



### Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

UK house prices suffer the biggest decline seen for more than a decade

EACOP COMPENSATION: TEN HOUSES ARE PRESENTED TO KAGERA REGION RESIDENTS

DODOMA INAUGURATES ORGANIC FERTILISER FACTORY

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# Samia censures double-tongued leaders

By Guardian Reporter

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has castigated senior public officials for a poor job in articulating achievements of government policy, making it easier for people with ill intentions to mislead the public.

In a keynote address at a retreat for government officials including ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and their deputies in Arusha, the president urged officials to set out achievements attained by the government.

"I want to make a reminder on the importance of speaking for the government as part of communications outside the government, and in this particular area, we have not been performing well," she asserted.

"Officials have been very reluctant to speak about many achievements we have attained, leaving other people to mislead the public," she said, making reference to a cliché that "if a lie keeps being repeated it is finally accepted as true."

The government has accomplished a lot that has helped end complaints among the people hence it is has to be articulated by officials, to report on how the government made such changes possible.

"I saw one political leader blaming the government that it spends a lot of money looking for new water sources to supply water to the people, but there were several water wells dug in the past and abandoned.

"It is the same politician who in the past stated, for example, that here in Arusha many wells were dug but the water was salty, unfit for human consumption

"But now the same politician says the government has abandoned the wells and spend a lot of money looking for new water sources to supply water to the people," the president explained.

The ministry was supposed to quickly come up to respond about the issue, with actual statistics and tell him why the wells were abandoned, she said, intimating that this never happened.

"I remember during the water crisis in Dar es Salaam such wells that were shelved came to benefit the people. Therefore in such issues you must be fast in supplying explanations whenever you hear any misleading statements, she emphasised, underlining that this is but an example among many such

situations.

"I know that every ministry has an information unit, but how are they being used, or have they remained dormant?"

"There are also some ministers who have hired their own information officers who disseminate your own statements, and not the views of the government," she asserted, urging that such habits be rectified.

The dissemination of information is supposed to conform to regulations and procedures to avoid issuing contradictory statements from one institution and the same government, she elaborated

The president also dwelt on the country's peace and stability, saying that every public officer has the responsibility to help ensure the country is safe against enemies, within and outside our borders.

She similarly queried attitudes in regard to the relationship between government agencies and the private sector, reminding the senior public officials on the importance of cooperation with the private sector.

This is especially the case in improving the business and investment environment as crucial development strides in any country are attained from public-private collaboration, she emphasised.

"We should avoid statements that instil doubts on investors regarding intentions of the government. When we go to foreign countries we are armed with good language and woo them to come here and when they come what they hear from our officials discourages them," she added.



**We should avoid statements that instil doubts on investors regarding intentions of the government. When we go to foreign countries we are armed with good language and woo them to come here and when they come what they hear from our officials discourages them**



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured in Arusha city yesterday addressing ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries and various other senior government officials shortly before opening a retreat meant for them. Photo: State House.

## WCF praises policies for higher compliance rates

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) has seen a sharp increase in numbers of registered employers, explaining the change as arising from good government policies. Dr John Mduma, the director general, told journalists in Dodoma yesterday that a total of 29,978 firms had been registered by end of last month, with 5,250 new employers registered from March 2021 to February 2023.

Unaudited February 2023 data shows that WCF had registered a total of 29,978 employers, entirely among large enterprises, he said, noting that measures taken by the sixth phase government like enhancing

attractions for doing business helped with the surge.

Other measures involved the removal of obstacles, pointing out reducing workers' contribution rates and removal of interest on arrears, which eased the way for registering more employers, he stated. At present, the government has reduced burdens on employers in making contributions to WCF, with private sector payments reduced from one per cent to 0.5 per cent, bringing it to the same rate as public sector eligibility, he explained.

The government provided more relief to employers by reducing tax on arrears of unpaid contributions from

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## Petrol in 100/- rise, diesel in slight drop

By Guardian Reporter

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has announced new fuel prices for this month with prices for both petrol and diesel going up or down depending in import location.

Dr James Mwainyekule, the director general, said in a statement yesterday that in Dar es Salaam and nearby regions the price of petrol will be 2,960/- per litre, slightly upwards from 2,819/- in February. The price for diesel inched up from 3,105/- a litre last month to 3,130/-, increasing by 25/-.

In Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions, the price of petrol drops by 64/- per litre from 2,967/- in February to 2,903/- this month, while for diesel, the price drops by 209/- from 3,340/- a litre in February to 3,131 this month, he said.

The southern regions of Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma have retail petrol prices for March rising by 138/- a litre while for diesel it had dropped by 69/- a litre.

As there are no storage facilities for kerosene at Mtwara Port, operators of fuel stations in these regions are advised to get their kerosene supplies from the port of Dar es Salaam, the statement noted, indicating that retail prices for kerosene in those regions will have a mark-up for transportation cost from Dar es Salaam.

The ceiling retail price for Dodoma City for petrol will be 3,026/-, with the diesel cap pegged at 1,189/- and kerosene at 3,157/- per litre.

The prices changes are contributed to oil price variations on the world market, transportation and the value of the shilling against the US dollar, the statement added.



## Stakeholders' road safety project workshop ends

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DONOR agencies and road safety regulators yesterday ended the second workshop of the ten-step plan for the safer roads infrastructure project.

Works and Transport minister Prof. Makame Mbarawa, closing the workshop in Dar es Salaam, underscored the need

for stakeholders to work together to reach those goals.

He said that improving Tanzania's road infrastructure will reduce numbers of traffic fatalities and injuries, affirming that thousands of people die annually due to road crashes and the government spends upwards of 4bn/- in meeting



**We have work to do as the government needs to set budgets for purpose."**

those emergencies. The ten step plan for safer road infrastructure is a 30

months project designed to create safer roads and build sustainable institutional capacity to assess road safety impact. It is also a partnership to save lives and reduce serious injuries from road crashes, he said.

The project is jointly funded by the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth

and Development Office, along with the Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF) of the World Bank. World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics show the need for greater policy and infrastructure actions to reduce the number of road

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## WCF compliments policies for higher compliance rates

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10 per cent to two per cent. "All this aims to mobilise employers who are yet to register to do so and take up their responsibilities by paying contributions for the protection of workers in case of disasters at work places," the director affirmed. Prior to the fund, annual payment of accident compensation had attained 200m/- annually but since then, the figure has been scaling new heights each year, with recent statistics showing that WCF had compensated 10,454 workers at a total of 49.4bn/-.

Benefits paid out include medical expenses, permanent disability paid as monthly pension, payment to person taking care of the sick, burial expenses and payment to dependents if the worker dies, he stated.

WCF was bringing its services closer to stakeholders and its services can be accessed online he said, listing the services as including membership registration for employers to receive

a registration certificate. Others are payments of monthly contributions through a control number also accessible online, he said, pointing at other services as submission of contribution statements, making changes to statements regarding workers and submitting of reports regarding death or illness of a worker, he said.

He reminded employers on the Mainland that an employer is the one responsible to contribute to the fund, where it is a criminal offence for an employer to deduct money from a worker's salary for paying his WCF contribution.

WCF has also the responsibility to put into investments its investible funds on the basis of the 2015 Social Security Schemes (Investment) Guidelines, he said, noting that

89.7 per cent of WCF investment is in Treasury bonds, while also holding a stake in Mponde tea factory in Lushoto district of Tanga Region. By 30 June 2022, WCF had collected a total of 241.48bn/- in revenue from its investments, he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango addresses the Summit-level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to Covid-19 held in Baku, Azerbaijan, yesterday. Photo: VPO

## Stakeholders' road safety project workshop ends

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accidents. "We have work to do as the government needs to set budgets for purpose," he said, listing out the functions as involving the designing, assessment, upgrading and construction of new roads that comply with road safety rules.

It is the right time to ensure roads no longer cause accidents that result in fatalities and injuries,

thus more efforts should be directed at increasing awareness of road safety rules among users, he stated.

Susanna Zammataro, the International Road Federation (IRF) director general and project team leader, said that there are more outcomes noted during its implementation. The project has helped Tanzania to set out how thousands of new and existing roads will be

designed, improved and managed for improved road safety, she stated. Giving an overview of the project results, she said that it has played a role in increasing skills and capacities, strong partnership and fruitful investment in people.

Road safety in Tanzania and other developing countries is a big challenge as deaths occur due to poor infrastructure and poorly designed roads, she

stated.

"The project played a big role in building the capacities of local engineers to improve the safety of road infrastructure in the country in partnership with other stakeholders," she said, citing the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) and the National Institute for Transport (NIT).

Joseph Haule, the chairman of the Tanzania Road Association (TARA) and

secretary of the national steering committee, said that the workshop was intended to present results and key projected outcomes, handing over final reports and recommendations to the government. Other objectives were the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the lead institutions and key public agencies for the Tanzanian Road Assessment Programme (TanRAP), he added.



Workers' Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma updates journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on notable developments at the agency. This is a social security scheme established chiefly to provide adequate and equitable compensation for employees who suffer occupational injuries or contract occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment and in the event of death. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Peter Obi challenges elections results

LAGOS

Nigeria's presidential candidate Peter Obi, who came third in the February 25 election won by the ruling party's Bola Tinubu, announced yesterday that he would take his case to court to challenge the results.

"We will explore all legal and peaceful options to get our mandate back. We won the election and we will prove it to Nigerians," Obi of the Labour Party (LP) said at a press conference in the capital Abuja.

According to the Electoral Commission (Inec), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, 70, won the presidential election with more than 8.8 million votes, or 36% of the vote, at the end of a poll contested by the opposition, which denounced "massive" fraud.

The candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the former governor of Lagos, will succeed the outgoing president Muhammadu Buhari, 80, who has been criticized from all sides for his deplorable record and his two terms marked by an explosion of poverty and insecurity.

Peter Obi, 61, a youth favourite, came third with 25% of the vote, a first in Nigeria's democratic history for an outsider from the two main political

groups. The second-place winner is former vice-president Abubakar (29%) of the main opposition party (PDP).

The election, which was generally peaceful, was marked by delays in the counting of votes and major failures in the electronic transfer of results, angering many voters and opposition parties who claim that the votes were massively rigged.

"This election will go down as one of the most controversial ever held in Nigeria," Obi said.

"The Nigerian people have once again been robbed by our supposedly trusted leaders.

In the past, elections in Africa's most populous country have often been marred by allegations of fraud and violence.

On Wednesday, Tinubu called on his opponents to "team up together": "I ask you to join us so that we can start rebuilding our national home together.

Nicknamed the "godfather", the "kingmaker" or the "boss" for his considerable influence, Mr. Tinubu has been repeatedly accused of corruption during his career, without ever being convicted.

Candidates who want to contest the election have 21 days after the results are announced to file a lawsuit.

## UN deputy chief says Africa-led solutions key to achieving SDGs

ADDIS ABABA

UNITED Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed has called for Africa-led solutions as a key imperative to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

She made the remarks while addressing the Ninth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-9), which was underway from Tuesday to yesterday in a hybrid format in Niamey, capital of Niger, and online, said the

UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), one of the co-organizers of the forum.

The UN deputy chief also called for greater leadership, commitment and investment in achieving the SDGs in Africa.

"We have a common understanding that through Africa-led solutions born on the African soil we can change course and rise to the challenge of achieving Agenda 2063 and the SDGs," Mohammed said.

"World leaders must set clear

ambitions to reduce poverty and inequality by 2030 and must do this by making investments in Africa, investment in our economies, investment in our people especially our women and youth," she added.

The forum is organized jointly by the UNECA, the government of Niger in collaboration with the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other entities in the United Nations system. It is being held under the theme "Accelerating the inclusive and green

recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063."

Citing rising intra-Africa trade and the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement in lifting 30 million Africans out of poverty, Mohammed highlighted that African leaders have endorsed sustainable industrialization and economic diversification as key to Africa's development.

She further underscored the need that emerging green and digital technologies must be harnessed to serve Africa.

Ahead of the SDGs Summit in September 2023, she urged African leaders to set clear ambitions to reduce poverty and inequality by 2030 through leveraging financing and aligning clear SDG commitments to national institutions and budgets.

AU Commission Deputy Chairperson Monique Nsanzabaganwa

said both Agenda 2023 and Agenda 2063 "remain robust and essential blueprints for transformation and realizing the well-being of the peoples of the Africa we want."

The three-day event will review progress in the implementation of five selected SDGs on clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; sustainable cities and communities; and partnerships for the goals.





Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured yesterday gifting the Philippines' non-resident Ambassador to Tanzania, Marie Charlotte G. Tang, a souvenir carved Zanzibar door shortly after talks at Zanzibar State House. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## NIT, Kenya and Ethiopia colleges' staff exchange programme lauded

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Institute of Transport (NIT) and Kenya Aeronautical College, Kenya Railway Training Institute, Kenya Coast National Polytechnic (KCNP) and Ethiopia's Dire Dawa Polytechnic College have started sharing academic staff towards regional cooperation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

"Two of our academic staff have gone for attachments in Kenya Coast National Polytechnic (KCNP), two others went to Kenya Aeronautical College, Dire Dawa Polytechnic College received three lecturers from NIT while the four staff will be attached at Kenya Railway Training Institute," NIT Rector Prof Zacharia Mganilwa said recently after coming back from Ethiopia.

Prof Mganilwa noted: "Apart from our academic staff who went to Ethiopia and in Kenyan colleges; we have also received three staff from Kenya Coast National Polytechnic."

The NIT Rector recently attended the meeting in Addis Ababa that gathered education leaders from the three countries namely Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia where they signed a communique to adopt the Regional TVET Qualifications Framework.

Prof Mganilwa said that the adop-

tion of the Regional TVET Qualifications Framework is set to facilitate mobility of students, staff, and skilled labour initially across the 3 countries and eventually the entire region.

"Through this framework, in 2022/23 academic year, our institute will receive students from Kenya and Ethiopia, and vice versa students from Tanzania will go to study in Ethiopia and Kenya through a scholarship programme under East African Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP)," he said

Adding, he said "The adoption of regional qualifications framework at a high level helps create legitimacy for skills mobility and also removes technical bottlenecks in program articulation for the respective regulatory bodies."

While universities in the region have long been undertaking student and faculty exchange programmes, regional or international cooperation in TVET is a relatively new phenomenon. TVET programmes often aim for local and national markets including informal ones and can be difficult to scale up.

However, the National Institute of Transport (NIT)'s lecturers who attended the Exchange Programme at Ethiopia's Dire Dawa Polytechnic College applauded the programme,

said that the programme has broadened their outlook and experience and kept them up with the latest development in technology.

Eng Masunya Nashon said that their visit to the Ethiopian college for the exchange programme was a big exposure since it sharpened their knowledge and skills.

"We have exchanged the skills, knowledge and experiences with co-lecturers in Dire Dawa Polytechnic College as well as giving our knowledge to Ethiopian students," he said.

Eng Nashon who is also NIT's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer - for The Centre of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations (CoEATO) has applauded the EASTRIP project for supporting the staff exchange programme.

NIT Chief Internal Auditor who visited the institute academic staff in Ethiopia said:

"All of the academic staff who attended the programme in Ethiopia have realized that there are new skills and technologies which must be imparted to students to benefit the institute as well."

He further said: "By undergoing 34 days' of their programme with the Ethiopian college, our academic staff have got the opportunity to experience the real-life of working environment."

## Members of OIF organise series of events to mark Les Jours de la Francophonie in 2023

By Henry Mwangonde

THIRTEEN diplomatic missions in Tanzania who are members of the International Organisation of Francophonie (OIF) have organised a series of events to mark Les Jours de la Francophonie 2023, 15 days dedicated to celebrate French language and its linguistic and cultural diversity.

Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Comoros, Egypt, France, Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland and Vietnam) in Tanzania have lined up movies, art exhibitions, live concerts and many others will run Friday 10th to Friday 17th of March, 2023.

Speaking at press conference ahead of the events, Ambassador of France to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui said approximately 1.5 million Tanzanians are proficient in French, which is the only foreign language other than English to be offered as an option throughout the school curriculum.

As you can see, cultural diversity is the wealth of La Francophonie: a language shared by different people, who know and recognise each other through their belonging to a common Francophone space, he

said.

He said a rising number of students and professionals in Tanzania are learning French

saying the interest in French language can only be praised in a country which has several french speaking neighbours

and that has shown its strong commitment to participate in African economic and political integration.

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### Civil Engineer- 01 Position

#### ADVERTISEMENT

Applicants are invited to apply for the existing position mentioned above.

<b>Position Title :</b>	<b>Civil Engineer</b>
<b>Location :</b>	<b>Williamson Diamonds Limited, Mwadui, Shinyanga</b>
<b>Grade :</b>	<b>D3</b>
<b>Report :</b>	<b>Mine Chief Engineer</b>

**Summary:** Williamson Diamond Limited (WDL) is Tanzania's only large-scale diamond producer. The mine is an open pit operation based upon the 146-hectare Mwadui kimberlite pipe, which is one of the world's largest economic kimberlites. For over 80 years, Williamson Diamond Limited has lived side by side and co-existed peacefully with the communities around Mwadui, while implementing a wide range of development programs for the last ten years, focusing on promoting the lives and livelihoods of the communities surrounding Mwadui Mine Site.

**Role Description:** Manage operational, maintenance and surveillance of civil engineering infrastructure at mine camp and mine support including buildings, water dams and Tailings storage facility (TSF) and contracts according to standards and guidelines.

**Tasks and Responsibilities:**

- a) Head of Civil Engineering works reporting to Head of Engineering Department or delegated person.
- b) Responsible to manage all Civil Engineering works safety, work plans, control costs and maintain assets at workplaces including human capital, land, facility (dams and pump stations) complete with equipment and infrastructure at production and mine camp (infrastructure), PPE, tools and machinery, operational expenditure budget, and intellectual property
- c) Ensure compliance to All WDL policies and procedures.
- d) Appointed Responsible Dams Safety Engineer (RDSE) responsible to implement Water dams Management standards and guidelines on the water dams off the Mine lease at Nhumbu and Songwa and Tailings Management standards and guidelines on the Tailings storage Facility (TSF) in the Mine lease, to assure senior Management governance and to assure conformance by Water dam and TSF operators in collaboration with the Engineer of Records (EOR) who is a registered Approved Professional Person (APP) for dams.
- e) Implement the Water dams management standards in conjunction with Dam Safety Guidelines made under the Dam Safety Regulations GN 237 of 2013 with its amendments GN 55 of 2020 made under Part X, Sections 94 (1) and 111 (1) of the Water Resources Management Act No. 11of 2009 to guide the development of dams for any purpose
- f) Implement the Tailings Management standards (TMS) in conjunction with Global Industry Standard of Tailings Management (GISTM), Dam Safety Guidelines and PDL Group tailings storage facility procedure.
- g) Implement operations of the dams to meet the intent of design, Operations, Maintenance and Surveillance (OMS) of the dams (each Water dam and TSF) compliant to legal requirements during any phase of its life cycle from a new dam is designed and constructed, operated and ongoing construction as practicable, closed, and rehabilitated.
- h) Implement risk management plan of the operations of the dams in order to avoid failure of a facility due to negligible operator error and mitigate public health and safety risks to acceptably low community and environmental impacts.
- h) Ensure update/ real-time data collection and implement analysis and monitoring obtained from dam operations and safety monitoring devices
- i) Ensure to work well with subordinates, Co-workers (Geotechnical Geology, and any other), Engineer of Records (EOR), and relevant authorities.
- j) Implement a periodic review and update of the design and OMS manuals of the dams.
- k) Implement a periodic review and update of the TSF closure plan during Mine Closure Plan (MCP) review.
- l) Implement a programme for reviewing dam safety including an independent review.
- m) Manage operational alterations of the dam as they are identified/ considered to have potential deviation from the design intent and engage the EOR or Design team.
- n) Ensure periodic review, implementation and testing either as stand-alone plans or as components of site wide emergency responses plans of the emergency response plans of Water dams and Tailings management.
- o) Ensure to participate in or provide input to community engagement activities related to Water dams and Tailings management.
- p) Ensure in maintenance implementation of risk assessment (general/ mini), maintenance plans, assigned works completion, accurate work reports, quality assurance checkup, periodic and adhoc inspections, tests on specific

parts and systems, and accurate record keeping.

- q) Ensure pumping system equipment and infrastructure keep reliability, availability and capability as and when required to operate.
- r) Ensure periodic inspections of each dam facility, equipment and infrastructure are completed.
- s) Submit periodic reports, special reports or permit renewals to relevant authorities compliant to legal requirements.
- t) Maintain internal and external records related to design, construction, OMS, maintenance plans and implementations, data collection, correspondences and submitted reports.
- u) Effective Team Player:
  - Maintain and manage healthy relationships within own team and across teams.
  - Responsible to provide support to team within area of responsibility.
  - Responsible to share knowledge and skills with co-workers.
  - Responsible to use communication and feedback channels effectively."
- v) Effective Self Management: Responsible for managing own work performance and completing tasks as per set timelines and standards.

**Minimum Requirements for all applicants:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Civil or Geotechnical Engineering or its equivalent.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in a Civil or Geotechnical Engineer role within the mining industry or water dams construction project(s).
- Register by ERB as a Professional Engineer in Civil Engineering.
- Strong understanding of soil structural characteristics and methods of testing compaction and consolidation.
- Prior experience in maintenance management.
- Competent in Computer application.
- Excellent verbal and written communication in English and Swahili.
- Possession of a valid driving license.

**Other required Skills and Competencies:**

- Honesty, punctuality, ability to obey orders and dedicated to any legal task.
- Ability to work in a team environment.
- Experience and development in work place.
- Independent, effective and achieves set objectives.
- Flexibility in working beyond normal working hours.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent mechanical repair skills.
- Extensive knowledge as much of aspects of plant mechanical equipment maintenance and repair.
- Adequate Computer literacy in MS office applications, MS Project and AutoCAD for Civil Engineering.

