



BUSINESS
NMB Bank funds education in Kabaha, to spend over 2bn/- on social investments this year

Visa to invest \$1bn in Africa to accelerate digital transformation

Boat donation strengthens US-Tanzania maritime boats security cooperation

African businesses organisations join hands to boost trade

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PM axes board in 3bn/- theft saga

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has dissolved the board in charge of construction of the Sumbawanga Teachers College in Rukwa Region following suspicions of embezzling up to 3bn/- in project funds.

The premier also ordered the arrest of an accountant handling the warehouse and a tutor on suspicion of setting on fire an office where construction documents were kept.

Inspecting construction progress in the Katumba bus stand in Sumbawanga municipality, the premier asked the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and the police to investigate the matter to find out how the documents in the office were destroyed.

He specified that accountant Eric Rutyamirwa and tutor Godfrey Msenuka be arrested in connection with setting fire to the office to destroy documents and evidence.

The fire outbreak hindered checking records of procurement costs in the project, suspected to have been three times the actual costs, the premier intoned.

The bus stand is being built in two phases at a total cost of 7.1bn/-, with the government having paid out 3.8bn/- for the first phase since construction started in August 2021 and set for completion next month.

The prime minister detailed that the building caught fire despite that it was not connected to electricity or using any traditional energy, causing anxiety and disbelief on an accidental fire outbreak.

"The day the building caught fire, staff noticed two locks on the doors which were not familiar and never used before. This shows that someone put the locks with own intentions, so the police and PCCB need to work on this, dig deep to find where the problem is," he said.

The PMO would send a team to investigate development projects being implemented in the region as many projects were running out of funds even before completion, he said.

He said the region faces a massive problem in the supervision of projects and management of funds, so PMO has to investigate as many projects are not being completed despite the set funds being disbursed.

Many projects do not show value for money due to systematic embezzlement and the government will not tolerate officials engaged in such acts, he said.

The premier directed district councils in the region to lay emphasis on collecting revenues using electronic fiscal devices (EFDs) to ensure that collections are optimised.

Omar Kipanga, the Education, Science and Technology deputy minister has declared that the construction committee has been dissolved to pave the way for investigations, naming a new committee to supervise construction of the college to its completion.

He said the government had approved 100bn/- for the construction of five teachers colleges countywide, in Sumbawanga, Morogoro, Tabora, Ngara and Kasulu.

The funds will similarly be used in rehabilitation of 30 other colleges elsewhere, while Queen Sendiga, the regional commissioner expressed appreciation for the premier to undertake a visit to the region. The regional secretariat intends to work on all directives the premier issued, she added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks at the US-Africa Leaders' Summit on agriculture, food security and food production at the Convention Centre Hall in Washington, D.C. earlier this week. Photo: State House

TIRA director invites two Indian firms to open shop, widen access

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) director Abubakar Mgata has invited two major Indian insurance firms to open branches in the country. Speaking in a night gala on Thursday at the chancellery of the Indian High Commission, he urged local insurance companies to tap opportunities available from the two firms whose top officials were in the country to study the market. Noting that such a measure would help to increase coverage, the director

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Teachers' union reinstates Ulaya

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) president Leah Ulaya was yesterday reinstated by the annual general meeting after delegates were satisfied with her defense concerning allegations of misuse of funds.

The TTU leader was suspended from the position for one year and three months over abuse of power, including allegations of having approved payments of 300m/- to retired TTU deputy secretary general Ezekiah Oluoch.

The meeting moved to withdraw membership from Deus Seif, the erstwhile TTU secretary general and the union's treasurer Aboubakar Allawi.



I will work to strengthen our solidarity and deliver according to members' expectations

They were sentenced to six months in jail after being found guilty of abusing their powers by diverting 13.9m/-, the property of TTU.

Members of the AGM held in Dodoma were told that the sentence disqualified them from holding leadership posts within TTU, with the meeting being held under the chairmanship of Selemani

Ikomba.

Addressing delegates, Ulaya expressed satisfaction with her being cleared of allegations and being reinstated, promising to serve the union diligently, back from the cold since she was suspended September 16 last year.

"May I commend you for properly supervising the union," she said, vowing to break all groups within TTU and make sure there are no conflicts. "I will work to strengthen our solidarity and deliver according to members' expectations," she stated.

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MoU set to boost local inputs in malaria drugs

By Guardian Reporter

ANTI-MALARIAL global partnership has received a new boost with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to support local manufacturing of quality-assured anti-malaria drugs to ease access and ensure universal coverage for populations across the continent. A statement released towards the end of the

second edition of the international conference on public health in Africa in the Rwandan capital of Kigali said the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC) linked with the United States CDC and Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), a Swiss-based outfit, signed the MoU to boost collaboration on malaria with African Union member states. The MoU focuses on

scaling-up African manufacturing, developing new capacities while adhering to specifications on the package required for registration of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and finished pharmaceutical products (FPPs), it said. An earlier statement said the objective of the MoU is to jointly enhance supply security and facilitate equitable access to quality

approved antimalarial and thereby maximize the use and health impact of existing products on the continent. "Through the MoU, MMV and the Africa CDC have affirmed their commitment to join efforts to achieve a common objective: to strengthen Africa's manufacturing capability to tackle diseases like malaria that continue to plague the African continent.

