the Z-summit in Unguja Urban District on Thursday.

He said the tourism sector in Zanzibar has many attrac-

tions and is an important sector that contributes 30 per cent to the national income.

D. Mwinyi said his government is making various efforts to strengthen the sector to increase the number of tourists to 850,000 by 2025. He said the government has already improved infrastructures which include expansion of the Abeid Amani Karume international airports and maintenance of roads.

He said the airport cur-

rently provides international services that meet the needs of visitors under an international organization—DNATA that provides international airport services.

He said construction of the Pemba international airport which is expected to open Pemba for tourism, is part of the government's efforts to promote the tourism sector in the country.

Mwinyi said that Zanzibar is a centre for many visitors from different countries

around the world due to its decorated preserved history as well as an old town that is a UNESCO reserve. He said the isles attract many visitors through beaches, greener environment as well as various types of sports.

On blue economy, the president said the government has taken initiatives to practically implement the policy and emphasizing on sustainability of the resources through the 'tourism for all' policy.

He insisted that the government will continue to invest in creating a good environment for tourism stakeholders, asking participants to be ambassadors by bringing more visitors in Zanzibar. "Let's all together share experiences and work together to contribute to developing the tourism sector in Tanzania," he added.

Minister for Tourism and Natural Resources, Mohamed Mchengerwa said Tanzania needs to promote its tourism sector internationally.

He said that the government in collaboration with Zanzibar aims to increase the number of tourists from foreign countries including Europe, Asia, the Far East and America.

He explained that the government is also interested in capturing the tourism market from China, which leads the world in providing tourists of up 1.5 million in each country.

Minister for Tourism and Antiquities in Zanzibar, Simai Mohammed Said, said time has

come for Zanzibar to change its attitude through tourism seasons and to get rid of the concept of small and big seasons. He said it is important to consider and promote all seasons to benefit more from the sector.

Chairman, Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI), Rahim Baloo said the meeting aimed to introduce the world and promote Zanzibar in terms of tourism and culture as well as welcoming more investors.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba and East African Community secretary general Dr Peter Mathuki (R) share a light moment shortly before the start of the 43rd EAC Ministers Council meeting in Bujumbura, Burundi, on Thursday. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Govt puts land formalisation failing companies on notice

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister, Angelina Mabula has ordered land planning authorities at the district councils to take action against land formalisation companies that fail to perform their duties including cancellation of their contracts.

The minister's directive came after she discovered that some formalization companies failed to complete their duties on time as well as taking people's money without providing them with title deeds.

Mabula wanted stern gal measures to be taken against the companies as well as revocation of their contract. She also asked authorities at district level to make sure citizens are involved at all the stages of land formalisation.

She instructed land officials in the country to arraign citizens refusing to pay land levies after expiry of the six months grace period offered by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to allow them to pay the taxes without interest.

"If you do not take stern actions against tax evaders and the companies, I will take actions against you," she asserted.

She also instructed all the councils to allocate investment areas to make it easier for investors coming in the country to smoothly invest in various sectors. She said the president has already opened up the country by welcoming investors, adding a good number of them have showed interest to invest in different economic sectors including agriculture, industry, mining and construction.

"The president directed every council to allocate investment areas, it is their responsibility to ensure that investment areas are prepared and allocated along with strategies to make them favourable for investment," she added, warning some district authorities over taking people's land without paying compensation, insisting compensation should be made before relocating people.

The director of land development from the ministry, Deogratias Kamilenze, said there are needs to enhance land planning due growing urbanization.

"There are currently 4,310 emerging cities in the country and the ministry has already evaluated and prepared guidelines for the development of rural housing and plans construction of better low cost houses," said Kamilenze.

He said in Morogoro region, the land formalization exercise has been completed by 19.9 per cent while the two districts of Malinyi and Ulanga have so far not submitted any formalisation information. Some 94 streets within Morogoro Region have not yet been reached, a situation that delays the formalisation process. Kamilenze said a total of 163 companies were registered to conduct land planning and surveying in all councils countrywide, of which 78 were registered for land planning and 85 were registered for land surveying.

Morogoro regional commissioner, Fatma Mwasa said there is a need to review the law that gives power to village leaders to allocate land not exceeding 50 acres.

EAC, ICGLR commit to strengthen collaboration to support restoration of peace and security in the DRC

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki held a meeting with the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Ambassador João Caholo to deliberate on areas of cooperation between the two institutions in supporting the restoration of peace and security in Eastern DRC.

The meeting follows a Mini-Summit of heads of states and Governments on Peace and Security in eastern DRC recently held in Addis Ababa.

The two leaders committed to enhancing collaboration between the two institutions by partnering and availing necessary support to each other, in the quest for restoring peace and security in Eastern DRC.

They noted that their respective institutions have complementary roles to play, in ensuring a sustainable solution to the peace and security situation in Eastern DRC is realized.

Dr Mathuki said: "The gains of regional integration such as economic development can only be realized when the region is peaceful and we thus have to play our rightful roles in contributing to this."

Amb Caholo noted that a win in ensuring peace is realized in Eastern DRC, is a win for the continent and globe at large and reiterated his commitment to supporting the quest for peace in Eastern DRC.



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe addresses journalists in Dodoma city on Thursday on the 812 youths selected to join the Building Better Tomorrow Youth Initiative in Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) programme scheduled to start on March 17 at 15 centres in different parts of the country. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the on-going 43rd Ordinary Meeting of EAC council of ministers in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The gains of regional integration such as economic development can only be realized

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

REGIONAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER,
P.O. BOX 404,
IRINGA
21.02.2023

RE: APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP
Notice is hereby given that:
MR. PINKALKUMAR HASMUKHBHAI PATEL
P.O. BOX 821,
IRINGA

Whose photograph is provided above is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. His nationality at present is INDIAN country of origin INDIAN. Occupation his Employee at TOP SHOP LTD IRINGA. He has been in this country since 2010 and also resided in IRINGA Region.

That any person who knows any reason why citizenship should not be granted to be the applicant should send a written and signed statement of the fact to the:

COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION SERVICE,
P.O. BOX 1181,
DODOMA.
PROPERTY NUMBER: WPC/20432/21

Samia pledges to boost livestock sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has promised to further improve the livestock sector through various means.

Livestock and Fisheries Deputy minister Abdallah Ulega unveiled this recently in Misungwi district, Mwanza region during a short ceremony to hand over 36 boran heifers to Buchosa council.

Ulega said the government's goal is to see young people generate wealth by entering the livestock sector and taking the livestock to the market.

"Our country has 33 million cattle and productivity is still very low due to many factories not getting enough raw materials. Livestock should increase productivity and national income and for each individual," said Ulega.

He added that through the special Samia Ufugaji kwa Tija (SAUTI) programme, the government has succeeded in es-

tablishing livestock fattening training where approximately 70 young people are given practical training at the Livestock Training Agency (LITA) and the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) in Misungwi district.

Ulega said he is very grateful to President Samia for reforming the livestock sector, noting that the government has established SAUTI training centres where until now there are eight centres for young people to be trained, and also explained that through these centres, young people will be taught the best and modern way to create pastures and access to quality livestock.

Sengerema district commissioner, Senyi Ngaga thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for getting the cow for the Buchosa council.

One of the students thanked the government for coming up with the breeding programme that will help them find employment.

ROHLIG GRINDROD (TANZANIA) LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 56071

AMENDED NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING IN VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

IN THE MATTER OF ROHLIG GRINDROD (TANZANIA) LIMITED
IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION (MEMBERS') WINDING UP
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, CAP. 212.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 345(1) and (2) of the Companies Act, 2002, that a general meeting of the above named company that was scheduled to be held on 17 March, 2023 at 1:00 pm has been rescheduled and will now be held on 24th March, 2023 at 04:30 pm onwards via Zoom/Teams for the purpose of having an account laid before it, and receiving the report of the liquidator showing how the winding up of the Company has been conducted and its properties disposed of, and of hearing any explanation which may be given by the liquidator.

Any member or creditor entitled to attend, and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a member or creditor of the Company.

Geoffrey Dimoso
GEOFFREY NICHOLAUS DIMOSO
(LIQUIDATOR)

Dated this 22nd day of February 2023

GEOFFREY NICHOLAUS DIMOSO
ANJARWALLA & KHANNA TANZANIA
THE ADDRESS BUILDING
1 BAINS SINGH AVENUE
MSASANI PENINSULA
P.O. BOX 79651,
DAR ES SALAAM
TANZANIA.

Tel: +255 22 260 1151/2
Tel: +255 754 999 667
E-mail: Geoffrey.dimoso@ainfrica.co.tz



Global Education Link (GEL) director Abdulmalik Mollel briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the exhibition on Cyprus, Turkey, UK, Malaysia and India universities scheduled to be held in a Dar es Salaam hotel beginning today. With him GEL external affairs director Robert Kibona (L) and general manager Regina Lema. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Kilindi District takes crucial steps to reintroduce cotton

By Correspondent George Sembony, Kilindi

KILINDI District Council in Tanga Region has taken strategic steps to reintroduce cotton as an alternative cash crop after seeing that the sector's prospect was now promising.

The move is aimed to reduce reliance on food crops as cash crops and invest in massive production of cotton and bring positive impacts to the farmers.

Gracian Makota, District Executive Director (DED) said the move will also address food shortages caused by farmers selling food crops for cash. "The reintroduction of cotton farming will also assist farmers in lowering sales of food crops and avoiding food shortages, which are largely due to people relying on food crops as cash crops," Makota said.

Makota told this paper in an interview that the district has already received a total of eight tonnes of cotton seeds that have been distributed to farmers as part of a general cotton revival plan effectively supported by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The seeds will be planted in 825 acre farms spread across five wards of Mabalanga, Msanja, Jaila, Mkindi, and Negero.

The cotton farming mobilisation programme for Kilindi residents was launched in Febru-

ary of this year in the Tuwe neighbourhood of Muungano village in Msanja Ward. Kilindi District Commissioners launched the mobilisation effort. "In the first phase, the district received 3.25 tonnes of cotton seeds, which were distributed in five wards. Each ward received 650 kg of cotton seeds. The current batch of five tonnes was added as a result of the good response shown by farmers in the five wards," Makota explained.

He further stated that these would be distributed in the three wards that had the best response which are Negero (1.8 tonnes), Jaila (1.6 tonnes), and Msanja (1.6 tonnes).

Cotton Farming Programme Coordinator, Seif Hamis Sempamba, said cotton farming has been reinstated some years after farmers decided to stop engaging in the crop due to marketing and input challenges.

"The Cotton Board decided to revive cotton farming after improvement in the markets and decided to choose wards which had previously undertaken cotton farming. Cotton has the ability to survive in harsh climatic conditions such as drought. Maize is vulnerable to drought conditions, but it is one of the major crops on which farmers rely for cash, and the council also relies on it for revenue collection," Sempamba added.

Farmers assured of timely delivery of subsidised fertiliser

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PUBLIC assurances have been issued by the Tanzania Fertiliser Co. (TFC) of timely delivery of subsidised fertiliser to fulfill the demand in different regions.

Two weeks since the launch of the distribution programme, TFC has already reached 12 regions country-wide, delivering 2300 tonnes of Urea N46 percent.

Speaking with The Guardian in an exclusive interview yesterday, TFC's General Manager, Samuel Mshote noted that the company is well prepared to ensure timely distribution of ferti-

liser to farmers.

He said the demand for the input differ from one region to the others, thus those with immediate demand are served first, adding that 2023/24 farming season will not have any challenges.

Mshote said the 2022/23 season's target was to distribute 8100 tonnes and 2700 tonnes was the target for the first phase of the distribution.

"I would like to assure farmers in the country of timely distribution of fertiliser as is expected by the government," he said.

According to the manager, TFC has accrued a total of 4.2 bn/- in distribu-

tion of fertiliser but also have 1.8/- in subsidiary debt owed by the government. He explained that the government has revived TFC in a bid to ensure a sufficient supply of fertilisers at reasonably lower than market prices.

Eight years down the road, the company had stopped involving itself in selling fertilisers due to commercial and capital reasons.

However, TFC is now back in the game as the government yesterday launched the distribution of the product at a subsidised price and the government gave the company some 6 bn/- in capital. "We are targeting to distribute 8,100 tonnes between now

and the end of April," said Mshote, adding that "a 50-kilo bag of fertiliser will be sold at Sh70, 000 compared to the Dar es Salaam market price of Sh12, 000," said Mshote.

He thanked the government for the support, but said that in a bid to make TFC even stronger, they needed Sh45 billion in capital against the available Sh6 billion. He said with the Sh45 billion in capital, they will be able to import 25,000 metric tons of fertiliser to be distributed to various parts of the country.

He said to ensure the company's sustainability in fertiliser supply, the government of Tanzania and that of

Morocco will next week start talks for setting up a blending facility in Kisarawe, Coast Region. Responding to the question of capital, Mavunde said the government will be ready to dish out more capital only if they are convinced by TFC to do so.

During the 2022/23 financial year, the government increased the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture to Sh751 billion, well above the Sh290 billion approved in the 2021/22 financial year. Speaking earlier, TFC board chairman Florence Turuka said the impact of external shocks is a wake-up call for the country to start production of fertiliser in the near future.

A fertiliser shortage, worsened by the Russia-Ukraine war, is driving up their prices and global food prices. "As a country, we are compelled to import at a high price. To address this, we have no option, but start producing fertilisers locally," said Dr Turuka.

As TFC waits for the plan on paper to materialise, he said Tanzania had an enabling infrastructure that could enable the country to feed the local market and neighboring countries.

Official data have Tanzania can only produce locally 10 percent of the annual demand of 430,000 tonnes of fertilisers, with the rest being imported.



Mohamed Enterprises Ltd sales officer Jiala Jitabo (2nd-R) presents to Muheza District Council acting director Cyprian Mselem yesterday 67 motorcycles provided by the government to help agricultural officers serve farmers faster and more effectively. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Drought ravages southern Ethiopia, killing at least 7

ADDIS ABABA

AT least seven people have died from starvation in Borena area in southern Ethiopia following severe drought, local authorities and residents have said.

Dhenge Wario, a district administrator in the zone in Oromia region close to the country's border with neighbouring Kenya, said among those dead were a two-month-old baby and elderly people.

"People are not eating food for many days. Their cattle are all dead," he said.

Guayo Turu, a resident of the district which is mostly populated by pastoralist communities, said his 16-year-old son had died.

"He got sick because of hunger; we had nothing. When we took him to the hospital they told us [his illness] was related to shortage of food. He died shortly after that," he said. Guayo said that his family had lost all their cattle.

Another resident said he had lost all but four of his 150 cattle. More than 800,000 people require emergency food assistance because of the drought, according to the disaster prevention and food security office in Borena zone. "The number of people seeking aid is increasing," the head of the office said.

Food aid is being provided by the government and non-governmental organisations but the needs are far higher than what's been delivered, he added.

A branch of the office in the area however said it had no information about the people dying from food scarcity. The Horn of Africa region is suffering from what the UN has called "the most severe drought in two generations" after five consecutive failed rainy seasons.

The UN's migration agency IOM had previously said that more than 4.5 million cattle had died since 2021 because of the drought in Ethiopia.

WTF-T supports over 400 NGOs in implementation of social, economic projects

By Getrude Mbago

WOMEN Fund Tanzania Trust (WTF-T) has reached over 400 non-government organisations, platforms and 68,000 individuals with financial and idea expansion support to enable them implement various social and economic projects that impact the society.

The Fund which is now commemorating its 15th anniversary has been working to extend support to the local NGOs and individuals as well as help fight oppressive systems to women.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam, the Fund's executive director Rose Maran-

du said beyond celebrating the impactful work that has been done, the three-day event which is expected to commence today is also aimed to share knowledge, to engage, and to inspire other civic and non-civic actors to understand what role feminist funds have played around the world, with a particular focus on what role WTF-T plays in Tanzania, and how others can be part of this new feminist funding model.

She said the Fund employs two innovative strategies in grant making. First it provides funding to locally based women and girls' rights organisations which demonstrate or show potential of effecting trans-

formative changes in the lives of women and girls in their respective communities.

The second level of funding goes to national networks, platforms and coalitions which direct efforts in transforming legal frameworks, policies, plans and budgets. At this level, we have seen enhanced debates which interrogate discriminatory legal frameworks, policies, plans and budgets. One key achievement at this level is strengthened women rights movements, collective voice and sustained feminist agenda.

In addition to grant making, WTF-T has catalysed a dialogue and debate challenging conventional philanthropic approach-

es which fail to reach out the majority of those in need of such funding particularly women and girls in community level settings," she said.

Maria Rusimbi, WTF-T co-founder said despite a huge step that has been witnessed in uplifting women, the majority of them are denied their rights due to oppressive systems in the society.

"As we celebrate the court case, WTF-T realizes that there are hundreds of girls and women who are subjected to various acts of violence, who need the support of women and men in this country to stand up and say, "enough is enough" let our girls and women remain safe in their own

home, in their communities and in this nation." She said the event will also chart more innovative ways to increase women's access to financial support and thus fulfil their social and economic projects.

"We will also centre on celebrating stories of change from grassroots initiatives, grantee partners, and coalitions to draw lessons and reimagine the future beyond the next decade together. It will be an opportunity to learn from the fund's visionary feminist founders and dive into the role of the women's funds in building a stronger, sustainable and resilient women's movement able to bring transformative changes."

Religious organisations play a big role in maintenance of peace, says Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said that religious institutions and civil society organisations have a big contribution to the government especially in the maintenance of peace and development in the country.

He said religious organisations have the responsibility to provide spiritual guidance in order to build a nation of peace, solidarity and ethical behaviour to the community, the issue that spur peace and development.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks at Zanzibar State House on Monday while in discussion with the Archbishop of the Seventh day Adventists, the diocese of south Tanzania, Dr Godwin Lekundayo who went for introduction.

He said the institutions have good relationship with the government in regard to community development and strengthening spiritual solidarity for the upbringing of youth with ethical be-

haviour.

Dr Mwinyi also commended religious leaders for continuing to preach and mobilise peace, saying even though the nation has followers from diverse faiths, but still it is surging forward in development.

However, he called upon the religious institutions to continue working together with the government in having youth of ethical behaviour in order to build a nation of good leaders.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Lekundayo commended the Zanzibar government's development efforts for the short period of Mwinyi's presidency and praised both governments, Mainland and Zanzibar for boosting unity in disregard of people's religious faiths.

Meanwhile, President Mwinyi participated in the event for opening the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Consulate in Zanzibar in which Saleh Al-Hemeir, the Consular welcomed all Zanzibaris for various diplomatic services.



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega (R) is briefed at Mabuki in Misungwi District earlier this week on progress in the construction of sheds meant for raising dairy cows through the 'Samia Ufugaji kwa Tija' programme (SAUTI) at the Mabuki campus of the district's Livestock Training Agency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN: One woman dies every two minutes in pregnancy, childbirth

By Guardian Reporter

A new report by United Nations agencies said every two minutes, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth.

Trends in maternal mortality, reveals alarming setbacks for women's health over recent years, as maternal deaths either increased or stagnated in nearly all regions of the world.

Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) said: "While pregnancy should be a time of immense hope and a positive experience for all women, it is tragically still a shockingly dangerous experience for millions around the world who lack access to high quality, respect-

ful health care."

Dr Ghebreyesus added: "These new statistics reveal the urgent need to ensure every woman and girl has access to critical health services before, during and after childbirth, and that they can fully exercise their reproductive rights."

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said: "For millions of families, the miracle of childbirth is marred by the tragedy of maternal deaths. No mother should have to fear for her life while bringing a baby into the world, especially when the knowledge and tools to treat common complications exist. Equity in healthcare gives every mother, no matter who they are or where they are, a fair chance at a safe delivery and a healthy future

with their family."

Juan Pablo Uribe, Global Director for Health, Nutrition and Population at the World Bank, and Director of the Global Financing Facility said: "This report provides yet another stark reminder of the urgent need to double down on our commitment to women and adolescent health. With immediate action, more investments in primary health care and stronger, more resilient health systems, we can save lives, improve health and well-being, and advance the rights of and opportunities for women and adolescents."

UNFPA Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem said that it is unacceptable that so many women continue to die needlessly in pregnancy and

childbirth.

"Over 280,000 fatalities in a single year is unconscionable. We can and must do better by urgently investing in family planning and filling the global shortage of 900,000 midwives so that every woman can get the lifesaving care she needs. We have the tools, knowledge and resources to end preventable maternal deaths; what we need now is the political will," she added.

John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs said: "Reducing maternal mortality remains one of the most pressing global health challenges. Ending preventable maternal deaths and providing universal access to quality maternal health care require sus-

tained national and international efforts and unwavering commitments, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every mother, everywhere, survives childbirth, so that she and her children can thrive."

The report, which tracks maternal deaths nationally, regionally and globally from 2000 to 2020, shows there were an estimated 287,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2020 a slight decrease from 309,000 in 2016 when the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into effect.

In total numbers, maternal deaths continue to be largely concentrated in the poorest parts of the world and in countries affected by conflict.

In 2020, about 70 percent of all maternal deaths were in sub-Saharan Africa. In nine countries facing severe humanitarian crises, maternal mortality rates were more than double the world average (551 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births, compared to 223 globally).

Severe bleeding, high blood pressure, pregnancy-related infections, complications from unsafe abortion, and underlying conditions that can be aggravated by pregnancy (such as HIV/AIDS and malaria) are the leading causes of maternal deaths.

The report suggested for the world to significantly accelerate progress to meet global targets for reducing maternal deaths, or else risk the lives of over 1 million more women by 2030.



Arusha Regional Police Commander Justine Masejo (R) pictured in Arusha city earlier this week receiving two motorcycles worth a combined 6.1m/- from Grand Melia Hotel assistant manager Vikram Singh. It was a gesture by the hotel in support of efforts to enhance security in the city. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Cyclone Freddy kills 7 in Madagascar, becomes a storm in Mozambique

ANTANANARIVO

TROPICAL cyclone Freddy, which has been sweeping across the Indian Ocean for several days, has killed 7 people as it passes through Madagascar and has weakened considerably as it makes landfall in Mozambique on Friday as a moderate tropical storm.