**Mode of Application**  
 Candidates meeting the requisite qualifications should submit their applications describing how they qualify for the positions. They should also send detailed CV, copies of certificates, three referees, daytime telephone numbers and e-mail addresses before **04<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at 16hrs00**. Via the following address:

**Human Resources Manager,**  
**Williamson Diamonds Ltd,**  
**P. O. Box 23,**  
**Mwadui-Shinyanga.**

Or drop the same through the following email,  
[joseph.mokoro@petradiamonds.co.tz](mailto:joseph.mokoro@petradiamonds.co.tz)

Williamson Diamonds Limited supports the Mineral policy (2009) of Tanzania and is committed to ensure adequate development of local technical capacity to service the mining industry; and to employ local experts available and develop succession plans for Tanzanians to take over expatriate positions. Pre-screening, profile testing, on mine assessments, medical and security clearances form part of the minimum requirement and selection process. Short listed candidates will be required to attend a panel interview. Employment of the successful candidate is subject to passing on mine induction and the aforementioned criteria.

If you do not hear from us after **30<sup>th</sup> April, 2023** please consider yourself unsuccessful. Williamson Diamonds Limited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Please note that Petra Diamonds does not at any time require any form of payment for recruitment purposes. If you are approached in this regard, you should report the incident immediately via one of the following hotlines:**  
**Phone Call: +255 28 276 3872+255 767 744 617;**



# Telco out to list winning start-ups for its inventive jointly run programme

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania is set to unveil the final 3 innovative tech start-ups who have emerged winners of its Vodacom Digital Accelerator (VDA) program season 2 tomorrow, following the completion of the program which was being implemented in collaboration with Smart Lab.

The three winners will be determined after pitching in front of a panel of judges well versed in the areas of Tech, Entrepreneurship, investments and legal.

The Pitching presentation for the tech start-ups is expected to take place today in Dar es Salaam.

Director of Digital Services at Vodacom Tanzania PLC Nguvu Komando said that, designed for early-stage post revenue innovative start-ups, season two of the Vodacom Digital Accelerator programme commenced in April last year and opened applications to Tanzanian tech start-ups with creative solutions with the potential to scale.

He said from hundreds of applications received, 12 start-ups were selected to join the programme and entered the acceleration phase, the programme where they got to receive additional assistance in developing their marketing strategies, technical aspects, and connections with potential investors and partners.

Komando said that, the 12 start-ups are from different sectors including fintech, health, e-commerce, education, agriculture, and cyber security industries.

"We are excited to have reached this stage of the VDA program where we get to see how VDA has accelerated Tanzanian innovative tech start-ups, their pitching presentations will determine the final 3 winners, who will receive over 200m/- of value-based support and a potential of follow-on investments.

I urge Investors and stakeholders in the tech and innovation ecosystem to register on our digital platforms to participate virtually in the demo presentation taking place tomorrow," he said.

He said that the public is also invited to join in, listen to the pitch and vote for the top start-ups through a link that will be shared on the company's social media pages.

The tech start-ups that are in the run for the final prize include ShuleYetu Innovations, Smart Darasa, Lango Academy, and Vijana Tech, under Edutech. Hack it Consultancy representing the cyber security space. Seto, Twenzao, Get Value, and Spidi Africa under the e-Commerce banner. Others are Medpack representing Health tech, and finally, Bizy Tech and Bizzy Pay on the Fintech side.



Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (2nd-L) pictured in Arusha on Wednesday going through the architectural drawings of what is meant as a 2bn/- wing housing a passenger lounge at Arusha Airport. Photo: Ministry of Works and Transport

## ALAF donates 10m/- to police's road safety unit

By Francis Kajubi

ALAF Tanzania Limited has donated 10m/- to the traffic police to facilitate its daily operations ahead of the road safety week to be held in Mwanza city at national level.

Speaking at the handing over event at the traffic head offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday, ALAF Tanzania Relations Manager, Hawa Bayumi said the donation is meant to support efforts by the

police road safety unit.

The donation was received by the National Road Safety Council Executive Secretary, SACP Ramadhani Ng'anzi.

"ALAF has made this contribution as part of the celebration of the road safety week for the year 2023. The donation aims to encourage provision of road safety education to all groups of road users to make the roads safer," said Bayumi.

According to her, ALAF Limited, de-

spite distinguishing itself in the production and distribution of quality roofing products, is also focused on giving back to the community through various fields such as education, health, housing and the environment.

Meanwhile, Ng'anzi commended ALAF for the contribution and that it will help in the fight against road accidents.

"The goal is to provide education and ultimately reduce road accidents. This

money will be used to provide education to various groups who use the road, including pedestrians," he said.

This year's road safety week will be held from March 13rd to 17th in Mwanza Region.

ALAF is a Tanzanian company that produces construction materials such as steel, coloured steel, non-coloured steel, and tiles. With more than 60 years of experience, ALAF ensures to provide its customers with quality products.



Kishapu District Council director Emmanuel Johnson (L) presents 64,000/- to newly enrolled Isono Secondary School Form One student Kabula Sita to help her and a colleague buy school uniforms. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Malolo village to benefit from three-year CoForEST project

By Beatrice Philemon

MALOLO village in Ruangwa District in Lindi Region is among several villages which are set to benefit from a three-year project dubbed Conserving Forests through Sustainable, forest-based Enterprise Support in Tanzania (CoForEST).

Speaking on behalf of the Malolo village residents, Wilbat Mwambe who is a farmer said the aim of the project was to contribute to Tanzania's development vision by supporting domestic value chains in forest products including sustainable charcoal and timber harvesting.

The project seeks to achieve the project goal through three inter-connected outcomes that includes Scaling up- Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and piloting a sustainable financing mechanism.

After attending several training including good governance on the project, Mwambe is now able to adopt the principles of good governance, transparency, accountability.

He lauded TFCG and MJUMITA for introducing the training in their localities saying village leaders can quickly spot errors that can affect the village work plan.

The plan also seeks to provide a report on what has been obtained, financial performance results, transparency and accountability

has also been improved, something that was not the case in the past," he said.

Right now they utilize village funds through a village action plan formulated by the village government in collaboration with villagers.

Apart from that, village leaders are now honest about what they're doing and manage village resources in a manner that promotes the rule of law and the realization of human rights.

Under the project, people were also trained on gender and gender equality.

Also women are now free to own land similarly to men, a married woman can purchase land and write her name or her name and husband's name in title deeds.

He also called upon MJUMITA and TFCG to train them on conservation agriculture to conserve forest resources within their village land, protect water sources, stop shifting agriculture that causes deforestation and climate change.

MJUMITA's Policy and dialogue officer, Elida Fundi said CoForEST project is being implemented in 30 villages in Morogoro region whereas in Lindi Region, it is being implemented in three districts namely Liwale, Nachingwea and Ruangwa Districts and in Iringa Region it is being implemented in Kilolo District.

## TPDC set to construct CNG station and vehicle modification workshop

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) plans to construct a state of the art Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station in Dar es Salaam with a vehicle modification workshop to be run by the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, TPDC director for petroleum and gas Wellington Hudson said the

station will have the capacity to serve six vehicles at a time hence reducing congestion on the only two stations currently operating in the city.

"This centre will have a vehicle modification centre but also it will be a mother station to feed others which will be constructed across Dar es Salaam," he said.

He said the centre will be constructed at Mlimani city with nine other extended centres to be completed

in the next 24 months at Mkuranga, Bagamoyo and Goba.

The official was explaining on the current queue at the Ubungo CNG filling station saying this was a result of a technical fault development by a CNG tanker at the Tazara filling station.

He said there has been a new wave of people seeking to modify their vehicles to use gas to save cost and reduce carbon emissions with

TPDC planning to build five new filling stations along Sam Nujoma Road, Ferry, Muhimbili, Kibaha and Ubungo.

In the abundance of natural gas deposits in Tanzania, the public is advised to convert their petrol or diesel-fueled vehicles to natural gas so as to save cost and reduce carbon emissions.

CNG potential increases for powering vehicles in the country as the price of petro-

leum products keep skyrocketing globally.

Currently, there are only three points located in Dar es Salaam where Tanzanians can install CNG systems are the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), BQ Company and Anric Gas Technologies and available data shows that over 1,000 vehicles have already been converted to CNG use.



## Tanzania agrees to establishment of SADC's humanitarian, emergency operations centre

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has become the first country to sign the Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) amongst Southern African Development Community member states for the establishment of a SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC).

The objective of the SHOC is to coordinate humanitarian and emergency support to member states affected by disasters within the region, thereby contributing to disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

Speaking during the signing ceremony in Dodoma recently, George Simbachawene, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, and Coordination) said member states cooperate on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) through the committee of ministers responsible for disaster risk management.

He added that some of the actions taken to strengthen cooperation in DRM include the establishment of a Regional Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre located in Nacala, in the Nampula Province of Mozambique.

The center was launched by Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique on June 21, 2021.

"The government of Tanzania has continued to manage and coordinate the implementation of disaster management activities in line with the objectives of the SHOC," he said.

The minister expressed the government's expectation that the centre will deepen cooperation among SADC member states, strengthen the region capacity to address disasters, improve security of people and properties in the region and establish closer relations among the people of the region.

He said the centre is being established through an agreement that has been approved by the necessary SADC structures including the committee of ministers responsible for disaster risk management.

Addressing the occasion, Dr Phineas Leonard Matto Legal Counsel at the SADC Secretariat, who represented the Executive Secretary of SADC Ambassador Elias Magosi, appreciated the contribution of Tanzania towards combating and addressing the effects of disasters in the region.

He specifically pointed to the contribution made towards the develop-

ment, validation and adoption of the MoA.

He expressed his hope that other member states will follow suit and sign the Memorandum of Agreement for it to enter into force to pay way for the fully operationalization of the centre.

The centre will become fully operational in line with the provisions of the Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreement once 11 or more of the 16 SADC member states have signed.

The occasion was also attended by Dr John Jingu, Permanent Secretary Prime Minister's Office Policy, Parliament Affairs and Coordination, Major General Charles Mang'era Mbuge, Director of Disaster Management Department and senior government officials.

Given the rapidly changing disaster landscape in the SADC region, now characterized by more frequent disaster events with intensified severity of impacts, the SADC council of ministers during their meeting held in March 2022 approved the interim activities towards the operationalisation of the SHOC while the SADC secretariat is facilitating the signing of the MoA.



Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Anna Henga speaks at an International Women's Day (March 8) pre-commemoration event held in Bagamoyo yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## NACOPHA appeals to stakeholders to ensure availability of HIV/AIDS drugs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) has appealed to the government and other stakeholders to ensure the availability of antiretroviral (ARVs) drugs without any kind of discrimination.

It also appealed for increased political will in effort to provide national push to reduce discrimination and attain the global agenda to eradicate HIV/Aids by 2030.

The call was made by the NACOPHA Vice Chairperson, Yusuf Mmarere during event to mark the World Zero Discrimination Day 2023, nationally held in Dodoma.

"There is need to continue assessing our success in ending discrimination in the country and the need to collaborate with religious leaders in the fight against the problems since they have platforms in the society," he said.

He also pointed out the need for the government and other stakeholders to strongly promote the fight against discrimination in primary and secondary schools as well as higher learning institutions.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, and Coordination), George Simbachawene, who was the chief guest, Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule said bad traditions, discrimination and others forms lead to more HIV/Aids infections.

"Statistics show that with increased cases of gender violence, poor traditions, among others, it is women and girls who bear worst experiences," she said.

The RC noted that social discrimination at fam-

ily, by friends and at work places make those living with HIV/Aids and those at risk of getting new infections feel rejected and unwanted and do not get the desired services.

She noted that there is relation between HIV/Aids infections and gender equality and that many infections in women and girls are results of gender inequality as well as gender violence.

Senyamule however added that the government in collaboration with other stakeholders such as the National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) has encouraged people living with HIV to join other groups in effort to be economically and socially empowered.

She applauded TACAIDS and NACOPHA for strongly working to strengthen rights of people living with HIV/Aids in the country. "The government has also ensured the availability of ARVs in the country in effort to support those living with the disease" she said, appealing to service providers to refrain from any form actions that degrade people living with HIV/Aids.

Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on 1st March to create awareness among people about their rights to live an equal and productive life without any kind of discrimination.

The primary purpose of celebrating the Zero Discrimination Day is to initiate and appreciate a movement of solidarity on global level to eradicate all forms of discrimination.

Every year on Zero Discrimination Day, events, workshops, seminars, and educational programmes are being held globally to educate people about the adverse effects of discrimination on the world.

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Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Dr Angeline Mabula (L) has a word yesterday with the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency's Arusha District engineer, Albert Kyando, while on an inspection tour of the Safari City project at Burka Mateves on the outskirts of Arusha city. Photo: Lands ministry

## Zanzibar to build international airport in Pemba, says Mkuya

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has said during the 2023/2024 financial year budget outlook and development it plans to implement big strategic projects including construction of an all-inclusive port at Mangapwani in Unguja.

During the financial year, the government also plans to construct an international airport in Pemba, build internal road infrastructures including in rural areas that will boost the transport and tourism sectors.

Dr Saada Mkuya, Minister of State in the President's Office, Finance and Planning made the remarks in the House of representative when submitting the development plan and the budget outlook for the Zanzibar government for the 2023/2024 financial year.

She said in regard to the development plan, priority will be given

to implementing strategic projects which are part of the implementation of the CCM 2020/2025 Election Manifesto and the Zanzibar Development Vision.

Dr Mkuya said in strategies to open up Pemba Island, her government plans to construct an international airport whose preparations have been finalised while the process now is to pay compensation to the people who paved the way for the project.

She added that in the plan, an airport will be built at Nungwi as a strategy to boost transport infrastructures and develop the tourism sector.

According to her, the project for the construction of the all-inclusive port at Mangapwani is in the books as well as other ports at Malindi, Wete and Mkoani in Pemba.

She said in regard to road infrastructures, the government plans to build the 22-km ChakeChake-Wete

road that will join the two Pemba's regions with a tarmac road.

She said the construction of the 48.5-km Tunguu-Makunduchi road will also be implemented as well as the 12-km Fumba-Kisauni road.

In strengthening road infrastructures aimed at boosting the tourism sector, Dr Mkuya said the government plans to build 275.0-km of village roads and 277-km of other internal roads.

She said the 2023/2024 budget outlook contains special issues that have been adhered to including pension for the aged and for the retired employees.

She explained that in the 2023/2024 budget outlook, the government revenues are expected to reach 273bn/-, an increase of 149bn/- or 16 per cent increase compared to the preceding 2022/2023 budget of 259bn/-.

## Kisumu Court issues arrest warrant to teachers suspected in exam leakage

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM'S Kisumu Resident Magistrates Court has issued an arrest warrant for four teachers who were being prosecuted for leaking the 2022 Std VI Examinations after violating bail conditions.

The order of the arrest was issued yesterday before the Court's Principal Resident Magistrate, Pamela Mazengo when the case was called for mention and the accused persons were not to be

seen without prior excuse.

State Attorney Faraji Nguka claimed in court that the case was up for mention but the four accused were not present. He named the four accused as Jacob Adagi, Joel Ngome, Lloyd Mpande and Leonard Odongo, all teachers.

Earlier, State Attorney Nguka claimed that investigations of the case were not yet complete.

When the accused names were called, they were not in court hence the court issued the arrest warrant for vio-

lating bail conditions.

Magistrate Mazengo called on the prosecution side to speed up the investigations of the case.

Apart from the four, other accused in the case are Johnson Ondieka, Patrick Chawawa, Theresia Chitanda, Elinami Sarakikya, Joyce Nkomola, Docras Muro and Alcherous Malinzi.

It was earlier alleged in court that between October 2 and 12 2022, in Dar es Salaam, the accused distributed the examination via social networks - What-

sApp and Instagram thereby causing its leak to people who had no authority to oversee.

It was also alleged that during the same period, Malinzi, one of the accused made fictitious documents purporting to show that the Std VII Examination in regard to the "Uraia" (Civics), and "Maadili and Maarifa ya Jamii" (Ethics and Social Science) subjects issued by the National Examinations Council (NECTA) were genuine, while they were not.

## 4 million farmers to benefit from EFTA support

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

Tanzania is embarking on a special scheme to assist local farmers to mechanize their agricultural activities for improved yields, it was revealed in Arusha.

This new initiative will see nearly 4 million peasants and farmers ditching their hand-held hoes and adopting the use of high-tech, precisely modern tractors to execute their food growing industries.

More than 200 farmers in Manyara, Dodoma, Morogoro and Shinyanga Regions are meanwhile also undergoing practical training in agricultural mechanization for future food security, an initiative hatched through EFTA equipment loaning scheme.

The training will be conducted in Hanang district of Manyara, Kibagwa in Dodoma, Kahama, Shinyanga and Kilombero in Morogoro, where EFTA is loaning out agricultural machinery to local farmers.

"In association with our business partners, the CRDB Bank and Hughes Agriculture, EFTA is loaning out 200 new Holland branded tractors to farmers as well as small and medium enterprises in the country's agricultural sector," said Nicomed Bohay, managing director of EFTA.

But in order to effectively handle the tractors and related accessories, EFTA is setting out to field train local farmers in agricultural mechanization, issues of climate change and financial management to make farming activities more resilient to ever changing weather and profitable.

EFTA is a leasing company regulated by the Bank of Tanzania with the mission of financing equipment without collateral for Small

and Medium Enterprises that cannot access bank financing.

The institution has already issued 330 new tractors to farmers in the last twelve months.

This time EFTA has procured 200 units of New Holland Agriculture branded TT75 Four-Wheel-Drive tractors for leasing to smallholder farmers to support the country's 2025 vision for mechanization, increase agricultural production, and improve food security.

EFTA currently has 1,045 active leases and has financed over USD 69 million in equipment for SMEs and farmers.

A total of 1800 tractors are sold in Tanzania every year, which means the 530 such machines loaned through EFTA account for 23 per cent of the country's farm tractors deployments.

New Holland Agriculture, a brand of CNH Industrial, Hughes Agriculture Tanzania Limited (HAT), the local distributor in Tanzania, and CRDB bank are working together to structure and execute this transaction as all are focused on bringing mechanization to 3.7 million smallholder farmers.

"Mechanization will ensure the long-term goal of Tanzania becoming food secure. We are proud to play a role in helping farmers to start using tractors and other machinery to speed up work and improve their yields," said Stuart Leishman, the managing director of HAT.

The New Holland Business Director for Middle East and Africa, Özkan Eren added that other than supplying equipment, they were also committed to train the farmers and offer all technical support they may require in order to boost both productivity and profitability.



National Service chief Maj Gen Rajabu Mabele briefs journalists at Chamwino in Dodoma Region on Wednesday on the force's 60th anniversary. The event is scheduled to be marked at national level in Dodoma city on July 10. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

## Mhagama calls upon ministry officials to cooperate with new deputy minister, PS

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

OFFICIALS in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) have been called upon to continue cooperating with new officials recently appointed to the Office by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State to the Office made the appeal here on Tuesday at a short ceremony to welcome the new appointees to the office, Ridhiwan Kikwete, Deputy Minister and Juma Mkomi, the new permanent Secretary.

She said cooperation to the new appointees will to a great extent enable

them to implement their responsibilities fully and make their contributions in the public service as envisaged by president Samia.

Mhagama said the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) has received officials with appropriate qualifications for boosting management efforts, "hence we have to give them adequate cooperation for them to perform their responsibilities."

She added that the new appointees will continue from where their predecessors ended in building an ethical and responsible public service by providing better services to the people.

Meanwhile, Ridhiwan Kikwete, the new deputy minister pledged to cooperate with all officials and workers and that he will make sure he stands by justice in performing his duties.

Kikwete said among his duties is to assist the minister to implement her responsibilities in the management of public service and good governance, saying in doing so he will be part in the implementation of President Samia's goals in building up a civil service accountable to the public.

In the same vein, the new PS Juma Mkomi pledged to cooperate with all officials in his office and also sought

their cooperation to enable him implement his new responsibilities given by President Samia in strengthening the country's public service.

Mkomi thanked his predecessor, Dr Laurean Ndumbaro for the foundations he built in the public service and pledged to continue utilizing his wisdom in strengthening the service.

In a word of thanks, the outgoing PS Dr Ndumbaro thanked minister Mhagama, officials and other workers in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) for the cooperation given to him during his tenure.





Nachingwea district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo (in cap) makes an inspection tour of Majogo Primary School on Wednesday. He ordered the demolition of rundown classrooms for immediate rebuilding before it gets too late. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## IRUWASA implements projects valued at 220bn/- in bid to strengthen water supply

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Iringa Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (IRUWASA) is currently implementing various water projects worth 220bn/- which upon completion will strengthen water supply and address water woes in the region.

Director of IRUWASA, Eng David Pallangyo said this here when speaking to journalists on the achievements recorded by the authority.

According to him, the government has dished out a lot of funds to facilitate construction of various water projects so as to ensure that every citizen has access to the precious liquid to further stimulate economic and social development.

He also said that the installation of modern pre-paid water meters has increased collection enabling

the authority to fetch around 200m/- per month from the new meters.

"We are grateful for the manner in which the government is injecting us with enough funds to enable us to implement diverse vital water projects with an eye to improve availability of water services across the Iringa region," Eng Pallangyo said.

He said: "In the first phase, we have managed to install at least 6,700 in public institutions, but our vision is to have all of our customers connected to the devices. Installation of the pre-paid meters plays a paramount role in helping us to timely collect water bills payments, and the system is a time saver which among others, reduces the burden of employing a huge number of water meter readers."

He added that since when they started to install the pre-paid meters in 2015, there has

been a great success while also succeeding in reducing customer complaints about challenges in water payment invoices.

Eng Pallangyo detailed that the authority was currently earning more than 850m/ in a month in terms of payment of water bills.

Despite the tall success, he said the authority was still facing various problems, including the destruction of the environment that causes drought and decreasing water depth.

"Environmental destruction that is fuelled by the increase of human activities, has contributed significantly to the drying up of water sources thus leading to rationing of water services," he said.

However, he said that the authority is taking various efforts to improve sewage disposal service so as to make the town clean and safe from diseases.