Pierre Hugo, MMV's senior director of market dynamics and global partnerships said that MMV and Africa CDC share a common goal of delivering quality-assured essential medicines produced in Africa. "We believe that targeted investments and collaboration with select

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TIRA director invites two Indian firms to open shop, widen access

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commended the High Commission for organising their visit, asserting that it had come at the right time as Tanzania is reviewing regulations governing the insurance sector.

TIRA has placed guidelines to widen insurance penetration in a bid to develop the market, he said, underlying that the government is striving to build a clean, competitive and profitable environment for the sector.

This will give investors a hand to play while the regulator's role is to make it easier for everyone to obtain rightful benefits from the market, he said.

High Commissioner Binaya Srikanta Pradhan said the visit of top officials was an opportunity for local insurance stakeholders to share experience and seek ways of linking up with established companies in India.

Local firms need to utilize untapped opportunities from the two firms especially in the complicated area of life insurance, he said, noting that the High Commission organised the visit and gathering to build bridges with local stakeholders.

There has been great cooperation between Tanzania and India in different sectors of development, he said, hinting that the visit by top officials of key insurance firms in India to explore investment opportunities could speed up competition if they decide to set foot.

Shri Kumar, chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and Devesh Srivastava, chairman of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) held talks with sector stakeholders in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The talks focused on the needs of the market, with the LIC executive saying that the firm is interested in exploring opportunities available in collaboration with local firms.

LIC wishes to leverage with local companies to increase insurance uptake especially life insurance penetration as it did in India where the coverage is high, he stated.

Coverage in the other development sectors like agriculture would boost the country's economy in collaboration with the private sector, he said.

By investing in Tanzania, General Insurance will have set foot in a market of 400m people in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region, the GIC executive specified.

GIC's long-term plan was to see insurance services serving the local business community from their ancestral land after having done so with a branch in Nairobi.

In the long run, the best option is to open a branch in Dar es Salaam to explore opportunities available so far in the industry, he affirmed.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses Sumbawanga council members during his official visit in Rukwa region yesterday. Photo: PMO

MoU set to boost local inputs in malaria drugs

FROM PAGE 1

manufacturers will create opportunities to expand access to quality antimalarial throughout both the public and private sectors," he stated.

The MoU further outlines how MMV and Africa CDC will work with partners to ensure funding and procurement of locally manufactured quality-assured medicines. This includes advocacy to AU member states to use free trade agreements to ensure regional distribution of locally manufactured,

quality-assured medicines. Dr Nicaise Ndembu, Africa CDC's senior science advisor said that Africa is capable of manufacturing its own medicines, underlining that the partnership between Africa CDC and MMV will increase local medicine manufacturing and focus on establishing several regional hubs to manufacture APIs and FPPs. The potential benefits of such a collaboration were highlighted with the recent WHO prequalification of a sulfadoxine-

pyrimethamine, a new drug that protects pregnant women from malaria, by Kenya-based Universal Corporation Limited (UCL), supported by MMV. Dr Ahmed Ouma, the acting director for Africa CDC said the collaboration illustrates "what we are all doing to realize a new public health order for Africa," that was launched in 2020. "But we have more work to do before every one of our brothers and sisters has equal access to quality healthcare."

Throughout the three days of the conference, stakeholders echoed the call for a new approach that empowers African countries to be prepared for the health challenges of the future, and on the margins of CPHIA 2022, key partnerships in the interest of Africa's health priorities were being established, observers noted. CPHIA 2022 featured nine plenary sessions, 14 parallel sessions, nine abstract-driven sessions including 50 oral presentations and 185 posters exhibited

in the poster hall - and more than 60 official side events. As the conference came to a close, the African Union and Africa CDC announced that the next meeting, CPHIA 2023 will be hosted in partnership with the Zambian Ministry of Health in Lusaka. The three day conference from Tuesday to Thursday attracted over 2,500 participants from 90 countries across the continent and beyond, beefed up by leading scientists and researchers, and private sector executives.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba speaks with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees residence representative Mahoua B. Parums who paid a courtesy call at the minister's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Benny Mwaipaja

Teachers' union reinstates Ulaya

FROM PAGE 1

She took the position from veteran leader Gratian Mukoba, and expects her leadership will make the union stronger, while the retired TTU executive in the eye of the storm, Oluoch said the meeting made the right decision.