The winds accompanying the weather phenomenon are averaging 65km/h with gusts to 90km/h, the Malagasy government said in a statement on Thursday, raising the death toll from five to seven on the Big Island. The cyclone is moving more slowly, at 19 km/h.

It was expected to start hitting the Mozambican coast overnight, between the centre and the south of the country, before its eye made landfall around 10am GMT, according to forecasters.

In Madagascar, it has caused significant damage. The seven dead include four drowned, with three others killed "as a result of a house collapse", the disaster management office said.

According to the latest update, 78,078 Malagasy have been affected by the floods, many of whom have had to leave their homes.

Cyclone Freddy made landfall on Tuesday evening, with winds of around 130km/h and heavy rain.

About 10 storms or cyclones pass through the south-western Indian Ocean each year during the cyclone season, which runs from November to April.

Tanga authorities sign pacts for water construction projects worth 10bn/-

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

AUTHORITIES in Tanga Region have signed agreements for eight water construction projects worth 10bn/- to be implemented in various wards in the region benefiting nearly 40,000 people.

Speaking at the signing event regional commissioner, Omari Mgunba said that

he will conduct close follow up as well as monitoring the implementation of all water projects to ensure that they are executed and completed on time.

The projects were signed by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) Tanga regional office and various contractors and will be implemented in the districts of Korogwe,

Lushoto, Kilindi, Mkinga and Handeni.

Mgunba said that the government will not tolerate negligence contractors who will be found delaying the execution of the projects directing those who have signed the contracts to ensure that the job goes well, have value for money and are handed over within scheduled time frame.

He further said that the sixth phase government move to use local contractors into various development projects aims to stimulate production of more employment opportunities to Tanzanians as well as strengthen social and economic development of the country.

RUWASA regional manager Eng. Upendo Lugongo said that once completed,

the projects are expected to serve about 39,000 residents in various villages.

She stated that the new projects will comprise construction of nine tanks with 1,830 cubic meters, pipe network with length of 168.2 kilometers length, 92 water points and expected to increase water coverage for about 1.5 percent.

Kiir asks displaced to return home

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's President Salva Kiir Mayardit has asked the displaced people to return to their homes and promised that the government



will extend security even to those who would choose to go back to their areas of origin.

The president made the call during a meeting with the displaced person at Freedom Hall in Juba on Wednesday.

"For those who will opt to return to their habitual areas of residence, the government will provide security and would work jointly with partners to organise logistics around what is needed to resettle successfully in those areas," Kiir (pictured) said.

"For those who cannot go back to their areas of residence, we have spoken to authorities in states where IDPs camps are located to set aside land to resettle them. I must add that this land, when designated, must be allocated to IDPs only," he said.

The South Sudanese head of state further called on international partners to render support to help the government in its efforts for reintegration and resettlement of millions of its citizens displaced by the deadly civil war.

"We know that about 2.3 million of our people still live in refugee camps in neighboring countries. With peace implementation moving towards the final phase where elections will end the transitional period, repatriating our people from the camps in neighboring countries should top our agenda," he said.



Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde (4th-R) presses a button in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch a Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust campaign dubbed 'Kijanisha Maisha'. Fourth-left is PASS managing director Yohane Kaduma and third-right is the chairperson of the agency's board of trustees, Dr Tausi Kida. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Grab opportunities to study PhDs at foreign universities, Tanzanians told

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIANS have been advised to wisely use the opportunity to study PhDs at foreign universities, a move which is expected to increase the number of professionals and university lecturers in the country.

This was said yesterday by the Director General of the Overseas Education Agency, Global Education Link (GEL), Abdulmalik Mollé when speaking to journalists ahead of the exhibitions by univer-

sities of Cyprus, UK, Turkey, Malaysia and India which starts today in Dar es Salaam.

He was concerned that some Tanzanians fail to go for PhD studies thinking the cost is too high, but there are abroad universities that offer such courses at relative costs.

"I would like to call upon students who need to study PhD, to go to abroad universities because they are not expensive. When we have many people with such level of education, it will help to develop

our nation in terms of research and education in general," he said.

He said universities taking part at the exhibition are from India, Cyprus and Turkey and that they offer PhD studies at a cost of \$1,000.

Mollé added: "I am talking about 2m/- and 4m/- per year for the PhD level, it is cheap compared to other universities where the cost is up to 8m/-."

He said if a student can get the opportunity to study a PhD at a cost of between 2,300,000/- and

4,000,000/- at a world-renowned university, it is a great opportunity that Tanzanian graduates should consider. He said having the abroad universities in the country is an opportunity to increase the number of lecturers who wish to study at the PhD level.

He said the universities will on Saturday and Sunday conduct major educational exhibition to allow Tanzanian students who need to study in foreign countries to make good choices.

He said the exhibitions will be

held at Serena Hotel from morning to evening while on Sunday will be held at Mapinduzi Square grounds in Zanzibar.

He said after exhibitions admission of students will be done at GEL offices in the city from Monday, February 27th, 2023.

"There are universities that have reduced the fees for medical studies from 30m/- per year to 10m/- per year. Tanzanians should take advantage of the fee reduction to go for the studies," he said.

He said in India the universities

have brought their representatives including the Lovely Professional (LPU) University which specializes in engineering and business education, MMU University which specializes in medical and engineering education and Sharda University which specializes in medical education, Arts and Business.

He mentioned other universities as Near East University located in the Northern part of Cyprus and University of Kyrenia. From Turkey are Gelism and Ishiki universities and Segi University of Malaysia.



An environmental cleanliness team in business in Dar es Salaam's Goba suburb earlier this week but without even basic personal protection gear! And, even more appallingly, it's a common sight in many urban areas in Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Warning of almost one million malnourished children in Kenya this year

NAIROBI

MORE than 5.4 million people in Kenya will likely experience acute food insecurity beginning in March and almost one million children are likely to suffer malnutrition this year as East Africa faces the worst drought in decades, an international initiative has reported.

The analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification predicted an increase in the 4.4 million Kenyans currently facing high levels of food insecurity in a country with a population of about 47.5 million. The current figure represents a 43 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Kenyan President William Ruto last week led a national prayer day for rain and promised to institute policies that would ensure the country's people have enough to eat.

Rain is forecast for March but the Kenya Meteorological Department said there would be a delayed start of the rainy season in northern Kenya, which is mostly arid and semi-arid.

The region has had six failed rainy seasons, with less than usual rainfall in some areas and no rain in others.

Kenyan TV reported that herders from Wajir County in northern Kenya have had to migrate because of the drought.

'Africa must accelerate efforts to improve access to, quality of health services for children'

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICA must rapidly accelerate efforts to improve access to, and the quality of health services for children to save more children's lives and achieve sustainable development.

Prompted by the alarming limited progress, World Health Organisation (WHO) with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) brought together experts in child health in Arusha recently from February 14 to 17 to rethink and devise sustainable solutions to barriers that are holding back progress for the health and development of children.

Bringing together child health experts from ministries of health on the continent, the consultative meeting examines progress and lessons from implementation of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Strategy (IMCI) developed by WHO

and UNICEF in 1995 as a premier strategy to promote health and provide preventive and curative services for children.

At its inception IMCI focused on countries with more than 40 deaths per 1000 live births, and many African countries are in that bracket.

Graced by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health in Tanzania, who was represented by the Administrative Secretary of the Arusha Region, Athuman Kihamia the meeting sought to share and discuss findings of IMCI stock-taking in the WHO African region, to rethink and recommend sustainable strategies for improving the quality of care for children at primary care levels and agree on a framework and strategic actionable next steps that should guide member states' and partner investments in the medium term.

In his opening remarks, Dr Zabulon Yoti, WHO Tanzania Country Representative said no sector can achieve child health

and wellbeing alone. "The causes of child mortality go beyond the health sector. Poor sanitation, violence and injuries, poor education of caregivers require a more inclusive strategy that considers both the health and wellbeing of a child," said Dr Yoti.

Anne Detjen, a Child Health Specialist from UNICEF New York echoed Multisectoral cooperation and emphasized the usefulness of community health care workers in promoting child health and wellbeing.

"We should focus on strengthening institutionalizing community health care and embrace community health care workers into the primary health care system by training and remunerating them. This will improve equitable access to primary health care that we all know plays a great role in reduction of child mortality," said Anne Detjen.

Experts, analyzing child wellbeing in

Africa note that the three main causes of child deaths in Africa 25 years ago are still devastating today. Pneumonia claims 13 percent of under five deaths, diarrhea accounts for 9 percent and malaria causes 10 percent of the deaths. All of them are preventable.

Through concerted political will, collaboration with development partners and expansive engagement of community, some countries in Africa have substantively addressed the impact of pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria on child health.

In Tanzania, where under 5 mortality rates have been suppressed from 147 to 43 now, the coverage of rotavirus vaccines has been maintained at above 90 percent for more than a decade.

"In the past we used to designate a ward in district hospitals for children suffering from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea and measles. We no longer have designated wards to admit children with

diarrhea," said Dr Felix Bundala, the Acting Director of Child & Adolescent Health in Tanzania's Ministry of Health.

Averting preventable deaths from the common causes of under 5 deaths, was the ideal of the WHO and UNICEF invention of IMCI 25 years ago. At its core, IMCI strategy promotes a holistic approach based on integration, equity, prioritization and standardized care for common illnesses, and acknowledgement of the limited capacity for clinical care in low income.

In 2000, multi-country evaluation was conducted in Brazil, Peru, Bangladesh, Uganda and Tanzania and indicated that IMCI reduced child mortality by 13% in Tanzania and improved quality of care and rational use of medicines across many other countries.

In one of IMCI tales Tanzania innovated an IMCI distance learning programme that cut costs of IMCI training by 70 percent from 1000 US dollars per learner to

Telco firm hands over new computers valued at 115m/- to 16 schools in Moshi

By Guardian Reporter

AS part of its initiative to improve the education sector and attain a digital society, Vodacom Tanzania PLC has handed over brand-new computers worth 115m/- to 16 schools in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region.

The equipment will give teachers and students access to books and other learning materials for free.

Representing Moshi District Commissioner, Kisare Makori at a brief handover ceremony at Mreani secondary school in Southern Kilema, Western Vunjo Ward Councillor, Khamisuu Uledi commended the company for its commitment towards improving education and leading in school connectivity projects across the country.

"Provision of education has experienced tremendous changes globally, from depending on books to accessing all materials from the internet. I would like to applaud Vodacom Tanzania's donation of desktop computers to our region, which will be utilized to boost efficiency amongst teachers," said Uledi.

"I urge all schools that benefited from these devices to make proper use of them and I believe that they will help improve teaching practices as well," added Uledi.

The Ward Councillor added: "The

government always acknowledges such initiatives by opening doors to all stakeholders who support educational advancement across the country. We are not there yet, and we call upon others to follow this path to attain a full-digitalized education system as the rest of the world."

The 10 desktop computers were handed over to 5 secondary schools namely Marlex, Sakayo, Mreani, Mangoto, and Mwika.

A total of 16 secondary schools which will benefit from the devices worth 115m/- are Kirongo, Mashati, Kwakoko, Mkuu, Tarakea, Nanjara, Mbomai, Umarini, Ndueni, Motamburu, and Urauri. The project targets to reach 300 schools.

Vodacom Northern Zone Manager, George Venanty reiterated: "We are delighted to continue to be key government partners in supporting the education sector by enabling teachers and students to access free online teaching and learning materials."

"The handover is the extension of the E-Fahamu project launched in 2017 and has so far benefited almost 300,000 students. I believe they will boost efficiency amongst the beneficiaries," said Venanty.

"I would like to thank the government for their endless partnership with us not only in the education sector but also oth-



Kanankira Nanyaro (R), Vodacom Tanzania's sales manager for Rombo and Moshi districts, pictured in Moshi municipality yesterday presenting a computer to Sakayo Mosha Secondary School teacher Ivan Temu. The firm similarly gifted 15 other schools in Kilimanjaro Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

er sectors. Education is the backbone to most developed nations across the world and we are committed to honouring the objectives of the school connectivity project to ensure that every student has free access to online learning materials in Tanzania," added the Northern Zone Manager.

Headmistress of Mreani secondary school in Southern Kilema, Mary Gladstone said: "On behalf of the entire school, we are honoured to receive the desktop computers because of a fruitful partnership between the

government and Vodacom. These devices will impact a great deal on how our teachers and students access teaching and learning materials respectively."

E-Fahamu was established by Vodacom Foundation in 2017 to support both teachers and students to access free online primary and secondary teaching and studying books from Tanzania Education Association's portal as well as for the international curriculum.

In 2022, the company in partnership with

African Child Projects (ACP), launched the extension of the digital school connectivity project. The main objective of the project is to connect thousands of schools with internet services across the country.

As part of the partnership agreement, ACP implemented the project in 50 government schools located in 10 different regions throughout the country. The schools were handed over 186 desktop computers, and 246 tablets, and provided with a monthly 50GB internet bundle for a year.

NARCO to open 100 livestock fattening schemes at its ranches

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE National Ranching Company (NARCO) plans to embark on a major project for installation of 100 livestock fattening schemes at its diverse ranches across the country.

The envisaged initiative, seeking to absorb around 300 fresh livestock graduates, is part of the pro-

longed efforts by the state-owned company to promote performance of the livestock sector in the country.

It will also provide graduates with potential opportunities to put their acquired-class theories into practice.

In an interview with The Guardian, NARCO Director General, Prof Peter Msoffe said they have decided to implement the project with a pa-

triotic spirit to elevate performance of the vital economic sector within the country.

"As per the project design, we are expecting that each scheme will cover an area of between 1000 and 4000 acres," he said.

He added that they are now looking for possibilities to secure enough funds to ensure the project is implemented successfully.

"Through the project NARCO

will make sure the schemes are installed with all necessary facilities including water and infrastructures. The role of the youth will be to perform livestock fattening and marketing them at different possible locations," he expressed.

And the don added that, according to the envisaged plan, within the scheme, the responsibility of the youth, among others, will be based on livestock fattening and

pasture production.

Dwelling on the other envisaged project, Prof Msoffe informed that NARCO was in the process of establishing ranches within all regions with no ranches across the country.

"Currently we're running talks with authorities in several regions over the possibilities to get chunk and favourable land for the establishment of ranches and some of the regions are showing willing-

ness to cooperate with us," he expressed.

He said so far, the company has already communicated with regional commissioners in seven regions, saying all of them are cooperating well.

NARCO is a parastatal organisation under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries responsible for large scale commercial ranching in the country.



Correspondent Sabato Kasika captured this scene at a section of the Ubungo stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road earlier this week. One only hopes this three-wheeler rider was spared the danger he evidently risked.

S.Africans urged to practise good hygiene following first cholera death

CAPETOWN

THE Department of Health has urged the public to practise good hygiene to minimise the spread of cholera.

The warning comes after the country recorded the first death related to cholera.

The victim, who died on Sunday, is a 24-year-old man from Benoni, with no travelling history.

He had been admitted to Tambo Memorial Hospital with profuse watery diarrhoea.

The number of cholera-confirmed cases now stands at five, according to the Health Department.

The department's spokesperson, Foster Mohale, has encouraged anyone with a history of the disease or who experiences vomiting and diarrhoea to visit their nearest health facility for testing.

"The department will advise the bereaved family and undertakers of the safe burial precautions to prevent the spread of the disease."

Cholera is a bacterial disease causing severe diarrhoea and dehydration, usually spread in water.

Health experts say the spread of cholera can be minimised through regular hand washing with soap and water, especially after using the toilet, as well as the general cleaning of the environment.

UAE's EDGE signs cooperation pact with Tanzania People's Defence Forces

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE United Arab Emirates' EDGE group has signed a cooperation agreement with the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) during the IDEX defence show underway in Abu Dhabi.

EDGE said the agreement, signed on February 21st, will pave the way for cooperation between EDGE and the TPDF on strategic opportunities of mutual benefit which will allow the TPDF to further develop and provide for Tanzania's defence, security, and technology needs.

The TPDF aims to enhance industrial capacity through its defence industries so as to be self-sustained in the manufacturing and production of industrial products for military and civilian use in Tanzania, and regionally, and to support the development of the TPDF's industrial ca-

capacity by facilitating various programmes and projects in the field of automotive technological innovations undertaken at Tanzania Automotive Technology Centre, EDGE statement read. The agreement was signed by Mansour AIMulla, Managing Director and CEO of EDGE,

and General Jacob John Mkunda, Tanzania's Chief of Defence Forces.

"It builds on the friendly relations between the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the government of the United Arab Emirates," said Mkunda.

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
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EU investments MoUs point to a long integration process

A two-day business forum organized by the European Union to create a convivial climate for links between EU firms and the private sector, aside from public investment projects, had a banging start and well prepared benchmarks for what it would achieve. Notable accords relate to the European Investment Bank extending 1.2trn/- to three major local banks for targeted investment support, while a consortium of French and Belgian companies will be involved in upgrading infrastructure at the port of Dar es Salaam and elsewhere. Links with the French islands of Mayotte and Reunion will also bolster investment outreach, now targeting the Gulf Zone.

An EIB top executive remarked that the 540m euro credit lines will support the banks in providing much needed longer term financing for micro, small and medium scale enterprises. That makes a difference as long term lending is a problem for small enterprises and indeed for lending as a whole, which implies that there is an element of targeted aid, designed to help uplift specified sections of the population. It is part of the theme of gender equality and uplifting small firms, along with youth groups or the disabled. It also has a sector-based lending focus, where the blue economy, energy and tourism will be given the greater part of credit attention.

While Vice President Dr Philip Mpango hailed the EU for coordinating the forum and their response to the call by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for European Union firms to take up varied investment opportunities in the country, it is the breadth to which this would succeed that observers were watching most. Local

organisers put on the table a wish list for investors exploring agriculture, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, construction, along with science and technology, even intimating catching up with the fourth industrial revolution. It is early days yet but economic pressures in the West underscore the need for more extensive, if cautious, capital transfers.

Attention was given to accords on specified or large scale accords but soft power leveraging was also on the bill, when local participants would hear, collectively, responses of European business executives on what they make of extensive regulatory reforms to create a conducive investment environment. The local dialogue where the government exchanges views with business organisations is skewed in favour of the government, while potential investors backed by their governments have the capacity to turn certain strategic mindsets on a different plane. It makes certain dispositions in the global market conduct relevant, or necessary, for us as well.

The EU government side was keen about public sector leveraging in agriculture, energy transition, manufacturing, connectivity, construction, transport and logistics. While the discussion was on identifying emerging investment opportunities and potential challenges for business operations in the given sector, the wider issue was how such potentiality can be made practical. It requires a capacitating effort, in which case issuing large disbursements to key local banks for targeted investments helps local small firms to take up such possibilities. EU partners will be needed at various stages, but capital availability was a crucial parameter.

Campaign against flimsy plastic bags promising, but struggle must continue

RENEWED efforts are being entertained for the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) to work with regional and district administrations to curb importing of banned plastic single use bags or quite similar products. It is not the first time that the need to flush out such products has come up, in which case it is needs to be more pointed in what it targets, and how to overcome points of weakness in enforcing the single use plastics ban. Assistance is being sought from regional and district security committees, which indicates a wider range of involvement for a breadth of public officials.

While there are gaps in the manner in which the ban on single use plastics is being enforced it is undeniable that using flimsy plastic bags has changed greatly. Nowhere are the handle-enabled flimsy plastic bags that usually littered urban landscapes in particular, especially in carrying edible take aways. There is no such use at the moment or any time since 2019 but wrappers of a different sort are in shops, of a seemingly altered material. It is these remaining plastic bags that are apparently at issue, ask they have largely come to be accepted as normal.

While the environment regulator has usually been keen about all plastic bags, district or municipal officials seem to be satisfied with eliminating the carrier bags. With the ministerial directive saying that NEMC should seek cooperation with those officials, their work will be snarled somewhat, as municipal officials don't inspect cargo in buses or lorries to find plastic bags, etc. It is a matter of tracing commodity circulation from a shop to the supplier and then to the wholesale supplier,

with a clear possibility that even revenue offices may have lists of those who purchase bags from outside or produce them locally. Those with handles meet texture standards.

While there was evidence of many plastic bags at the Mwanza landfill site that the ministerial team visited along with NEMC officials, no emergency rings on that score as a broad part of the environment is already protected. Earlier cows were being harmed chewing plastic bags which had edibles that may attract cattle or other scavenging animals, and due to their being used with fast foods, tended to little the environment in a clearly disturbing manner.

At present one sees plastic wrappers for instance with bread, or when picking vegetables, sugar, grain etc. The reason is that these products need transparent material especially if they are pre-packed.

Within the constraint that original campaigns on single use plastics were really about the wider environment, it is a matter of business and regulatory assessment as to how far this objective has been realised. It is possible there is a range of plastic bags that aren't handle enabled that don't meet recycling or more accurately organic decomposition standards, which are implicitly part of the original ban of single use plastics.

There is a whole sub-sector of potentially single use plastics for wrapping certain materials which even NEMC officials at times admit that they are exceptions to the ban.

This position hasn't been altered so there will be plenty of discussion at the municipal level on the precise target of the removal of remaining single use plastic bags as now directed.