## Babati District court sentences four people to 88 years in jail

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

FOUR people have been sentenced to 88 years in jail by Babati district Court after they were found guilty of possessing government trophies without license.

The ruling was issued by the court's resident magistrate Victor Kimario who named the convicts as Langay Surumbu (55) a resident of Endadish village in Babati, Mussa Kwanangw (42), Atylu Khamis (36) and Hhaayuma Lohay (36) all residents of the village.

The magistrate said he had found the two guilty after listening to both the prosecution and defense sides saying the prosecution side had six witnesses while the accused were defending themselves.

Kimario said the accused were sentenced to 22 years in jail each for violating section 86(1)(2) (c)(iii) of the wildlife Act, 283 as revised in 2003.

He said the accused were on 22 December, 2022 at Endadish village found in possession of forest Kudu meat weighing 1576 kilogrammes which was estimated to be worth \$2200 (5.05m/-).

State Attorneys Rusticus Muhundi and Abood Komanya said

there were no criminal records for the suspects but asked the court to give a huge punishment so that it offers a lesson to others as the tourism sector was key to national development.

Mahundi said being found in possession of the wild animal was derailing the efforts to increase government revenues hence those doing it have no difference with those doing sabotage to national economy.

The accused were given a chance to defend themselves in which one of the suspects said he was sick and asked the court to forgive him without mentioning the kind of sickness.

The second accused requested the court to forgive him because he was residing with her mother who is old and also taking care of his brother who is paralyzed.

The third suspect pleaded with the court to reduce the punishment because he had four children who are still in school with his wife escaping him due to the charges he was facing.

After the defense, magistrate Kimario said he had taken into consideration their defense but said the law was straight on the punishments to be given for such offences.



### PUBLIC NOTICE Intention to Cancel Registration for Value Added Tax of Traders No Longer Possessing Registration Criteria

Dar es Salaam, 1st March, 2023:

The provision of **Section 28** and **Section 29** of the **Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 148 (R.E 2019)** require persons who meet the set Value Added Tax (VAT) registration criteria, to apply to the Commissioner General to register for VAT. Among the criteria for VAT registration is the attainment of set turnover threshold. Moreover, **Regulation 14 of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations 2015** clarifies the set registration threshold to be **One Hundred Million Shillings**.

The review of our database for VAT registered traders has revealed that, some of VAT registered traders have turnover below the required threshold hence have lost criteria for registration. In order to increase efficiency in administering VAT, the Commissioner General intends to exercise powers conferred under **Section 41** of the **VAT Act** to **cancel VAT registration** of all traders whose turnover have fallen below the required threshold and those who lost qualities provided under **Section 29** of the same Act. **However, this notice does not remove the obligation to pay tax liabilities or submit previous tax returns by taxpayers who are intended to be deregistered.**

In view of the above, the general public is notified that, **the list of taxpayers whose VAT registration will be cancelled is available in the TRA Website (www.tra.go.tz)**. Taxpayers who will be aggrieved with this decision, are required to file to the Commissioner General statement of reasons stating why they should not be deregistered from VAT. The statement should be channelled through respective **Regional Manager's Offices**, and be made **within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice**. The Authority will continue with the deregistration process without further notice upon expiration of the provided period.

For further information, please visit your nearest TRA office or use the following contacts to reach us: -

**Website:** www.tra.go.tz  
**Toll Free:** 0800 750 075 or 0800 780 078  
**WhatsApp:** 0744 23 33 33  
**E-mail:** services@tra.go.tz or huduma@tra.go.tz

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*A. J. Kidata*

A.J. Kidata  
**Commissioner General**



the accused were on 22 December, 2022 at Endadish village found in possession of forest Kudu meat weighing 157.6 kilogrammes which was estimated to be worth \$2200 (5.05m/-).



FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2023

**Taking A New Look  
At The News**  
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## Dual citizenship becoming popular issue, step by step

As political parties in our country start organising public rallies in earnest, a whole range of subjects are being floated. This is within a wider realisation of what kind of political animation is expected, and to what ends.

This has the effect of inducing a drift from the usual flavour as it is likely to excite hardened ears in certain quarters, which wouldn't augur well with electoral chances in future or coming polls.

In that context, migrating to safe zones - including floating harmless ideas earlier largely shirked - starts.

Dual citizenship is one such idea in that it has been popular at certain levels, especially for the Diaspora, and of late there is more intense activism on that aspect.

Previous years saw the idea moved from taboo in party ranks to a major reform parameter, not being put out publicly but with well-placed leadership contestants fielding it in closed-door meetings to try to formalise it into party thinking.

That did not succeed as most upper-level cadres including parliamentarians stuck to traditional misgivings on dual loyalties.

The major reason wasn't that party militants actually detested those who have lived and worked outside but this attitude, or mode of thinking, was a result of the legacy of the rise to independence and what happened later.

To be fair, the legacy wasn't all that too strong but there were indeed fears that those with foreign citizenships could come around and start buying up land, and soon there would be very little land left for sharing around.

In some quarters, it was also given as one of the reasons for the failure

of the East African common market protocol, which was cited as the free movement of capital and labour.

Admittedly, attitudes on dual citizenship differ from one country to another with chances that countries that still refuse dual citizenship are but a handful, with the benefits of such an arrangement having been observed and appreciated over time.

Countries are competing for foreign investment flows and the remittances of those living outside the country, but these can only remit significantly when there is property they are purchasing.

They will not dispatch hefty amounts of cash to assist in service delivery or national development as political language makes it appear - and, in issuing those appeals, they postpone debate.

There is yet another sphere where dual citizenship is crucial for the country's image; this is in sports and especially soccer, as teams from the neighbourhood are beefed up by their young people whose parents migrated in the past.

When these are grown-ups, they have a choice in deciding which country they will play for, a decision that is first made in relation to youth tournaments and then for adult competitions. It can be reversed but only once - when a youth makes elects the senior national team to play for.

Again, those who know anything about demography and urban growth tendencies will realise that those coming from outside don't seek to live in villages and buy up surrounding land. That is left to retirees harvesting fairly fat amounts of money and wishing to make use of differential land prices, their sights set agriculture.

## Nigerian polls a lesson of political reform without economic renewal

NIGERIA has completed its electoral cycle with victory of the ruling coalition, whose candidate was declared winner with a few hundred thousand votes ahead of his closest rival, the former vice president.

A strong third candidate came within close to a million fewer votes at over five million, the leading contestants obtaining well over six million votes. That would not do for a population of roundabout 150 million, with chroniclers saying only 26 per cent of eligible voters in fact cast ballots.

What was also noticeable was that some of the old rules of Nigerian electoral politics have started to pale away.

One commentator heard or watched on some international media leading a group known as 'Enough is Enough Nigeria' praising the polls as having put forth a novelty, providing space for youth participation and expression.

That summation may well have been well-founded but seeing apathy rise to over 70 per cent of the total electorate showed that democratic practice stood on shaky waters. So, it is crucial that modalities be found to clear any thorns on the way so that hope is restored for the good of democracy.

The situation in Nigeria is by and large a mirror of what is happening in various other parts of Africa, and to an extent it is a variation of modern states generally.

Many countries truly know democracy only after enormous pain of populist frenzy and conservative autocracy threatening to pulling society apart, or actually wreaking untold havoc.

It is often only when those indeed seeking to bring about positive change in society realise that there is no such likelihood that they tone down their mobilisation platforms to fit into electoral politics without chaos or instability.

Nigeria has for long experienced hardcore, wide-ranging instability, but the foundations of democracy in the country have remained relatively solid despite decades of intermittent periods of military rule.

Even with the massive availability of technology able to transform agriculture in a matter of two to three years, most African countries remain known for trademark land tilling across all the 60 years of independence.

Within that framework all manner of ills arise, as elites seek positions in civil or military structures to make it and be revered for their success, with everyone being aware that the rule is bribes.

Indeed, 'I scratch your back, you scratch mine' was a favourite Nigerian expression in the 1970s. Much of this was later cleared, with ministers being put to prison, their careers tarnished, etc., etc.

Still, most of the youth see little hope, and this just cannot be a recipe for really lasting peace or meaningful development.

As often happens elsewhere, Nigeria is unlikely to have the willpower to make radical changes in what some political economists may describe as 'the ownership of the means of production'.

That would entail ridding the country of non-delivering state monopolies and enabling new companies in service delivery and technology to be formed, thus creating more and more jobs.

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## Women severely under-represented in Australian media

By Special Correspondent

MEN continue to dominate the Australian media, from the newsroom to the boardroom, according to a new study showing that women are severely under-represented in terms of media coverage.

The just-released Women in Media Gender Scorecard issues reports on the portrayal of women featured in the news and used as both sources and experts in their field.

It finds that men account for 70 per cent of quoted sources, with a similarly high figure included as experts.

Published by Women in Media, a 6,000-member organisation for women working in all facets of the media - the Scorecard identifies core areas in media analytics (bylines, sources, experts) to monitor change and positive or negative shifts towards achieving parity for women.

Research partner Isentia analysed 18,346 Australian print, radio and TV news reports over a 14-day period, July 18-31, 2022, to compile the research. This research picks up on data collected in 2016 by Isentia and Women in Media.

The Scorecard defines male-female parity as '100' with any number under 100 showing an under-representation of women in the media.

Isentia's Insights director Ngaira Crawford noted: "This research highlights the 14-point gap that exists today between male and female

representation. Having an industry measure like the Women in Media Gender Scorecard provides tangible data and transparency on the issue of gender representation in the media."

While the latest Scorecard of 86 out of 100 is up 8 points on the 2016 ranking, true parity with men remains a distant goal, according to Women in Media strategic advisor Petra Buchanan.

"This report proves that a gender divide still exists," Buchanan said, elaborating: "The research shows that the inclusion, portrayal and projection of women in Australian media have quite some way to go."

"Based on its current trajectory, the Women in Media Gender Scorecard will not achieve media gender parity until 2034.

"That is far too long to wait for equal representation of women as authors, sources and experts in the media. Steps need to be taken now to speed up change.

"Action in key sectors including retail, sport, health, social issues and education will drive us towards achieving that objective sooner."

Key findings of the include, ONE: Males dominate as byline authors, sources and experts in the most prolific sections of the media: sport (82 per cent male authors, only 18 per cent women), politics (59 per cent male authors, only 41 per cent women) and finance (63 per cent male authors, only 37 per cent women).

TWO: Even when adjusting for the share of employment, females remain highly underrepresented as sources and experts in media cov-

erage. THREE: Several industries, such as retail and sport, recorded a 40 per cent under-representation of female sources given their high share of female employment.

FOUR: Sport has an outsized effect in the media, accounting for almost a quarter of all bylined stories. With only 18 per cent of sport stories written by women, it brings female bylines down to 43 per cent overall. If sports coverage was removed from the data, women's bylines for the reference period would exceed parity at 51 per cent.

FIVE: Efforts to achieve gender parity among media organisations have had positive results, with an upswing of more than 10 per cent towards women since 2016. However, the Scorecard projects that it will take more than a decade to achieve parity unless proactive campaigns are implemented to effect change.

Women in Media wants to ensure that women are seen and heard in the media and are called on for their leadership and expertise commenting on issues and sharing their opinions, contributions and reactions as a fair representation of Australian society.

"For women to achieve parity in voice and representation we need the media to ensure more female journalists are writing, producing, fronting and being technically involved in all aspects," Buchanan said.

She added: "Women must be empowered as sources and experts in news and storytelling. Imposing a gender lens on the media is an important way to monitor progress

and identify where effort, investment and action can be taken to address female under-representation."

According to Women in Media, industry, organisations and the media can make quicker advances towards achieving gender parity in four specific areas.

The first is that industry and organisations ought to develop female sources and experts as media representatives.

Accordingly, there is need to review and assess levels of female representation, invest in training and development for spokeswomen, and commit to monitor change.

The greatest impact could begin in retail, sport, and finance - fields with the smallest proportion of females as sources.

Secondly, the media ought to commit to increase female bylines equal to gender percentages of the population (50/50).

Thirdly, the media ought to address the gender imbalance in most prolific areas of coverage: sport, finance, health, and politics.

And, fourthly, the media ought to focus on gender balance in news and reporting through inclusion and diversity in content development by ensuring that workplaces support and provide visibility for women and pathways to leadership positions.

The Scorecard identifies core areas in media analytics (bylines, sources, experts) to monitor change over time and positive or negative shifts towards achieving parity for women in Australian media.

\* Women in Media

## Preparing for global shifts: Just how to adapt & thrive

WE are in the midst of an era of rapid technological advancement, social change, and spiritual awakening. These shifts can seem overwhelming and at times even frightening all at once.

But how can we best prepare for what is to come? How can we stay ahead of the curve and embrace the future with confidence? Find out today as we look at how to adapt and thrive in the face of those global shifts.

Technological advancements are inevitable - learn to embrace them and stay ahead of the curve. Our modern world is ever-evolving, and technology has become an undeni-

able force to be reckoned with.

To stay ahead of the game, it's essential that we understand the positive effects these changes can have on our future.

Embracing this knowledge allows us to break through any biases or limited outlooks - understanding how to accept and use technology rather than fearing it is a huge part of succeeding today.

We are moving into an era where technology will change the way we work, live, learn and play. In addition to flexible and speedy adaptation towards technical transformations, this progressive mindset also encourages us to be conscious of the social and spiritual ramifications that may emerge from them.

By proactively preparing for technological changes on a global scale, we can remain ahead in terms of development - ensuring an optimistic future for all.

I believe that technology is like a knife. It can be used to create and improve our lives, or it can be used to hurt. We also use rockets to explore space and create new frontiers, but also use them to transport dangerous nuclear weapons.

So the same "invention" or "technology" has two polarities for which it can be used. Social changes are happening all around us - so we need to be open-minded and accepting of others.

Nowadays, we're presented with an abundance of extraordinary op-

portunities to learn and grow. This can be overwhelming at times, so it's decisive that we maintain a positive attitude and stay open-minded as the world around us changes rapidly.

By embracing these cultural shifts through education and understanding, individuals from all backgrounds have the power to excel in a constantly morphing environment.

I strongly believe that instead of being static, our future will be exceedingly dynamic - and, therefore, it would help tremendously if we form more comprehensive viewpoints centred on diversity and compassion.

\* medium.com



# What laws say about distribution of properties after owner's death

**M**OST people who acquired properties legally and used the same during their lifetime would also like to have proper succession framework on how such assets can be used after their demise.

The purpose of this article is to provide general legal knowledge on how your wishes can be executed in respect of administering and division of your properties after your death based on Tanzanian laws.

The law of succession or inheritance is concerned with the devolution of the deceased's properties or assets to their respective heirs upon death of the owner. Due to existence of various races, ethnicities and religious beliefs, then we have four rival legal systems which govern inheritance in Tanzania.

These are Statutes law, Customary law, Islamic law and Hindu law. The question of choice of appropriate law applicable in distribution of a deceased's estate, particularly where the deceased died intestate namely without a will, has been the centre of disputes within the society. Main reason behind the said disputes is the fact that lack of uniform applicability of succession laws because some laws have more advantage than others in distributing the deceased's estate.

Statutes law, here the relevant law in place is Indian Law of Succession Act of 1865. This law was imported from India when our country was under British colony, then known as Tanganyika. The major aim was to govern the estate of

Europeans and those persons who prophesized Christianity. It was also applied to the class of workers who worked closely with colonial government.

It is an old law but still applicable to date. In the modern life situation, people or the deceased is more liberal to distribute his or her properties to any person as the wish, provided there is valid will left by the deceased. There is no requirement of the law for the testator to supply reasons as to why their property should be distributed to either person or not. Provision of reason is not one of the requirements in the above category of law contrary to other laws.

Further, the law clearly provides who are entitled to inherit the deceased's estates in case a will was not left by the deceased. It is the survivor parent and their children who have the right to own properties left by the deceased. Right of the husband and wife are equally in case one of them passes away before the other. There is no mistreatment of the wife or unequal treatment of women contrary to other laws.

Further, in absence of survivor parent, spouse or children left by the deceased, then the relatives of the deceased can inherit. These include father, mother, brothers and sisters. In case of absence of the above two stated groups, it does not mean the properties remain without owner. The government can become the lawful owner, (refer the case of Yusuph Bin Simbani (deceased) [1962] EA 623)

Customary law is the codifica-

tion of either written or unwritten rules which are accepted and recognized within particular society or community. The presence of various groups of tribes in Tanzania has necessitated existence of both written and unwritten customary laws which govern succession or inheritance of the deceased's estate. However, the government opted to codify these rules in the Local Customary Law (Declaration) order (No.4) of 1963. These rules are not general application in the whole country; rather, they are applicable in some specific districts within Tanzania though it covers many districts. To be precise, due to the existence of the above law, many Tanzanians are not aware of the same but it is being practised in many communities.

It is understandable that huge parts of our communities in Tanzania are patrilineal based societies in which men are more favoured than women. In most cases, estates of the deceased are considered to be subject to division to the various members of the community as compared to above statute law which restricts distribution of assets only to family members of the deceased.

Therefore, local and customary declaration order is a clear reflection of what is happening in our communities. Division of estate is classified in three categories. First, son of the first house is considered as the first class in the community and his share is very huge compared to other heirs. Second is the other son whose share within the community is less than that of the



first son but more than that given to the daughter who is categorized in the third class.

Daughters do receive less than sons in all of the above two classes. Recognition of the illegitimate children is acceptable only after complying with the legitimization process by the family. Otherwise, they cannot be accepted to inherit anything from their deceased parent.

But even after being accepted in the family, they cannot be categorized in class one. Rather, they get classified in class two and if one happens to be a daughter, she is classified in class three. There are a number of decisions in our courts which declared various provisions of the above legislation which allow discrimination as unconstitutional.

The law also allows for the person to distribute his or her estate through will to avoid strict applicability of the law. Most people in the communities write will nowadays. However, some relevant issues are required to be taken into consideration such as providing good reason for not if you opted not to distribute estate to a member of

the family or to non-member of the community. Two witnesses are required to witness the will and one of them must be a relative of the testator while unwritten will or oral will must be witnessed by four people whereby two of them must be relatives of the testator.

In Islamic law, succession of the deceased who intended their estate be distributed in Islamic manner is governed by various statutes in our jurisdiction. There are various statutes which cover people who want their estate to be distributed in Islamic way. These include The Wakf Commissioner Act no 30 of 1951, The Mohamedan Estate (Benevolent Payments) Ordinance and the Re-statement of Islamic Law GN 22 of 1967.

There are no hard and fast rules to determine which law is required to be used in each particular case. Rather, it always depends on circumstances such as mode of life of the deceased, particularly where will was not left.

The last one is the Hindu Wills Act, 1870. This is among the laws which were imported in Tanzania through the known legal process

and therefore it is applicable. However, the same is well known to Indians community and not to the general public and that is why it is not well known to those who are not Hindu.

Question of choice of law among the laws cited above has been asked by many people; particularly where a will was not left by the deceased or where a will has not stated which law is required to be applicable. This issue has already been addressed in our judicial system through landmark case of Re Innocent Mbilinyi deceased (1969) HCD NO 283. Two major tests for the choice of law should apply for selection of law, namely the mode of life of the deceased and the intention of the deceased on distribution of their assets.

Our advice to readers of this article is that despite having the above laws in place but to ensure your properties are distributed or administered in accordance with your wishes, you are required to secure a competent lawyer of your choice to assist you to prepare your last will which shall be in compliance with the provisions of the law of the land along with your wishes because a will which violates provisions of the law shall be set aside by the court of law.

Note, materials and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. You should not rely upon the materials and information provided herein as the basis of making legal decision. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case.

**Send your questions by email to: [info@legisattorneys.co.tz](mailto:info@legisattorneys.co.tz) or postal address to Managing Partner: Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM, and Tanzania: [www.legisattorneys.co.tz](http://www.legisattorneys.co.tz)**

By Charles Mpaka

RESEARCHERS have found that cheaper and more accessible blood testing methods can improve the care of patients with chronic hepatitis B in Africa.

In a study published in Nature Communications, the researchers recommend revising the current World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on managing the condition.

"Our data are important for informing clinical practice in [Sub-Saharan Africa] and should be considered in the next revision of the WHO hepatitis B guidelines," say the researchers who make up the Hepatitis B in Africa Collaborative Network (HEPSANET).

Lead author of the study, Asgeir Johannessen, tells IPS that clinicians working in Africa have "repeatedly reported that very few patients in Africa" are eligible for treatment using the current WHO guidelines published in 2015.

"The lack of data from Africa is a major challenge, and we wanted to use African data from African patients to inform African treatment guidelines," says Johannessen, a specialist in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo in Norway.

According to the study, Africa represents one of the high-burden regions for chronic hepatitis B virus. Of the estimated 316 million people that live with chronic hepatitis B virus infection worldwide, 82 million are in Africa.

The research further says that antiviral therapy effectively reduces the risk of complications resulting from hepatitis B virus infection.

But with current WHO-recommended guidelines, early diagnosis and treatment are impacted because often only picked up when there is advanced liver damage.

The challenge in clinical practice in Africa has been to identify patients at risk of progressive liver disease who should start antiviral therapy in good time.

"In resource-limited settings, however, these fibrosis assessment tools are rarely available, and antiviral treatment is therefore often delayed until the patients have developed symptoms of advanced chronic liver disease," the research paper says.

So, the researchers set out to deal



Patients in Africa often cannot access treatment as per the WHO hepatitis B guidelines. Now researchers have found a way to improve the diagnosis and care of people living with hepatitis B. Credit: Charles Mpaka/IPS

## Research uncovers cheaper diagnostic tools for chronic Hepatitis B in Africa

with this question: "Can we diagnose advanced liver fibrosis in the Africa region, using routinely available and low-cost blood tests for patients with hepatitis B?" says Alexander Stockdale, a member of the team and senior clinical lecturer at the University of Liverpool and Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme.

In the study, the 23 researchers reviewed data for 3,548 chronic hepatitis B patients living in eight sub-Saharan African countries, namely Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Zambia.