Ulaya was suspended from the position after allegations that she approved his being paid 300m/- and incurring losses to the union, "but in truth, I was not paid even five cents," he declared.

He said that since his retirement in June 2020, he was yet to be paid some of his benefits, including transport expenses for belongings to his home village in Rorya district, Mara Region.

The AGM elected Japhet Maganga to the post of secretary general in the place of Seif, whereupon the new union coordinator said they all ought to observe interests of the union and not those of individuals. He appealed for members' support to enable him properly execute his responsibilities.

TTU acting president Dinnah Mathamani and some members earlier moved out of the meeting room to demand a change of approved agenda but failed, whereupon the meeting proceeded with the set agenda to discuss the sacked leaders, reaching the decision to reinstate them.

Teachers account for 60 percent of all civil servants in the country, observers noted.

Former Mozambique President's Son jailed over 'Hidden Debt'

MAPUTO

THE son of a former president of Mozambique has been sentenced to 12 years in prison after being found guilty, along with 10 other people, on charges related to a corruption scandal in which the government concealed large debts, crashing the country's economy.

Ndambi Guebuza, the son

of former president Armando Guebuza, was one of 19 defendants, including two to intelligence service officials - Gregorio Leao, the former head of the economic unit and Antonio do Rosario, who headed three state-owned firms that illicitly borrowed billions. Eight defendants were acquitted, while the rest were handed terms ranging

between 10 and 12 years.

"The defendants tarnished the good image of the country abroad and in the international markets, with enduring and hard-to-repair effects," said Judge Efigenio Baptista, addressing the courtroom on the grounds of a high-security jail in the capital, Maputo.

"The crimes committed have brought consequences

whose effects will last for generations."

The so-called "hidden debt" scandal involved state-owned companies that illicitly borrowed \$2 billion (1.9 billion euros) in 2013 and 2014 from international banks to develop a tuna fishing industry and buy surveillance vessels.

The money went directly to three companies managed by

Rosaro, who called himself a "super CEO" during the trial.

Much of the money raised for the fishing project was diverted via kickbacks to bankers and Mozambique officials.

The government masked the loans from parliament and the public. When the "hidden debt" came to light in 2016, the International Monetary Fund and other donors cut off

financial support to Mozambique, triggering a sovereign debt default and currency collapse, pushing the country into the worst economic crisis in its history.

Leao and do Rosario were found guilty of embezzlement and abuse of power, while Guebuza was convicted for embezzlement, money laundering and criminal associa-

tion, among other charges.

Guebuza's father, who was president when the loans were contracted, testified at the trial.

Judge Baptista said Ndambi Guebuza acted deliberately "to exert influence on his father" and get the government to approve the purchase of the vessels.

AGENCIES

SAGCOT will foster economic growth in 3 Morogoro districts

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) which is implemented in Kilombero, Ulanga and Malinyi districts in Morogoro region will foster economic growth as the districts will be connected to electricity services.

This follows completion of the Ifakara power cooling station project and 82 kilometers of power transmission infrastructure that are constructed by the Rural Energy Agency (REA).

Briefing journalists on the government successes in the implementation of rural energy projects, director general of rural energy agency (REA), Eng Hassan Saidy noted that the project was funded by the government in collaboration with the European Union at a cost of 8.75 million Euros.

Eng Saidy said the electricity cooling project will help provide reliable and sufficient electricity for all the three districts that be-

fore the project experienced challenges of power outages which affected production.

"These three districts had the challenge of power outages all the time, causing inconvenience to the people. Through this project there will be reliable power services since our goal is to boost production especially the agricultural sector," said Eng Saidy.

He said the government resolved to implement such a big project in the districts for purposes of boosting production in the agriculture sector through SAGCOT.

He said for a long time, residents in the three districts were facing two challenges, including frequent power outages and low voltage due to the huge load at the Ifakara power supply station.

"The capacity of this station is 20 MVA while the one serving Morogoro region has 60 MVA capacity. These three districts will be served with a 20 MVA power station. REA has done a big job taking into consideration that the

districts are among the important food production in the southern zone," he said.

He said that when REA was established in 2007, the availability of electricity in rural areas countrywide was only two percent, but it has now reached 69.6 percent and by the year 2030, electricity will be available at 100 percent in all villages.

Assistant director of the department of Information in the Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology, Rodney Thadeus, said the government continues to build and improve various infrastructures to help communities. He said electricity is also important for health services, commending REA for seeing the importance of improving power service in the region.

He said REA has clearly demonstrated its commitment to change the lives of Tanzanians by helping citizens to access energy services which will also boost agriculture services.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima exchanges greetings with elderly persons at Njoro Centre in Kilimanjaro region recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Jafo directs stakeholders engaging in carbon trade to localise their products

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State (Union and Environment), Selemeni Jafo has called upon stakeholders engaging in carbon trade to localise their projects by re-registering them through the ministry and the National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCMC) at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

He said the move will make them operate in accordance with the

country's regulations and guidelines governing carbon trade.