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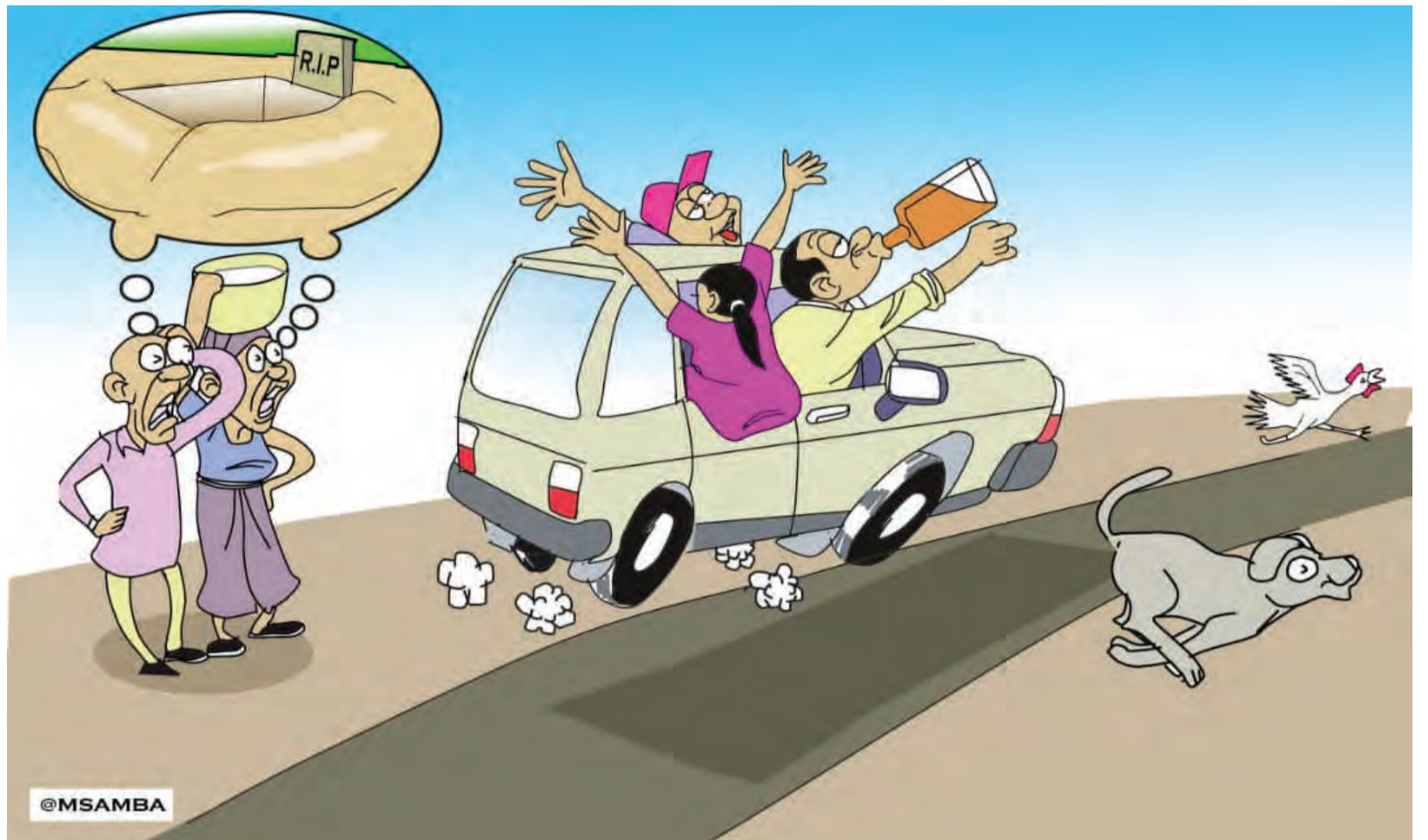
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Will there be an upset in Nigeria's presidential election?

By Yusuf Bangura

NIGERIANS will go the polls today, February 25, 2023 to elect a new president. Muhammadu Buhari, the current president, will not be on the ballot after having served two consecutive terms. The standard bearer of his party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), will instead be his party's co-founder, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the 'godfather' of Lagos politics who governed Lagos during the first eight years of the Fourth Republic. The People's Democratic Party (PDP), which ruled Nigeria between 1999, when civil rule was restored, and 2015 will be led by Atiku Abubakar, a former Vice President who fell out with his boss, Olusegun Obasanjo, and was hounded out of the party before plotting his way back in 2017.

After six elections and 24 years of continuous competitive politics, pundits believe that Nigeria's polity can be characterised as an established two party system. In this system, voters are assumed to be locked in and new parties lack the resources, structures and experience to topple the existing order. Is Nigeria's two party system really institutionalised? Or can a third party defy the odds and create an electoral shock or upset? To address these questions, I first provide an overview of Nigeria's party system, questioning the notion of a consolidated two party regime. I then discuss four sets of hot button grievances that are likely to influence voter calculations: the country's abysmal economic condition and high levels of insecurity; the controversy over the APC's Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket; the agitation for power rotation to the geopolitical South; and the South East's claim to the presidency on the grounds of equity. This is followed by an analysis of the Peter Obi phenomenon and his Labour Party, which many believe poses the biggest threat to the two main parties. I conclude by examining some of the recent polls and advance a few scenarios on likely outcomes.

Interrogating Nigeria's Two Party System

On paper, Nigeria's political system does look like a two party regime. The APC and the PDP accounted for 99.7 percent of the votes in the 2019 presidential election and control 35 of the 36 state governments, 104 of the 109 Senators, 348 of the 360 House of Assembly members as well as most of the local government councils. However, this two party system is a recent phenomenon. The country started its democratic path as a dominant party system in which the PDP enjoyed hegemonic power over a variety of regional parties. Prior to 2015, only

the PDP could be characterised as a national party: it attracted support from five of the six geopolitical zones during the foundation election of 1999 and won four consecutive elections between 1999 and 2011. Its success owed much to the national consensus spearheaded by the Northern political class to cede the presidency to the South West where agitation for the dismantling of the Nigeria project was rife after the cancellation of the June 12th 1993 presidential election that was won by Moshood Abiola, a native of that region.

The other parties that contested the presidency before 2015 were largely regional outfits. Working in alliance with the Northern-based All People's Party, the Alliance for Democracy (AD), the dominant party in the South West, rejected what it described as the Northern establishment's imposition of the PDP's Olusegun Obasanjo as a consensus candidate on the region and fielded an alternative candidate from that region, Olu Falae. Falae won all the six South West states by huge margins as well as Yobe, Zamfara and Sokoto, but failed to win in the other 27 states.

Surprisingly, despite Obasanjo's comprehensive rejection by voters in the South West in 1999, that zone became his biggest vote bank in the 2003 election when he was challenged by Muhammadu Buhari under the banner of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), which drew most of its support from the North. Buhari's ANPP came a distant second with only 32% of the votes against Obasanjo's 62%. The 2003 election signalled, however, the end of the Northern consensus around Obasanjo's presidency and the PDP's dominance in the North, as Buhari won 10 of the 13 states in the North West and North East geopolitical zones. However, he failed miserably in the three zones in the South and was beaten handsomely in the North Central zone by Obasanjo. Buhari's subsequent efforts to clinch the presidency in 2007 and 2011 under the ANPP and the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) also ended in failure. The AD did not put up a candidate to challenge Obasanjo in 2003 and lost five of its six governors in the South West to the PDP-retaining only Lagos. When the party metamorphosed into the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) in 2006, it revived its power in most of the Southwest states (winning the governorship elections of five of the six states and Edo but failed to make an impact in presidential elections.

The futility of competing for the presidency as separate regional parties prompted Buhari's CPC (which he formed in 2009 after decamping from the ANPP) and

Tinubu's ACN to merge their respective parties into the current All Progressives Congress (APC) and contest the 2015 elections. Nigeria's two party system has thus been in existence for only eight years. This is not a long period to foreclose the rise of viable new parties or even the demise of the two main parties. It is crucial to emphasise that the electoral rules for winning the presidency have contributed substantially to the transformation of Nigeria's political parties. It is no longer enough to win only one part of the North-South regional divide, which can guarantee only 19 or 17 states. In addition to winning the majority of votes cast, parties now have to satisfy the constitutional rule of winning 25% of the votes in two thirds of the states (or 24 states) in order to secure the presidency. Under these rules, parties with a high probability of winning become big multi-ethnic tents. Indeed, both the APC and the PDP easily obtained 25% of the votes or higher in more than 24 states in the 2019 election. The PDP lost the 2019 election because it got less votes than the APC—not because it lacked geographical spread.

Are voters locked in the two party system? Political behaviour the world over suggests that inflexible voter loyalty to parties occurs when they are driven by ideologies that voters perceive as addressing their socioeconomic interests, or when parties are ethno-regional and voters perceive elections as voting for one's identity or kith and kin. However, Nigeria's two main parties are completely bereft of ideology. They are largely elite vehicles for accessing plum jobs and appropriating or sharing the state's oil wealth. The two parties are also not driven by exclusionary ethno-regional interests. Ethno-regional rivalry now takes place within—not between—parties, as well as outside the party system. The absence of ideology and ethno-regional inter-party politics accounts for the high level of defections from parties.

The three main presidential candidates, Tinubu, Atiku and Obi, have all changed parties at least twice. Atiku tops the list—he moved from the PDP to the ACN and APC before returning to the PDP. He is followed by Peter Obi who moved from the All Progressives Grand Coalition to the Labour Party. And Tinubu has moved from the AD/APP to the ACN and the APC, although in his own case he was one of the architects of the parties he moved into. Defections by governors, federal and state House of Assembly members, local government councillors and party officials at all levels of government are also rife.

It has been estimated that an

average of five Nigerian Senators changed parties every year between 1999 and 2011 (Fashagba, 2014). Similarly, during the 2015 elections, 84 members of both the Senate and the House of Assembly changed the parties on whose platforms they contested the previous election (Agan et al, 2019). And in less than two years after the 2019 elections, which the APC won, three governors, six Senators and 15 House of Assembly members of the PDP defected to the APC. Defection has, indeed, become a key part of Nigeria's political culture.

In situations where political parties are not ideological or ethno-regional and those who govern have not markedly improved voters' welfare, one should expect low voter turnout and high voter defection among parties—voting for one party in one election and another party in another election. Voter turnout has been low in Nigeria's elections, especially in the geopolitical South. In the 2019 election, for instance, only 35 percent of registered voters bothered to vote. In Lagos state, which has the highest number of registered voters, only 18 percent voted (MacEbong, 2023).

However, voter defection among parties has not been a strong feature of Nigerian politics. Indeed, voters in the South South and the South East have been highly inflexible, voting consistently for the PDP in all presidential elections since 1999. Since the formation of the APC under Buhari, voters in all seven states of the North West have also consistently voted for the APC—in 2015 and 2019. When combined with the APC's strong presence in the North East (winning five of the six states in 2015 and four in 2019), it could be concluded that voters in those two geopolitical zones are inflexible in their voting behaviour in presidential elections. This inflexibility has often been referred to as "Buhari's fifteen million voters" or vote bank in the Far North.

In contrast, voters in the South West have been more flexible than voters in the other five zones—they rejected the PDP in 1999, then enthusiastically embraced it in 2003; and even though the ACN, the dominant party in the region, dissolved into the APC for the 2015 and 2019 elections, the margin of victory of the APC in the South West states was very small in both elections. The PDP has remained an electoral force in that region. Its candidate, Atiku Abubakar, won three of the region's six states in 2019 and was very competitive in the other three. Voters in the North Central zone have also demonstrated some level of flexibility after comprehensively supporting the PDP in all presidential elections between 1999 and 2015.

Proposed amendments to media services law appreciated but not enough

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST year we briefly looked at the Media Services Act of 2016 in relation to the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) judgment delivered in Arusha on March 28, 2019 after several applicants filed a reference at the EACJ on January 11, 2017.

The applicants were the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) against the Attorney General (the Respondent State).

Represented by Advocate Fulgence Masawe, they challenged some provisions and sections in the Media Services Act, alleging that the provisions and sections violated the right to freedom of expression and some Articles of the East African Community (EAC) Treaty.

In its judgment, the EACJ declared that the provisions of sections 7(3)(a), (b), (c), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j); sections 19, 20 and 21; sections 35, 36, 37, 38 and 40; sections 50 and 54; sections 52 and 53; and sections 58 and 59 of the Act violated Articles 6(d) and 7(2) of the Treaty which establishes EAC.

Therefore, the United Republic of Tanzania was directed to take such measures as were necessary to make the Media Services Act comply with the EAC Treaty.

This columnist invites readers to look at those provisions and sections of the Media Services Act and those in the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2023 the government now proposes to amend in relation to the Media Services Act.

The Media Services Act is enacted

"to make provisions for the promotion of professionalism in the media industry, the establishment of the Journalists Accreditation Board, the Independent Media Council and for a framework of regulation of media services and for other related matters," reads the introductory part of the law. Yet, if the Act is enforced to the letter, even with the amendments the government proposes, it will still put journalists in a precarious position.

It is in light of this that this columnist sees a need to look at the remaining provisions and sections which are complained about by media practitioners and stakeholders, and repeal or amend them as prayed for so that they comply with the EAC Treaty and facilitate media vibrancy in the country.

If we look at what the EACJ directed the United Republic of Tanzania to do in relation to the Media Services Act, it is only four sections 38, 50, 53 and 54 which have been amended (in the proposal). Five other sections 5, 51, 55, 63 and 64 which the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act proposes to amend were not complained about by the applicants when they filed the case at the EACJ.

In their application to the EACJ, the applicants challenged sections 7(3)(a), (b), (c), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j); 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21; 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40; 50 and 54; 52 and 53, and 58 and 59.

In relation to these referred to provisions and sections, the applicants prayed to the EACJ to order the United Republic of Tanzania to cease the application of the Act and repeal or



amend it to make it conform to fundamental and operational principles contained in the EAC Treaty.

Now, if all those provisions and sections as listed above are complained about by media practitioners and stakeholders, and only four of them are amended, then the problem is not yet fully solved. This means complaints about unjust restrictions on freedom of expression will still be there.

The media is a key link between the government and citizens in the sense that through the media the government and its agencies communicate with citizens and then get feedback in a two-way traffic. Thus, through the media, the government is sure of information dissemination to citizens and also it is through the media that the government gets feedback on what has

been done or not done on the ground. Media vibrancy gives fresh impetus to the government to bring about development to its people.

As Members of Parliament debate those amendments in the National Assembly, it is this columnist's hope that the voices of media practitioners and stakeholders will be taken into account.

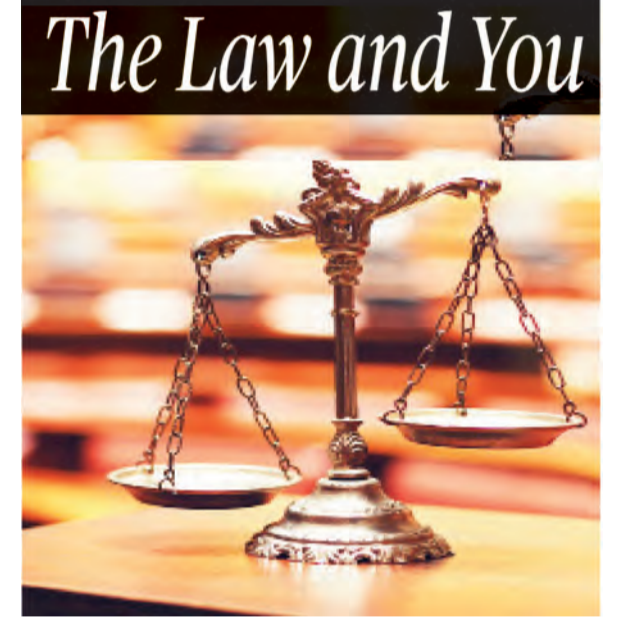
Although the amendments are appreciated by media practitioners and stakeholders that at least something has been done, more is still needed to make the Media Services Act an enabler to the practice of journalism in the country.

This was also the view of journalists who took part in a discussion on the proposed amendments of the Media Services Act as stipulated in the Writ-

ten Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2023 during a weekly Kipima Joto TV programme aired by ITV on Friday last week.

The journalists said although the government did the right thing to amend the Media Services Act, thanks to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's listening spirit, there were still some provisions and sections that are unfriendly to the practice of journalism.

In his contribution Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) Chairman Deodatus Balile acknowledged that Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology Nape Nnaye cooperated well with TEF to address the plight of journalists. However, he said: "We are hopeful that he will continue cooperating with us and listening to our concerns."



China releases Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, as timely, necessary and well-targeted blueprint for tackling of hotspot issues

By Chen Qingqing and Bai Yunyi

CHINA released a Global Security Initiative (GSI) Concept Paper on Tuesday, fully elaborating a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security concept and providing China's wisdom in tackling growing risks and challenges in traditional and non-traditional security areas. Chinese diplomats and experts hailed the release of the document as timely, necessary and targeted, saying that it provides a detailed blueprint in tackling global and regional hotspot issues in an effective way, especially further clarifying China's peace-promoting position on the Ukraine crisis.

In a forum held at the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday morning, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang unveiled the concept paper and told the audience that the document underscores China's responsibilities and determination in safeguarding world peace. "What kind of security concept the world needs and how countries achieve common security?" has become a topic of our days," Qin said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the GSI at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022 held in Hainan Province in April 2022. The concept is now welcomed and supported by more than 80 countries and regions, the Chinese foreign minister said.

Ambassadors, diplomats and representatives from 137 countries and international organizations attended the forum on Tuesday. Some diplomats told the Global Times during the event that they welcomed China-proposed security initiative, saying that it would be important to solve disputes through dialogue rather than bloc confrontation or hegemony.

During his speech, Qin noted that China's development is impossible without a safe international environment. Similarly, without China's security, there will be no global security.

"President Xi first proposed a new vision for security, which goes beyond traditional security ideas and power politics in the West," Xu Bu, president of the China Institute of International Studies and secretary-general of the Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy Studies Center, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

It transcends the long-term practice of Western countries of building their own security on the basis of jeopardizing the security of other countries. When times are so turbulent, "we need a correct vision as guidance," Xu said.

As the world is approaching the one-year anniversary of the Ukraine crisis this week, the US and some Western countries have been continuing to fan the flames and escalate the tension by sending more weapons to Ukraine, and making political gestures like the surprise visit by US President Joe Biden to Kiev on Monday.

"China is deeply concerned about the escalating conflict and potential for situation to spiral out of control," Qin said, commenting on the Ukraine crisis during the forum. China will continue to promote peace talks, provide Chinese wisdom for a comprehensive solution to the Ukraine issue, and work with the international community to promote dialogue and consultation to address the concerns of all parties to seek common security, he said.



Chinese Foreign minister Qin Gang delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Lanting Forum on the Global Security Initiative: China's Proposal for Solving Security Challenges, Beijing, February 21, 2023. Xinhua

The Chinese foreign minister urged relevant countries to immediately stop adding fuel to the fire on the matter, stop blaming China and stop provoking the situation by using references like "Ukraine today, Taiwan tomorrow."

Clear blueprint

Some Western media outlets, citing experts, claimed that the concept paper "continued Beijing's ambiguity over the Ukraine crisis," suggesting that it appears to be largely a strategic messaging exercise rather than a fully thought-out strategy.

"In fact, we have a very clear position on the Ukraine issue. This document points out some basic ideas on solving the crisis in a much clearer way," Fu Cong, head of the Chinese Mission to the EU, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview on Tuesday.

China will also put forward a more comprehensive and authoritative position document in the next few days in terms of a political settlement of the Ukraine issue including some basic ideas such as respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty, respecting the UN Charter and resolving disputes through peaceful means, Fu said.

"One country's security cannot be built on the non-security of another country. All the security concerns of relevant countries should be respected... those basic ideas have been included in the paper, which should play a leading role in preventing further escalation and in seeking peaceful solutions," the Chinese envoy said.

The concept paper provides an important path to further implement the GSI over 20 key cooperation areas and six cooperation platforms, which could be actionable measures, Wang Dong, an expert on China-US relations at Peking University, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

"Although Qin did not mention the US by name in the speech, he urged the US not to fuel the conflict, stop interfering in China's internal affairs and stop comparing the Ukraine crisis with the Taiwan question, to which we are firmly opposed to," Wang from Peking University said, noting that China's position is always clear as it always stands on the side of peace, de-escalation and advancing peace talks.

"The document was unveiled in order to fully elaborate our position - that is supporting a UN-centered multilateralism when some Western countries keep blaming us for

being pro-Russia," Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Some Chinese experts believe that China holds the most objective and neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict as it is taking a very fair attitude toward both sides. In contrast, the US - part of the root cause of the conflict - raised doubts over China's position as Washington views it from its own interests and perspective.

"Under the GSI concepts and ideas, when it comes to the Ukraine crisis, the future security of Europe can't exclude Russia," Wang said. As now some forces like the US hope to bring down Russia and exclude the country from Europe in security and energy, that is unrealistic, Wang Yiwei noted.

New type of foreign relations

During the forum, the Chinese Foreign Minister emphasized that security is the right of all countries in the world, which is not held exclusively by some countries nor should it be decided by certain countries. "We welcome any country who is willing to join the GSI and support world peace and development," Qin said.

The document highlights the positive interaction between major countries and the special responsibilities that a major country needs to shoulder in safeguarding global peace. Security and development are complimentary to building a new type of international relations, which is underscored in China-proposed ideas, Chinese experts said.

In terms of cooperation mechanisms, the paper supports multilateral platforms, for example, on establishing a new security framework in the Middle East, it supports the League of Arab States and other regional organizations in playing a constructive role, while in resolving regional conflicts, fighting terrorism and safeguarding maritime security, it supports the efforts of African countries, the AU and sub-regional organizations' efforts.

"We are firmly opposed to hegemony and power politics in all forms, the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation," Qin told the forum.

Some Western media also highlighted that although the GSI paper mentioned some multilateral mechanisms but it did not mention the organizations like NATO.

Against the backdrop of the US-China rivalry, the China-proposed security vision clearly targets US-led bloc confrontation which desires to expand NATO, including into Asian Pacific, that only creates enemies or restructure supply chains in the name of security, creating more confrontation, Wang noted. "In contrast, China is pushing forward a new type of international relations that are inclusive and balanced, tackling challenges together and achieve the security for all."

Nigeria decides: New president, old problems

By Joshua J. Omojuwa

WE need a president who can address the country's problems, writes Joshua J. Omojuwa.

Nigerians have a therapeutic relationship with elections. We generally believe that elections - especially the presidential ones - offer the dawn of change. It'd be interesting to explore our obsession with the presidency, considering the more consequential effects of the National Assembly, state assemblies, governors and the local government executives and legislature. We will get a new president as President Muhammadu Buhari is finally eased off a job that he obsessively sought for over a decade, got it and made it look like it was forced on him. The man said he has done his best, for the sake of Nigeria, we'd need a president who can do more than their best, we'd need one who would address some of our wicked problems and design the measures to advance our progress against them.

Whilst issues like insecurity and poverty cannot be addressed with an 'either or' decision, the fuel subsidy question is more direct. You either do away with it or retain it. I know the government has played around the middle line for years but there is now an apparent consensus to let go. The main point of difference has been how to moderate the effects of that decision on the lives of Nigerians. You cannot feed a population a cheap meal for over two generations then suddenly decide you are done with it. That would cause chaos. Often with government, it is not as much about the introduction of the change that causes the chaos, it is the change management system put in place to introduce the change, the naira re-colouring is a case in point.