They evaluated the existing WHO treatment guidelines and a simple liver damage biomarker developed in West Africa.

They established that the conventional hepatitis B care standards are unsuitable for patient management in Africa. They

found that the diagnosis level as set by the WHO "is inappropriately high in sub-Saharan Africa," which is often constrained by a lack of resources.

The problem, the researchers say, is that the existing WHO guidelines are not adapted for the African population.

The study that informed these guidelines was performed among active chronic hepatitis C patients in the USA, much older than Africa's hepatitis B virus population and on a very different patient population compared to African chronic hepatitis B patients.

"Our data are important for informing clinical practice in SSA [Sub-Saharan Africa] and should be considered in the next revision of the WHO hepatitis B guidelines," says Johannessen.

He says they have shared their findings with the WHO and the

Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Africa.

"We believe our findings will inspire the first ever African hepatitis B treatment guidelines, and even the WHO is now changing their guidelines because of our work," he tells IPS.

"Africa is now the epicenter of the hepatitis B epidemic. In fact, 2 of 3 new infections occur on the African continent. To combat the hepatitis B pandemic in Africa, we need African data to inform practice," Johannessen says.

Initially, the researchers thought their main challenge would be to get people to share data.

"But in fact, everyone we reached out to were eager to participate. It is obvious that this is a topic that feels like a priority to colleagues working throughout Africa," he says.

The study is the largest, most

comprehensive, and geographically representative analysis ever conducted in Africa.

"We, therefore, believe our results are generalizable," the researchers conclude.

However, they admit some limitations of their study. For example, the method used to assess liver damage has been associated with technical limitations, including unsuccessful measurements reported in patients with certain health conditions such as obesity. The researchers did not ascertain the rates of failure of these tests.

"This may affect the overall applicability of our findings to the entire population with HBV," they say.

But Adamson Muula, Professor and Head of Community and Environmental Health at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHES) in Malawi, says

in terms of the methodology used in this study, the systematic review of data was relevant in answering the question at hand.

"In the hierarchy of evidence, systematic reviews and meta-analyses are high up with respect to the rigor of the findings," says Muula, who was not part of the research.

He noted, however, that there are downsides to this approach, including the fact that in the interpretation of the findings, there is an implicit sense that Africa is one place. Muula argues that African health systems can be different even within the same country.

Within a country, you can find a health system comparable with developed countries; others are more closely aligned to developing countries. The studies applied more to those with less sophisticated health systems.

Regardless, the study is vital, he acknowledges.

Hepatitis B diagnosis on the continent has been a luxury. In Malawi, for example, where 5 percent of the adults are estimated to be infected, virtually no screening or diagnostic system exists.

Individual patients may interact with the health system, but more so when things are already out of hand when irreversible liver damage has already happened.

"Efforts to reduce the time at which diagnosis can happen are therefore commendable. This study adds guidance as to when such earlier diagnosis may be attained.

"However, research is one thing, health systems strengthening another. Studies like this one add to the impetus and arm the policymakers to make the right decisions," he says.

But he urges communities to take charge of these findings instead of leaving action in the hands of "sometimes incapacitated policymakers' hands."

"The question should be, what is the community saying about findings such as these? If we wait for policymakers to decide when they are going to invest in hepatitis B interventions, we will wait for the rest of our lifetimes.

"Time has come for community groups to work with the duty-bearers to the extent that hepatitis B is not a neglected tropical disease anymore," he says.

The WHO's goal is to have hepatitis eliminated by 2030.

IPS UN Bureau Report



# More than safari: Why our wildlife are at the highest risk of extinction

By Baher Kamal

**W**ILDLIFE is indeed far much more than a safari or an 'exotic' ornament: as many as four billion people – or an entire half the whole world's population – rely on wild species for income, food, medicines and wood fuel for cooking.

In spite of that, one million species of plants and animals are already facing extinction due to the voracious profit-making, over-exploitative, illegal trade and the relentless depletion of the variety of life on Planet Earth.

In fact, billions of people, both in developed and developing nations, benefit daily from the use of wild species for food, energy, materials, medicine, recreation, and many other vital contributions to human well-being, as duly reports the UN on the occasion of the 2023 World Wildlife Day (3 March).

Much so that 50,000 wild species meet the needs of billions worldwide. And 1 in 5 people around the world rely on wild species for income and food, while 2.4 billion people depend on wood fuel for cooking.

The world's major multilateral body reminds us of the "urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts."

**Variety of life, lost at an "alarming rate"**

A world organisation leading in wildlife conservation and protection of endangered species: the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) warns that unfortunately, we're losing biodiversity – the rich variety of life on Earth – at an "alarming rate."

"We've seen a 69 per cent average



**A million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction, we have lost half of the world's corals and lose forest areas the size of 27 football fields every minute, finds WWF report. Credit: Stella Paul/IPS**

decline in the number of birds, amphibians, mammals, fish, and reptiles since 1970, according to the 2022 Living Planet Report.

"A million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction, we have lost half of the world's corals and lose forest areas the size of 27 football fields every minute,"

WWF highlights the following findings, among several others: 69 per cent average decline in wildlife populations since 1970, wildlife populations in Latin America and the Car-

ibbean plummeting at a staggering rate of 94 per cent and freshwater species populations have suffered an 83 per cent fall.

**Major causes**

The 2022 Living Planet Report points out some of the major causes leading to the shocking loss of the world's biodiversity.

"The biggest driver of biodiversity loss is the way in which people use the land and sea. How we grow food, harvest materials such as wood or

minerals from the ocean floor, and build our towns and cities all have an impact on the natural environment and the biodiversity that lives there."

Food systems: the biggest cause of Nature loss: according to findings provided by WWF, food production has caused 70% of biodiversity loss on land and 50% in freshwater. It is also responsible for around 30% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

As a global population, what we're eating and how we're producing it right now is good for neither us nor

the planet. While over 800 million people are going hungry, over two billion of those who do have enough food are obese or overweight.

The WWF provided findings also indicate that meat tends to have the highest environmental impact, partially because livestock produce methane emissions through their digestive process – something called enteric fermentation – but also because most meat comes from livestock fed with crops.

And that around 850 million people around the world are thought to rely on coral reefs for their food and livelihoods.

WWF report also refers to the invasive non-native species: Invasive non-native species are those that arrive in places where they historically didn't live and out-compete local biodiversity for resources such as sunlight and water. This causes the native species to die out, causing a shift in the makeup of the natural ecosystem.

**Future depends on reversing the loss of Nature**

"The world is waking up to the fact that our future depends on reversing the loss of nature just as much as it depends on addressing climate change. And you can't solve one without solving the other," said Carter Roberts, president and CEO of WWF-US.

"These plunges in wildlife populations can have dire consequences for our health and economies," says Rebecca Shaw, global chief scientist of WWF.

"When wildlife populations decline to this degree, it means dramatic changes are impacting their habitats and the food and water they rely on. We should care deeply about the unravelling of natural systems because these same resources sustain human life." In view of all the above, the causes of the fast destruction of the variety of life have been scientifically identified as well as the dangerous consequences. However, the dominant private business continues to see more profits in destroying than in saving.

## How management areas do protect sustainable artisanal fishing in Chile

By Orlando Milesi

**M**ANAGEMENT areas in Chile for benthic organisms, which live on the bottom of the sea, are successfully combating the over-exploitation of this food source thanks to the efforts of organized shellfish and seaweed harvesters and divers.

Benthic organisms are commercially valuable marine species that live at the lowest level of a body of water, including sub-surface layers, such as molluscs and algae.

The most widely harvested molluscs in Chile include the Chilean abalone (*Concholepas concholepas*), razor clam (*Mesodesma donacium*) and Chilean mussel (*Mytilus chilensis*), and the most harvested algae is Chilean kelp (*Lessonia berteorana*).

The Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture told IPS that in this country with a long coastline on the Pacific Ocean there are currently 853 Benthic Resources Management and Exploitation Areas (AMERB), with a total combined surface area of close to 130,000 hectares.

The areas vary in size from one to 4,000 hectares, although 91 per cent are under 300 hectares and the average is 150 hectares. They range from beaches and rocky coastal areas to places that are a maximum of five nautical miles offshore.

They were created in 1991, when geographical sectors were established within reserve areas for artisanal fishing in order to implement management plans, which set closed seasons, regulated catches and outlined recovery measures, and which are only assigned to organizations of legally registered artisanal fishers.

The aim is to regulate artisanal fishing activity, restricting access to benthic organisms, under the supervision of the authorities.

Leaders of three local fishing coves or inlets that operate as production units where artisanal fishers extract and sell marine



**At the pier in Tongoy, a seaside resort in northern Chile, shellfish divers prepare piures (a kind of sea squirt), which they try to sell to tourists by explaining how to eat them. CREDIT: Orlando Milesi/IPS**

resources told IPS about the efforts made to prevent poaching, and underscored the benefits of sustainable exploitation of these resources.

They said they managed to make a living from their work but expressed fears about the future.

This South American country of 19.2 million people has 6,350 km of coastline along the Pacific ocean and is among the world's top 10 producers of fish.

It has 99,557 registered artisanal fishers, of whom 25,181 are women. There are 13,123 registered artisanal fishing vessels and 403 industrial fishing vessel owners. The country also has 456 fishing plants that employ 38,014 people, according to data provided by the Undersecretariat of Fisheries in response to questions from IPS.

As of October 2022, there were 1,538 aquaculture centers and

3,295 aquaculture concessions, 69 percent of which involved companies that employ a total of 10,719 people.

The Undersecretariat said it is in the process of creating 516 new AMERBs, and that in more than 30 years under the system 435 proposals have been rejected and the status of 34 sectors has been canceled.

Leaders of fishers' unions describe different realities

Luis Durán Zambra, president of the Fishers' Association of Guanqueros, a town in the Coquimbo region, 430 kilometers north of Santiago, said that these areas have been very successful.

"When there is free unregulated access, the resources do not recover, they tend to be over-exploited and in the end there is nothing left. The only places where you can see these resources is in the management areas be-

cause fishers are obliged to take care of them and help them recover," he told IPS during an interview in his cove.

Durán, 64, is the fifth generation of fishermen in his family.

The unions, advised by marine biologists, analyze each management area, its conditions, the reproduction of resources and then inform the Undersecretariat of Fisheries to authorize the size of the annual harvest.

Miguel Tellez, president of the Mar Adentro de Chepu Artisanal Fishers' Union, on the island of Chiloé, 1,100 kilometers south of Santiago, told IPS that they have worked for 20 years in four 300-hectare management areas that start at the Chepu River, where they harvest different molluscs.

The main species they harvest is the Chilean abalone, although there are also mussels, sea ur-

chins (*Echinoidea*) and red seaweed (*Sarcothalia crispata*) that is harvested in the southern hemisphere summer. The production of Chilean abalone varies, but in a good year 400,000 are caught.

"We are 34 active members, half of us divers, who monitor the entire year, with four people taking turns overseeing day and night for six days," Tellez said from his home in the town of Chepu.

He explained that poaching "has been our main problem, especially when we just started."

He was referring to illegal fishermen and divers who enter the management zones, affecting the efforts of those legally assigned to exploit and protect them.

His union installed surveillance booths on the coast of Parque Ahuenco, a reserve belonging to some fifty families that preserve 1,200 hectares along the sea.

Tellez is worried about the future because the average age of union members is 40 years old.

"I don't know how much longer we can do this. There are very few young people and because of their studies they are involved in other things," he said.

In Chepu, fishers sell Chilean abalone in the shell to a factory in the nearby town of Calbuco where they are cleaned and packaged for sale within Chile or for export. The price depends on the market. It has now dropped to 60 cents of a dollar per abalone.

"This is a low price given that we have to oversee the shellfish year-round, paying dearly for fuel, motors and boats and making a tremendous investment. An outboard motor, like the ones we use, costs 40 million pesos (about 50,000 dollars)," said Tellez.

He is dubious about moving towards industrialization, asking "How much more could we harvest and how much more would we have to invest?"

Proudly, he said his was "one of the best unions in the country. Partly because we are from the same area," since all of the members live in Chepu or nearby towns.

In the Coquimbo region, Miguel Barraza, secretary of the Chigualoco fishers' union, 248 kilometers north of Santiago, is enthusiastic about transforming his cove.

At the cove, he told IPS that "1.1 billion pesos (1.37 million dollars) are going to be invested to make this a model cove. A new breakwater will be built, along with a bypass on the freeway and facilities to serve tourists."

The new breakwater will protect boats from waves as they enter and exit the cove.

Thirty members and their families, including shellfish divers, fishers and kelp harvesters, live in Chigualoco.

They have three management areas, the largest of which is 5,000 square meters in size. From these areas they harvest 100,000 Chilean abalones and 300 tons of Chilean kelp a year.

"We earn enough to live year-round," Barraza said, adding that they were not interested in processing their catch because "fishermen like to come ashore and sell."

"We have overseers, but poachers come in from various sides. They are stealing a lot. We won a project to buy a drone to monitor the shore to find them," he said.

In Guanqueros, where Durán's union is located, despite their seniority they have only now registered a management zone in their overexploited fishing area.

"We have an area that is not yet well developed. It has been difficult for us because most of us are fishers. But the area is going to recover. The marine biologist says that 100,000 abalones could be harvested annually," said Durán, looking for a shady spot to chat in his cove.

Today the area is looked after. It is about three kilometers in size and before it began to be regulated, people harvested abalone there for more than half a century without any limits.

"People are used to just harvesting without regulations and it is difficult to change that behavior. It's a constant struggle and a problem to prevent disputes between fishers... Many do not understand that the resources are there because other people take care of them," he said.

Low consumption of seafood, a public health problem

Durán lamented the low levels of consumption of fish and shellfish in Chile, despite the country's abundant seafood.



## AmCham business summit scheduled for Kenyan capital on March 29 to 30

By Guardian Reporter

THE third edition of the American Chamber of Commerce Kenya (AmCham) business summit is set to be conducted from March 29 to 30, this year in Nairobi driving new ideas on re-energising the region's economy through two-way trade and investment with the United States.

President William Ruto is expected to officiate at the event which will attract over 500 delegates from public and private sector, senior U.S., Kenyan and regional government officials expected to attend.

AmCham Kenya CEO Maxwell Okello said in a statement that the Summit would explore opportunities to promote sustainable and inclusive growth while increasing U.S. investment in the region even as the region continues to be resilient amidst high inflation due to several disruptions caused by a range of internal and external shocks, including Covid-19.

He said the summit will provide a strategic platform for enhancing two-way trade and investment between the United States and the East Africa region. This will be the first high-level event on the continent following the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit and comes when the United States and Kenya have just concluded a productive first round of talks on the U.S.-Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP).

"Our vision is that strategic partnerships between governments and key stakeholders in the private sector will be strengthened at the Summit even as we seek new pathways for a resilient future. We look forward to exploring how we can leverage the dynamism in Africa's economies to fast-track recovery and growth," Okello said.

Apparel is Kenya's leading export to the US, the sector now employing nearly 200,000 Kenyans, mostly young women. By November 2022, apparel exports to the U.S. had reached \$498 million, an \$85 million increase from the same period in 2021.

He said that a wide range of topics critical to the East Africa region's economic development, including the role of small businesses in powering international trade, accelerating the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a force for driving economic transformation, digital economy and climate adaptation for economic transformation, will be covered in a series of discussions, keynotes and roundtables moderated by experts from public and private sectors.

The American Chamber of Commerce Kenya (AmCham) is a network of American and Kenyan businesses whose objective is to drive mutual growth and economic prosperity between Kenya and the United States of America. Its members include some of the largest multinational corporations and affiliated local companies operating in Kenya across various sectors of the economy.

AmCham members are involved in enhancing energy access, improving infrastructure, growing manufacturing, developing agriculture value chains, enabling various service industries, supporting the digital transformation and developing innovation across multiple sectors in Kenya.

# Jubilation as names of winners of Zanzibar's Data Journalism Excellence Awards announced



By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

IT was jubilation at the Sheikh Idriss Abdul Wakil hall, Kikwajauni in Zanzibar when ten journalists from different media outlets in Isles emerged winners of the Data Journalism Excellence Awards for women's leadership reporting.

The awards were meant to advocate for the rights of women to take part in leadership positions using data journalism.

The well-attended event on Saturday evening, was organised by TAMWA, Zanzibar in collaboration with the Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and Pemba Environmental and Gender Advocacy Organization (PEGAO) with support from the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania.

Key categories that were being contested included mainstream radio program, community radio, newspapers and social media,

Zanzibar Minister for Information, Culture, Youth and Sports, Tabia Maulid Mwitwa hands over a trophy to Husna Mohammed Khamis from Zanzibar Leo newspaper, the winner of newspaper category last Saturday in the Indian Ocean archipelago. Photo: Courtesy of TAMWA, Zanzibar.

whereby in newspapers category there were three winners, three social media, two winners at community radio and mainstream radio two winners.

Four out of 10 winners in each category were awarded with a cheque worth 1m/-, trophy and certificate of participation.

The announced four winners from each category include, Husna Mohammed Khamis from Zanzibar Leo newspaper, Rehema Juma Mema from Radio Asalaam FM, Zuhura Juma Said from the social media-Habari Portal and Amina Masoud Jabir from Pemba's Mkoani community radio the second winners also received certificates and a cheque of 500,000/- each, while the third winner in each category was awarded a certificate and a cheque of 400,000/-.

Speaking at the event, Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi who was represented by the Minister for Informa-

tion, Culture, Youth and Sports, Tabia Maulid Mwitwa said that long time outcry from journalists on forthcoming media service bill will be taken care; so journalists/media practitioners will perform their duties comfortably and without fear.

"We will adopt a media law to be friendly and acceptable to both sides - the government and media stakeholders," the minister said.

"I have been following the media and I realized that the Law on the Registration of News Agencies, Newspapers and Books No. 5 of 1988 and its amendment in 1997 and Law No. 8 of 1997 and its amendment in 2010 are subject of being widely criticized about as having shortcomings and need to be amended along with several other laws related to them," stressed the Minister.

Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA, Zanzibar director called on the

government to ensure that the 40 percent participation of women is reached in every aspect of decision-making bodies including committees, executive boards, so there must be a conducive environment to enable women to participate in leadership at all levels.

"We strongly argue for the preparation of a database on women and leadership, this will help to know exactly where we are in the millennium goals, goal number 5 of the millennium (sustainable development goal, SDG), and our institutions promise to provide deep cooperation," Dr Mzuri said.

The data journalism awards for women and leadership are very important aimed to encourage Zanzibar journalists to write more news and features related to women and leadership issues, but also to provide statistics accurately on the number of women participation in leadership ventures in Zanzibar.

TAMWA, Zanzibar has decided to take specific efforts to prepare the awards to show the society and recognizes the contribution of women and leadership in various sectors to raise the status of women and increase their participation in leadership, and to reach 50/50 at all levels of decisions making as stated in our country's constitution and various international agreements and protocols.

The awards, which are given for the second time, have been organized by the Tanzanian Media Women Association, Zanzibar (TAMWA, Zanzibar), in collaboration with the Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and the Pemba Environment, Gender and Advocacy Organization (PEGAO) and the Embassy of Norway.

A total of 421 works from different media, including newspapers, radio, television and social media, were reviewed in an attempt to get the winners, as the motto of the awards is "MY PEN MY CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN" the organizers of the awards asking journalists strive to write detailed information about women and leadership.

## Ending child marriage; the unfinished work that calls for stakeholders concerted efforts

By Getrude Mbago

"MY mother abandoned me two months after I was born, I was then raised by my grandmother before she also took her last breath when I was 12 years old," narrates Debora Timothy, a 22 years old young girl who has gone through a number of violence acts during her childhood.

Growing up in Musoma urban, Mara region, Debora whose dream was to study and become one of the successful people, was destroyed by her parents and relatives who refused to let her study, surrendering her to an early marriage.

Debora, who also witnessed many of her friends being forced to get married at a young age, recalls the emotional abuse she went through at the hands of her relatives soon after her grandmother passed away.

"I don't know what was giving me courage to fight back the oppression, because I remember when my grandmother died, I was handed over to my uncle (elder father), this is when I started to experience other side of life, I underwent huge torture and was always being beaten up even with any reason but I tolerated," Debora narrated this in Dar es salaam recently in interview this paper in the sidelines of the forum commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Women Fund Tanzania (WTF-T).

According to her, she was sent to start school and continued well until his uncle told her that he was old enough to get married.

"I left school when I was standard five, I was so young, they forced me to stay home and engage in other home chores as well as farming, I was sometime crying so hard when I was alone, but I tolerated all these and hoped that one day I will get out of the torture, but after few months they took me back to school where I completed standard seven, it wasn't easy but I managed," she narrates.

She says: "When I reached 14 years old, my uncle and other relatives found me a husband and I was forced to marry him, I refused and my uncle chased me away from home claiming that I was disrespectful to him."

She was then taken by her sister who lived with her for a few weeks before taking her for a housekeeping job.

"My sister from another mother took me and started to live with me but things became even worse because she later handed me to another family as a house girl. I worked here for some months but my sister was collecting the salary," she says.

According to her, after a few months she took her to another family to continue with the



'housemaid' job but she didn't even last long there because she was required to go back to her sister where she found her another spouse.

"I was shocked when I reached home and my sister informed me

that she has found a nice man who is going to marry me, I looked at her and remained mum, here I was chasing 15 years of age, but my sister insisted that I should get prepared for this as the man was ready to take me as his wife as

soon as possible, I refused again to this, my sister got angry and went to sleep," Debora explains.

In the next morning, Debora went to beg her sister to take her to pastor first so as to get blessings from him before getting married.

"I was very sure that if we will go to the pastor, he will help block this marriage because the pastor is the one who was helping her family especially when her grandmother was still alive, so when we went to the man of God, he also refused and wanted my sister to stop the process," she says.

Debora says her sister was so angry and chased her from her home where the pastor decided to take her to another family which he was trusting.

"I thank the pastor a lot because he is the one who rescued me, he helped me by asking a certain family to stay with me, but few months later the pastor took me to his home where I continued with secondary education (QT) and completed form four and later went to took computer course and then early childhood care and education course," she adds.

Despite going through all the challenges, Debora managed to overcome them and is now living a good life and is supporting the pastor to supervise his day care centre where she mastered very well.

"I thank God now I am doing well, I can now see light in my life, self-awareness and confidence has greatly improved," she says.

Debora is also working as an activist campaigning for children and girls rights rescuing many who fall in the traps of culprits.

"I am currently working with Ki-

howede, is a non-government organization with focus to promote reproductive health, children's rights, development and advocacy. We are currently implementing a project in Mwanza in the wards of Buzuruga, Buhongwa, Kisesa and Mhandu.

She called on Tanzanians to jointly campaign and help fight harmful traditions which have been pulling the majority of girls into early marriages and pregnancies.

Child marriages often result in adverse health, economic and social consequences, catalysed by socio-economic imbalance, spousal age gap and power imbalance.

Activists and stakeholders including Rebeca Gyumi, the executive director of Msichana Initiative have been campaigning for the government to amend the Marriage Act, 1971 as it ruins the dignity and dreams of children and girls in the country.

Late last year, Parliament Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson proposed the adoption of 21 years as the minimum age for a girl to get married in the country.

"I think that 18 years is still unfit for a child to get married since she is still young to handle marriage duties at such an age. They should be focusing on their studies in high school," Dr Tulia said.

According to the United Nations 2021 report, more than 650 million women alive today were became wives when they were children. Child marriage is a global issue that is fueled by gender inequality, poverty, unfavourable social norms and insecurity.



# The monumental blunder that cost Nigeria's opposition 2023 election



defeat by Joe Biden in 2020.

Certainly, if the APC were clever enough to pull off a vote-switching operation, they surprisingly denied themselves victory in Katsina, Lagos, Osun, Edo, much of the Northwest and Kano, and rewarded Obi with more than 90% of the vote in the Southeast.

The reality is that aside from the politicised youth and empowered middle class in metropolitan areas like Abuja and Lagos, who turned sharply against the APC, the outcome was not far from what one would expect in a nation that still votes largely along ethnic, religious and regional lines.

Thabo Mbeki, who chaired the Commonwealth Observer Group, summed up the situation tersely:

"Nigerians were largely accorded the right to vote."

There will be court battles and political noise for some time to come. But the one inescapable fact is that there were more than enough votes for the opposition to prevail if they had not gone their separate ways.

Accepting defeat is going to be bitter for those who were intoxicated by Obi's campaign, swept along by its extraordinary social media outreach and who believed opinion polls, including by publications like Bloomberg that made it seem as though he was headed for a historic triumph.

## The Asiwaju prevails

Many people who underestimated Tinubu, the Asiwaju of Lagos, are now aghast that he could have pulled this off.

Tinubu was not the most dynamic candidate, especially when compared to Obi who was out on the campaign trail exuding the charm and charisma of a John F Kennedy. He was cast as a backroom wheeler-dealer, the Godfather of Lagos, and faced questions about his vast wealth, his health and rumours of malfeasance put out by his opponents.

But Tinubu is nothing if not shrewd. This was shown in how he handled his testy relationship with the president. To become APC candidate, Tinubu first had to run around Buhari who opposed him in the primaries and then be the standard bearer for a ruling party that had demonstrably failed the country, even while being sabotaged by those in Buhari's inner circle.

The case that Tinubu made was based on his competent leadership of Lagos, where he was Governor between 1999 and 2007. Under him, Lagos state and the broader Yoruba-speaking Southwest became what he termed the "engine of prosperity in Nigeria".

Lagos and the corridor that runs up to Ibadan – the most densely populated urban conurbation in Africa – has been one of the continent's largest nodes of economic growth. This will form the basis of his call for renewed hope in Nigeria.

Tinubu groomed a younger generation of technocratic protégés, who continued to run and manage Lagos even after he left office.

He brushed aside his disappointment at his defeat in Lagos – even as he became the first citizen of the country's commercial capital to be elected president of Nigeria – though this was in itself a vindication of the democratic culture in the state.

His job of bringing the country together has been complicated by anger over the election, especially in the Southeast, Obi's home region, which was shunned and completely shut out by Buhari. The president devastated the traders who constitute the lifeblood of the region.

The absolute disdain felt towards the ruling party was reflected in the results in a state like Ondo where the APC got less than 1% of the vote.

The election loss will only enhance the sense of alienation and disenfranchisement here in the core of former Biafra, and present the incoming president with yet one more massive challenge that he can thank Buhari for. DM

Van Niekerk is editor of the weekly Daily Maverick newsletter, Africa, Unscrambled

By Phillip van Niekerk

**B**OLA Ahmed Tinubu eked out a victory to be declared Nigeria's president-elect on Wednesday but the opposition parties committed a strategic blunder by splitting their forces and allowing the ruling All Progressives Congress to reclaim the Presidency in Nigeria. They will live long to regret it.

An election marred by allegations of irregularities still had one clear message: the country was hungry for change. Eight years of stagnation under President Muhammadu Buhari had brought economic misery and insecurity to many communities and individuals.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous and economically important country, was there for the taking for the opposition to the APC, whose vote shrank by more than a third. The ruling party lost Katsina, Buhari's home state; Abuja, the political capital; and Lagos, the home turf of the president-elect Bola Tinubu.

Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi would have won in a landslide, had they stayed in their alliance of four years ago when they shared the ticket of the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

This time, Obi chose to run as a third-party candidate for the previously moribund Labour Party – despite the fact that there were no major ideological differences between him and Atiku, who was once again the standard bearer of the PDP.

A charismatic campaigner whose devoted followers call themselves Obedient, Obi won much praise and acclaim from the international media. But he also cost the opposition the election by slicing off the PDP's support base in the South. As an Igbo Christian from the Southeast, Obi was never going to gain traction in the Muslim north – and indeed he fared dismally everywhere in the north.

As the most prominent northerner and ethnic Fulani in the race, Abubakar made up a lot of ground in the north. But the APC, which had most of the governorships in the region, maintained an extensive organisational structure and had two Muslims at the top of the ticket, remained competitive

**All Progressives Congress (APC)'s presidential candidate Bola Ahmed Tinubu (C), now president-elect, accompanied by his wife, Oluremi Tinubu, makes his way through the crowd after casting his vote at a polling station during the general elections, in the Ikeja district of Lagos, Nigeria, on 25 February 2023. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Akintunde Akinleye)**



Ballot boxes on a bench at a polling station during the general elections, in the Ikeja district of Lagos, Nigeria, on 25 February 2023. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Akintunde Akinleye)

throughout the north.

All of this was not that hard to predict. Tinubu, who honed his skill with numbers at the knee of his mother Abibatu Mogaji, the leader of the Lagos Market Women's Association, and went on to study accountancy at Chicago State University, well understood the mysteries of demographic arithmetic that determine Nigeria's elections.

The only way that dividing the opposition made strategic sense was if they were preparing to contest a run-off. In this scenario, whichever of the two main opposition candidates got the most votes would face off against Tinubu in a second round and carry their combined votes.

Tinubu was able to win nationally not only because the four-way split among the main contenders allowed him to win with less than half the vote, but because he maintained enough of a national spread to meet the required minimum of 25% in two-thirds of the states.

## Electoral dysfunction

When it became clear by Monday that Tinubu was likely to prevail in the first round, opposition officials stormed out of the collation centre

in Abuja, alleging widespread irregularities. They have since demanded that the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (Inec), Professor Mahmood Yakubu, step down and that fresh elections be conducted.

This echoed the call from former president General Olusegun Obasanjo, a supporter of Obi, who made a direct appeal to Buhari to call the election off, accusing politicians of rigging the outcome.

Tinubu accused Obasanjo of "recklessly seeking to endanger and derail our democratic process for utterly selfish, egoistic and malicious reasons".

Buhari refused to cancel the election and blamed the opposition parties for inflaming an already tense situation. There is no doubt that there were flaws in the election and these were pointed out by the international observer missions.

There were late starts at the polls, wrong materials were delivered, there were long lines with some people only able to vote a day late and some not at all. The head of the EU Observer Mission, Barry Andrews, found the entire process lacked transparency and showed in-

efficient planning.

There were isolated instances of thuggery at polling booths by youths and claims of vote buying – though none of this is exactly new in a Nigerian election.

The most serious claim was that there were problems with the high-tech Bimodal voting system designed to automatically upload results to a viewing portal. This malfunctioned at some places where results were uploaded by hand, leading to charges of rigging. But this was just as likely due to the general ineptitude that has marked much of Buhari's administration as a conspiracy to rig the election.

Matthew Page, an associate fellow at Chatham House's Africa programme, described Nigeria's electoral dysfunction as a long-standing problem of planning, logistical and technical failures.

In fact, some of the worst elections were held under none other than Obasanjo.

A lot of fake news reports and memes sprang up on social media alleging a conspiracy to electronically tamper with the vote, not dissimilar to the claims put out by supporters of Donald Trump in the wake of his



## UK house prices suffer the biggest decline seen for more than a decade

LONDON

UK house prices registered the largest decline in more than a decade last month as higher interest rates and the wider cost of living crisis hit demand, according to a closely watched survey.

Property prices fell 1.1 per cent in February compared with the same month last year, the biggest drop since November 2012, and a reverse of a 1.1 per cent increase in January, mortgage provider Nationwide said on Wednesday. Economists polled by Reuters had expected a fall of 0.9 per cent.

It was the first annual contraction since June 2020 when the housing market was effectively shut during the Covid-19 lockdown. Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist, said the drop in prices reflected low buyer confidence "as well as the cumulative impact of the financial pressures that have been weighing on households for some time".

The weak state of the housing market was underlined by separate Bank of England data that showed mortgage approvals for house purchases fell to 39,600 in January, down from 40,500 the previous month and the lowest since May 2020. Excluding the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, this was the lowest level of approvals since January 2009, when Britain was mired in recession following the banking crisis.

Separately, Persimmon, one of the UK's largest housebuilders, warned on Wednesday that sales of new homes could fall as much as 40 per cent this year if high mortgage rates and economic uncertainty continued to depress buyer demand.

The average interest rate on new mortgages rose to 3.9 per cent in January, the highest since 2010, BoE data showed, with the mar-

kets still anticipating further rises in interest rates as the central bank seeks to rein in inflation.

The average house price fell to £257,406 in February, down from a peak of £273,751 in August, but still £41,000 above level of January 2020, before the pandemic hit.

House prices were down 0.5 per cent on January, the sixth consecutive monthly decline since the August peak, marking the longest period of contraction since 2009.

Adjusted for inflation, house prices have fallen 11 per cent from their peak and are below their pre-pandemic level, which compares with a fall in real terms of 19 per cent between 2007 and 2009, according to Andrew Wishart, senior property economist at Capital Economics.

Luke Thompson, mortgage adviser at PAB Wealth Management, said: "[Sellers] have had to become more accustomed to the fact that they may not achieve the full asking price for their property as we aren't seeing multiple people bidding for a property like we were at the end of 2021 and into 2022."

Many economists think the slowdown in the property market will continue for some months. "It will be hard for the market to regain much momentum in the near term since economic headwinds look set to remain relatively strong," Gardner said.

Gabriella Dickens, senior UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said house prices would "continue to decline over the next six months or so, resulting in a peak-to-trough fall of about 8 per cent". However, she expected house prices to return to expansion in 2024 if the BoE started reducing interest rates and energy price pressures eased.

Nationwide tracks house prices based on the mortgage it issues, providing the most timely measure of property values.



## EACOP COMPENSATION: TEN HOUSES ARE PRESENTED TO KAGERA REGION RESIDENTS

By Guardian Reporter

IT was all smiles for ten Nkomelo villagers in Muleba District in Kagera Region who were being handed over keys to their new resettlement houses as they prepare to vacate their old places to pave the way for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) construction due to commence later this year.

During the handover ceremony for 10 replacement houses on 28th February, households expressed their happiness as they received keys and a first look inside the finished houses' interiors.

These homes have modern amenities, including outdoor kitchen, solar powered batteries powering lighting and conventional sockets, rainwater harvesting and water storage tanks and ventilated improved pit latrines.

"Honestly, I never in my life thought I would live with my family in such a beautiful house considering that my family used to live in a mud-house, but moving in such a modern house is something that I never imagined before," said a 67-year old Jovin Bebwa Thadeo, a father of 15 children.

Dustan Muganyizi, 54, while receiving the key to his family's home, was equally enthusiastic.

"The replacement house is on top of the monetary compensation that we have already received. It has transformed our lives as we have been able to purchase motorcycles, additional plantations and cattle, among other things, to launch other family activities," he said.

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

Several senior representatives from the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), and Muleba district government officials attended the handover ceremony.

Dr. Wellington Hudson, Director of Petroleum Business at TPDC, said during the handing over event that by September of this year 339 replacement homes will be built for Project Affected People (PAPs) in Tanzania, 58 of which had already been handed over including today's 10 in various pipeline-affected locations. He stated that the delivery of new homes to PAPs was a concrete sign that the project's compensation process was proceeding without hitches.



Eustadius Protas and wife Mikele Saveru of Nkomelo village in Muleba District, Kagera region stand before their new house handed over to them on February 28, 2023 by EACOP as part of compensation. Their current house (top) will be demolished to pave the way for pipeline construction works. File by Guardian Correspondent

EACOP Managing Director Martin Tiffen then informed that in Tanzania there are a total of 9898 PAPs (households) of which some 97% where impacted through land, crops, trees or structures whilst 344 PAPs, the remaining 3 per cent, also had their primary dwelling impacted.

In line with IFC Performance Standards, physically displaced households were offered the choice of cash compensation or replacement housing, with some 90% electing for replacement housing.

The replacement houses are all built using local contractors, drawing unskilled labour from the area where they are located and using an innovative South African moulding technique. The houses are covered by a one year warranty period whereby the contractors will responsible to fix any issues that may occur during that period.

Martin Tiffen stressed that proper completion of the compensation process was a prerequisite for notifying households to vacate their land.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) Professor Mark Mwandosya hailed the move by EACOP to handover houses to PAPs, saying that it sends a clear message that human rights are also considered in the imple-

mentation of the project.

"We consider all international requirements including environmental protection and conservation as we implement this national strategic project."

"We promised to implement this project while safeguarding the environment and transforming the lives of our people for social and economic transformation", said Professor Mwandosya, who held different Ministerial positions in the fourth phase of the government.

Dr. Aziz Mlima, who is Tanzanian Ambassador to Uganda said Tanzania is in good shape for the project implementation, adding that he was pleased to see for himself the progress on the ground after visiting various pipeline project sites.

Ntaki Charles Mayunga, the acting Muleba District Executive Director who represented his District Commissioner Abel Nyamahanga said that the construction of the replacement houses also has positive economic impact for Nkomelo residents since it created short term employment.

EACOP has been licensed to construct the 1443km crude oil export infrastructure that will transport Uganda's crude oil from Kabaale - Hoima in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania for export to the international market.

In Uganda, 203 of the 2,648 PAPs are physically displaced, and of these, 178 have opted for replacement housing as in-kind compensation instead of monetary compensation. The first batch of the houses was also handed over in February 2023.

EACOP runs 1,443km from Kabaale, Hoima district in Uganda to the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga Port in Tanzania. Eighty per cent of the pipeline is in Tanzania.

It is a buried thermally insulated 24 pipeline along with six pumping stations (two in Uganda and four in Tanzania) ending at Tanga with a Terminal and Jetty.

EACOP allows Uganda to unlock value from its own natural resources, and represents a significant inward investment of some \$4 billion across both Uganda and Tanzania, thus value creation is also extended to Tanzania.

The new corridor linking the two countries will bring benefits including the development of new infrastructure, logistics, technology transfer as well as improving the livelihoods of communities along the route.

EACOP says it fully recognises its responsibilities both to environmental protection and the people, land and communities impacted by the project, especially during the construction phase.

## DODOMA INAUGURATES ORGANIC FERTILISER FACTORY

By Correspondent Valentine

Oforo, Dodoma

THE organic farming sector in the central zone regions continues to gain meaningful impetus following an introduction of another factory for the production of organic fertilizer in Dodoma region. Dubbed 'Violet Farm Fertilizer'

the pure organically made fertilizer is a product of the Dodoma-based Violet Farm Factory, and the improved chicken manure have so far being certified and registered by the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) as well as the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). Briefing this publication over the natural fertilizer, the factory's chief agricultural officer,

Christopher Dioniz recently said the fertilizer was made of chicken manure that has been blended with lime, pollad as well as water, among others.

"Our packages range from 2kg to 15kg and we market the fertilizer at the patriotic prices of 5,000/- at retail and 3,500 at wholesale," he detailed.

Since the inception of the fac-

tory, he expressed, the facility has so far started to receive some potential customers from within and outside the region. "For instance, the former prime minister Mizengo Pinda is one among our giant customers, but also there are a number of farmers from the Katavi region who are using our fertilizer," he noted.

Speaking for her side, the fac-

tory's Director General, Neema Nyongoto said the fertilizer had potential in supporting the farmers in both, in planting and growing of diverse crops.

"The fertilizer has also been tested and blessed by the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Mbeya-based Ministry of Agri-

culture Training Institute (MATI-Uyole),"she insisted.

Dodoma also harbors another giant factory for the production of organic fertilizer, Itracom Fertilizer Co.Ltd. The state-of-the-art has capacity to produce at least 200,000 tons of different types of organic based fertilizers, namely FOMI Kuzia, FOMI Otesha and FOMI Nenepeha.



## EPANKO GRAPHITE RESOURCE NOW INCREASES 38 PERCENT

By Guardian Reporter

**E**PANKO total Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) increased to 128.2Mt at 7.4 percent Total Graphitic Grade (TGC) for 9.48Mt of contained graphite which is a 38 percent increase from the March 2017 MRE.

The new MRE is based on increased geological knowledge, extensive test work and updated interpretation that will inform the planned drill programmes to further increase the graphite mineral resource, according to a statement issued by Epanko.

The statement says the increased mineral resource positions Epanko for expansion to become a major supply of graphite for the global lithium-ion battery market.

“Supported by the re-interpretation of the VTEM a 3km strike length remains undrilled and open at depth deepest reported graphite intersection at 200m on the western deposit provides ample scope for mineral resource growth,” it says.

The new MRE will be incorporated in expansion studies aimed at scaling up Epanko production significantly beyond the initial Stage 1 - 60,000 tpa design.

Completion of a tailings storage facility (TSF) expansion study shows that the TSF capacity can



be progressively expanded to 80 million tonnes, which is 8 times the initial capacity, supporting significant expansion potential.

Demand for natural graphite, led by the global lithium-ion battery market, is forecast by Benchmark Mineral Intelligence to increase at 31.5 percent pa in the current decade, with customers requiring new sources of supply and seeking to reduce their reliance on existing supply chains.

Lithium-ion batteries have become the dominant battery technology for use in electric ve-

hicles (EV).

This dominance is expected to continue given the significant investment and expanding capacity of lithium-ion gigafactories in Asia, North America and Europe.

Increased demand for alternative natural battery anode supply chains and greater recycling has resulted from continued government policies, regulations and EV manufacturers' environmental and social governance.

Battery and EV manufacturers are also recognising the environmental benefits of natural graphite over synthetic graphite,

which is resulting in increased forecast use of natural graphite in the battery anode, increasing from 35 percent currently, to over 50 percent by 2030.

Duma TanzGraphite Limited now registered with the Tanzanian Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (“BRELA”), with Framework Agreement expected to be signed shortly.

The MRE was carried out by CSA Global Pty Ltd (‘CSA Global’), a member of the ERM Group of Companies, and has been classified in accordance with the JORC (2012) Code.

## The world's largest 3-D printed budget housing project is launched in Kenya

NAIROBI

A group in Kenya is building the world's largest 3D-printed affordable housing development – and it managed to get the first 10 houses printed in just 10 weeks.

More than 20 percent of its residents live in slums where clean water is scarce and disease is prevalent.

Meanwhile, 90 percent of those who live in cities rent their homes, sometimes paying prices that eat up more than 75 percent of their net salaries – leaving them at constant risk of eviction.

With today's rapid urbanization, over three billion people are expected to need affordable housing by 2030.

In 2016, Holcim, a building materials company, and CDC Group, the UK's development finance institution (now known as British International Investment), created 14Trees, a joint venture focused on accelerating the commercialization of a kind of eco-friendly, affordable construction material, called Durabric.

In 2021, 14Trees announced a plan to approach Kenya's housing shortage from another angle, 3D printing a community of 52 affordable houses in the town of Kilifi. Once complete, the development, dubbed “Mvule Gardens,” will be the largest 3D-printed affordable housing complex in the world.

“With today's rapid urbanization, over three billion people are expected to need affordable housing by 2030 ... By deploying 3D printing, we can address this infrastructure

gap at scale to increase living standards for all,” said Jan Jenisch, Holcim's CEO.

In February 2023, 14Trees announced that it had finished printing the first 10 houses in the community. This phase took 10 weeks and required just one 3D printer, with the walls for each 2- or 3-bedroom house going up in 18 or 28 hours, respectively.

Pricing for the 3D-printed houses starts at 3,610,000 KES (~\$28,000) – for comparison, the average price of a 2-bedroom house in Kilifi is 4,900,000 KES (~\$38,000). Once the homes are roofed and painted, 14Trees will turn them over to their new owners.

“With 3D printing, you can ... build faster like we have shown here with our 10 houses in 10 weeks,” said Francois Perrot, 14Trees' managing director. “At the same time, we can achieve better cost efficiency, which will help make affordable housing a reality for the majority.”

Most of the residents of Kibera, Kenya's biggest slum, earn less than \$730 per year, meaning even lower-cost 3D printed houses are out of their reach – getting those people into safe homes will likely require significant investment by the Kenyan government.

14Trees' 3D-printed affordable housing could be a blessing to Kenyans who aren't living in such extreme poverty, yet also can't afford traditionally built homes – especially if the group is able to meet its goal of lowering construction costs with each additional phase of development.