No matter how deep the consensus on the removal of fuel subsidy, if you for instance decide to hand it over like a New Year gift to Nigerians without warning, it'd be like breaking a dam. You could get overwhelmed by the outcomes. If you design a solid change management system for the removal without an apparent change in the choices and lifestyle of the ruling class, again, you would have messed up that change. You cannot be having a conversation about increasing the already misaligned salaries and allowances of political appointees and lawmakers and in the same breath say on account of limited government revenue, you are looking to remove subsidy. That is a situation set up for discontent.

Government is poor and can no longer afford the fuel subsidy? You must show that by making apparent sacrifices. If the people see reduced convoys, reduced salaries and allowances and other unnecessary privileges of public service, they will find it quicker and easier to not just believe, but to know that government is in-



Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari

deed poor. With the fuel subsidy, it is swim or sink really for Ni-

geria. But expecting the masses to believe, let alone know that, when there is no apparent change in the lifestyle and choices of their leaders is to expect too much.

I hope enough has been made of this point for those who would be responsible for the decisions to do the right thing.

On insecurity, Nigeria currently has a design that ensures the current insecurity challenges - as bad as they already are - will be nowhere near those of the future. That is quite easy to deduce; there are more people in the potential pool of tomorrow's crimes. These out of school children will not suddenly grow into responsible adults in the society. The same way you can largely predict that a well-educated and skilled population of children and young people will largely grow into a group of responsible adults, you can make an inverted deduction for a population of children abandoned to the dangers and vagaries of the streets and the gripping hold of illiteracy and the attendant anger at those who left them to rot - all of us, even if you feel you had no hand in it.

We'd all be at their mercy. Or you think those children are not aware of how they ended up without luck on the street? This challenge is an issue for individual states, but it can be led by the central government because it is a matter of emergency. You either address it now or pay for the more costly multidimensional outcomes tomorrow.

The nature of power, especially the power that comes with being president, is to start out looking to fix every problem. That was the pit of delusion that sucked many governments into their journey of ignominy. It may feel

counter-intuitive to the trappings of the office but the very first thing to note as an administration is that you are incapable of fixing all the problems. That clarity will lead to the point where you start to appreciate what then it is you can address within the timeframe permitted by your mandate, not forgetting the pressure of seeking re-election less than three years into that mandate.

New administrations often come with their alliterative or sweet-sounding agenda. If they committed to them, Nigeria would be in a much better place today. Nigeria's old problems remain because from one administration to the other, they scratch the surface of most of the country's challenges without getting to the root of any. That is why, 62 years on, our problems are yet to evolve from the same ones we were handed at Independence. You could even say things got worse.

Every country has its challenges, but the fundamental difference between a country making progress and one that appears to be roving around the comfort of stagnation - assuming oscillation to be progress - is that whilst the countries making progress address their old challenges and then end up with new but relatively better challenges, the country making oscillatory movements continues to pretend to solve its old problems without really solving them.

This is why the same problems MKO Abiola and Bashir Tofa campaigned on in 1993 are the same ones our candidates in 2023 are promising to address. What could be more tragic?

Omojuwa is Chief Strategist, Alpha Reach and Author of, Digital Wealth Book

AfCFTA: Reaping benefits of world's most friendly trade agreement to youth, women

By Mabingue Ngom

PRiority must be given to investments in women and youth in all facets of the AfCFTA implementation arrangements

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has huge potential to harness the power of women and youth to realize its true potential.

The African Union's (AU) timely efforts to accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA is a unique opportunity for the continent to refocus its energy on critical youth and women empowerment interventions. Effective implementation of agreed upon policy instruments by AU member states will transform the continent.

There is no doubt that this landmark continental trade agreement, if driven by women and youth - among the most valuable assets of the continent - will be the primary enabler for unlocking Africa's immense potential.

Priority must be given to investments in women and youth in all facets of the AfCFTA implementation arrangements.

Africa has the world's youngest population, with over 400 million young people aged 15 to 35 years. To spur Africa's economic progress and advance SDGs, the critical mass of youth and women remains the main anchor of the AfCFTA, which is the "Agenda 2063," the continent's development blueprint.

This massive single continental market is expected to increase intra-African trade by 52.3 per cent, deepen continental integration, increase productivity, create more jobs, and avail substantial gender-balanced opportunities by including women and youth in Africa's trade liberalization.

The World Bank estimates that the AfCFTA will increase Africa's income by \$450 billion by 2035 and increase intra-African exports by more than 81 per cent.

According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, this single market trade agreement will enable the African economy to reach the \$29 trillion mark by 2050. Africa has a unique opportunity to lift millions of people out of poverty by empowering women and youth to change the continent's business environment.

Currently, trade and most of the African economy, is not gender-neutral; it remains biased in favour of men due to social inequalities and a disempowering patriarchal culture that subordinates women. As a result of these gender constraints, women are more likely than men to engage in informal trade.

Youth, meanwhile, face difficulties in accessing formal employment and decent jobs, forcing them into entrepreneurship and small businesses in the informal sector.

However, as with the youth, unlocking the potential of cross-border trade is strategically essential to women's empowerment. In Rwanda, for example, 74 per cent of those engaged in cross-border trade are women, and 90 per cent rely on cross-border trade as their sole source of income.

According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, this single market trade agreement will enable the African economy to reach the \$29 trillion mark by 2050. Africa has a unique opportunity to lift millions of people out of poverty by empowering women and youth to change the continent's business environment.

While intra-African trade can serve as a catalyst to promote gender equity by improving the financial inclusion of women and youth on the continent, their respective integration into trade policies has been suboptimal.

This poses the risk of this critical trade agreement shifting from being a development instrument to being a primary cause of poverty and inequality, resulting in the continued exploitation of women and youth as sources of low-wage labour, inequitable market prices, and low wages. The AfCFTA should be insulated by incorporating inclusion to avoid disempowerment and marginalization of vulnerable groups.

The AfCFTA Secretariat is implementing all the required protocols to boost the core customs unions and free trade agreements to cover the full range of trade opportunities on the continent, advancing the participation of women and youth in cross-border trade.

The AfCFTA will address the excessively high trade costs and steep tariff barriers in many countries that limit the potential of women and

youth in the business sector, ultimately stifling economic growth and undermining the continent's overall development.

In addition, opportunities to obtain accessible and market-driven credit and finance for formal and informal women- and youth-led enterprises are often limited. This is due to an assortment of reasons: low levels of financial literacy, inaccessible and difficult-to-understand financial information, collateral constraints, lack of variety in financial products, punitive interest rates with limited financing options, and unfavourable loan application procedures.

This is heartening, considering the prominent role women and youth play in Africa's socio-economic space through the informal sectors that use small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as "special purpose vehicles" for their economic engagement.

A practical and robust solution for the continent rests on increasing access to lifelong learning and financing support, while instituting user-friendly tax products that meet Africa's current and future needs.

What must be done

•For women and youth-led businesses to thrive and participate effectively in intra-African trade, it is essential to improve financial literacy and access to capital.

•Africa must deploy financial awareness and knowledge to these businesses and, more importantly, attract the innovative financing solutions that go with it.

•Current efforts by African governments to reform their respective institutional frameworks and regulatory environments by removing all barriers that hinder women's and youths' access to digital financial literacy, information and monetary investments are welcome.

•Inclusion of this critical and economically active demographic group will increase the momentum to achieve Africa's transformational development framework, "Agenda 2063", which envisions a prosperous Africa whose development is driven by the people.

Currently, trade and most of the African economy is not gender-neutral; it remains biased in favour of men due to social inequalities and a disempowering patriarchal cul-

ture that subordinates women. As a result of these gender constraints, women are more likely than men to engage in informal trade.

•In addition, the AfCFTA needs to be strengthened by lessons from other pan-continental initiatives championed by the AU that stimulate regional economic integration and enhance social development while empowering women and youth. These include the African Youth Charter, the AU Roadmap for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend, and the Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) initiative.

Lessons learned from these three initiatives are both a buffer and a stimulus for AfCFTA. Their impacts should be given greater impetus, with a focus on harnessing the benefits of the demographic dividend on the continent, currently estimated to be worth more than \$1 trillion per year, as well as the link between development, peace, and security, including the fragility and crises associated with unmet social demands.

•These well-intentioned African initiatives complement

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

Energy-starved S. Africa offers tax breaks to boost green power

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa has unveiled new tax incentives to encourage investment in the production of clean power to help the country battle an energy crisis that has sparked worsening blackouts.

Starting March 1, "businesses will be able to reduce their taxable income by 125 percent of the cost of an investment in renewables," Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana said as he presented his annual budget to parliament.

"We will also introduce a new tax incentive for individuals to install rooftop solar panels to reduce pressure on the grid and help ease the scheduled blackouts, also known as load-shedding, he said.

The continent's most industrialised country has been labouring under a devastating energy shortfall for months, largely due to under-investment in power utility Eskom's ageing and poorly maintained plants.

Earlier this month, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a national state of disaster and the appointment of an electricity minister to help intensify the response to the crisis.

South Africa has suffered blackouts over the past decade but more recently they have become "more persistent and prolonged" and are wreaking havoc on the economy, in particular the country's freight and logistics network, Godongwana said.

The government had already said last year that it was taking over half of Eskom's debt pile of 400 billion rand (\$22 billion).

The bailout for the firm that provides almost all of South Africa's electricity will send national debt soaring to 5.84 trillion rand, or 73.6 percent of GDP in the next three years, according to the treasury.

Servicing this debt will cost around 336 billion rand this year, Godongwana said, meaning the country now spends more money on debt than it does on healthcare, peace and security or social development.

But the government has little room to manoeuvre. The power outages have weighed heavily on South Africa's growth prospects.

The minister said growth was expected to reach just 0.9 percent this year after 2.5 percent in 2022 -- but the country's central bank had last month estimated growth to be as low as 0.3 percent due to the electricity supply crisis.

The country experienced a record 207 days of power outages last year alone, compared to 75 days in 2021, said Godongwana.

"Our economy is facing significant risks," he said.

"The minister sent a strong message that the government is failing to produce energy so it would rather incentivise people to produce their own and welcome more private investment," said political economist Lumkile Mondli.

The largest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), criticised the Eskom bailout as "irresponsible".

In addition to rolling blackouts, further shocks have threatened the continental heavyweight's prospects of cleaning up its economy such as crime and natural disasters.

Godongwana also announced beefed-up



budgets to fight graft and crime in a country ranked among some of the most violent in the world outside war zones.

He set aside funds for the appointment of 5,000 new police trainees per year over the next several years.

The prosecution agency will receive extra funding to start prosecuting individuals im-

plicated in the sweeping investigation that revealed a web of well-orchestrated state graft under former president Jacob Zuma.

African leaders urged to strengthen political will towards achieving continental nutrition targets

By Guardian Reporter

HEADS of African Union member states have called for more commitment and accountability in Africa's effort to achieve continental and global goals for nutrition ahead of the 2025 World Health Assembly Nutrition target deadline.

The leaders took part in a nutrition-themed side event during the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, co-organized by the Kingdom of Lesotho, the African Union Commission, and the African Development Bank.

The meeting was organized under the Bank's African Leaders for Nutrition initiative

and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The event was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane with a theme – 'Progress and Achievements in Addressing Malnutrition in Africa: Accountability for results in achieving continental and global targets for nutrition', centered on long-lasting measures to curb malnutrition and food security on the continent.

Matekane said: "It is unacceptable that we stay silent and indifferent at a time when 60 percent of our continent's population (799 million people) is affected by moder-

ate or severe food insecurity – making Africa the highest level globally. This means one-third of the world's undernourished or 282 million people, live in Africa".

He encouraged attendees via pre-recorded messages to meet nutrition goals established by the World Health Assembly and Malabo targets to reduce malnutrition and stunting by the year 2025.

"I have a strong conviction that we can achieve our nutrition targets. If we can accelerate investments and improve the coordination of efforts, Africa will advance nutrition and improve food security outcomes," he said.

The event served as a wake-

up call for African nations to strengthen political will towards achieving continental nutrition targets, and their willingness to invest in tackling imminent challenges contributing to malnutrition and food insecurity which have intensified across the AU member states.

Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at the African Union Commission, presented the progress report based on the continental nutrition accountability scorecard.

The scorecard is a data-based advocacy tool that gives an overview of how African leaders are delivering main

nutrition indicators.

Josefa Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment presented a closer examination of progress on the Malabo Declaration and the AU's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, or CAADP, commitments.

Côte d'Ivoire's Vice President Tiemoko Meyliet Koné summarized activities held during the African Union Year of Nutrition 2022 and the Abidjan Declaration, which calls for accelerated investment, implementation, and coordination to improve nutrition and food security in

Africa.

"It is now more crucial than ever to support vulnerable communities with multiple and innovative solutions to build their resilience and transform agri-food systems to deliver better nutrition," said Dr Qu Dongyu, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in his remarks.

African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina, Bank Vice President for Agriculture, Human, and Social Development Dr. Beth Dunford told attendees that the bank's multi-sectoral action plan is offering solutions to Africa's malnutrition chal-

lenges.

Dr Dunford said the plan is catalyzing nutrition-smart investment across Bank operations resulting in the bank re-allocating \$2.8 billion of its investment in its portfolio to be nutrition-smart.

"I believe that nutrition is a central pillar for Africa's development," Dunford said, noting that the plan's goal is to see a 40 percent reduction in stunting – a result of chronic under-nutrition – by 2025.

She added: "While Bank has made significant progress in the re-allocation of resources...there's a need to translate these funding re-allocations into stunting reductions on the ground".

SADC to set up centre of excellence for nutrition

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat held a dialogue on the business model and governance of the proposed SADC Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Nutrition.

The dialogue unpacked the feasibility study report on the Malawi experience and related findings and recommendations and facilitated peer learning and exchanges on what has worked in the member states to accelerate the nutrition agenda.

The dialogue sought to explore the sustainability strategy and funding of the CoE for nutrition as well as to develop a roadmap on its establishment.

SADC focal persons responsible for nutrition and food security from the 16 member states, academics with experience on the establishment of CoEs and food and nutrition councils, representatives of civil society, development partners and United Nations agencies participated in the virtual meeting on February 8th and 9th, 2023.

Director Social and Human Development in the SADC Secretariat, Duduzile Simelane, gave an overview of the key role that the CoE for nutrition could play within the SADC Region.

Christiane Rudert, United Nations Children's Fund Eastern and Southern African Regional Office (UNICEF ESARO) Regional Nutrition Adviser shared evidence on the status of maternal and child nutrition and provided recommendations to mitigate the drivers of malnutrition.

She indicated that UNICEF has thought leadership innovations on food systems transformation and social protection that can be shared to promote south to south learning.

Malawi, the host of the proposed CoE, shared the findings of their national feasibility study on the Centre, after which member states deliberated on the findings.

The dialogue provided an opportunity for various experts, including academia and civil society, to present on their experiences regarding how a CoE for nutrition should operate, how it can be funded, including its hosting which can either be physical or virtual.

Member States agreed on several themes for the CoE which included research and food product development, nutrition programming, advocacy and communication, infrastructure, teaching and training, policy and programming, strategy formula-

tion, legislative frameworks, nutrition service delivery, gender, partnerships and networks.

The business model proposed was one which would follow SADC guidelines.

The governance structure was deliberated on, and key considerations discussed included the importance of having the CoE being more autonomous and established on a sound legal framework.

Member states deliberated on various funding mechanisms which included taxation, revenue from training and creative fund-raising innovations by member states.

Also proposed was the idea that as the scope advances, other functions could include establishing industries which would produce lifesaving nutrition commodities such as therapeutic milk, ready-to-use-therapeutic food and micronutrients for sale within the Region and beyond.

These initial deliberations have created the necessary rapport for continued engagement and follow up actions.

The next steps will include the rollout of a regional feasibility study and learning from other CoEs in the Region through the support of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).



Tunisia: A Trojan Horse in cartage

By Ahmed Ghiloufi

THE Trojan Horse was a wooden horse said to have been used by the Greeks during the Trojan War to enter the city of Troy and win the war. The Trojan Horse is not mentioned in Homer's Iliad, with the poem ending before the war is concluded, and it is only briefly mentioned in the Odyssey. But in the Aeneid by Virgil, after a fruitless 10-year siege, the Greeks constructed a huge wooden horse at the behest of Odysseus, and hid a select force of men inside, including Odysseus himself. The Greeks pretended to sail away, and the Trojans pulled the horse into their city as a victory trophy. That night, the Greek force crept out of the horse and opened the gates for the rest of the Greek army, which had sailed back under cover of darkness. The Greeks entered and destroyed the city, ending the war.

Metaphorically, a "Trojan horse" has come to mean any trick or stratagem that causes a target to invite a foe into a securely protected bastion or place. A malicious computer program that tricks users into willingly running it is also called a "Trojan horse" or simply a "Trojan".

The main ancient source for the story still extant is the Aeneid of Virgil, a Latin epic poem from the time of Augustus. The story featured heavily in the Little Iliad and the Sack of Troy, both part of the Epic Cycle, but these have only survived in fragments and epitomes. As Odysseus was the chief architect of the Trojan Horse, it is also referred to in Homer's Odyssey. In the Greek tradition, the horse is called the "wooden horse" (" douráteos hippos in Homeric/Ionic Greek (Odyssey 8.512.

How did Kais Saied, a retired law professor, become a tyrant? Answer: with the support of the pro-democracy movement he now oppresses.

Everyone knows the legend of the Trojan Horse: after years trying to storm the city of Troy, the Greeks pretended to withdraw their troops and gifted a beautiful wooden horse to the Trojans, claiming it was a step towards peace. Greek soldiers, hiding inside the horse were smuggled into the walled city. Once in, they opened the gates letting their army in to invade and sack the city. I see a chilling parallel with what has happened to Tunisian democracy.

After the Tunisian people vanquished authoritarianism during the 2011 revolution, the years that followed were marked by repeated attempts by counter-revolutionary forces to march back these reforms. These forces eventually succeed-

ed. Elected in 2019, President Kais Saied rapidly became the arm that would demolish the country's prospects for greater freedom. He presented himself as someone who listened to and cared about his people, only to serve the interests of the darkest reactionary forces, determined to stop the country from moving forward.

Saied does not have any real legal or popular legitimacy in Tunisia. This was proved in the recent elections where the voter turnout for the Tunisia's legislative elections did not exceed 8.8%, the weakest participation rate in Tunisia's history. What took place was, in actuality, a referendum on the person of Kais Saied, and on his project and constitution. It is crystal clear to the world: he is just a coup leader usurping power and, at this point, lacking the courage to submit his resignation.

Tunisia was a regional success story that fell apart within months. Observers fail to understand that it was a combination of forces that caused a devastating blow to years of struggles and advancements. On 25 July, 2021, President Saied dismissed the parliament, sacked his prime minister, amended the constitution, and got rid of almost every vestige of democracy. Believing that for the coup to fail, Saied must be the sole one to fall is a deep misunderstanding of the country's contemporary political turmoil.

In Tunisia, as in all societies, there are forces that pull back and forces that push forward. In 2021, as Saied concentrated tremendous power in himself and started ruling by presidential decree, not a single so-called pro-democracy organisation inside the country protested. In a climate of economic anxiety and tension, the masquerade began.

Saied arrived as a saviour, denouncing corruption, and posing as the remedy to chaos while promising people a utopian future. He spoke of revolution, and of real democracy, things in which he had actually never partaken. Eventually, the pandemic, the restrictions that came with it, and the financial fallout, accelerated the democratic ambush as a large segment of Tunisians sought to exit from the country's economic woes by which-ever means necessary.

There are so many enablers of this dictatorial turn that they are almost impossible to list.

I am thinking of Tunisian human rights or-



Tunisian President Kais Saied casts his vote in the referendum on the new constitution in Tunis on July 25, 2022. File photo

ganisations and news outlets such as Nessma and al Tunisi networks. The Tunisian General Workers' Union; the National Union of Tunisian Journalists; the League for the Defense of Democratic Women, and all those others that issued statements of support as Saied announced the state of emergency and the dissolution of parliament. The media, owned by groups loyal to the regime of former dictator Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, contributed to the distortions of the revolution and democracy in the minds of the people. They fuelled culture wars over religion, secularism, modernity, and equality in inheritance, diverting the debate away from the pressing issues of social justice, distribution of wealth, and unemployment.

Since his draconian moves in 2021, Saied has failed at all levels: under him, Tunisia has experienced the collapse of the dinar against the euro, worsening unemployment, food shortages, abysmal turnout at the referendum, a boycott by the majority of parties to the legislative elections, low turnout for candidacy in these elections (there are districts with zero candidates and there are districts with only one candidate). The public's lack of interest in these elections is, to say the least, telling.

When the president tried dozens of civilians before a military court, when the politician

Noureddine Bhiri disappeared after an arrest and came out two months later in December 2021 carrying serious injuries, these same organisations again did not utter a word. While only 27% of the electorate participated in the referendum on the new constitution, the electoral commission in charge of it - quite naturally, appointed by the president - inflated this figure to 30.5%, and still called it "successful" and "historic". The "Citizens against the Coup" movement went on a long and violent hunger strike in the Covid era to condemn the coup; no official human rights organisation issued any statement supporting them.

These forces are the makers of the Carthage's Trojan Horse and, along with the army and security forces, are its enthusiastic cheerleaders.

Gulf States such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia brazenly supported the destruction of democracy in Tunisia fearing that, if successful, it would set a dangerous precedent for citizens in their own autocratic states. France too has backed Saied's moves, clearly happy that Tunisia's Islamist Ennahda movement (previously the biggest bloc in the parliament that Saied dissolved) was vanquished.

The world needs to stop considering every Islamic party as necessarily extremist and anti-democratic. The Ennahda movement has been

involved in Tunisia's political process since 2011 and has always been the biggest or the second-biggest party in parliament. It has not engaged in any violence. It is the most important party and has staged demonstrations for one-and-a-half years agitating for the restoration of parliament and the 2014 constitution. Ennahda continues to resist the authoritarianism of Saied. Its contribution to Tunisia's democratic journey cannot be denied.