A 3D-printed house under construction

## Ghana plans to redevelop land near Kotoka Airport into commercial hub

ACCRA

THE government of Ghana is planning to redevelop 80 acres of land around the Kotoka International Airport, stretching from Stanbic Heights, through Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) Regional Office, to the Ministry of Defence, into a modern commercial hub.

Agencies located within the enclave, including the Ghana Police Service, DVLA, Ghana Airport Company Limited, and Ghana Meteorological Agency, will be relocated to Kwabenya, close to the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission.

Mr Samuel A. Jinapor, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, at a press briefing in Accra, said a modern DVLA office complex, accommodations for the Ghana Airport Company Limited and the Ghana Meteorological Agency, and a workshop complex for the Ghana Police Service

were being constructed at Bohye around the Kwabenya area.

He said 504 one- and two-bedroom self-contained housing units with a school complex, a clinic, and a recreational area made up of an astroturf football field and a tennis court, together with a standby generator, was almost completed for the Ghana Police Service.

The edifice, Mr Jinapor stated, was about 95 per cent complete and expected to be handed over by the end of March 2023.

He said a National Land Conference was held in December 2022, to, among other things, increase public awareness and potential benefits of the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036), foster high level support and ownership of interventions to tackle land governance, and empower, and develop the capacities of land sector stakeholders.

The Minister said the Lands Commission, in collaboration

with the Ghana Police Service, would provide protection for all public lands and prevent them from further encroachment.

He said the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands, in accordance with Article 267 of the Constitution, mobilised and disbursed a total of GHC 125,000,000.00 to the stated beneficiaries, and facilitated the establishment of some customary land secretariats in the Northern, Eastern, and Greater Accra Regions.

The Ghana Boundary Commission has also completed the construction of a land boundary terminus (Pillar 1) on the Ghana-Togo border, and paved the way for the commencement of the second phase of the boundary delineation.

He announced that the Commission would hold an international conference this year on “Maritime Boundaries and International Law in Africa” to develop and strengthen stakeholders'

capacities in relevant maritime frameworks and laws, as well as maritime boundary dispute prevention and resolution.

He said the Government was committed to reconstructing the Appiatse community into a modern, green, and sustainable community as a model for rural development, after the tragic explosion incident on January 20, 2022.

“Construction began last year, and the first phase of the project is about 40 per cent complete. The phase includes the construction of 124 housing units made up of two- to seven-bedroom houses, a school block with sanitary facilities, and the construction of roads within the community,” he said.

He said the Forestry Commission, with the support of the Ghana Armed Forces, had cordoned off all Forest Reserves and Wildlife Protected Areas to rid them of illegal mining and illegal logging.

## CRDB emerges Tanzania's best SME bank for year 2023

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc has been named the Best Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) bank in Tanzania by Global Finance – a leading international financial publication, in its annual 2023 SME Bank Awards.

The colorful ceremony that saw CRDB Bank Plc scoop the award was recently held in London, United Kingdom.

Global Finance seeks to help corporate leaders, bankers, and investors chart the course of global business & finance.

It has become a trusted standard of excellence for banks and their corporate partners.

Honorees of the 2023 Best SME Bank Awards have been chosen globally across the following regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, and Western Europe.

“It is a great honor for us to receive this special award which is a clear testament to our everlasting



CRDB Bank's Director of Retail Banking, Bonaventure Paul (C), receives a certificate of recognition as the Best SME Bank 2023 from Joseph D. Giarraputo, founder and editorial director at Global Finance. Left is the bank's head of business banking, Toyi Ruvumbagu Photo by Guardian Correspondent

support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises across Tanzania. Our performance

in the SME sector results from strong strategic partnerships that we have been able to

develop, which have strengthened our funding capabilities,” said Bonaventure Paul, CRDB Bank's

director of retail banking.

Recently, CRDB Bank received EUR 150 million EIB loan from European Investment Bank, which will enhance access to finance by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises across Tanzania, and includes dedicated financing for women-led businesses and blue economy enterprises.

The EIB backed credit line will support business growth, contribute to gender equality and empowerment of women, and enable blue economy companies to invest in better future.

CRDB Bank was recognized as The Best Bank for SMEs in Tanzania based on independent research, with input from industry insiders, executives, and technology experts using criteria such as knowledge of SME markets and needs, breadth of products and services, market standing, and innovation.

This recognition further highlights CRDB Bank's commitment to enabling the success of its customers by ensuring that every Small and Medium Enterprise

(SMEs) business owner gets the support needed to meet their everyday banking needs.

The 2023 Best SME Bank award is based on the performance from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Only five banks in Africa were named the best SME banks, whereby CRDB Bank is the only bank from East and Central Africa.

CRDB Bank Plc is one of the East Africa's leading banks established in 1996, serving individuals, micro, small & middle businesses, and large corporations with a full range of retail, treasury, insurance, trade finance, syndications, premier banking, agriculture and microfinance services.

CRDB Bank was listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) in June 2009 and it is the first bank in Tanzania to be rated amongst the top ten stable and safer to invest African banks by the world's most respected rating agency, Moody's Investors Services.



## CONSTRUCTION

## Defaulters on land, property rates in Kenya risk asset sale

NAIROBI

COUNTIES will have powers to auction assets of businesses and individuals who default on land and property rates if Parliament adopts the National Rating Bill, 2022.

Counties will have powers to auction assets of businesses and individuals who default on land and property rates if Parliament adopts a proposed law that aims to boost revenues for the devolved units.

The National Rating Bill, 2022 proposes to empower the 47 county governments to seize and sell the property and land of defaulters upon the expiry of a 60-day notice to clear their dues.

Counties are currently not allowed under the law to seize and auction the property of defaulters, forcing them to rely on the issuance of waivers to woo property and land owners to clear unpaid rates.

The property and land rates will be reviewed every five years and counties will only be allowed to retain the charges for a maximum of two years under the Bill that seeks to earn counties billions of shillings more in revenues.

"The county government may for the purpose of recovering the rates due auction the rateable property at the current market value in accordance with the provided procedures to recover the rates due," read the Bill.

Prices of land and houses, especially in urban centres, have been surging in recent years on growing demand but counties use valuation rolls based on outdated ratings and laws denying them additional revenues.

The proposed law also seeks to rope in counties as part of listed beneficiaries for cases where the property is under succession besides attaching debts to recover the money.

The government-backed Bill is part of efforts by the National Treasury to increase internal revenues for regional governments amid years of underperformance.

Counties have since the start of devolution in 2013 turned to issue waivers in a bid to boost compliance with the reliefs denying them billions of shillings in internal revenues.

The devolved units raised Sh35.91 billion in internal revenues for the year that ended last June, against a target of Sh60.42 billion.

If passed, the Bill will see counties join entities that seize and auction the property of defaulters.

New York

THE global wood coating market grew from US\$10.13 billion in 2022 to US\$10.87 billion in 2023 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.3 percent.

The Russia-Ukraine war disrupted the chances of global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, at least in the short term.

The war between these two countries has led to economic sanctions on multiple countries, a surge in commodity prices, and supply chain disruptions, causing inflation across goods and services, and affecting many markets across the globe. The wood coating market is expected to grow to \$14.32 billion in 2027 at a CAGR of 7.1 percent.

The wood coating market consists of sales of penetrating finishes and surface finishes. Values in this market are 'factory gate' values, that is the value of goods sold by the manufacturers or creators of the goods, whether to other entities (including downstream manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers) or directly to end customers.

The value of goods in this market includes related services sold by the creators of the goods.

The wood coating refer to a type of substance applied on a wooden surface to protect it from harm caused by various natural and man-made environments. Wood coatings make it easy to clean and disinfect wood.

It also aids in the closure of pores that can serve as bacterial breeding grounds. Coatings are the final phase in the wood finishing process and provide a pleasing appearance to wooden surfaces while allowing them to last longer and increase durability.

Asia-Pacific was the largest region in the wood coating market in 2022. Asia-Pacific is expected to be the fastest-growing region in the forecast period.

The regions covered in the wood coating market report are Asia-Pacific, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, North America, South America, Middle East and Africa.

The main types of wood coatings are preservative wood coatings, stain wood coatings, and shellac wood coatings. Shellac is a warm-colored wood finish that is simple to apply with a rag, brush, or sprayer.

It dries quickly, allowing multiple coats to be applied in a single day. Shellac is an ancient natural finish.

Wood coatings also include waterborne wood coatings, solvent-borne wood coatings, and powder wood coatings. These wood coatings are applied on furniture, cabinets, siding, flooring, and other applications.

The rise in the construction of new

## GLOBAL WOOD COATING MARKET HITS US\$10.8BN



homes and house modifications are expected to propel the growth of the wood coating market. The rising demand for housing is increasing due to increasing population, rapid urbanization, economic/infrastructure development, favorable government policies/schemes for housing, and others.

This rise in the construction of new homes and house modifications will create a significant demand for wood materials with wood coatings to be used in these new and modified residential homes. Wood coatings offer a desirable appearance while ensuring a long life of wooden materials used in homes.

According to the new residential construction statistics released in February 2022 by the US Census Bureau and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the privately-owned housing starts in February 2022 reached 1,769,000 from 1,447,000 housing starts rate in February 2021, showing an increase of 22.3 percent.

According to the Census Bureau's new residential construction report, housing starts rose at 6.8% over February on a seasonally adjusted basis to a rate of 1.77 million annualized units. Thus, the rise in the construction of new homes and house modifications will drive the growth of the wood coating market.

Eco-friendly wood coating is a key trend gaining popularity in the wood coating market. Eco-friendly coatings are made of natural/eco-friendly substances and are not harmful to the environment.

Eco-friendly coatings either contribute to green living practices such as resource conservation or avoid contributing to pollution. Waxes, oils, and shellac are the most popular nontoxic, eco-friendly wood finishes on the market.

Key players are focusing on offering eco-friendly wood coatings to minimize environmental impact and gain a competitive edge in the market.

Centurion Wood Coatings, a US-based wood coatings company offers a range of Water-Based Coatings that are eco-friendly and provide exceptional performance with significant clarity, wood warmth, and durability.

Centurion Water-Based Coatings can be applied to a variety of wood surfaces including furniture, cabinetry, wood floors, high-end architectural millwork, and all other interior wood applications. These have benefits such as non-flammability, low odor, ease of handling, and water clean-up.

In March 2022, Gemini Coatings, a US-based wood coatings manufacturing company acquired Lenmar Wood Finishes & Coatings from Benjamin

Moore for an undisclosed amount. With this acquisition, Gemini strengthens its mission of providing exceptional service, dependable product quality, and trusted expertise.

Gemini by acquiring Lenmar will be better positioned to provide a world-class customer experience due to its dedicated employee-owners focus on the wood coatings market. Lenmar Wood Finishes & Coatings is a wood coating solutions brand of Benjamin Moore, a US-based paint and coating manufacturing company.

The countries covered in the wood coating market report are Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, South Korea, UK and USA.

The market value is defined as the revenues that enterprises gain from the sale of goods and/or services within the specified market and geography through sales, grants, or donations in terms of the currency (in USD, unless otherwise specified).

The revenues for a specified geography are consumption values that are revenues generated by organizations in the specified geography within the market, irrespective of where they are produced. It does not include revenues from resale along the supply chain, either further along the supply chain or as part of other products.

## Trends suggest mortgage rates this month are not predictable

By Jeff Ostrowski

Even in the calmest of economic times, mortgage rates are tough to forecast. In the uncertain economy of the post-pandemic era, though, mortgage markets have been especially unpredictable.

In late 2022, as rates surged past 7 percent, credible observers said 8 percent could be next. Luckily for homebuyers and sellers, that move turned out to be a head fake. In early 2023, rates reversed course - they steadily fell, spawning new predictions of sub-6 percent rates in the near future.

That pattern proved to be another misdirection - rates did a 180 again in February, rising for two weeks in a row, according to Bankrate's national survey of lenders.

The lack of a clear trend reveals that the investors who drive mortgage rates just aren't sure what's going to happen next. Perhaps the U.S. economy is in for a severe recession. Or maybe just a mild downturn. Or maybe even no slowdown at all.

"Volatility in financial markets is

just a symptom of a tremendous amount of uncertainty," says Mike Fratantoni, chief economist at the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA).

With spring - the traditional start of homebuying season - just around the corner, mortgage experts say rates will be determined in large part by the path of inflation, and by the Federal Reserve's response to the ongoing rise in prices.

The Federal Open Markets Committee's next meeting is scheduled to wrap up March 22. The Fed has signaled it plans another interest rate increase. How much depends on a couple of other crucial economic indicators, including the February jobs report to be released March 2 and the February Consumer Price Index (CPI) report on March 14.

The US central bank has been fighting inflation for a year now. The pandemic spurred trillions of dollars in stimulus spending and disrupted supply chains. As a result, inflation soared in 2021 and 2022, peaking at an annual pace of 9.1 percent last year. That figure



had slowed to 6.4 percent as of January 2023 - indicating that the Fed's program of aggressive rate hikes is working, but also that the job isn't done.

"The Fed wants these numbers to get back to 2 percent," Fratantoni says.

Inflation won't be tamed until 2024, he predicts. Still, Fratantoni expects the Fed to increase rates by a modest quarter-point this month.

"The economy continues to outperform," Khater says.

One challenge for the central bank is that its ability to control inflation has waned as the U.S. economy has shifted away from manufacturing. "It's more of a service economy, and rate increases don't filter through as quickly as they used to," Khater says.

Greg McBride, Bankrate's chief financial analyst, says a quarter-point hike is probable but not as

sure.

"Another quarter-point rate hike is likely in March, though another blowout jobs report or evidence of inflation re-acceleration would prompt the Fed to raise rates by one-half percentage point," he says. "Under the quarter-point scenario, mortgage rates won't respond to the rate hike itself but rather to the Fed's assessment of how high rates will go. With inflation elevated and the end point of Fed rate hikes still in question, the risk is to the upside on mortgage rates."

Nadia Evangelou, senior economist and director of real estate research at the National Association of Realtors (NAR), predicts

the strong economy will force the central bank into a sharp increase.

"The Fed will likely raise interest rates by 50 basis points this month," she says. "However, when it comes to the rate hike itself, the impact on mortgage rates will be minimal. Mortgage rates are currently moving upwards due to strong economic data and inflation running above expectations. These factors had an impact on the market's expectations for future Fed rate hikes."

The NAR expects 30-year mortgage rates to remain in the 6.7 percent range through March - but then fall to 5.6 percent by the end of 2023.

While the Fed is an important influence in the mortgage market, it doesn't directly control mortgage rates. Rather, they mainly move with 10-year Treasury yields. But that relationship has turned unpredictable over the past year.

Runaway inflation was the main factor pushing mortgage rates up in 2022. There's another culprit, too: the gap between 30-year mortgage rates and 10-year Treasury yields.

This interval, known to mortgage insiders as "the spread," typically runs between 1.5 and 2 percentage points. If the 10-year yield stands at 4 percent, for example, the 30-year rate typically ranges between 5.5 and 6 percent.

Back on Jan. 19, 2022, for instance, the average rate on a 30-year mortgage was 3.75 percent, according to Bankrate's survey. The 10-year Treasury, meanwhile, was yielding 1.83 percent. In other words, spreads were perfectly normal.



## WORLD

# Harry and Meghan 'requested to vacate' property

LONDON

THE Duke and Duchess of Sussex have been asked to vacate their British base of Frogmore Cottage, the couple's spokesperson has confirmed.

It was earlier reported that the home, in the grounds of Windsor Castle, had

been offered to the Duke of York.

A spokesperson for Prince Harry and Meghan confirmed the news. Buckingham Palace has not commented.

The duke and duchess now live in California with their two children, Archie and Lilibet.

They quit life as working royals in



The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are the latest in a long list of high-profile figures who have lived at Frogmore Cottage

2020 and left the UK shortly afterwards.

Frogmore Cottage, a Grade-II listed 10-bedroom property in the grounds of Windsor Castle in Berkshire, was a gift to the royal couple from the late Queen. Prince Harry and Meghan refurbished the property, owned by the Crown Estate, at an estimated cost of £2.4m in 2018-19. The cost was initially covered by taxpayers through the Sovereign Grant before being repaid in full by the duke.

They were reportedly told to leave the property by Buckingham Palace in January, days after Harry published his explosive memoir, *Spare*.

The book - which was released in January and became the fastest-selling non-fiction book in the UK since records began in 1998 - included claims Prince Harry was physically attacked by his brother, the Prince of Wales. He also wrote that he and his brother, the Prince of Wales, had begged their father not to marry Camilla, now Queen Consort.

Prince Andrew, the late Queen's second son, lives in the nearby 31-bedroom Royal Lodge, in Windsor Great Park, Berkshire.

He stepped down as a working royal in 2019 after a controversial Newsnight interview about allegations that he had sexually assaulted Virginia Giuffre. He has repeatedly denied the allegations. In February 2022, he paid an undisclosed sum to settle the civil sexual assault case Ms Giuffre brought against him in the US.

Reports in recent weeks, not confirmed by the BBC, suggested the King is to cut Andrew's annual grant which could leave him unable to afford his home's running costs.

The cottage has a rich and varied history. Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III, had it built in 1792 as a place for her and her daughters to escape the court. At the time it was fashionable for the wealthy to build large homes disguised as idyllic rural cottages.

Surviving relatives of Tsar Nicholas II also lived there after fleeing to the UK, following the murder of other family members by Bolsheviks in 1918. Since World War Two, the cottage is believed to have been used as a home for members of royal household staff, before Prince Harry and Meghan moved in. **Agencies**

## Vivek Ramaswamy: The Indian-American CEO who wants to be US president

LONDON

TWO of the three Republicans who have announced plans so far to enter the US presidential race are Indian-Americans. While Nikki Haley is a familiar name, surprise candidate Vivek Ramaswamy is much less well known. California-based journalist Savita Patel assesses his chances and whether he could bring change.

Ramaswamy, (pictured) a multimillionaire entrepreneur and author of the book *Woke, Inc.*, announced his presidential bid on 21 February with an appearance on a Fox News show and a video laying out his political views. He wants to launch a "cultural movement to create a new American dream" based on the "pursuit of excellence" - and he says "diversity is meaningless if there's nothing greater that binds" people.

The 37-year-old, who was born in Ohio, studied at Harvard and Yale, earned his millions as a biotechnology entrepreneur and then founded an asset management firm.

He's been vocal about his disdain for what he calls the corporate world's "wokeism" on racism and climate, claiming it hurts both businesses and the country. He's particularly opposed to ESG (environment, social and corporate governance)

initiatives, by which a company's social and environmental impact is measured.

He also renounces affirmative action in higher education and wants to reduce US economic dependence on China.

Ramaswamy's views have resonated with some, like fellow Republican Vikram Mansharamani, who ran for the US Senate from New Hampshire in the 2022 mid-terms, and met Mr Ramaswamy recently during the latter's visit to the state. Mansharamani describes his Indian-American peer as being "very impressive, articulate and thoughtful", and says that their views to "unify rather than separate America" align.

"Identity politics has taken root in the US and that has come with a divisive tendency rather than a unifying tendency. We should build on what we have in common," he says, adding that his family also hosted Nikki Haley in New Hampshire recently.

But there are Indian-Americans on the other side of the political divide who don't agree with Ramaswamy's politics and feel his campaign lacks depth.

Democrat Shekar Narasimhan, founder and chairman of the AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) Victory Fund, says that while he is happy to see more Asian-Americans gain prominence in politics, he isn't



confident about Ramaswamy's ideas. "He is a business guy and has a clean slate, but what are his promises?" Narasimhan asks. "Does he care about medical care for the elderly? What are his plans for infrastructure spending? He doesn't have fixed positions and has not articulated his policies yet."

He refers to the campaign as "Quixotic", suggesting Mr Ramaswamy believes "he has something to say and running for president might make him get heard". Narasimhan also questions if his fellow Indian-American has "sufficiently accepted and acknowledged his heritage" instead of "acting like it is irrelevant".

Many community members who have supported Republicans for years say they had not

heard of Ramaswamy until he entered the race.

"I have never met him. I am told he has the money and is quite well-spoken, but he will be one of many candidates. He doesn't have much chance," says Dr Sampat Shivangi, a well-known Republican party supporter and fund-raiser.

Others agree. "If he [Ramaswamy] had not thrown his hat in early, no one would be asking about him," says hotelier Danny Gaekwad, who has raised funds for all Republican presidential candidates since George W Bush.

Though Gaekwad admires Ramaswamy's courage in running for president, he says that it's important for him to have a strategy - one that "has something for Indian-Americans".

He also adds that it is early days yet, pointing out that there could be two formidable candidates in Florida alone - referring to Governor Ron DeSantis, who has yet to formally announce a White House bid, and former President Donald Trump, who has. Indian-American Republicans are predicting a "three-way race between Trump, DeSantis and Ms Haley" and prefer to wait instead of forging early alliances, especially as there is still uncertainty around the former president's legal battles.

Shivangi says that he admires Ms Haley's aggressive campaigning style and would support her in case Trump is forced to withdraw from the race. "Trump has 40% ratings and Ms Haley is in single digits, but she is our candidate. Her being Indian-American is the main reason why we are close to her," he says.

Irrespective of political differences, the Indian-American community is happy about the sharp increase in their political participation, especially over the last three election cycles, and is proud of the rise of another of their own.

"A beautiful thing is happening. Indian-Americans are coming to the forefront," Mr Gaekwad says, adding that the latest bid could encourage more Indian-Americans to run for elections even at the local level.

## Vo Van Thuong elected as Vietnam's new president

HANOI

VO VAN Thuong, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), was elected as Vietnam's new president on Thursday, Vietnam News Agency reported.

The country's top legislature convened a special meeting and elected Thuong as the new president with an approval rate of 98.38 percent, according to Vietnam News Agency.

In his sworn-in statement, Thuong vowed to be absolutely loyal to the nation, the people and the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and to work hard to fulfill the duty assigned by the Communist Party of Vietnam, the state and the people.

He will serve until the present term ends in 2026. Thuong, who was born in December 1970, is the youngest among members of the Politburo of the CPV. In his official biography, Mekong Delta's Vinh Long province is listed as his hometown.

He has an M.A. in Philosophy and an advanced degree in political theory from the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics.

Thuong started his political career in 1993, working on student and youth affairs, and became secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City's Communist Youth Union in 2003.

He was elected as an alternate member of the CPV Central Committee in 2006 and was appointed first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in 2007.

In 2011, he was elected as a member of the CPV Central Committee and then appointed secretary of the Quang Ngai Provincial Party Committee from August 2011 to April 2014.

The Politburo then appointed him as standing deputy secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City's Municipal Party Committee term 2015-2020. Thuong was re-elected to the CPV Central Committee in 2016 and became a member of the Politburo for the first time.

In 2021, Thuong was elected as a member of the CPV Central Committee for the third time and became a member of the Politburo for the second time.

He was also assigned to serve as permanent member of the CPV Central Committee's Secretariat. On Jan. 17, Nguyen Xuan Phuc resigned as Vietnam's president for personal reasons, with his memberships at the Politburo and the 13th CPV Central Committee being removed.

On Jan. 18, the National Assembly appointed Vo Thi Anh Xuan, who was elected as Vietnam's vice president in 2021, as the acting president.

## Britain's ex-foreign secretary confesses US makes decisions on arms supplies to Ukraine

MOSCOW

BRITAIN will not be able to independently expand the supply of arms to Ukraine, since the main decisions in this regard are still being made in Washington, former British Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a conversation with Russian pranksters Vladimir Kuznetsov (Vovan) and Alexei Stolyarov (Lexus), published on Wednesday.



Hague served as Britain's Foreign Secretary from 2010 to 2014. In a conversation with pranksters who called him on behalf of Ukraine's former president, Pyotr Poroshenko, he said that he remained in touch with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, advised him on the need to increase arms supplies to Ukraine and was sort of a mentor for the head of the British Cabinet.

"Great Britain will not change its policy without the United States, without coordinating it with the United States. In other words, the main decisions are still made in Washington," Hague said.

He noted that if Britain had free reign to make a decision to supply long-range weapons to Ukraine, there would be no doubt on that score.

He added that the process of Ukraine's accession to NATO, in his opinion, would last for years.

Hague speculated that the scheme that existed between the United States and Israel might serve as a solution for such a transition period. This is not an agreement or a defensive alliance, he said, but political certainty that Israel will always have the most advanced systems for defense. Ukraine, too, can have such relations with Britain, the US and many other Western states. "As for NATO, you can only imagine how long all this coordination will take in the alliance," Hague said.

ROME

## Italy migrant tragedy part of broader trend

THE recent death of at least 64 refugees off the coast of southern Italy is the latest in a long series of tragedies for many of the world's poorest and most desperate seeking to reach Europe's shores.

Last Sunday, an overcrowded vessel that illegally set out from Türkiye broke apart when, amid rough seas, it hit rocks near the coast of the southern Italian region of Calabria.

One of the deadliest migrant boat disasters occurred in April 2015, when at least 800 people perished as a vessel en route to Italy sank off the coast of Libya.

But data on migrant deaths at sea is notoriously unreliable, according to Ferruccio Pastore,

director of Fieri, an Italian think tank focused on immigration issues. "Migrant arrivals are relatively easy to calculate because each country keeps close track," Pastore told Xinhua. "But deaths at sea?"

A boat could go under with no formal record of it. Even when we're aware of it, we don't always know how many people were on board."

What is clear, analysts said, is that the number of people fleeing their countries due to conflict, poverty and other factors is on the rise - and so is the number of those who lose their lives doing so.

According to Federico Fossi, a public information officer from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are three main routes potential refugees take to arrive in Europe: from Morocco to Spain, from Türkiye to Greece or Italy, and from Libya or Tunisia to Italy or Malta.

The deadliest by far, Fossi said, is the last one on the list, accounting for around two-thirds of all arrivals and more than 80 percent of all deaths.

The central route is the most treacherous because it exposes refugees to open seas and harsh weather and it often forces smug-

glers to use more unseaworthy vessels to escape detection," Fossi told Xinhua. Last Sunday's tragedy involved a vessel from Türkiye that boarded passengers mainly from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. So far this year, around 12,000 of the 17,000 migrant arrivals to Europe took the central route, with most of them landing in Italy, Fossi said.

Adding some arrivals from the eastern route, Italy has been the landing point for the vast majority of Europe-bound refugees, consistent with most previous years.

That fact has sparked anti-migrant backlashes in Italy. In 2018,

the then-government temporarily closed the country's ports to migrant arrivals, and so far the government led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has tightened restrictions and called for stronger collaboration on migrants with the other European Union (EU) member states.

In early February, Meloni lobbied other EU leaders to agree to a united burden-sharing agreement on migration, but it failed to reach a consensus.

Still, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited Sicily a few days before Sunday's tragedy and said a European solution on migrants is

possible. But Italy's government has also elicited criticism after Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi blamed potential refugees for taking undue risks.

"Despair cannot justify travel conditions that endanger the lives of somebody's children," he said. Addressing Parliament on Tuesday, Piantedosi blamed traffickers for the tragedies, saying Europe should stop migrants from turning to unscrupulous figures for help.

Fieri's Pastore said the key to helping curb the influx of refugees was investing in the stability and economic development of poor countries.

"Nobody wants to take such a dangerous step, but they feel they have no choice," he said.



## Italy migrant tragedy part of broader trend

ROME

THE recent death of at least 64 refugees off the coast of southern Italy is the latest in a long series of tragedies for many of the world's poorest and most desperate seeking to reach Europe's shores.

Last Sunday, an overcrowded vessel that illegally set out from Türkiye broke apart when, amid rough seas, it hit rocks near the coast of the southern Italian region of Calabria. One of the deadliest migrant boat disasters occurred in April 2015, when at least 800 people perished as a vessel en route to Italy sank off the coast of Libya.

But data on migrant deaths at sea is notoriously unreliable, according to Ferruccio Pastore, director of Fieri, an Italian think tank focused on immigration issues. "Migrant arrivals are relatively easy to calculate because each country keeps close track," Pastore told Xinhua.

"But deaths at sea? A boat could go under with no formal record of it. Even when we're aware of it, we don't always know how many people were on board." What is clear, analysts said, is that the number of people fleeing their countries due to conflict, poverty and other factors is on the rise -- and so is the number of those who lose their lives doing so.

According to Federico Fossi, a public information officer from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are three main routes potential refugees take to arrive in Europe: from Morocco to Spain, from Türkiye to Greece or Italy, and from Libya or Tunisia to Italy or Malta.

The deadliest by far, Fossi said, is the last one on the list, accounting for around two-thirds of all arrivals and more than 80 percent of all deaths. "The central route is the most treacherous because it exposes refugees to open seas and harsh weather and it often forces smugglers to use more unseaworthy vessels to escape detection," Fossi told Xinhua.

Last Sunday's tragedy involved a vessel from Türkiye that boarded passengers mainly from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. So far this year, around 12,000 of the 17,000 migrant arrivals to Europe took the central route, with most of them landing in Italy, Fossi said.

Adding some arrivals from the eastern route, Italy has been the landing point for the vast majority of Europe-bound refugees, consistent with most previous years.

That fact has sparked anti-migrant backlashes in Italy. In 2018, the then-government temporarily closed the country's ports to migrant arrivals, and so far the government led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has tightened restrictions and called for stronger collaboration on migrants with the other European Union (EU) member states.

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## No swift return to dialogue on strategic stability between Russia, US – Russian envoy

MOSCOW

RESUMING strategic stability dialogue between Moscow and Washington is not in the foreseeable future, Russian Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said in an interview with TASS.

"I think that under the current conditions one cannot really talk about resuming the dialogue with the US on strategic stability. Washington openly declares its goal of 'strategically defeating' Russia and makes numerous hostile steps in this direction. What dialogue can one talk about here?" the Russian diplomat said.

He stressed that in order to resume a serious conversation between the two parties, it is necessary "for the US to considerably review its anti-Russian policy and display genuine interest in seeking mutually acceptable solutions."

On February 21, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia was suspending its participation in the New START treaty but was not withdrawing from it. The head of state stressed that before returning to discussing continued work under the treaty the Russian side needed to figure out how the arsenals of NATO's other nuclear powers, the UK and France, would be taken into account along with US capacities.

## Kobe Bryant's family to receive almost 29 mln USD from L.A. County for leaking helicopter crash photos

LOS ANGELES

THE family of late NBA star Kobe Bryant will receive a 28.85 million U.S. dollars settlement from Los Angeles County, in the western U.S. state of California, over the retired NBA star helicopter crash photos.

The settlement would resolve all claims involving the county, Mira Hashmall, lead trial counsel for Los Angeles County in the case, said in a statement Tuesday. Kobe and his daughter Giannina Bryant were killed on Jan. 26, 2020, in a helicopter crash incident with other seven people on board in Los Angeles.

Later that year, Kobe's widow, Vanessa Bryant, sued the Los Angeles County for negligence and invasion of privacy for the sheriff's department personnel from the county leaking graphic photos of the crash site to public, including showing them in a bar.

The sheriff's deputies and firefighters who rushed to the scene were reported snapping pictures of the carnage, including the mangled remains of the Los Angeles Lakers' legend and his 13-year-old daughter.

Tuesday's settlement will also resolve all outstanding claims in state court and any future claims by the Bryant's three other children, according to Hashmall, who said "we hope Ms. Bryant and her children continue to heal from their loss."

"Today marks the successful culmination of Mrs. Bryant's courageous battle to hold accountable those who engaged in this grotesque conduct," Vanessa Bryant's attorney Luis Li said in a statement quoted by local media.

She fought for her husband, her daughter, and all those in the community whose deceased family were treated with similar disrespect. We hope her victory at trial and this settlement will put an end to this practice," the statement said.



## NIGERIA ELECTION 2023: Tinubu rises from ashes of opposition splits

ABUJA

NIGERIAN President-elect Bola Tinubu would most likely have lost the election had it been held last year - before the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) split three ways.

The combined votes of his three closest rivals - one member and two former members of PDP - would have been enough for a comfortable return to power for the party, as together they received 60% of the vote.

The PDP's Atiku Abubakar got 29% of ballots cast, the Labour Party's Peter Obi got 25% and Rabiu Kwankwaso of the NNPP got 6%, while Nigeria's next president was elected with 37%.

It would have been easy for a united PDP to capitalise on an electorate tired of the economic hardship, widespread insecurity and record inflation experienced under outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari and the governing All Progressives Congress (APC).

The APC is the fruit of Mr Tinubu's hard work and he is known as a "political godfather" - helping put Mr Buhari in office eight years ago.

Yet 12 months is a long time in politics - and the 70-year-old former Lagos governor, aided by his party machinery, eased to victory.

### Reinvention goes wrong

It was billed as the most competitive presidential election in Nigeria since the end of military rule in 1999.

This was because a third candidate came to the fore. For the last two decades, Nigeria has largely been a two-party state at the national level.

Though there has been a plethora of third-party candidates seeking the presidency in that time, no-one has been able to truly to make waves like Mr Obi, who excited young voters.

He was vice-presidential candidate for the PDP in 2019 - and his old party had ruled Nigeria for the first 16 years after the return to democracy.

At the time it was a truly national party that connected with millions countrywide, though its strongholds were in the south, where it was assured of votes in every election cycle.

After the PDP experienced its second loss at national polls, in 2019 under Mr Abubakar, it was clear it needed to reinvent itself to attract the millions of young Nigerians who felt frozen out of the political system and frustrated by a political class they saw as responsible for the country's lack of progress.

Religious and ethnic sensitivities also play a role in a country split between a largely Muslim north and mainly Christian south with hundreds of different ethnic groups.

Many southerners felt that the PDP had taken their loyalty for granted after it opted to throw open its presidential ticket to candidates from all areas of Nigeria, instead of confining it to applicants from the south-east - the one area of the country yet to produce an executive leader.

This allowed Mr Abubakar, its major financier and a Muslim former vice-president from the north-east, to run once more.

Mr Obi, a Christian who hails from the south-east and had served two terms as governor of the Anambra state, left the PDP with days to the party primary.

Five powerful southern governors also refused to back Mr Abubakar in the election - it is thought that some of them worked for his opponents. While Mr Kwankwaso, a northern politician popular in Kano, Nigeria's second-largest city, broke ranks and went to the NNPP to get a shot at the presidency.

Though the PDP has now reclaimed some northern states it lost to the APC in 2019, it has bled heavily in its traditional southern strongholds, where Mr Obi did extremely well.

### Voters disenfranchised

This worked in the APC's favour, which stuck to a strategy that has served it well in the past - securing the votes in its bases in the north and west.

It was helped by voting day problems in opposition strongholds, where election officials often arrived late - in some places three-and-a-half hours after polls should have closed. This left many voters effectively disenfranchised.



Nigerian President-elect Bola Tinubu

Many excited first-time voters who had arrived hours before dawn were unable to cast their votes because of the late arrival of election materials.

"I arrived at my polling unit at 8:00 but until 11:00 I did not see anyone," a first-time voter at a polling unit along the Airport Road in the capital, Abuja, told the BBC after eventually managing to vote.

In the southern city of Lagos, where many young, educated residents were backing Mr Obi, BBC reporters met many people who arrived early but left after waiting hours for polling officers who never showed up.

In some polling units with thousands of registered voters, voting did not start until 13:00 - one-and-a-half hours before polls were due to close, and despite the extension of voting in such places, many did not vote as darkness fell and security officials had to leave. It is impossible to know many potential votes were lost as a result.

At some voting centres in opposition strongholds, voting did not take place at all and there were also cases of ballot-box snatching, violence and voter intimidation in known opposition states in the south such as Rivers, Lagos and Delta.

Election monitoring group Yiaga, said only 10% of polling units in the south-east and 29% in the south had started accreditation and voting by 09:30 local time on Saturday - an hour after polls opened.

Some 63% of polling units in the south-west and 42% of polling units in the north-west, known APC strongholds, had started voting at that time.

International observer missions from the NDI-IRI and the EU have described the process as lacking transparency.

In the end, turnout was just 27% and Mr Tinubu received 8.8 million ballots - less than 10% of the 93 million registered voters.

Voter apathy is not thought to have been as much of a factor as problems on voting day, given that 87 million people had gone to the trouble of physically going to collect their

voter cards.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Tinubu acknowledged there had been lapses in the election but said they "were relatively few in number and were immaterial to affect the outcome of this election".

Such sentiments were echoed by the Independent National Electoral Commission (Inec).

### Risk pays off

Many regard Mr Tinubu as a master political strategist and given he campaigned for the presidency under the slogan: "Emi lo kan", which means "It's my turn" in Yoruba, it is possible he has been planning his ascendancy for a while.

His APC grew out of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), which was nearly squashed 20 years ago by Olusegun Obasanjo when he was president and led the PDP.

Yet Mr Tinubu refused to join the PDP as other states and governors at the time did. Instead he used the vast resources of Lagos, the country's economic hub where he served as governor from 1999 until 2007, to build a following in the south-west.

He constantly reinvented his small party until a 2013 merger with other political parties in the north created the APC and its successful 2015 campaign brought Mr Buhari to power.

It was the first time that an opposition party had defeated an incumbent but it showed Mr Tinubu how to tread the complex path to the presidency.

Yet Mr Tinubu, a southern Muslim, took a risk in his own bid. Instead of choosing a running mate from one of the Christian minorities in the north that would have ticked the boxes in the deft balancing act usually needed in Nigeria, he picked a northern Muslim.

He did not want to alienate the huge Muslim voting bloc in the north - though he did draw the ire of most Christians by having a Muslim-Muslim ticket.

Mr Tinubu's main opponents have vowed to challenge his victory, alleging that the inability of Inec officials to upload results from polling units was evidence of their bias.

The PDP and Labour Party have now banded together, first jointly walking out of the venue where the results were being announced and then holding two press conferences together.

Their supporters may be wishing they had taken that approach before the election.



The PDP and Atiku Abubakar regained some northern states but lost badly to Peter Obi in the south



# Mainland Women's Premier League turns top destination for Kenyan female footballers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**M**AINLAND Tanzania Women's Premier League has recently become a destination for Kenyan female footballers who have dumped their local league.

The Women's Premier League, sponsored by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) brand Serengeti Lite, hit an all-time high towards the end of last year, raising concern about the state of women's football in Kenya.

Top on the list of the footballers now plying their trade in Tanzania is striker Jentrix Shikangwa (formerly turning out for Kenya's Vihiga Queens FC and Turkey's Fatih Karagümrük) and currently at Tanzanian club Simba Queens.

Kenyan striker Topister Situma (formerly of Vihiga Queens FC, now at Simba Queens), and midfielder Cynthia Shilwato (formerly of Vihiga Queens FC and Spanish club Logrono and currently at Fountain Gate Princess in Tanzania) are the other performers.

The list moreover has midfielder Corazone Aquino (formerly of Gaspo Women and currently at Simba Queens), and Yanga Princess' left fullback Wincate Kaari, defender Esther Amakobe (Wadadia Women, now at Fountain Gate Princess).

The other Kenyan female footballer Ruth Ingotsi (formerly a defender for Vihiga Queens and later Cypriot side Lakatamia) is currently featuring for Simba Queens.

All of the said footballers also turn out for Kenya's senior national women's football team Harambee Starlets.

The Harambee Starlets' players are among the 31 Kenyan female footballers who have dumped their Kenya Women's Premier League clubs for greener pastures.

So what could be behind the exodus of Kenyan female footballers from their country's clubs to foreign clubs, especially those in Tanzania?

According to a veteran Kenyan coach Alex Alumirah, Fountain Gate Princess' Technical Director, huge sign-on fees, better contracts and salaries, and the fact that a section of Tanzanian league matches is screened live on TV are some of the reasons Kenyan female footballers are moving to Tanzania in droves.

"Most of the players move to Tanzania where they feel valued and well taken care of. Players join clubs that pay handsomely. They prefer places where salaries are timely and consistent," Alumirah, who has also served as



Yanga Princess' left fullback, Kenyan Wincate Kaari (R), gets the better of Arusha's The Tigers Queens player Rehema Abdul when they faced each other in a 2022/23 Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League clash held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February 7. Yanga Princess garnered a 5-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA PRINCESS

Harambee Starlets' coach, said. "Fountain Gate Princess, Yanga Princess, and Simba Queens' matches are all broadcast live on TV. Players prefer this because it makes it easier for them to generate videos for scouts in the European market. At the end of the day, it's all about packaging themselves for greener pastures," he said.

"Some teams in the Mainland Tanzania Women's League pay their players better than most Football Kenya Federation Premier League teams. Teams give out huge sign-on fees that some of the players have never received since they started playing football," Alumirah revealed.

The tactician has had success in women's soccer, as he won the Kenya Women's Premier League title with Vihiga Queens in 2019 and went on to lift the CECFAFA Women's Club Championships title with the club in 2021.

He said Tanzanian clubs attract top players since they are better branded and marketed, and provide players with a conducive environment to train and live.

Alumirah pointed out: "In Tanzania, media helps market the players and the league, thereby putting them on the world map." The coach disclosed: "The

clubs have attractive and palatial accommodation facilities where players feel very comfortable living."

"On top of that, meals and other basic needs such as medical cover are provided," he said.

Simba Queens' manager Seleman Makanya said the Women's Premier League has only been in existence for six years now but proper structures put in place by the Tanzania Football Federation have contributed immensely to the growth of women's football in the country.

The gaffer revealed: "We have signed players across East Africa that make the league very competitive. We have sponsors who are always on standby to support us."

"They pump money directly to the federation and the clubs. In turn, the clubs are transparent and accountable to partners," Makanya noted.

The gaffer pointed out: "In Tanzania, female footballers are given equal support as their male counterparts, we try to create a friendly environment for them. We honour their contracts by paying them on time."

"This sends a strong message back to their countries, and attracts more players to our country," Makanya added.

Kenyan attacking midfielder, Francis Kahata, who played for Simba SC in the Premier League for two seasons says Tanzanian fans love their football and support the clubs by buying tickets and attending matches in large numbers.

The footballer revealed: "Tanzanian football has grown. They have good stadiums and the old ones have been renovated."

"The league is well organized and everything is done professionally. I often feel so sad for my country, we have good talent that is not well taken care of."

"I don't see any problem with players dumping the local league. They are looking for a better life," Kahata disclosed.

Last year, CAF changed its rules and now requires clubs wishing to participate in men's continental competitions to have women's teams.

The new requirement will take effect in 2022/23 CAF inter-club competitions. As a result, teams will be monitored to ensure consistency and full support for women's football.

In Kenya, a good number of the Kenya Women's Premier League clubs do not pay salaries. Players only receive match allowances as low as KSh 1,000 (18,363.42/-) every weekend during match days.

## MCC now clobbers TCA Women's outfit in 2023 DC T20 Cup tournament

By Guardian Reporter

MALABAR Cricket Club (MCC) garnered a comprehensive 10-wicket drubbing of the TCA Women outfit in a 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup tournament match played at the University of Dar es Salaam venue last weekend.

Nithin Thomas and Shajil Ayadathil showcased scintillating showing at the crease as MCC smoothly made short work of the TCA Women outfit that was mostly made up of inexperienced cricketers.

The TCA Women cricketers went on to notch 52/10 in 19.4 once they were put in to bat first by MCC had won the toss and chose to bowl.

There was certainly little to write home about for the team, when it came to batting, given top-order cricketer, Shufaa Hamza, was the only batter that ended with a two-digit figure.

Shufaa that was slotted in at number three made her way back with 11 runs, having been caught and bowled by MCC's Jithin Mohan.

She had to some extent seen TCA Women's squad slightly push its score following the early dismissals of openers, Jenipher Gabriel and Swaumu Godfrey.

Both openers were Mohan's victims, as Swaumu made her way back with four runs, whilst clearing the boundary once, and Jenipher was five runs short of a two-digit figure.

The early onslaught deployed by MCC looked to have paid off, as most of the TCA Women outfit's key batters were sent back in quick succession.