Aside from the exaggerated fear of Tunisia's Islamists, the world needs to know that there are other pro-democracy liberal and secular local Tunisian actors that deserve to be emboldened, including all the local organisations and movements that have been oppressed by Saied and received insufficient support domestically and internationally by those that claim to uphold democratic values. The international community must put more pressure on Saied to restore the 2014 constitution and organise legislative and presidential elections. This way, the elected parliament will amend the political system and establish the Constitutional Court and the rest of the necessary institutions to ensure the stability of democracy.

I don't see all the setbacks Tunisia is experiencing as a final chapter in our transition to a more egalitarian society. Believing that the Arab World cannot have a sustainable democratic system is wrong-headed orientalism. The road was complicated in many places in the world. But we will continue to fight for democracy in Tunisia, as a pioneering example for the Arab region, and we need the international community to support us.

Ahmed Ghiloufi is a professor of philosophy at El Imam Moslem Institute in Tunis, and a member of the executive board of Tunisia's Citizens Against the Coup Initiative.

Unresolved IDP crisis: Alarming lack of basic healthcare

By Oromia Physicians

THE late, legendary artist Hachalu Hundessa's music still resonates with the pain felt by hundreds of thousands of Oromo civilians who were forced to flee their homes from neighboring regions. Four years ago, the country longed for an end to this mass displacement, but the conflict flared up and expanded, causing much suffering and displacement.

The Oromia region of Ethiopia is experiencing one of the worst internally displaced person (IDP) crises in decades, leading to a severe humanitarian crisis. Armed groups from Oromia and neighbouring regions, as well as measures taken by the federal and regional forces, have all contributed to this crisis. Natural disasters linked to the climate crisis, like the recent draught, have had a devastating impact on vulnerable communities in Borana zone and surrounding area.

The statistics are alarming. The conflict-induced displacement in the region has reached more than 1.5 million IDPs and 285,865 households distributed across 11 Zones and 96 Woredas. There are more than 142 IDP sites located in the region. The western and southeastern parts of the region are the most heavily affected, with Guji Zone hosting the highest number of IDP sites (31 sites), and East Wollega Zone hosting the highest number of IDPs (282,245).

The security situation has rapidly deteriorated, leading to a humanitarian crisis, particularly in the health care sector. The violence and instability have caused a severe lack of resources and personnel, leading to a lack of basic medical care and access to medications. This has had a devastating effect on the health of the population, with people unable to access the medical care they need and assistance in times of crisis.

Moreover, the insecurity



has caused a disruption to the delivery of medical supplies, resulting in a shortage of essential items such as drugs and medical equipment. The destruction and looting of solar panels from health posts has caused a shortage of drugs and medical equipment, as well as the disruption of the supply of electricity for vaccines, resulting in vaccination interruptions in

many woredas. In addition, a lack of ambulances to transport critically ill patients, service interruptions at many health facilities, outbreaks of malaria and cholera, and a shortage of shelter, water, and latrines in IDP sites have compounded the health-related challenges in the region.

The conflict has also resulted in extensive damage to health facilities in the re-

gion. According to the latest findings, 908 health posts, 158 health centers and 6 hospitals have been damaged or looted, with 179 health posts and 12 health centers burned. More than 70 ambulances, 8 other vehicles, and 81 motorcycles have been reported to be damaged or looted in the conflict zones. In addition, 60 motorcycles and 10 other vehicles have been reported

to be burned in these zones. This has left thousands of people without access to essential healthcare, leading to a serious deterioration in the health of the population.

The four-year-long war and humanitarian crisis in Oromia has largely been forgotten, with no decisive action taken since its occurrence. This is why the international community must step up and take action. Organizations such as the United Nations and other international organizations must provide aid and assistance to the IDPs in Oromia. It is also essential to reduce the root causes of displacement in Ethiopia, such as conflict and natural disasters.

The IDPs in Oromia must not be forgotten and must be remembered. To ensure that they have access to the assistance and protection they need, the international community must take action. Charitable organisations, such as ICRC, World Vision,

Save the Children, Churches & Local Associations, International Medical Corps, Mercy Core Ethiopia, Goal Ethiopia, UNICEF, People in Need (PIN), and Action Against Hunger, are already making efforts to help the IDPs, yet their efforts are still inadequate, given the substantial size of the crisis. Therefore, the international community must increase their humanitarian assistance to those who have been displaced, and work to ensure that they can rebuild their lives in safe and secure conditions. Lastly, we call on all disputing parties to seek a diplomatic solution and put an end to this human-made crisis.

Oromia Physicians Association (OPA) is a non-partisan and not-for-profit professional association that aims at improving healthcare system for betterment of public health in Oromia Regional State and Ethiopia.

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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**



CBE introduces entrepreneurship clubs in several secondary schools

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

COLLEGE OF Business Education (CBE) has launched an entrepreneurship clubs in Temeke secondary school with the target of rolling the programme in selected secondary schools Dar es Salaam region.

The clubs aim to enable students to grow up with various business skills, which will motivate them to venture into self-employment after finishing schools.

Speaking during the launch of the club at Temeke secondary school, the Director of Postgraduate, Research and Consultancy of the college, Dr. Tumaini Ubadius, said the aim is to rich out many schools in Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Tumaini said the college has considered the importance for students to be taught about entrepreneurship at their young age, so that when they graduate from higher education, they have a broad understanding of business issues.

He said that through the program, the college will be sending its teachers every Thursday to teach students entrepreneurship.

"By doing this we want to reduce the problem of people looking for jobs, so that when they finish their studies they can be self-employed and what we are doing is to develop their talents and innovations they have from tender age," he said.

"We have decided to building awareness from the ground so that when they become aware of their surrounding environment and other challenges, they can use it as opportunity to help the community and generate their own income," he said.

He said they have planned to visit all the schools in Dar es Salaam and introduce such clubs adding that they will go to other regions where CBE has its campuses such as Mbeya, Mwanza, Dodoma and Zanzibar.

The Headmaster of the school, Ingia Mtenga said he appreciates CBE for selecting the school to be the first to start an entrepreneurship club, promising to make good use of the opportunity.

She said the school was established in 2005 with O'level students and currently has 2,526 students and more than 500 students are studying business and commerce.

"This idea of introducing an entrepreneurship club has come at the right time because we have many students who are studying business here. We appreciate this opportunity because entrepreneurship skills will help our students to solve the challenges around them," she said

"Through this club we will get good cooks who make cakes, good barbers, gardeners and chicken breeders and they will use the challenges in the community to generate income to enable them to be independent and help others," she said.

She asked the students to study hard so that they can succeed and get opportunities to study at colleges like CBE, where they will get higher education on entrepreneurship and business at large.

"We would like to see the training that you will provide through this club is sustainable. I request that those who will get entrepreneurship skills through this club get small capital so that they can start small businesses that will help them earn income," she said.

Form three student Joshua Ibrahim commended the move, saying that it will be a great help for students to have an understanding of business while they are at school.

"We are grateful for choosing our school as the starting point in this program and it will help us to understand business issues early, so in the future even if someone goes to university, he has a good foundation that he got in secondary school," said Joshua.

DSE indices gain further as firms' share prices increase

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices have continued to gain the pace, following appreciation of share prices both locally listed and cross listed companies.

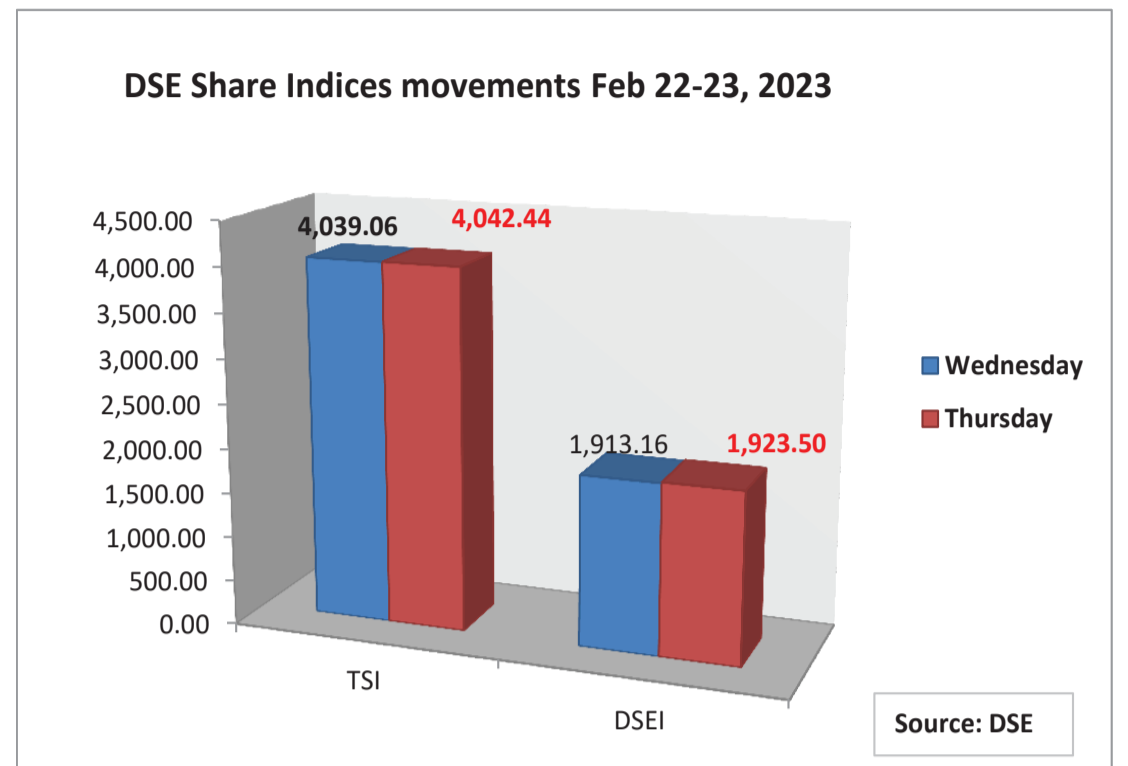
The market report shows the Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measures the performance of locally listed companies closed at 4,042.44 points on Thursday this week, an increase of 3.38 points compared to 4,039.06 points on Wednesday's close.

The All Share Index (DSEI) closed at 1,923.50 points on Thursday, an increase of 10.34 points, from 1,913.16 points recorded on Wednesday.

The increase of share indices resulted into an appreciation of both local and cross listed companies share prices including CRDB Bank Plc, DCB Bank Plc and East African Breweries Limited (EABL), amid depreciation of Nation Media Group (NMG) and Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCCCL) shares prices.

Top gainer was DCB Bank Plc which its share price increased by 6.65 percent to 160/- on Thursday compared with 150/- recorded on Wednesday. This has increased the bank's market capitalization to 15.62bn/- from 14.65bn/- respectively.

EABL was second top gainer, after its share price appreciated by 3.25 percent to closed at 3,180/- on Thursday, compared with 3,080/- recorded on Wednesday, pushing its



market capitalization to 2.51trn/- from 2.43trn/- respectively.

This happens in just two weeks, after the British multinational Diageo kicked off the first phase of its plan to buy an additional 118.4 million shares in East African Breweries Plc (EABL), with priority for allocation given to investors who were on the firm's books by January 16.

The offer, which will see EABL shareholders bid to sell their shares to the multinational at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) at a price of Sh192 per unit, is running in two phases between

February 6 and February 24, and between February 27 and March 17, 2023.

Diageo said in a tender offer document that it has designated 47.5 million shares for a guaranteed allocation of up to 10,000 shares for all offers it receives, with preference given to early bidders who were on the firm's books by the record date of January 16.

The third gainer was CRDB Bank Plc, which its share price increased by 1.14 percent to 445/- on Thursday from 440/- recorded on Wednesday, which

has also expanded its market capitalisation to 1.16trn/- from 1.14trn/- respectively.

During the trading session on Thursday, CRDB Bank Plc recorded a turnover 365.7mn/- following the transaction of 821,985 shares traded in 28 deals in a price ranging from 440/- to 445/- per share.

A total turnover of 469mn/- was recorded during the reported day, following the transaction of 885,604 shares traded in 63 deals. Local investors dominated both buying and selling sides.

Oil price gains after Russian supply cuts

BEIJING

Oil prices extended gains for a second session on Friday as the prospect of lower exports from Russia offset rising inventories in the United States.

Brent crude futures rose 67 cents, or 0.8 percent, to \$82.88 per barrel by 0415 GMT. West Texas Intermediate crude futures (WTI) rose 61 cents, or 0.8 percent, to \$76.00 a barrel.

The benchmarks ended about 2 percent higher in the previous session on Russia's plans to cut oil exports from its western ports by up to 25 percent in March which exceeded its announced production cuts of 500,000 barrels per day.

"Higher-than-expected US crude oil inventories continue to challenge the oil demand outlook, but expectations for lower Russian production have an offsetting impact," said Yeap Jun Rong, a market strategist at IG.

US inventories are at their highest level since May 2021.

US crude stocks rose by 7.6 million barrels to about 479 million barrels in the week to Feb. 17, data from the US Energy Information Administration said. [EIA/S]

For the week, oil prices are slightly lower, after the previous week's about 4 percent declines, dragged also by concerns about rising interest rates that could strengthen the dollar.

Minutes from the latest US Federal Reserve meeting indicated that a majority of officials remained hawkish on inflation and tight labour market conditions, signalling further monetary tightening.

The prospect of further rate hikes supported the dollar index, which was set for a fourth straight week of gains. The index is now up about 2.5 percent for the month.

A firm dollar makes commodities priced in the greenback more expensive for holders of other currencies.

"The focus as we close the week will be on what happens with next inflation report, will the market get more nervous on even more tightening from the Fed," OANDA analyst Edward Moya said.



Boeing halts 787 jets deliveries again

NEW YORK

On Friday, Boeing investors will have to face an issue that could bring back some uncomfortable memories. The commercial aerospace company has halted deliveries of its twin-aisle 787 jets.

The issue appears to boil down to paperwork.

"In reviewing certification records, Bo-

eing discovered an analysis error by our supplier related to the 787 forward pressure bulkheads," said a Boeing BA +1.15 percent spokesman in an emailed statement. "We notified the FAA and have paused 787 deliveries while we complete the required analysis and documentation."

Boeing (ticker: BA) added there is no safety concern and production continues. The company also doesn't believe this will im-

act deliveries in 2023.

Boeing shares were down 2.7 percent in after-hours trading Thursday. Shares closed up 1.2 percent in regular trading. The S&P 500 SPX +0.53 percent rose 0.5 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average DJIA +0.33 percent gained 0.3 percent.

Paperwork might seem like an odd reason to wipe out about \$4 billion in market value, but investors get nervous about production

issues and delivery delays.

Boeing didn't deliver a 787 jet between July 2021 and July 2022 after discovering a quality problem in manufacturing months earlier. Deliveries resumed in August 2022, and since then Boeing has delivered 21 jets.

Deliveries of the 787 have fallen in recent years because of the quality problem and pandemic. Boeing delivered 158 of the 787 jet in 2019, 53 in 2020, and 14 in 2021.

Coming into Friday trading, Boeing stock is up about 9 percent year to date and about 6 percent over the past 12 months.

Shares are still down about 53 percent from all time highs of more than \$440 a share. That was the price for shares in 2019 before the grounding of the 737 MAX following two deadly accidents and before Covid-19.

Airtel opens talks for sale of 30pc stake to Kenyans

NAIROBI

Airtel Kenya is seeking Kenyan investors to buy a 30 percent stake in the telecoms operator ahead of the March 2024 deadline of complying with revised ownership rules that are meant to encourage local ownership of ICT firms.

This signals that the firm is not keen to seek a waiver or an extension of time for compliance as it mulls over listing the stake on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) as an alternative.

The State last April unveiled a licensing policy that gave telecoms firms up to March 2024 to ensure local ownership of at least 30 percent.

The policy also increased the local ownership threshold from a minimum of 20 percent, a cap that has been in place since 2008.

Airtel Africa CEO Segun Ogunsanya has said that the operator was in talks with the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) and the ICT ministry to strike a sale deal that includes either getting a



Airtel Africa Group CEO Segun Ogunsanya during an interview on the sidelines of the launch of the telco's eSIM (embedded sim), a digital sim PHOTO | NMG

strategic investor or listing the local unit on the Nairobi bourse.

"There are a number of options. We can identify a local shareholder or we can also list on Kenya's stock exchange," said Mr Ogunsanya on Thursday on the sidelines of an event to launch a virtual SIM card in Nairobi.

"We keep discussing with the regulator as to which one is the best vehicle to ensure there is local participation in the business. We commit to getting this done before the deadline next year, March 2024."

A few firms, including Airtel Kenya, have been exempted from the previous 20 percent shareholding rule, a window that allowed billionaire investor Naushad Merali to sell a significant portion of his shareholding in the firm worth billions of shillings without contravening the law.

Airtel has signalled that it would avoid this path.

Selling the stake directly to billionaires or high-net-worth investors like local pensions funds could be an option for Airtel that cut its net loss to \$18.37 million (Sh2.32 billion)

in the year to March 2022 compared with \$22.37 million (Sh2.8 billion) in the previous period.

Airtel is yet to involve a transaction advisor in the stake sale discussions, with Mr Ogunsanya saying that was not essential at this point.

Airtel Africa, the parent of Airtel Kenya, operates in 14 African countries and is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

The firm is the third-largest company by market capitalisation at Nigerian Stock Exchange worth Sh1.67 trillion after Dangote Cement and MTN Nigeria.

It would have to clear the barrier that requires firms seeking to list on NSE to have a track record of profits if the operator opts to make the local subsidiary, Airtel Kenya, a public firm.

The Nairobi bourse demands that firms be profitable ahead of listing on the main segment, but has less stringent requirements for the alternative segment.

"The issuer must have declared profits after tax attributable to shareholders in at least three of the last five completed accounting periods to the date of the offer," say the NSE listing rules.

The net assets of the company wishing to list on the main market

should also not be less than Sh100 million.

Airtel Kenya had \$950.99 million (Sh120 billion) assets as at end of March last year against \$1.19 billion (Sh151 billion) liabilities, making it technically insolvent.

The NSE does not have profitability and net assets threshold for firms listed on the Growth Enterprise Market Segment, which was started for small and medium-sized firms showing growth potential.

The revised ownership rules look set to trigger deal-making in Kenya's rapidly expanding information and telecoms sector, a potential that has drawn the interest of foreign companies.

Analysts reckon it could also lead to a number of firms seeking a listing on the NSE for compliance, though most non-compliant firms would prefer to sell a stake directly to billionaires or high-net-worth investors like local pension funds.

India's Bharti Airtel fully owns the Kenyan unit, which in March 2013 was granted an exemption to the local shareholding rule without a limited period for compliance.

Adani Group to hold Asia fixed-income roadshow

NEW DELHI

The Adani Group will hold a fixed-income investor roadshow in Asia next week as the embattled Indian conglomerate seeks to repair the damage caused by a shock short-seller report.

The group will hold a roadshow in Singapore on Feb. 27, and Hong Kong on Feb. 28 and March 1, according to a person who asked not to be identified discussing a private matter.

The empire of Indian billionaire Gautam Adani is boosting outreach to investors after its bonds and stocks have slumped over the past month following a critical report from Hindenburg Research.

The Adani Group, which also held calls with bondholders earlier in February, is seeking to stem the negative fallout from the Hindenburg claims as it faces debt maturities from a number of its companies by the end of next year.

Moody's Investors Service cut the outlook on several Adani firms this month, citing concern over the impact of any big jump in funding costs.

Adani bonds were mixed Friday, with eight of 15 trading lower, though the moves were small by recent standards, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The biggest decliner was an Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd. note, which fell 0.3 cents to 65.3 cents on the dollar as of 10:43 a.m. in Hong Kong.

The ports-to-power group has now lost about \$146 billion in market value since Jan. 24, when Hindenburg published its scathing report alleging accounting fraud and stock manipulation.

Adani and his companies have denied the allegations. They have also hired legal and communication teams, cut expenses and repaid debt as they seek to calm traders concerned about the group's access to financing.

The Adani Group had tapped international bond buyers for more than \$8 billion in recent years, while also turning to global banks for at least as much in foreign-currency loans, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Barclays Plc, BNP Paribas SA, DBS Bank Ltd., Deutsche Bank AG, Emirates NBD Capital, ING Groep NV, IMI-Intesa Sanpaolo SpA, MUFG, Mizuho, SMBC Nikko and Standard Chartered Bank have extended the invitation for the roadshow to potential investors.

BoU has managed inflation well, say Citi boss

KAMPALA

Citi says there has been good management of inflation, and therefore, there are expectations that inflation will continue to go down, which will allow policy rates to reduce.

Citi Group, which operated Citibank in Uganda, has said the aggressive monetary policy tightening by the central bank has played a key role in controlling inflation thus improving economic outlook.

Speaking in an interview, Mr David Livingstone, Citi chief executive officer for Europe, Middle East and Africa, said the growth outlook in Uganda has improved remarkably over the last few months following tight monetary policy by the central bank.

"There has been good management of inflation ... here in Uganda and therefore there are expectations that inflation will continue to go down and that will allow policy rates to reduce as the central bank builds confidence," he said.

While economic growth has continued to be weak due to a tight monetary policy, inflationary pressures have softened.



Central Bank of Uganda

Central banks use monetary policy to manage economic fluctuations and achieve price stability.

Mr Livingstone said while economic growth remains low there is optimism with a number of economic indicators starting to be positive.

He also noted that while there are still risks in the global economy, which might spillover over to low income countries such as Uganda, the monetary and fiscal policies are effective and it is helping to withstand global shocks, which acts as a base of optimism in the economy.

In December last year, Bank of Uganda said inflation was likely to drop to between 6 and 8 percent this year, before stabilising around the 5 percent target by end of 2023.

The forecast was 2 percent lower than earlier projections by the Central Bank.

The revision, the Central Bank said, was due to dissipating impact of earlier increases in commodity prices, subdued domestic demand, effects of monetary policy, expected decrease in global inflation, and lower than project exchange rate depreciation.

Asian markets breathe sigh of relief

SYDNEY

Asian markets breathed a sigh of relief on Friday as the incoming head of Japan's central bank soothed fears of an early end to super-easy monetary policy, nudging bond yields lower globally.