One of the top performers Nasra Hamza, for instance, ended with paltry two runs off 16 balls, and skipper Nasra Nassoro made her way back with four runs.

Middle-order batter, Sophia

Frank, was one run short of a two-digit score as she vainly sought to improve the batting team's total.

Malizia Salum, also coming in as a middle-order batter, chipped in with five runs, with her stint having been brought to an end by MCC's Tinoby Thankachan.

Ismail Kottal had the best bowling figure for MCC, having taken four wickets and leaking three runs in 3.4 overs.

Thankachan and Mohan compounded TCA Women's squad woes, ending their bowling stints with two wickets apiece.

Chasing the 53-run target, MCC hardly wasted time, mounting a successful chase without losing wickets in 8.3 overs.

Thomas had an unbeaten stand with Ayadathil to propel MCC to the impressive win, with both clearing the boundary on four occasions. Thomas posted 29 runs not out and a fellow batsman notched 19 runs not out.

The Kiwingu Man of the Match prize was won by MCC's Ismail Kottal because of his scintillating exploits with the ball.

Kottal ended with four wickets for three runs in 3.4 overs, had one maiden over, and a 0.82 economy rate.

The tie's winners have, consequently, moved to fourth place in the 13-team showpiece, having posted a 2.4105 net run rate from 325 runs scored and 256 runs given away.

They are trailing tournament leader, Dar Indian Titans, Patel C squad now sitting second, and third-placed Specialized K&P B squad.

The loss has left TCA Women's outfit sitting sixth on the log with a 0.4974 net run rate, notching 444 runs and giving away 400 runs.

They have come out victorious in two clashes and suffered a loss in as many games.



Malabar Cricket Club (MCC).

## Kally, Mgos, Nizar attend CAF Diploma B coaching course in Tanga

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia has opened a 10-day Confederation of African Football (CAF) B license soccer coaching course taking place here.

The TFF boss noted on the opening day the federation has picked several former footballers to attend the training due to their potential in the soccer fraternity.

The coaching course has brought together 25 trainees including foreigners from Rwanda and Kenya. It is fully funded by TFF and held at Mnyanjani Technical Sporting center.

Former Tanzanian footballers attending the course are Azam FC assistant coaches Kalimangonga 'Kally' Ongala and Aggrey Morris, Nizar Khalfan, Abdi Kas-



Simba Queens' coach, Mussa Hassan 'Mgosi' (2nd R), and other CAF Diploma B coaching course trainees listen to Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia (not in picture) when the latter graced the course's opening day in Tanga on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT CHEJI BAKARI

sim 'Babi', and Mussa Hassan 'Mgosi' now coaching Simba Queens.

Karia pointed out that TFF tar-

gets to make former players that are recently serving as assistant coaches attend the training to equip them with coaching skills.

The former players' participation in the course, the TFF official noted, will moreover stimulate competition as well as improve

their competence in spotting and grooming young players.

He further stated that the coaches will help the country's

national teams to competently battle it out in international tournaments.

Immediately after completion of the course, the coaches will be qualified to attend the CAF license A coaching course.

The tacticians will also have qualifications of serving as assistant coaches at various football teams that participate in the Premier League.

Karia said there is still the challenge of the absence of qualified coaches in Tanzania, a situation which contributes to the coaches' failure to coach outfits outside the country.

"TFF focuses on solving challenges facing tacticians together with providing various short and long-term coaching courses aimed at enabling our tacticians to competently work in the country and international soccer tournaments."



## Liverpool seniors step up with top-four finish now firmly in their sights

BY CHRIS BASCOMBE

VIRGIL Van Dijk and Mohamed Salah have an unexpected but vital Liverpool mission to execute in the remaining Premier League games. Call it 'operation avoid the Europa Conference League'.

With two of their most timely and necessary contributions of the season, the senior Liverpool duo demonstrated they are up for the challenge to salvage a miserable campaign.

Catching Tottenham Hotspur and Newcastle United is not just about Premier League points, or even their club's Champions League earnings for players of Van Dijk and Salah's calibre.

It is also about pride. It is about the self-perception of superstars who believe they belong on the biggest stages, and relish having the red carpet rolled out for them at the annual Fifa and Uefa awards shindigs.

With respect, Salah and Van Dijk did not sign new long-term contracts to flirt with UEFA's third tier and face FC Vaduz of Liechtenstein or Armenia's FC Pyunik, still a realistic possibility next season despite overcoming Wolverhampton Wanderers.

For other clubs any UEFA qualification is to be celebrated. For Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool, currently enjoying their sixth consecutive season in the Champions League, it will represent a humbling demotion. Yes, they are being held to a higher standard, but Van Dijk and Salah would not expect it any other way, and they are too good to anticipate extending a run in which their qualities have been doubted.

Those questions intensified when Van Dijk provoked an epidemic of eyebrow-raising by being voted by his peers into the world's best XI earlier this week. Such cynicism must hurt him as much as it bemuses, a reminder that six years of near flawlessness can be quickly forgotten amid six months of toil. Never mind only being as good as your last game. In modern football you might only be as good as the last goal conceded on your watch.

The Dutchman has certainly endured a particularly odd season, the rock upon which Liverpool's quadruple bid a year ago was built having occasionally crumbled.

But amid all the doubts expressed about the longevity of his on-field lieutenants, Klopp has remained steadfast in his belief Van Dijk will be back to himself soon enough. Wednesday night was reassuring as he looked more steady at the back alongside the much-missed Ibrahima Konate, while cracking the code in the opposing penalty area as he ended Liverpool's desperate search for the opening goal.

"We all need that and he needs that as well," said Klopp, agreeing Van Dijk resembled his true self. It was a tough game for defenders."

Van Dijk's recent problems are easily understood for anyone sympathetic, a consequence of him playing as many minutes as any centre-back in the world in between returning from a cruciate knee injury and tearing a hamstring in January.

Salah, meanwhile, has continued to score consistency without hitting previous peaks. With the goal which finished off Wolves, the Egyptian is just one short of Robbie Fowler's Premier League tally for Liverpool. This was his 20th of the season, a landmark he has reached in all six Anfield campaigns. Hardly the work of a striker who has downed tools since his £350,000 a week contract, despite looking less effective without his goalscoring pal Sadio Mane.

The more Salah and Darwin Nunez play together, the greater their understanding. This has been a work in progress all season, but there have been enough diamonds in the rough to justify the promise of exciting times ahead.

Although Liverpool had to wait to break down a resolute Wolves defence, something vaguely resembling a Klopp side emerged as Van Dijk and Salah - ably assisted by the crowd favourite Nunez - inspired a dominant climax.

There were periods where Liverpool's attackers worked in coordination, the midfielders smothered their opponents in their own half, and Van Dijk reacquainted himself with the art of taking residence in centre-circle and ping-ponging his diagonal pass to the advancing Trent Alexander-Arnold or deputy left back Kostas Tsimikas.

Liverpool have turned too many corners only to hit a dead end for Klopp to get carried away by a deserved home win. Especially as Manchester United will take great pleasure in trying to reawaken talk of Liverpool's Champions League banishment when they visit on Sunday.

THE TELEGRAPH



# Arsenal go five points clear of Man City - now the title race really begins

BY JASON BURT

NOW it feels real. No more talk of games in hand. The table is laid bare. With 13 fixtures to go Arsenal are five points clear at the top of the Premier League and, on this form, that appears formidable. Heck, they can maybe even afford to lose away to Manchester City and still win their first title since The Invincibles in 2004.

Just 13 games. It may be a third of a league campaign but it sure looks like the start of a run-in. The finishing line is some way away but suddenly it is also in sight. Arsenal can sense it. Whether they win the league or not this was the performance of champions. Even Mikel Arteta was relatively calm on the touchline while the celebrations on the final whistle were as under control as the game. It now feels like this is what Arsenal do and there is something awesome about that.

"It's a statement that we're here," Arteta said. "What I like is that everyone has the enthusiasm to do it. We're not going to stop that and we have to promote that."

It may have been against Everton, a team in the bottom three and looking ominously toothless and with a negligent lack of goal threat which is certainly not Sean Dyche's fault, but these are the kind of nights when nerves fray and resolve is tested and points can so easily be dropped.

Instead it turned out to be one of Arsenal's best performances of the



Gabriel Martinelli (r) puts Arsenal 4-0 up against Everton in the EPL. (AP PHOTO)



campaign. Not because they played scintillating football. They have done that more emphatically than this. Instead this young team demonstrated confidence and focus that shows they believe they can go the distance. That belief coursed through every one of them and through the crowd.

If Arsenal had drawn here they could have kicked off against Bournemouth on Saturday down in second-place - City have the lunch-time fixture at home to Newcastle United - but suddenly the pressure is fully on Pep Guardiola's side.

Plus the cavalry are coming. Thomas Partey returned, as a half-time substitute, and Gabriel Jesus should finally play again before the international break for the first time since the World Cup. They are two big players to come back into a team

who won with an assured inevitability.

There was a symmetry with this win. Their wobble in the league, after their FA Cup exit to City, started away to Everton in Dyche's first game in charge. They drew against Brentford and were beaten by City which appeared to signal a shift in the title race.

But since then they have responded admirably. That late, late victory at Aston Villa, after twice coming from behind, is looking ever more crucial and it has now been followed by three points away to Leicester City and this. Three wins, nine goals. It has been a remarkable fortnight for Arsenal with Arteta emphasising how much the players "wanted it". That was obvious. Far from collapsing they have used it as a line in the sand.

If they win the title, there is no question that

Arteta will be manager of the season and despite Arsenal's history and pedigree it will be the most unlikely title triumph since Leicester City's in 2016 - which is the last season Arsenal qualified for the Champions League.

At the start of the season returning to that competition was the height of Arsenal's hopes and would have been impressive enough. Now, even if they win their extra games, fifth-placed Newcastle can only reduce their advantage to 13 points. Arsenal would have to shed a point per game more than their rivals for the remainder of the season to be caught.

But those ambitions have been rightly recalibrated and in Bukayo Saka Arsenal have a candidate for player of the season; in Oleksandr Zinchenko they have another for signing of the season while the arrival

of Leandro Trossard has added another attacking dimension just when they needed it.

As impressive as the patience Arsenal showed was the ruthlessness. For 40 minutes this looked tricky. It was Dyche dominating the touchline and it was actually Everton who carried the greater threat. Arsenal did not even have a shot on target but, five minutes later, they scored with their first two accurate efforts and it was game over. The jeopardy evaporated.

That, too, is what the best teams do. They bide their time and they go in for the kill.

And to think Vitali Mykolenko had dealt with Saka's threat until the Everton left-back was let down by Dwight O'Neil who stood and watched and did not help his team-mate who had two Arsenal players to mark and was caught covering neither.

Zinchenko popped up on the Arsenal right, again showing how he uses his own starting position at left-back as nothing more than a launchpad, and he threaded a smart pass through to Saka who took it in his stride to score.

Arsenal sniffed blood and Saka and Gabriel Martinelli hunted down Idrissa Gueye who lost possession. After a Var check Martinelli's finish stood and although Aaron Ramsdale had to make a smart save to deny O'Neil there was no doubt.

Martin Odegaard added the third, Martinelli rounded it off and it suddenly only became about by how many Arsenal would reduce City's goal difference advantage. In the end it is down to six which, for Arsenal, was another bonus on a night when the momentum shifted strongly.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Saka and Martinelli reveal Arteta's coaching skill

By SAM DEAN

FOR a man who spent most of his playing career in the middle of the pitch, and was never particularly effective in front of goal, Mikel Arteta seems to know plenty about the art of scoring goals from wide areas. Clearly, it does not take a goalscoring winger to know one.

It was during Arteta's time at Manchester City, as Pep Guardiola's assistant, that he was widely credited with turning the club's wide forwards into consistent goal threats. Raheem Sterling and Leroy Sane, especially, became deadly finishers under the Spaniard's close guidance.

With Sterling in particular, Arteta spent hour after hour, day after day, working on the timing of his runs and the nature of his finishing. The two of them would come together after training and focus, Guardiola once said, on the "last action" that made Sterling such a dangerous player for City.

Now at Arsenal, in a different role and with a different set of players, Arteta and his coaching staff appear to have been teaching many of those same lessons to another pair of wingers: Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli.

Wednesday's meet-

ing with Everton brought the latest victory for Arsenal, and the latest goals for the two young stars of their thrilling title charge. Saka scored again, in the 40th minute of this 4-0 thrashing, and Martinelli joined him on the scoresheet just six minutes later.

It is a measure of their excellence this season, and indeed their development under Arteta, that Saka and Martinelli have both hit double figures in this Premier League campaign already. Martinelli has scored 11 league goals this season, while Saka has scored 10.

No other side has two players in double figures for goals, and no other team boasts a pair of wingers as efficient in the final third as these two 21-year-olds. With each passing week, they are becoming more and more influential: Arsenal have scored 10 goals in their past four matches, and Saka and Martinelli have struck seven of those.

"I'm happy [to hit double figures]," said Saka. "It is something I always set myself, to try and improve. I am hungry to achieve more."

What makes them so good? Well, individual talent is clearly at the heart of it. These are two of the most exciting

young forwards in the European game, playing with a skill and hunger that few others can match. Both players have pace to burn, and both players can score with either foot.

The importance of the system behind them, though, should not be understated. Arsenal play with the same defined structure and passing patterns in each game, with every player knowing their individual role within the wider network. Saka and Martinelli know which areas to attack, and which moments to attack them.

Such is the slickness of Arsenal's system, they often produce the same repeatable moves in consecutive matches. Close observers will have noted a particular play, for example, which results in Saka receiving the ball in space on the right

wing; when centre-back Gabriel Magalhaes has possession, Martin Odegaard will make a darting run in behind the opposition. The opposing team's left-back usually follows him infield, leaving Saka open to receive the switch from Gabriel.

These might sound like small details but it is little aspects of the game that allow Arsenal to dominate opponents and make the most of their wingers on the flanks. In the past two matches, too, Martinelli has been given more freedom by the presence of Leandro Trossard as a floating false nine in attack.

"It is credit to them because, in the end, they have to do it themselves," said Arteta of Saka and Martinelli. "But we try to help them with our way of playing by trying to get them in those positions

as much as possible.

"They are so willing to learn, they are asking for more and more every single day. They never have enough information, they want more. They want the space, they want the practice and when you have that, and you have the talent that they have and the ideas that they have, good things will happen."

A shared quality of the recent Premier League-winning teams has been wide forwards who can regularly contribute goals. Sterling reached double figures for goals in five consecutive seasons for City, while Riyad Mahrez has done so twice in the past three seasons. Sane, meanwhile, struck 10 league goals in back-to-back campaigns for City.

At Liverpool, too, the flow of goals from Mo-

hamed Salah and Sadio Mane was fundamental to their success over recent campaigns. From the summer of 2017 until the start of this season, those two forwards scored a combined total of 195 goals in the Premier League, an average of 39 goals per campaign.

Evidently, Saka and Martinelli have some way to go before they can match those numbers. But the best teams of this era have had a sustained goal threat from their wingers, and Saka and Martinelli are now providing that for Arsenal. With Martinelli agreeing a new contract a few weeks ago, and Saka set to sign his own improved deal in the coming days, the hope, and the expectation, in north London is that they will continue to do so for years to come.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko





**Arsenal go five points clear of Man City – now the title race really begins**

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## Mwakinyo set for non-title fight next month

By Guardian Correspondent

PROMINENT Tanzanian professional pugilist, Hassan Mwakinyo, is set to take the ring at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on April 22 to trade punches with a South African pugilist.

The outspoken Mwakinyo had been out of action for about six months.

The bout has been organized by a well-known female promoter in the country, Sophia Mwakagenda, the Managing Director of the Lady in Red Boxing Promotion.

Mwakinyo's last time to fight was on September 3 last year, coming up against English Liam Smith in Liverpool and lost by TKO in the fourth round.

Sophia said that they have started preparations for the fight, which seeks to raise funds to buy 40,000 sanitary pads to be handed over to various students in the Southern Highlands regions namely Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, and Ruvuma.

She said that they are now in negotiation with the South African pugilist and would be unveiled soon after signing the contract.

"I cannot reveal the boxer due to an agreement we have reached, he and others would be announced later," Sophia noted.

She said that they expect exciting fights on the day due to many prominent professional boxers who have been lined up ahead of the fights.

"We expect to have a strong and exciting fight that day. We are looking forward to fans of professional boxing, MPs, and various government leaders attending the fight. We are asking the sponsors to come forward to make this fight a success," Sophia stated.

On his part, Mwakinyo disclosed that he expects to return with all his strength, adding he is well prepared for the fight and will show his competence.

"Indeed, I haven't fought for a long time and a lot has been said, now I'm coming back with all my strength and erasing all the negative thoughts against me."

"In short, I don't fight to make some people happy... I do it to develop my talent," Mwakinyo said.

Mwakinyo said that he has started preparations for the fight and promised Tanzanians to do well as he looks to fight for the first time in Dodoma.

The boxer moreover congratulated President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts to develop sports and bring great enthusiasm.

He said that the appointment of the Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Hamis Mwinjuma has increased enthusiasm in culture, arts, and sports because Mwinjuma is fit for the post.



## Yanga SC guns for Federation Cup quarterfinal ticket



Yanga's forward Kennedy Musonda (C), negotiates his way past Tabora's Rhino Rangers defender when the outfits took on each other in the previous round's clash of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) played in Dar es Salaam last month. Yanga cruised to a 7-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC, alias Yanga, will be looking to continue their quest for a domestic treble when they host Tanzania Prisons in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) Round of 16 at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam this evening.

The match is being hosted at the venue following the temporary closure of the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium which is undergoing renovations.

Yanga won the Community Shield at the start of the season, is seemingly on course to win the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, and is moreover still in the hunt for the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals.

They progressed to the ASFC Round of 32 after defeating Championship League side, Kurugenzi FC, 8-0 in the Round of 64's tie which took place in Dar es Salaam on December 11.

In the tournament's Round of 32, the showdown's defend-

ing champion clobbered a Championship League club, Rhino Rangers FC, 7-0 last month.

Considering their busy fixture schedule which includes next week's crucial 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage match against Mali's AS Real Bamako, Yan-

ga's head coach Nasreddine

Nabi may look to rotate his starting lineup.

Metacha Mnata is likely to deputize Djigui Diarra between the sticks, while Ibrahim Bacca, Kibwana Shomari, and David Bryson could all be recalled in defense.

Zawadi Mauya and Salum Abubakar are both available should Nabi opt to replace the

midfield duo of Yannick Bangala and Khalid Aucho, but Mudathir Yahya will likely retain his place in an advanced midfield role.

Clement Mziza has been the Jangwani Street outfit's preferred striker for the ASFC this term and he is set to replace Fiston Mayele up front, while Farid Mussa will be

pushing to start in the wings ahead of Jesus Moloko.

The momentum is with Yanga and they will be regarded as firm favourites to come out on top, even if Nabi opts to rest a few of his regular starters.

Prisons are staring relegation in the face, occupying the 14th spot in this season's NBC Premier League standings, just three points from the direct relegation position with only seven games to go.

The Mbeya-based squad's head coach, Abdallah Mohamed 'Baresi', admits saving their NBC Premier League status remains their main focus and will instead use the Federation Cup match as part of their build-up for the relegation scrap.

"Our main focus is the league but that doesn't mean we are not going to compete against Young Africans," Mohamed stated ahead of the game.

"We are focused on doing well in the remaining league matches, we will use this match against Yanga to build our team, hoping that will help us achieve our main goal in the league," the coach noted.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and Tanzania Prisons have met in 21 games since the 2010/11 season.

Yanga has claimed 17 wins and only suffered one loss in the process.

When the teams met earlier this season, in Dar es Salaam in December 2022, Yanga claimed a 1-0 win thanks to a late goal scored by Feisal Salum.



Embattled Yanga midfielder, Feisal Salum, is pictured leaving Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday after attending the hearing of his appeal against the federation's decision on the contractual dispute between the midfielder and the outfit. The midfielder recently submitted a letter to Yanga, asking for the termination of his contract with the club. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Geita Gold eyes ASFC last eight, plays Green Warriors

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

GEITA Gold FC will be pleased to take a few days off from 2022/23 NBC Premier League action after slipping off the top four race ahead of an Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last 16 home game against Championship League side, Green Warriors. The match will be played at the Nyanakumbi Stadium.

Sunday's 2-1 defeat to Namungo FC has left Geita Gold FC, coached by Fred Felix 'Minziro', in fifth position in the NBC Premier League table.

The Geita side is 11 points clear of the relegation zone and 13 points adrift of the fourth-placed Singida Big Stars, as the former stares at failing to match last season's high standards.

As such, today's ASFC tie against Green Warriors may take on additional emphasis for Geita Gold FC, as they look to provide their fanbase with some excitement

throughout the closing months of the season.

Geita Gold FC are looking to reach the Federation Cup last eight for the second time in a row since having made their first appearance in the quarterfinal last season.

They were defeated in a penalty shootout by eventual champions Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, in the last campaign and the former's head coach Minziro feels that his side learned from the defeat.

Minziro's charges have already beaten lower-league opposition twice in this season's Federation Cup, with a slender 1-0 success over Nzega United in the round of 64 followed by another 1-0 victory against Transit Camp FC in the last 32.

Edmund John leads the way for Geita Gold FC as far as goal scorers in the 2022/23 season are concerned, with the young winger having netted five times across all competitions.

The former winger for the national U-17 squad, 'Serengeti Boys', has struck four goals in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League and one in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

Meanwhile, Green Warriors are one of five teams outside the 2022/23 NBC Premier League which are still competing in this season's Federation Cup and considering their struggle in the Championship League, they can hardly afford to take Friday's tie seriously.

Moreover, Green Warriors are coming into the match against Geita Gold FC having succumbed to a 2-0 defeat to Ndanda FC in a Championship League match last week-end.

That result means the Green Warriors have lost their last three games in a row. There was a 2-1 defeat to Mashujaa FC which was followed by a 1-0 loss to Kitayosce FC last month.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