Kazuo Ueda, who will take over as governor of the Bank of Japan (BOJ) in April, began three hours of speaking to parliament at 9:30 a.m. (0030 GMT), offering markets a first glimpse of how the new-look central bank could steer an exit from ultra-low interest rates.

So far, Ueda has pledged to maintain ultra-loose monetary policy because inflation has yet to sustainably and steadily meet the central bank's 2 percent target, and there was little indication that he would quickly unwind the BOJ policy called yield curve control (YCC).

"There have been high hopes that Ueda will bring a hawkish twist to the BOJ, but early remarks in his confirmation speech say anything but," said Matt Simpson, senior market analyst at City Index.

Ueda's confirmation hearing in the lower house comes as markets renew their attack on YCC, taking bets on a near-term interest rate rise.

Japan's five-year government bond yield fell a little to 0.235 percent, from the previous close of 0.240 percent. Ten-year bonds did not trade early on Friday, due to thin liquidity, but bond futures extended gains.

The Nikkei share index was up 1 percent. The yen remained choppy. It reversed an early rise to be largely flat at 134.71 per dollar.

"Overall Ueda is working hard to present himself as

delivering continuity - at least to start with," said Sean Callow, senior currency strategist at Westpac. "Now is not the time to put his own stamp on policy; that's not why the government selected him."

Data on Friday showed Japan's annual core consumer inflation had hit a fresh 41-year high of 4.2% in January, keeping the central bank under pressure to phase out its massive stimulus programme.

Elsewhere, shares were mixed. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan slipped 0.2%, heading for a weekly drop of 1.5 percent.

Chinese blue chips fell 0.4 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index dropped 0.9% while Australia's resources-rich shares edged up 0.2 percent.

On Wall Street, stocks ended a topsy-turvy

Thursday in positive territory, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average up 0.33 percent, the S&P 500 gaining 0.53 percent and the Nasdaq Composite adding 0.72%.

Investors were bracing for the release on Friday of the U.S. personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index for January, the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation measure. The index is expected to be up 4.3 percent on a year earlier, compared with 4.4 percent the previous month.

Overnight, strong data, including an unexpected fall in new claims for unemployment and a revised uptick in the fourth-quarter PCE price index, suggested some strength in the economy.

The dollar index, which measures the safe-haven dollar against six peers, was hovering at 104.63, not too far from a seven-week high of 104.78.



The Japanese government's nominees for the Bank of Japan (BOJ) speak at in the lower house of the parliament in Tokyo

China overhauls financial system giving Xi more control

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to bring decision-making of the financial system further under his control with the likely revival of a powerful committee to coordinate financial policy and the possible appointment of a key ally in a top position at the central bank.

Authorities are considering reviving the long-disbanded Central Financial Work Commission to allow the ruling Communist Party to assert more control over financial policy, according to people familiar with the matter. Ding Xuexiang, Xi's chief of staff, is set to become the head of the entity, one of the people said, asking not to be identified discussing a private matter.

He Lifeng – who is expected to replace Liu He as China's vice premier responsible for economic policy in a government reshuffle next month – is also being considered for the role of party secretary at the People's Bank of China, the Wall Street Journal reported.

The appointment and potential overhaul of China's financial regu-



People Bank of China percent

latory regime would put decision-making over key economic policies in fewer hands and centralize it under Xi, while also highlighting the strategic importance of China's \$60 trillion financial sector. A vice premier holding a senior position at the PBOC would also elevate its role in financial regulation.

Xi has consolidated his power since taking control in 2012, stacking the party's leadership with loyalists. He secured a precedent-breaking third term in power at the party's congress in October last year.

"There's no doubt that He Lifeng has a much, much closer personal relationship to Xi than"

current PBOC party chief Guo Shuqing, said Christopher Bedford, deputy China research director at Gavekal Dragonomics. "If he's ultimately appointed to replace Guo, markets will probably view that as Xi gaining somewhat more direct oversight of the central bank."

The appointments have yet to

be finalized, and plenty could still shuffle around ahead of the National People's Congress next month. It's at that key political event that China's top legislature confirms a slate of ministerial appointments, including the PBOC governor. No nominees have been formally announced.

If He, 68, is named as PBOC party secretary, it would be the first time since the 1990s that a vice premier responsible for economic policy would also have a senior role at the bank.

The last vice premier who also took a top PBOC post was Zhu Rongji, a highly-regarded leader known for his tough and efficient reform style. He became the PBOC's governor between 1993 and 1995 to address the country's worst inflation on record – it reached 24% in 1994 – and misconduct in

the financial system.

The Central Financial Work Commission was first established in 1998, a move that was intended to ensure officials at various levels stuck to the party's guidelines and policies in a so-called vertical management system. Then-Vice Premier Wen Jiabao served as the commission's first chief.

The commission was dissolved in 2003 as part of a broad reorganization of government agencies that also saw the establishment of China's banking regulator.

Veteran banker Zhu Hexin, currently chairman of state-owned financial conglomerate Citic Group Corp., is being considered as the next central bank governor, one of the people said. He would replace Yi Gang, who was widely expected to step down after approaching

the usual retirement age for senior officials. Yi was dropped from a list of senior officials at the ruling party's congress last year.

The WSJ first reported Zhu's likely appointment and the reinstatement of the financial work committee.

The PBOC declined to comment when contacted by Bloomberg News.

In recent years, the party secretary and governor roles at the PBOC have been split. Under Guo Shuqing, the current PBOC party secretary who is expected to retire, the focus of his role has been on financial risk matters. Yi has been responsible for monetary policy implementation.

Economists said the changes at the PBOC may not signal a major shift in monetary policy, although the central bank's approach could be slightly less hawkish.

German energy boss warns on gas supply

BONN

The temperature outside Klaus Mueller's office almost resembles spring, exactly the kind of mild weather that helped Germany get through the winter without Russian natural gas.

But Germany's chief utility regulator is not ready to sound the all clear on an energy crisis spawned by the war in Ukraine, even with natural gas reserves abundant and prices well down from their peak.

Too much could go wrong – especially if consumers and companies grow weary of the conservation habits they learned during a winter fraught with fear of rolling blackouts and rationing, Mueller, head of the Federal Network Agency, said in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press.

Plus, there's next winter to think about.

Other risks, such as a pipeline accident or a sudden cold snap, could set back plans to keep natural gas storage as full as possible as Europe learns to live without the cheap Russian gas that fueled its economy for decades.

Mueller would only concede that he's "optimistic" this winter will end without a further gas crunch, especially after Germany cut gas use by 14% in 2022 through lowering thermostats, switching to other fuels or halting energy-intensive industrial production. Gas use fell 19% in the last six months across the whole 27-nation European Union.

"But at the same time, we're focused already on winter 2023-24, and we know that Germany, and large parts of Europe, will have to get through the next winter without Russian pipeline gas," he said. And "the risks are in plain sight."

While he's thankful for warmer-than-usual winter weather that cut gas use for heating, "will next winter be so mild? No one can say," Mueller said.

"Second, we have to see if the industrial firms and private households are tired of the efforts related to conservation – or will

they redouble their efforts based on experience thus far? We're pushing for the second to be the case," he said.

Mueller says he hopes the public responds to an approach based on transparency – not exaggerating risk but not sugarcoating it either. Yet the experience with measures such as masking and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic show "that always being told what to do is not especially popular."

Key for the months and years ahead is a push to use heat pumps instead of gas heating, still the case in roughly half of German homes. Above all, higher prices will force homeowners and businesses to adapt simply to lower their costs.

Gas prices have fallen to under 50 euros (\$53) per megawatt hour – the lowest level in nearly a year and a half – from a record 350 euros per megawatt hour in August, according to FactSet. But they are still well above the 18 euros per megawatt hour in March 2021, just before Russia started massing troops on Ukraine's border.

Mueller said it will take six months to a year for lower prices to filter through to less expensive utility bills for consumers. Asked whether prices two or three times their pre-crisis level are the "new normal," Mueller avoided the phrase, saying there are too many uncertainties that could affect gas prices going forward.

Mueller, formerly head of the Federation of German Consumer Organisations and environment minister from the Greens party in northern Germany's Schleswig-Holstein region, took over the network agency in March 2022, just days after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Natural gas prices had already risen on fears of lost supply, although Western sanctions against Moscow initially spared oil and natural gas. There were concerns about Europe's dependency on Russian gas used to heat homes, generate electricity and fire up industrial processes like making glass and fertilizer.



ITV

MONDAY 26 Dec

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 DWTV Journal
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Kipindi maalum: TARURA rpt
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Aibu Yako
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta
22:00 Ripoti maalum
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 The Base
00:00 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

TUESDAY 27 Dec

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 DWTV Journal
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Jagina rpt
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya jamii
13:00 Ripoti Maalum
13:35 Shikabamba
14:05 Igizo rpt: Rebeca
14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
21:45 Chetu ni chetu
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 The Base
00:00 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 28 Dec

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha

7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 DWTV Journal
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Kipindi maalum: TARURA rpt
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Aibu Yako
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta
22:00 Ripoti maalum
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 The Base
00:00 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

THURSDAY 29 Dec

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 DWTV Journal
9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamba lulu
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
13:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:30 Shamsam za pwani rpt
14:30 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri Wako
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

FRIDAY 30 Dec

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 DWTV Journal
9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri Wako
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera

12:30 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco rpt
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
14:30 DW: Afrimaxx rpt
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30 Uchumi Wetu
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 The Base
00:00 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

SATURDAY 31 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
13:00 Usafiri wako
13:30 Jagina
14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
17:00 Igizo: Rebeca
17:30 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka
21:15 Igizo: Rebeca
21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15 DWTV

SUNDAY 1 Jan

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:50 Bongo Movie rpt:
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Rebeca
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology
21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:30 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Bongo movie:
23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt

02:05 Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Thurs 22 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Club 101 rpt
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Spots gazette
12:00 Innovation

Mon 26 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Club 101 rpt
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Business edition
12:00 Out and About
12:30 Our earth

Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 EcoAfrica
17:00 Dw News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 The Décor rpt
19:30 Shamba lulu
20:00 Innovation rpt
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 27 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Club 101 rpt
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Monday agenda rpt
12:15 Spots gazette
12:45 Filler doc

Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Our Earth
20:00 Décor Rpt
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Jagina rpt
22:30 EcoAfrica
23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 28 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Club 101 rpt
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00 Dw News Africa rpt
12:30 Our Earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt Laws Of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Business Edition Rpt

16:30 Culinary delight rpt

17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Décor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 29 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Club 101 rpt
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Spots gazette
12:00 Innovation
12:30 Culinary

Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Out & About Rpt
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Our Earth Rpt
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30
Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt
23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 30 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Club 101 rpt
11:00 Al Jazeera
11:30 Capchat
12:30 Décor

Telenovela rpt Laws Of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

16:00 Dw News Africa rpt
16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Rev
19:00 Out & About Rpt
20:00 Aibu Yako
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30
Capital Prime News
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Sat 31 Dec

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Jagina rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n'about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Aljazeera
14:30 Telenovela rpt Laws Of love 17:15



Germany's chief utility regulator, Klaus Mueller speaks during an interview with the Associated Press at the Federal Network Agency in Bonn, Germany.

WORLD

Nigerian presidential polls: Candidates round off campaigns

ABUJA

IN a final push for votes, presidential candidates contesting in Nigeria's general elections starting this weekend concluded their campaigns mid-week in line with the country's electoral laws.

Eighteen presidential candidates are expected to take part in the presidential election today, alongside national assembly elections. The fates of the presidential candidates are to be decided by a total of 93,469,008 voters registered by the Independent National Electoral Commission, Nigeria's electoral body, across the 36 states of the country and the Federal Capital Territory.

Nigeria's governing All Progressives Congress (APC) party has said it is convinced about "coasting home to victory" in the presidential poll after rounding off its nationwide engagement with supporters and voters for about six months.

The APC Presidential Campaign Council told reporters at a press conference in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, on

Wednesday that its campaign for votes peaked at a grand rally attended by President Muhammadu Buhari in the southwestern state of Lagos Tuesday.

"The hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic supporters and party members that thronged our rallies, and those that marched on the streets to welcome our candidates attest to the popularity and acceptability of our party and flagbearers by the masses," said Dele Alake, lead spokesman for the ruling party's campaign council.

Alake described the ruling party's presidential campaign season, which officially kicked off in the central Plateau state in November 2022, as "exciting and animating," as Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the APC presidential candidate, traveled to all the 36 states in the country and made return trips to many states for additional engagements.

On his own part, 76-year-old Atiku Abubakar, the presidential candidate of the main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP), believes his "imminent



Pedestrians walk past campaign posters for presidential candidate Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress in Lagos, Nigeria yesterday. AP

victory" in the upcoming presidential election would be "a deliverance for Nigerians."

Dele Momodu, a senior spokesman for the PDP Presidential Campaign Council, said in a statement Thursday that recent interactions with all classes of Nigerians in the course of Abubakar's nationwide campaign had endeared him to Nigerians.

"Abubakar's hustings across all parts of Nigeria confirmed further to him how grievously Nigerians are suffering and how desperately they desire and pray for deliverance. The programs and manifesto aligned and connected with the inner desires, hunger, and prayers of millions of Nigerians," Momodu said.

In several tweets Wednesday, Peter Obi,

presidential candidate of the Labor Party, urged the voters to consider him for the country's top job, saying his victory would bring "change" to the West African nation.

"The world is watching. We must take our destined position as the giant of Africa. You and I know the right thing to do. The greatest lie one can tell is a lie to one's soul. If you are still undecided, please talk to yourself. Allow your conscience to guide you," Obi said.

The 61-year-old presidential hopeful said one of his main aims was to move the Nigerian economy from importing and consuming products to "producing, consuming less, and exporting more," adding that "it is the essence of consumption to production." **Agencies**

US ready for talks with Russia on New START 'tomorrow' – Nuland tells TASS

MOSCOW

THE United States is ready to start talks with Russia on the New START nuclear arms control treaty "tomorrow" if Moscow is prepared for this, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland said in an interview with TASS.

"We're ready to do it tomorrow if the Russian Federation is ready. And we're also ready to allow inspections," the diplomat said, answering a question if Washington is prepared for talks without preconditions and accusations.

Nuland (pictured) once again stated that the US views the treaty's suspension as an irresponsible move. "The US and Moscow have responsibilities to the world to keep our nuclear arsenal safe and secure, and we should do our jobs," Nuland said.

"The US has been ready to go back to the table to ensure implementation of New START from the very beginning," she stressed.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his February 21 address to the Federal Assembly that Russia was suspending its participation in the New START treaty, but was not withdrawing from it.

The head of state emphasized that before returning to the discussion of compliance with the treaty, Russia should understand how the arsenals of not only the United States, but also other NATO nuclear powers – the UK and France – will be accounted for by the treaty.

Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, on Wednesday unanimously passed the bill on Russia's suspension of New START.



China publishes report on US' hegemonic, domineering and bullying practices

CHINA on Monday released a report on US hegemony and its perils to expose the US' abuse of hegemony in the political, military, economic, financial, technological and cultural fields, by presenting the relevant facts, and to draw greater international attention to the perils of the US' practices to world peace and stability and the well-being of all peoples.

The report was published as the US has been escalating the great power competition across the globe, and its style of seeking hegemony has been transformed from "benevolent" to aggressive, forcing more and more countries and regions to take sides, said Chinese observers, warning that attempts by the US to suppress and contain China will only intensify in the near future.

Since becoming the world's most powerful country after two world wars and the Cold War, the US has acted more boldly to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, and to pursue, maintain and abuse its hegemony, advance subversion and infiltration, and willfully wage wars, bringing harm to the international community, said the report.

The report pointed out that the US has developed a hegemonic playbook to stage "color revolutions," instigate regional disputes, and even directly launch wars under the guise of promoting democracy, freedom and human rights. Clinging to the Cold War mentality, the US has ramped up bloc politics and stoked conflict and confrontation.

It has overstretched the concept of national security, abused export controls and forced unilateral sanctions upon others. It has taken a selective approach to international laws and rules, utilizing or discarding them as it sees fit, and has sought to impose rules



that serve its own interests in the name of upholding a "rules-based international order."

The report listed instances of US interference in other countries' internal affairs. For example, in the name of "promoting democracy," the country practiced a "Neo-Monroe Doctrine" in Latin America, instigated "color revolutions" in Eurasia, and orchestrated the "Arab spring" in West Asia and North Africa, bringing chaos and disaster to many countries.

During the past few years, the US also tried to encourage and support "color revolution" in China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Legislator Nixie Lam, of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong SAR, told the Global Times on Monday that in the past, the US extended its hand to China's Hong Kong many times.

Citing the List of Facts of the US Interfering in Hong Kong Affairs and Supporting Anti-China Chaos in Hong Kong, published by the

Chinese Foreign Ministry in September 2021, Lam said China has warned US politicians and their agents who meddle in Hong Kong affairs that the Chinese government and people are determined to maintain Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, and that any outside intervention is doomed to be futile.

Also, the report criticized that the country hosted the first "Summit for Democracy" in December 2021, which drew criticism and opposition from many countries for making a mockery of the spirit of democracy and dividing the world.

In March 2023, it will host another "Summit for Democracy," which remains unwelcome and will again find no support, said the report.

The first democracy summit was lackluster, and predictably, this year's summit will be another ridiculous political show by Washington, Sun Chenghao, a research fellow at the Center for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University, told the

Global Times on Monday.

There are plenty of problems with American democracy, and Sun questioned how it could be capable to act as a "democratic leader."

The report also pointed out that the US' surveillance is indiscriminate. All can be targets of its surveillance, be they rivals or allies, or even leaders of allied countries such as former German chancellor Angela Merkel and several French presidents.

Cyber surveillance and attacks launched by the US such as "Prism," "Dirtbox," "Irritant Horn" and "Telescreen Operation" are all proof that the US is closely monitoring its allies and partners. Such eavesdropping on allies and partners has already caused worldwide outrage.

However, the US has always smeared other countries through spreading fictitious rumors over "surveillance incidents."

For example, the US House of Representatives voted to pass a resolution condemning "China's use of the suspected surveillance

balloon" that was shot down by US jets recently, CNN reported on February 9. China has stated that the Chinese civilian unmanned airship straying into US airspace was completely accidental due to force majeure, and it did not pose any threat to US personnel or safety.

According to the Chinese report, the US has fabricated excuses to clamp down on China's high-tech enterprises with global competitiveness, and has put more than 1,000 Chinese enterprises on sanction lists.

The country has imposed controls on biotechnology, artificial intelligence and other high-end technologies, reinforced export restrictions, tightened investment screening, suppressed Chinese social media apps such as TikTok and WeChat, and lobbied the Netherlands and Japan to restrict exports of chips and related equipment or technology to China, the report said.

Sun believes that the stranglehold by the US on China in the field of science and technology is the most obvious and fiercest, as China's catch-up momentum in the field is very obvious, which has exposed US anxiety over the potential loss of its leading position in the field.

The report said that the US' unilateral, egoistic and regressive hegemonic practices have drawn increasing, intense criticism and opposition from the international community.

China opposes all forms of hegemonism and power politics, and it rejects interference in other countries' internal affairs. The US must critically examine what it has done, let go of its arrogance and prejudice, and quit its hegemonic, domineering and bullying practices, the report concluded.

Global Times

India's Modi urges G20 to bring back global economic stability

NEW DELHI

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday appealed to leading economies to come forward for bringing stability in the global economy.

"It is up to the custodians of the leading economies and monetary systems of the world to bring back stability, confidence and growth to the global economy. Focus your discussions on the most vulnerable citizens of the world," he said in a video address to the first ministerial-level meeting under India's G20 presidency.

"Global economic leadership can win back the confidence of the world only by creating an inclusive agenda."

The two-day meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors began in the country's southern city of Bengaluru yesterday.

"It will see the participation of finance ministers and central bank governors of G20 members, invitee members and heads of international organizations. In total, there will be 72 delegations attending the meeting," reads an official statement issued by the federal government.

Taking a note of challenges faced by the world presently, the Indian prime minister said that the participants are representing the leadership of global finance and economy at a time when the world was facing serious economic difficulties.

He cited examples of COVID-19 pandemic and its after-effects on the global economy, rising geopolitical tensions, disruptions in global supply chains, rising prices, food and energy security, unsustainable debt levels affecting the viability of many countries, and the erosion of trust in international financial institutions due to their inability to reform quickly.

Speaking at the occasion, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta Das said that uncertainties had clouded the global economy, and G20 members must resolutely address challenges like threats to financial stability and debt distress.

Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that G20 can transform lives across the globe by leveraging the complementary strengths of members while respecting country needs and circumstances.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Resumption of offline exhibitions energises market

AS China has optimized COVID-19 response measures and resumed economic activities, offline exhibitions are gradually coming back.

A number of major exhibitions are attracting global attention, such as the China International Building Trade Fair 2023, the Beijing Beauty Expo, the China (Shenzhen) Cross-border E-commerce Fair, and the Global Sports Fashion Exhibition.

"After major offline exhibitions restarted, the number of staff of our exhibition team has once again risen to over 100," said Liu Hong, vice president of Kuka Home, a Chinese upholstery furniture manufacturer.

To better meet Chinese and foreign consumers' demand for sofas, beds, tea tables, dining tables, and

office chairs, the company is planning to promote brand-new designing schemes at exhibitions and will launch some of them at the 2023 China International Furniture Fair (Guangzhou) which will be hosted in March, Liu noted.

Liu believes that exhibitions are of remarkable significance because they directly present products to professionals and citizens, and help purchasers gain a deeper understanding of suppliers' strength and competitiveness through forums, speeches, and interactive activities.

Recently, many foreign exhibition companies have come to China to

host trade shows.

The 17th Automechanika Exhibition was jointly hosted by the Shanghai branch of leading event organizer Messe Frankfurt and China National Machinery Industry International Co., Ltd. from Feb. 15 to 18 at the Shenzhen World Exhibition and Convention Center in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province. The exhibition was joined by around 3,500 enterprises in the auto industry.

Stephan Buurma, Managing Director Asia of Messe Frankfurt, told People's Daily that many enterprises are optimistic about China's market potential. He said that the company

has been speeding up its preparations for holding exhibitions in China since this year, hoping to involve more enterprises around the world in China's economic recovery.

China's economic recovery would energize market entities. According to statistics, there were about 4.82 million operational enterprises across China engaged in meeting and exhibition services as of Feb. 10. Since 2023, 68,000 such companies have newly opened. In particular, about 19,800 were set up in the first 10 days of February, up 110.6 percent from a year ago.

Many local governments have rolled out a new round of policies to spur the

recovery of the exhibition industry since this month.

Southwest China's Sichuan province, proposing to launch a campaign to expand business in the international market, will help organize over 100 major international exhibitions and trade activities and render support to enterprises joining both domestic and foreign exhibitions.

Hunan province said it supports foreign trade companies attending overseas exhibitions and will offer financial support for those joining major overseas exhibitions.

Apart from that, many large exhibition organizations are also taking ac-

tive measures to provide quality services.

Chu Shijia, director general of the China Foreign Trade Center, said the organizers of the 133rd Canton Fair will upgrade exhibition areas and set up new themes to highlight trade upgrading, industrial progress, and technological innovation. Besides, an investment-themed sub-forum will be hosted to facilitate the trade sector, Chu added.

The National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), in accordance with the standards adopted by the China International Import Expo, will launch 37 innovative services this year to improve the service quality of exhibitions.

People's Daily

Israeli pro-settler minister formally gains West Bank powers

JERUSALEM

A far-right Israeli cabinet minister formally gained responsibilities over Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank on Thursday that he said included bringing their legal status closer to that of communities within Israel.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich wields a supervisory role for settlers in the Defense Ministry as part of his coalition deal with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, prompting increased US focus on Israel's West Bank policies.

A 14-point statement issued by Smotrich after he agreed on a division of roles with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant included the assertion that "legislation on all (settlement) civilian matters will be brought into line with Israeli law".

Asked to elaborate, a Smotrich spokesperson said: "Equal application of relevant laws - on labor, the environment, et cetera - that are legislated in Lesser Israel."

"Lesser Israel" is a term used by ultranationalists like Smotrich - himself a settler - who seek annexation of the West Bank, a biblical and strategic area captured in a 1967 war.

"All settlement is illegal and any attempt by Israel to legalize or annex these settlements is rejected and is a violation of international resolutions," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The United States has reiterated its decades-old calls for a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians and called for restraint after a surge in violence in the West Bank, which the Palestinians want as the core of a future state.

Washington has also urged Israel not to expand settlements, which most world powers deem illegal.

Smotrich said he would now also have "total responsibility" over zoning, surveys and sales of West Bank lands for settlers, who number around a half-million among 3.1 million Palestinians.

Confirming the Smotrich-Gallant agreement, Netanyahu said it was pursuant to the coalition deals.

Netanyahu said in 2019 that he would annex West Bank settlements - alarming the West and prompting the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to forge ties with Israel a year later in exchange for the prime minister shelving the territorial plan.

The platform of Smotrich's Religious Zionism party calls for advancing West Bank settlement in the face of "a complex US administration" by focusing dialogue on "the extent of sovereignty Israel will assert and the scale of construction and retroactive authorization (of unannounced settler outposts)".

If formal annexation is not possible due to US opposition, it adds, "de facto assertion of sovereignty should be pursued".



(left to right) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich attend a press conference at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem on January 25, 2023. Smotrich formally gained responsibilities over Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank on Thursday. (PHOTO / AFP)

Türkiye investigates building contractors as quake toll rises

ANTAKYA

TÜRKIYE will widen an investigation into building contractors suspected of violating safety standards following its devastating earthquake, the interior minister said, as the country stepped up housing plans for victims.

Suleyman Soyulu said 564 suspects had been identified so far, with 160 people formally arrested and many more still under investigation.

"Our cities will be built in the right places, our children will live in stronger cities. We know what kind of test we are facing, and we will come out of this stronger," he told state broadcaster TRT Haber.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has pledged to rebuild housing within one year.

In power for two decades, Erdogan faces elections within four months. Even before the quake, opinion polls showed he was under pressure from a cost of living crisis, which could worsen as the disaster has disrupted agricultural production.

Soyulu said some 313,000 tents had been erected, with 100,000 container homes to be installed in the earthquake zone.

The number of people killed in Türkiye in this month's devastating earthquakes has risen to 43,556, Soyulu said overnight.

Soyulu said there had been 7,930 aftershocks following the first quake on Feb. 6 and that more than 600,000 apartments and 150,000 commercial premises had suffered at least moderate damage.

Urbanisation Minister Murat Kurum said 164,000 buildings with more than 530,000 apartments were destroyed or severely damaged by the earthquake.

The government has already started contract processes for the construction of new apartments in the area that was hit, Kurum added.

"There's no one left in town. There's nothing to do," said Caner Ozdemir after getting off a bus that arrived from Kirikhan to the Iskenderun train station.

Agencies

One year on, countries divided over Ukraine crisis

BRUSSELS

THE West and the rest of the world are sharply divided in their views on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the ensuing global order, according to a survey released on Wednesday by the European Council on Foreign Relations.

Yesterday marked the one-year anniversary of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine. The survey was conducted in China, India, Türkiye, the United States, Great Britain, Russia and nine European Union nations.

According to the survey, 65 percent of the respondents in Great Britain, 55 percent in the US and 54 percent in the nine EU nations see Russia as their avowed "adversary". Many people in these countries also agree they should help Ukraine win the conflict.

For 80 percent of the respondents in India, 79 percent in China and 69 percent in Türkiye, Russia is either an "ally" or a "necessary partner".

Also, 54 percent in India, 48 percent in Türkiye and 42 percent in China support a quick end to the crisis.

People in these three countries, as well as in Russia, consider the emergence of a "multipolar world order" more probable than a "bipolar arrangement"



A flock of pigeons fly between two damaged buildings in the small Ukrainian town of Borodyanka, some 60 km from Ukrainian capital of Kiev on Jan 12, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

between China and the US.

In contrast to opinions in the West, people in many non-Western countries appear to believe that the post-Cold War era is over.

The paradox of the Russia-Ukraine conflict is that "the West is both more united and less influential in the world than ever before", said Mark Leonard, co-founder of the European Council on Foreign Relations and co-author of a

report based on the survey.

Emerging powers, such as India and Türkiye, will act on their own terms and resist being caught in a conflict between the US and China, according to Leonard's report.

It said that one of the most striking findings of the survey is that most people, both within and beyond the West, believe the US-led liberal order is coming to an end.

Only 9 percent of the respondents in the US, 7 percent

in the EU countries and 4 percent in Great Britain see US global supremacy as the most likely state of affairs a decade from now. Most people in the EU nations and the US expect a bipolar world led by the US and China.

But outside the West, people believe that "fragmentation", not "polarization", will mark the next international order. Respondents in China, India, Türkiye and Russia predict that the West will soon be just one global pole among many. The West may still be the strongest party, but it will not have "hegemonic" control, they believe.

The survey also found that people in China, India and Türkiye are skeptical of the West's claims about defending democracy in Ukraine.

A vast majority of Chinese and Turkish respondents said that the West's support for Ukraine is motivated by reasons other than the defense of Ukraine's territorial integrity or its democracy.

Many in China said the West's support is driven by the desire to protect Western dominance.

Agencies

Africa's health regulators meet in Kenya to boost capacity to combat pandemics

NAIROBI

AFRICAS health regulators on Thursday kicked off a three-day meeting in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi to review ways to boost their capacity to combat pandemics.

The conference brought together medical profession regulators and associations from more than 30

countries across Africa with a view to strengthening the continent's health systems. Simon Nemutandani, president of the Association of Medical Councils of Africa, said in his opening remarks that patient safety requires robust and effective regulation that expands access to quality health care.

"Africa's medical regulators

need to create relevant and fit-for-purpose effective health systems that can respond to evolving health care delivery systems as well as the emergence of pandemics and catastrophic climate or weather events," Nemutandani said.

He added that at a time when the world has been recently gripped by COVID-19, one of the most signifi-

cant pandemics in history, governments should increase investments in both health personnel and medical infrastructure.

David Kariuki, chief executive officer and registrar of the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council, said Kenya has already developed rapid assessment and licensing procedures for health

facilities to operate as quarantine or treatment centers in case of the emergence of pandemics.

Kariuki noted that medical regulators should learn from their collective experience and seek new strategies to prepare for an ever-changing world where more pandemics and other threats are likely to occur.

Xinhua

China's whole-process people's democracy works well

Advancing whole-process people's democracy and ensuring that the people run the country is one of the important focuses of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

China has made significant achievements in the continuous development of its whole-process people's democracy, and built an effective model of democracy with Chinese characteristics.

The country has developed democracy in line with its national conditions and learned from the progress of other human civilizations. China's effective whole-process people's democracy, in turn, is also shedding light on the democratic development of other countries.

I was once a visiting scholar at Fudan University, where I studied China's democratic practice in depth.

As the white paper titled "China: Democracy That Works" published in late 2021 said in its preamble, "Whole-process people's democracy integrates process-oriented democracy with results-oriented democracy, procedural democracy with substantive democracy, direct democracy with indirect democracy, and people's democracy with the will of the state. It is a model of socialist democracy that covers all aspects of the democratic process and all sectors of society. It is a true democracy that works."

In my opinion, this part well explains the distinct features of Chinese democracy.

China values both democratic decision-making and results-oriented democracy while pursuing whole-process people's democracy.

In its democratic practice, the country always learns what the people want, what the government needs to do and whether the people are satisfied with the implementation of policies and measures.

Compared with that in other countries, China's democratic practice better responds to the demands of the people. The remarkable progress that the country has achieved in its economic and social development is closely related to the effective operation of the Chinese democratic system.

Law-based governance concerns a country's economic development, social stability and normal operation of the political system. While advancing democratic politics, China attaches high importance to promoting law-based governance.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress



Photo shows Evandro Carvalho, a professor with the Brazilian think tank Fundacao Getulio Vargas. (Photo from the website of Fundacao Getulio Vargas)

in 2012, the CPC Central Committee has included comprehensively advancing law-based governance as a part of China's Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy. The 19th CPC National Congress mapped out a blueprint that takes integrated steps to build a country, government, and society based on the rule of law by 2035.

The Civil Code of the People's Republic of China officially took effect on Jan. 1, 2021, which marked a significant milestone in the country's efforts to advance the rule of law.

At present, China is working actively to advance legislation in key areas such as scientific innovation, public health and ecological civilization. The ceaseless efforts made by China to promote law-based governance have assisted the orderly operation of its democratic system.

Since the end of the Cold War, some countries duplicated Western models of democracy but found themselves trapped in develop-

ment dilemmas, with emerging problems such as a wide wealth gap and increasing division in society. People's demands for equity, justice, security and development were not satisfied.

Some countries ignored the rule of law while developing democracy, which led to abuse of power and other governance issues.

"There is nothing wrong with democracy per se. Some countries have encountered setbacks and crises in their quest for democracy only because their approach was wrong," said the white paper "China: Democracy That Works."

China has promoted democracy according to its own national conditions. It has achieved benign interaction among democratic development, political stability and social progress, inspiring other countries in pursuing democracy that suits their own national conditions.

People's Daily

'Pegasus': After 19 months, 'no proof provided' by Morocco's accusers

PARIS

NINETEEN months after Morocco, victim of a "gigantic international destabilization enterprise", filed a complaint against some French media and NGOs, which accused it of having used the spyware "Pegasus", "no evidence has been provided to date", Olivier Baratelli, lawyer of the Kingdom in France, said Friday in Paris.

Speaking at a press conference on the latest developments in this case and the legal actions taken by Morocco, the lawyer denounced a "great manipulation of information" and a "huge rumor" that has targeted Morocco and its administrations.

"Today, 19 months later, there is nothing. We knew that it was false and that it was a rumor and that it was a gigantic international destabilization enterprise" aimed at Morocco, said Baratelli.

He recalled that Morocco had immediately launched legal proceedings and, a few days later, ten direct quotes were presented before the criminal court in Paris for defamation against "Forbidden Stories" and "Amnesty International" (AI), and the "most fervent supporters" of these theses in France, namely the media Le Monde, France Info, the investigation unit of France Inter, Médiapart and Humanité.

These cases were argued and reargued on February 15 before the Paris Court of Appeals, said Baratelli, reporting an "impression of real listening" on the part of the judges, who will deliver their judgments on April 12.

"We really have great confidence in the decisions that will be made," said the lawyer, recalling that as early as November 2021, the rumor had already "deflated" after the then Prime Minister, Jean Castex, had declared in the National Assembly that the phone of President Emmanuel Macron was never infected, after submitting it to the French services who had examined it and found that the device did not include any trace of spyware.

"We knew it was false and yet, in November, Le Monde and France Inter continued to spread the rumor, so we relaunched five defamation proceedings," added the lawyer.

To support their theses, some journalists had filed a complaint at the same time of disseminating the news story, a "grotesque and unbelievable" situation, he noted, making known that this complaint was followed by the prosecutor's office of Paris during a little more than one year.

"We met with the prosecutor, we have fed his file and we have demonstrated, scientific evidence in support - provided by a college of experts in computer science - that it was impossible for Morocco to use this software, so after a year, this prosecutor of the Republic has considered that we were facing one of the greatest media manipulation of all time," he said.

He added that the Kingdom's lawyers in France have presented all the evidence that Morocco has never purchased, acquired or used directly or indirectly Pegasus, and the prosecutor of the republic has finally considered that indeed it was necessary to open this case more widely and has opened a judicial investigation which was entrusted in September 2022 to two investigating magistrates.

"Morocco joined as a civil party on February 6. We are a party to this case and we will be able to work, hand in hand, with the investigating judges to completely dismantle this rumor and close the door once and for all of this media rumor," he said.



We met with the prosecutor, we have fed his file and we have demonstrated, scientific evidence in support - provided by a college of experts in computer



Yanga's left fullback, David Bryson (R), attempts to get the better of Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's right-back, Kelvin Kijiri, when the outfits took on each other in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie played in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Yanga cruised to a 1-0 victory. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

When Yanga's rout of TP Mazembe is a cultural, not just sporting event

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

RARELY does a sporting event ignite as much symbolic value or significance as the 3-0 win that Tanzania's Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, put up against once famed TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For the first time, the rather expansive slogan of 'wananchi' seemed to be uttered universally among different sections of city residents and possibly elsewhere, whereas earlier it used to be heard among the common people, or street diehards. This time it was altogether evident that it was valid.

Similarly, it is difficult to remember another weekend where the two city giants took on foreign teams with an exactly opposite result, Simba SC's 3-0 defeat and 3-1 victory for Yanga, and then there was a 5m/- award for each goal and Jangwani Street club bagged 15m/- whereas Msimbazi Street outfit had little to show for in that match, at least concerning claiming anything in that presidential fund.

It is hard to imagine a method of boosting egos momentarily to that extent, Yanga was basking in glory while the Group Stage entrants in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, Simba SC, crouched in shame.

It was of no consequence that the matches at hand were scarcely comparable as one side was playing one of the most formidable sides on the continent, while the other was meeting a side that is but the shadow of its old self.

What ignited the merry-making was the still overpowering image of TP Mazembe and a bit of delusion that this is the side that the local club champions had neatly taken care of, despite that the Congolese side was eliminated by Vipers SC, Uganda military quasi-side.

The Simba SC leadership recalled this aspect but heads did not cool.

What was even more surprising was how acknowledged members of the social



Tanzania's Yanga winger, Ducapel Moloko (Front), gets the better of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s Tout Puissant Mazembe winger, Phillippe Kinzumbi, when the two sides locked horns in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D match played in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. Yanga commanded a 3-1 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

elite were reminding each other who was the first membership cardholder of the Jangwani Street side, fictitiously or otherwise identified with the founder president.

What appears to have occurred is that around 1970 when plans were being mooted to develop the Jangwani Street premises into a club residence and training pitch, new issuance of club membership cards was done.

Otherwise, it is hard to see how Mwalimu Nyerere would get card no. 1 and Sheikh Karume obtained card number 2.

What was a group match at a

non-prestigious international tournament, the second tier of the real championship, became a sort of rebirth for the Yanga social fraternity.

It is hard to figure out how the fraternity would have celebrated had they won the championship, even of the second tier, if not the first, as it was nec plus ultra, the mother of all celebrations, as it were.

It annulled, completely and indelibly, the fact that the side lost 2-0 in its first group outing at an away match with Tunisia's US Monastir, so rapidly forgotten that would almost believe it never occurred, but there is a

risk of a sharp reminder of this, soon.

From a psychological point of view, what was enthralling about the Yanga rout of TP Mazembe was less the score line than a celebration of the misfortune of their next-street rivals, Simba SC, in the second of continental derbies.

It was the pain of their archrivals that sweetened their win over the once-famed Congolese side, and all circumstance was put to the locker.

And as they failed in the preliminary run for the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage, it was as if they had just taken sweet revenge...!

This was a short-lived celebration as the club's start in the Group Stage was not quite inspiring, and there is a sleek danger they might drop their guard in their next match or two due to excessive celebration.

But despite the 2-0 crying defeat to US Monastir, the 3-0 win over TP Mazembe shows Yanga has staying power, when missing the services of the now sidelined Bernard Morrison, and still reeling from the loss of arch-midfielder, Feisal Salum.

It is probably accurate to say that the side's chances are more or less unpredictable, between resurgence and dissipation.

If anything, the impact of the result at the Benjamin Mkapa arena was to give the Premier League leaders the confidence they need for the next round of matches in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup, as well as heighten their feeling as upcoming champions, or retaining the Premier League title.

It would have been fantastic if the matter could be ended there but a shadow lurks behind in the fact that the side failed in the first rung tourney, and all these acrobatics are being displayed in comparison with their archrivals.

They stand a better chance of proceeding to the next stage at least based on the TP Mazembe result, though there is still the possibility of a short-lived hurrah if other sides excessively study the latest match and find the right responses.

TP Mazembe did not quite feel they had to do that as Yanga just came back from the 2-0 letdown with US Monastir.

2023's Kilimanjaro International Marathon shoots Moshi hotels' prices up

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

MARATHONS have become a global trend, and runners from around the world participate in well-known international marathons.

The tremendous economic benefits of sports tourism extend to the food service, hotel, and transportation industries in the host city.

Marathons contribute to marketing the host city and runners have an increased willingness to revisit cities hosting well-known marathons.

Ahead of the 2023 Kilimanjaro Premium Larger International Marathon, slated for Sunday in Moshi, dozens of runners along with their supporters have already arrived in the town where the event will take place.

With about 11,000 runners from various parts of the country as well as neighbouring countries set to participate in the 21st edition of the marathon, hospitality industry practitioners and businesspersons have all reasons to smile.

All hotels have already been booked in an advance and, as the marathon's day draws closer, the prices of hotel rooms go up tremendously.

Reliable information from some hotels owners in Moshi revealed that the rooms booked for 25,000/- for one person are now costing between 55,000/- and 70,000/-, while the room which previously cost 40,000/- for one person, as well as a room that cost 60,000/-, had until yesterday cost 150,000/- for one person.

"Accommodation providers in this town had based all their hopes on the marathon and they were not disappointed, small businesses' owners also expect to benefit from the event because they will be allowed to sell their products," the reliable source noted.

"We checked a variety of resort hotels just to see how they have been booked during this busy marathon weekend, henceforth, we have decided to look for other hotels in Bomang'ombe and Arusha," Cosmas Charles, a runner, stated.

The 2023 Kilimanjaro Premium

Larger International Marathon, themed 'Run For Good, is the 32nd installment of the showdown since it resumed in 2002.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mohamed Mchengera, is expected to flag off the races which are expected to finish within six hours.

The races have been preceded by a four-day Kili Expo held at Moshi Cooperative University grounds, bringing together sponsors of the marathon and other business owners to showcase their products and services.

Kilimanjaro International Marathon runners are set to head out on a fairly flat course from Moshi Cooperative University Stadium, they will run between eight to nine kilometers in the direction of Dar es Salaam.

The route then turns back towards the town of Moshi passing through the direction of Kilimanjaro Mountain before a long steady ascent towards Mweka.

There is a final uphill stretch up the mountain until the 32 kilometers point before runners head back towards the finish line at Moshi Cooperative University Stadium.

The showdown's main sponsors are Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, which sponsors the 42 kilometers event, Tigo- 21 kilometers showdown, and Grand Malt which sponsors the 5 kilometers Fun Run.

Official supporting sponsors are Kilimanjaro Drinking Water, TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, and TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Limited.

Official suppliers for the showdown are Keys Hotel, Garda World, CMC Automobiles, and Kibo Palace Hotel.

The exhibitors are FastHub, CAFFE GELATO-Arusha, Ninu, Kili MedAir, Kilimanjaro International Leather Industries (KLICL), TANAPA, and Tanzania Tourist Board.

Other exhibitors are Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Mysol, Nyange Adventures, Hisense, PEPFAR & USAID, Happy Sausages, Bunge Dogo, Queen Soft Sanitary Pads, NSSF, and Surveyed Plots Company Ltd.

Betting firm presents cash prize to two winners

By Guardian Correspondent

TWO Tanzania soccer fanatics have raked in 175.3m/- apiece after precisely predicting the results of 12 soccer matches played in various leagues across the world.

The duo was declared winners through a draw for a betting game, dubbed 'Perfect 12', organized by betting firm, M-Bet Tanzania.

The winners, Mesharam Bakunda, and Abdallah Segatwa were presented with their cash prizes at a brief ceremony held at the firm's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Allen Mushi, M-Bet Tanzania's Marketing Director, said that his company feels great pride in changing the lives of football fans in the country.

The two winners further support the English Premier League outfit, Arsenal. Mushi said that the two winners join other winners in the 'house of champions' and asked football fans to try their luck by betting with his company.

"Apart from changing their lives, we feel proud to



M-Bet Tanzania Marketing Director, Allen Mushi (C), poses for a picture with winners of the firm's betting game, termed Perfect 12, Abdallah Segatwa (R) and Mesharam Bakunda, after handing over dummy cheques of 175.3m/- to the duo that emerged as winners through the betting game's latest draw. The handover function took place at the firm's headquarters in Dar es Salaam on Friday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

contribute 20 percent of the winning tax which goes directly to the government... we are good taxpayers of the government and we contribute to development," Mushi noted.

The M-Bet Tanzania official also wished Tanzania's Simba SC good luck in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League duel

against Uganda's Vipers SC slated for today in Entebbe. The betting company is the Msimbazi Street outfit's main sponsor.

Bakunda, also Young Africans SC follower, said that he did not believe he could win such a huge amount of cash prize by spending only 1,000/-.

He said that he has been betting with M-Bet regularly as he has seen several people win a lot of money through the firm's betting platform.

The other winner, Segatwa, said that he did not give up on betting with M-Bet, adding that he believed one day he will win millions of shillings.

Segatwa stated: "I am a farmer, I will use this money to develop agriculture, improve the house, and educate my children."

"When I received a call and was told that I am a winner, I was so excited and cheered hard because my dreams are now true," the winner noted.

Robert Kelly avoids lengthy add-on to 30-year prison sentence

CHICAGO

A FEDERAL judge on Thursday rejected a call from prosecutors to keep R. Kelly behind bars until he is 100, instead telling the Grammy Award-winning R&B singer he would serve all but one of his 20 years on child sex convictions simultaneously with a previous sentence.

Handed down in a courtroom in Kelly's hometown of Chicago, the sentence means Kelly could make it out of prison alive, when he is about 80. Prosecutors had asked Judge Harry Leinenweber to sentence him to 25 years – and to not let him begin serving those until after he completed the first 30-year sentence, imposed on him last year in New York for federal racketeering and sex trafficking convictions.

"The nature of this offense is ... horrific," Leinenweber said in explaining the 20-year sentence. He noted that Kelly's sexual abuse victims would suffer from his crimes for the rest of their lives.

At the same time, he accepted defense arguments that Kelly might not even make it to 80, so handing him a consecutive lengthy sentence, rather than allowing him to serve all but one year of it simultaneously, didn't make much sense.

"He has a life expectancy of not a hell of a lot more," the judge said. "He is 56 years of age."

Kelly's defense lawyer celebrated the ruling as a victory, and some of the singer's fans could be heard cheering outside the courtroom.

Kelly remained still, his eyes downcast, as Leinenweber explained what was at times a hard-to-follow sentence. He did seem to show some emotion when a representative read a statement written by "Jane," one of his accusers and a key prosecution witness.

"I was brainwashed by Robert and a sex slave," Jane's statement said. "It almost killed me."

Kelly did not make a statement in court prior to the sentencing decision, heeding the advice of his lawyer, Jennifer Bonjean, to stay quiet while they appeal both his Chicago and New York convictions.

"It's the right outcome," Bonjean said of the sentence after the hearing ended. "The judge was reasonable. He, I think, took into account both sides and ultimately was fair."

The U.S. Attorney in Chicago, John Lausch, conceded that prosecutors were disappointed Kelly didn't receive more consecutive prison time. But he added, "Twenty years is a significant sentence, and we are happy that that was imposed in this case."

The judge said at the outset of Thursday's hearing that he did not accept the government's contention that Kelly used fear to woo underage girls for sex, a determination that was important in deciding whether to extend Kelly's current term significantly.

"The (government's) whole theory of grooming, was sort of the opposite of fear of bodily harm," the judge told the court. "It was the fear of lost love, lost affections (from Kelly). ... It just doesn't seem to me that it rises to the fear of bodily harm."

Two of Kelly's accusers asked the judge Thursday to punish him harshly.

"When your virginity is taken by a pedophile at 14 ... your life is never your own," Jane's statement read.

Another accuser, who used the pseudonym "Nia," addressed Kelly directly in court. Speaking forcefully as her voice quivered, Nia said Kelly would repeatedly point out her alleged faults while he abused her.

"Now you are here ... because there is something wrong with you," she said. "No longer will you be able to harm children."

Jurors in Chicago convicted Kelly last year on six of 13 counts: three of producing child porn and three of enticement of minors for sex. Prosecutors did not get a conviction on the marquee charge: that Kelly and his then-business manager successfully rigged his state child pornography trial in 2008.

Kelly rose from poverty in Chicago to become one of the world's biggest R&B stars. Known for his smash hit "I Believe I Can Fly" and for sex-infused songs such as "Bump n' Grind," he sold millions of albums even after allegations about his abuse of girls began circulating publicly in the 1990s.

Prosecutors had previously described Kelly as "a serial sexual predator" who used his fame and wealth to reel in, sexually abuse and then discard star-struck fans.

At Thursday's hearing, U.S. Assistant Attorney Jeannine Appenteng urged the judge to keep Kelly in prison "for the rest of his life."

Kelly's abuse of children was especially appalling, she said, because he "memorialized" his abuse by filming victims, including Jane. Appenteng told the court Kelly "used Jane as a sex prop, a thing" for producing pornographic videos.

Bonjean has said repeatedly that the government singled out her client because he is a superstar and she previously accused prosecutors of offering an "embellished narrative" to get the judge to join what she called the government's "bloodthirsty campaign to make Kelly a symbol of the #MeToo movement."

She echoed that theme Thursday in calling the request for a 25-year consecutive sentence "overkill."

AP

Beating Barcelona takes Man Utd's Ten Hag transformation to another level

LONDON

ERIK ten Hag's transformation of Manchester United now has a European scalp to get excited about as Barcelona were vanquished on a night the Red Devils rolled back the years at Old Trafford.

Second half goals from Fred and Antony secured a memorable United win as the La Liga leaders were beaten 2-1 on the night and 4-3 on aggregate.

The fact that United's reward is merely a place in the last 16 of the Europa League shows there remains a long way to go for the three-time European champions to rediscover their past glories on the continental stage.

But momentum is building under the former Ajax boss with United still in the hunt for four trophies in Ten Hag's first season in charge.

A six-year wait for silverware could come to an end when United face Newcastle in the League Cup final on Sunday.

Without a league title in a decade, United are just five points adrift of Premier League leaders Arsenal and also into the FA Cup last 16, where they face West Ham at home.

For a long time since Alex Ferguson's departure in 2013, Old Trafford lost its aura as an intimidating destination for visiting sides.

But no one is looking forward to a trip to the Theatre of Dreams with United unbeaten in 18 games in all competitions at home.

- 'Strong belief' -
Embarrassing defeats to Brighton and Brent-

ford to begin Ten Hag's time in charge are now a distant memory. Barcelona joined the list of big names beaten on home soil in recent months, joining Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester City.

"You need a strategy to build it but also results to get that strong belief," said Ten Hag on how he has lifted United out of the mire of a miserable 2021/22 season when they finished sixth in the Premier League.

"That is another step because when you can beat Barcelona, your belief can be really strong because you are then able to beat anyone."

Buoyed not only by results on the pitch, but the potential departure of unpopular owners the Glazer family, the United fanbase is jubilant.

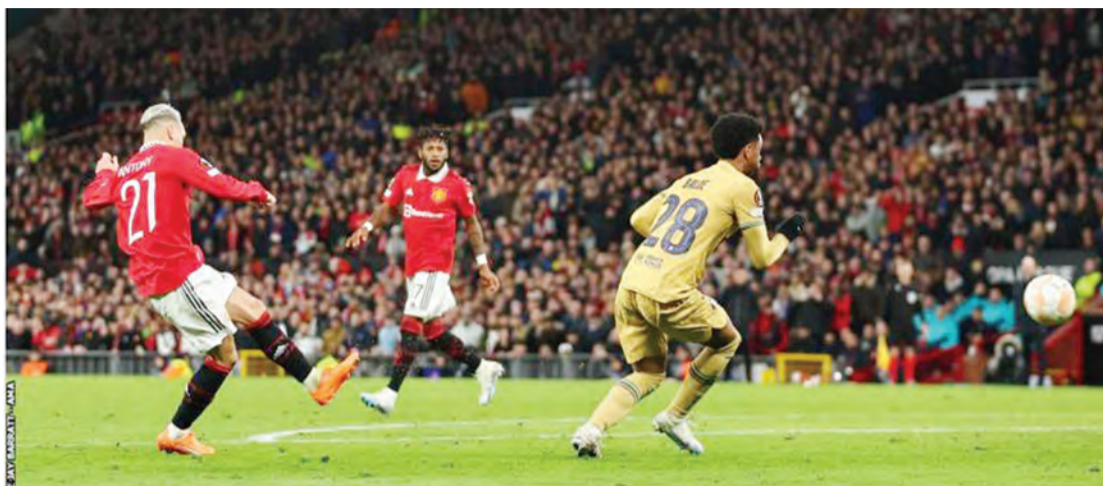
"The fans have been with us in the toughest moments," said United's captain for the night Bruno Fernandes.

"This season we have been really good because they are always behind us but this is something different."

"You can feel between them and us there is something special, Old Trafford was bouncing that is why we got the result."

Despite the Europa League's second tier status, this was almost certainly United's finest night in continental competition since eliminating Paris Saint-Germain from the Champions League last 16 in a dramatic night at the Parc des Princes four years ago.

The wait for such a European night under the lights at Old



Manchester United's Antony scores their winning goal against Barcelona. (Agencies)

Trafford goes even further back to when Barcelona were beaten in the semi-finals of the 2008 Champions League.

"You can see what it means for the players. We haven't seen that for such a long time," said Paul Scholes, who scored the winner that night.

"To see the passion that these guys have for Manchester United is just fantastic, especially the reaction to the crowd."

Ten Hag is hoping this is just the start on United's road back to competing at the highest level in Europe.

"We have the potential to beat the big teams," he added.

"We have beaten City, Arsenal, Liverpool. If we show discipline and team spirit this team can do a lot."

Meanwhile, THIS time it was supposed to be different, but Barcelona finished with the same sinking feeling at another of Europe's hallowed grounds.

The Catalan giants were dumped out of continental competition again, this time by Manchester United at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Xavi Hernandez's side fell to a 2-1 defeat (4-3 on aggregate), in the Europa League play-off round, despite their heavy summer investment and strong domestic form marking them out as one of the favourites to lift the trophy.

Barcelona won the Champions League in 2015 but the years since then have been deeply disappointing and, at times, humiliating, on the pitch and sometimes off it too.

"I think disappointment (is

the word), because we had a lot of hope. I don't think it's a failure, because we competed," said Kounde.

"They were two even games, we played against one of the strongest, in-form sides. I think it's a young squad still, we're still growing. I think we have improved. We will keep growing and improving."

- 'Much better' -

Xavi has stated several times he needs to win trophies this season to stay in charge, after Barcelona bought Kounde, Raphinha and Lewandowski last summer, activating various financial "levers" to get the deals through.

By selling off future television rights, president Joan Laporta and his board were gambling that success would be immediate, to make the risk worthwhile.

Having conceded just seven goals in 22 La Liga games and opening up an eight-point lead on Madrid at the top of the table, there is no doubt Barcelona have improved.

However, in European football, their pain continues -- they have let in 16 goals in eight games, between the Champions League and Europa League.

"We have the feeling that we are much better than last season, it's clear that we gave our best," said Xavi.

"We played against Inter, Bayern and Manchester United, big opponents. In the end we didn't measure up to them."

"Next year we have to try it again, be more competitive and self-critical, which is important to show that we can compete in Europe too."

To rub salt into the wounds an old enemy, former Real Madrid defender Raphael Varane, was there to clear Lewandowski's shot off the line in stoppage time and ensure United's victory.

Barcelona's next big game is against their bitter rivals Madrid in the Copa del Rey semi-final first leg next Thursday, and once again they must pick themselves up off the canvas after another European knock-out blow. **AFP**

Goal-shy Chelsea eye Spurs win as Man City seek consistency

LONDON

GRAHAM Potter takes struggling Chelsea to the happy hunting ground of Tottenham on Sunday desperate for a Premier League win as Manchester City seek to turn domination into goals.

Leaders Arsenal face a tricky trip to Leicester, while Liverpool are looking to bounce back from a 5-2 humbling at the hands of Real Madrid when they travel to Crystal Palace.

Third-placed Manchester United are not in action as they face Newcastle United in Sunday's League Cup final at Wembley.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the weekend's action in the English top flight.

- Potter under pressure -

Potter is under mounting pressure to produce results with his expensively assembled Chelsea squad but will take heart from the club's impressive record against London rivals Tottenham.

Chelsea are aiming to extend their unbeaten Premier League run against Spurs to nine

games and for a fourth straight away win in league fixtures between the clubs.

Antonio Conte's Spurs are fourth in the table, 11 points clear of Chelsea, who have won just two of their past 14 matches in all competitions.

Despite their heavy outlay in January, the Blues look desperately short of firepower -- scoring only one goal in their past five matches.

Reports suggest the Stamford Bridge hierarchy are prepared to give former Brighton boss Potter time despite the miserable run and the manager himself called for patience towards his new signings after last week's home defeat by bottom club Southampton.

But defeat at Tottenham would inevitably heap more pressure on the Englishman with sections of the Chelsea support already calling for him to be sacked.

- Inconsistent City -
City's four Premier League titles in the past five seasons have been built on putting together a long streak of victories at some point of the campaign.

However, the defend-

ing champions are still waiting to hit top form this season.

Pep Guardiola's men appeared to have turned the tide in the title race when they beat Arsenal at the Emirates earlier this month to move to the top of the table.

But they conceded a late goal last week to draw 1-1 against Nottingham Forest after dominating the game, with Chris Wood punishing their profligacy.

It was a similar story at RB Leipzig in the Champions League in midweek as City failed to make a dominant first half count before the

Germans hit back after the break to level the first leg of their last-16 tie.

"It was a brilliant performance, we played really good but we didn't score," said Guardiola after dropping points at Forest. "We have to score."

Arsenal are two points ahead of City at the top of the table, but also have a game in hand.

The Gunners ended a four-game winless run by coming from behind to beat Aston Villa 4-2 last weekend.

But Leicester's 4-1 thrashing of Tottenham in their last home game

serves as a warning of the threat posed by the Foxes.

Relegation dog-fight Just eight points separate the bottom nine teams in the Premier League, setting up an intense battle for survival.

Four of those sides play each other this weekend, including Leeds and Southampton, who occupy the bottom two spots.

Leeds will be hoping for a bounce after naming former Watford boss Javi Gracia as their new manager.

Bournemouth, just outside the relegation places, face the daunt-

ing task of hosting City, while struggling West Ham host Nottingham Forest.

Sean Dyche is looking for a third straight home win as Everton try to inch towards safety at home to Villa.

Fixtures

Today
Everton v Aston Villa, Leeds v Southampton, Leicester v Arsenal, West Ham v Nottingham Forest (all 1500), Bournemouth v Manchester City (1730), Crystal Palace v Liverpool (1945)

Tomorrow
Tottenham v Chelsea (1330)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Beating Barcelona takes Man Utd's Ten Hag transformation to another level

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Coastal Union's assistant coach, Fikirini Elias. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

Coastal Union faces Prisons in relegation battle

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

A massive three points will be on the line when Coastal Union hosts fellow strugglers Tanzania Prisons in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash at the Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga this afternoon, with kick-off slated for 4 pm.

With seven games of the season remaining, the battle to beat the dreaded drop is intensifying with five points separating the bottom five teams and both Coastal Union and Tanzania Prisons are among that pack of clubs.

Coastal Union and Tanzania Prisons currently occupy 13th and 14th places respectively, in the relegation/promotion play-off positions, and are just a single point behind Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

Beneath them, there is a five-point gap down to the bottom two clubs, Polisi Tanzania and Ruvo Shooting. Whatever happens this weekend, Polisi Tanzania and Ruvo Shooting will continue to occupy the automatic relegation places.

This, however, could be a big opportunity for either Coastal Union or Tanzania Prisons, whoever emerges victorious in Tanga.

Coastal Union, the 1988 Premier League champions, appeared to have given themselves a real chance of pulling clear to safety when the club's 1-0 win at home to Mbeya City FC ended its seven-match winless run last weekend.

The hosts will go into today's encounter with the confidence of making the most of their home advantage to secure their first back-to-back victories of the season.

In contrast, Tanzania Prisons are winless in their last five league encounters. After back-to-back wins against Mbeya City FC and Dodoma Jiji FC, the warders were on the end of heavy defeats to Simba SC and Azam FC.

A third consecutive loss came in a Premier League duel against Ihefu SC before a goalless draw with Mtibwa Sugar.

Tanzania Prisons also have to take on relegation rivals, Ruvo Shooting, defending champions Young Africans, alias Yanga, and travel to Namungo FC, Geita Gold FC, and Kagera Sugar between now and the end of the campaign.

Mohammed Abdallah Juma, Tanzania Prisons head coach, knows that maximum points in these games will be the key to his team staying in the top flight.

In head-to-head stats, Coastal Union and Tanzania Prisons have met in 17 Premier League matches.

Each team has won four games while nine have ended in a draw. Coastal Union, alias 'Wagosi wa Kaya', have won only two of their eight home matches against their Mbeya counterparts, suffering two defeats in the process.

When the teams met in Mbeya earlier this season, in November 2022, Coastal Union claimed a 2-0 away win thanks to goals scored by forwards Hamad Majimengi and Maabad Maulid.

Coastal Union has not lost at home to Tanzania Prisons since the second half of the 2014/15 season.

Simba SC aims to keep 2022/23 CAF Champions League campaign hopes alive in Kampala today



Some Simba SC players participate in training at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February 16 to shape up for this season's CAF Champions League Group Stage game against Morocco's Raja Club Athletic which was played at the venue on February 18. Raja Club Athletic won 3-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Simba SC will be aiming to keep the club's 2022/23 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League hopes alive when it faces Uganda's Vipers SC at St Mary's Kitende Stadium in Kampala this evening, with kick-off having been scheduled for 7 pm.

The Tanzanian representatives occupy the bottom spot in Group C of the premier continental competition after two rounds of fixtures, having yet to win a game.

Simba SC began with a 1-0 loss away to Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club before they suffered a humiliating 3-0 home defeat at the hands of Moroccan giants, Raja Club Athletic, last weekend.

The 2022/23 CAF Champions League blues have spiraled into the 2022/23 NBC Premier League

which has witnessed Simba SC again being insipid in the 1-1 draw with Azam FC on Tuesday.

The results have allowed the top-flight defending champions, Yanga, to extend their lead at the top of the table to eight points, with only seven games to go, having cruised to a 1-0 victory over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on Wednesday.

With a home match against Vipers SC set to follow their trip to the Ugandan champions' backyard, Simba SC still

harbours slim hopes of reaching the knockout stages of this season's CAF Champions League and can duly ill-afford anything but a win this weekend.

Anything other than a win for Simba SC, alias 'Msimbazi Reds', will see them make an early exit and add more pressure onto the shoulders of the club's head coach Robert Oliveira 'Robertinho'.

The Brazilian coach is under no illusions regarding the propensity of the task at hand at St Mary's Kitende Stadium.

Speaking ahead of the game that will be played under floodlights, Robertinho was happy to remind everyone about the return of Malian defensive midfielder, Sadio Kanoute, as a major boost to his squad.

Oliveira revealed: "We have had enough time to prepare for the game against Vipers SC. We know it will be a difficult game especially since we are going away but we are prepared for it. I am happy for the return of Sadio Kanoute who missed the last game

against Raja Casablanca due to serving a yellow card accumulation ban."

The Brazilian noted: "Kanoute is a good first-team player and we believe he will be a help to us in this game."

Simba SC defender Joash Onyango said they anticipate a difficult game because both sides are based in East Africa and the fact that Robertinho spent one and half years at Vipers SC makes it a more challenging affair.

The defender noted: "It is going to be a difficult game because we are both based in East Africa, furthermore our coach was with Vipers SC. However, we are well prepared for the task ahead."

Simba SC full squad:

Goalkeepers: Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya, and Ally Salim Juma

Defenders: Shomari Kapombe, Israel Mwenda, Mohamed Hussein, Gadiel Michael, Kennedy Juma, Mohamed Ouattara, Joash Onyango, Henock Inonga Baka, and Erasto Nyoni

Midfielders: Sadio Kanoute, Mzamiru Yassin, Clatous Chama, Ismael Sawadogo, Said Ntibazonkiza, Denis Kibu, Pape Ousmane Sakho, and Peter Banda

Strikers: John Bocco, Jean Baleke, Moses Phiri, and Habibu Kyombo

Limping Azam FC hosts deflated Kinondoni Municipal Council FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Azam Complex Stadium will see Azam FC and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC do battle in 2022/23 NBC Premier League this Saturday evening, in what will be one of the most interesting games in the latest round of league fixtures.

The Dar es Salaam clubs are separated by 21 points in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League table, with third-placed Azam FC leading 12th-placed Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

Azam FC is currently off the back of a tough 1-1 draw with Simba SC in a tie that took place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Tuesday.

The Chamazi-based Azam FC is currently on a three-match winless streak and heads into the game against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC needing a swift response.

With fourth-placed Singida Big Stars playing later on Monday, this encounter is a magnificent opportunity for Azam FC to steer clear by three points and also reduce the gap with Simba SC, who will subsequently have a game in hand, to seven points.

Azam FC's assistant coach Aggrey Morris admitted they are out of the title race and are now focused on ensuring they finish in the top four and winning against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC will go a long way



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC midfielder, Emmanuel Mvuyekure (L), challenges his Azam FC counterpart, Sospeter Bajana when the clubs faced each other in the previous season's NBC Premier League clash held at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

in keeping off the chasing pack.

The gaffer noted: "In fact, if you look at our current posi-

tion, it is difficult for Azam FC to become champions. What we are looking at is making

sure we finish in the top four... we recognize that and our focus is on finishing in the top four."

On the other side, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC comes into this clash having suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat to defending champions Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, to stretch the former's winless run to six league games having suffered five losses in the run.

Thierry Hitimana-coached Kinondoni Municipal Council FC had suffered back-to-back defeats to Namungo FC (3-1) and Ruvo Shooting (2-1) in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League before that, leaving the club just one point clear of the relegation zone, as it occupies 12th place.

Ahmed Ally, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's assistant coach, said they have had only two days of preparation for this game and the technical bench will look to seek a balance between

players who are recov-

ering from the game against Yanga and those who are fresh to get a positive result.

In head-to-head stats, Azam FC and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC have met in nine league matches since the 2018/19 season.

The ice cream makers have claimed four wins compared to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's three, while two games have been drawn.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC is yet to win away in the rivalry, though, suffering four defeats from their five matches as visitors.

When the teams met earlier this season, at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam in October last year, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC claimed a 2-1 home win thanks to goals netted by George Makanga and Steven Nzigamasabo.

It was a third successive home win in the rivalry for the Kinondoni Municipal Council-owned outfit.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