Jafo made the statement in Dodoma yesterday when presenting a report on compliance and implementation of Carbon Business Management Rules and Guidelines.

He noted that compliance and implementation of the rules and guidelines will help improve effective management of carbon trading projects implemented

within the country.

Jafo said that implementation of carbon trade projects will contribute towards reducing greenhouse gases that cause global warming and will eventually reduce the effects of climate change, contribute to sustainable environment conservation and bring about sustainable social and economic development.

Minister Jafo emphasized that compliance and implementation of

Carbon Business Management Rules and Guidelines is the responsibility of all stakeholders, including International and domestic investors, Sectoral Ministries, Regional Secretariats and Local Government Authorities.

"Tanzania is one of the countries affected by the effects of climate change and unpredictable weather, this situation manifests itself through events of unpredictable rains, temperature

increase, drought and floods.

"Effects of climate change have affected social and economic sectors especially agriculture, tourism, energy, water, health, livestock, marine and land ecosystems, thus affecting the increase in national income. Long-term drought and floods have contributed to high economic costs, affecting the development and life of rural and urban communi-

ties," said Jafo.

He said the rules and guidelines are based on strengthening the country's contribution in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thus reduce the effects on the environment.

Jafo added that the regulations aim to ensure communities and various stakeholders involved in the business, including the government, fully enjoy the benefits of carbon trade in the country.

The minister directed the Department of Environment, the Carbon Monitoring Center and the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) in all regions to collaborate with sectoral ministries, regional secretariats, local government authorities and development stakeholders to effectively manage the implementation of the rules and guidelines for the management of carbon businesses.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP

MAIMUNA ABDILLAHI ALI
Whose photograph provided above is applying to the minister of home Affairs for Tanzania citizenship. Her nationality at present is KENYA country of origin KENYA Employment HOUSEWIFE Employers address is P.O.BOX she has been living in Tanzania since 1999.
Any one, who knows any reasons why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send written and signed statement of fact to the commissioner General of Immigration, P.O. BOX 592, Dar es salaam.
Use reference IN.

FOR COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION.



Singida regional commissioner Peter Serukamba cuts a ribbon to launch one of 29 classrooms and teachers' office at Issuna secondary school situated at Ikungi district worth 580m/-. Right is Singida East MP Miraji Mtaturu. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

TanESCO improves electricity supply countrywide due to maintenance - DG

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TanESCO) has said that the power supply has continued to improve in many parts of the country due to major maintenance conducted in some of its plants as well as a slight increase of water flow in production plants.

The firm's director general, Maharage Chande told a news conference yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the situation has improved due to short, mid and long-term efforts taken to address the situation.

According to him, the company is currently facing a daily deficit of 100 megawatts per day from 200 megawatts of the past two weeks, something which has eased power rationing.

"In the past few weeks, the daily power deficit was between 300 megawatts and 350 and then dropped to 200 megawatts and now 100 megawatts to 150 per day," he said.

He said that many dams and production plants are still not supplied with enough water due to poor rains.

"New Pangani falls which has capacity to produce 68mw now process 7mw. Kidatu plant with capacity to produce 200mw and now 145mw and Hale now producing 4mw, this is due to drought challenges and many parts are not getting enough rains," he explained.

Chande said that efforts have been taken in conducting maintenance in various plants that face technical problems and the work has been completed in most of the plants.

"We promised to continue conducting maintenance in various plants before the end of De-

cember and almost all of them have been completed except the Ubungo III which we expect that in the next two weeks it will be okay," he said.

The DG noted: "For the power plants to function well, it largely depends on the flow of water due to rains from Iringa, Njombe, Morogoro and Dodoma regions, but the rain situation is still not good and our plants are still dry."

He assured that due to the ongoing long-term efforts, power shedding in the country will end in 2025.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF A LIQUIDATOR OVER REHEN GENERAL TRADING LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the Members of the above company i.e. **Rehan General Trading Limited** with registration no. 104245 (the company) have resolved to wind up the company voluntarily and that **Mr. Florian Mutagwaba (Advocate) of PKF Advisory Limited located at Girl Guides Building, Kibasila Road, Upanga. P.O. Box 7323, Dar es salaam, Tanzania** has been appointed as a Liquidator for the purpose of winding up of the effective from 14th December 2022.

The powers of the liquidator extend to all undertakings of the company from the date of the appointment thereof.

Any person who has claims against the company is required within thirty days (30 days) after the issuance of this notice to send to the liquidator, full particulars of any claim against the company supported by appropriate documentations thereof. Claims which are not supported and substantiated shall be excluded from the benefits of any distribution to be made.

The Public is hereby notified accordingly. All correspondence should be addressed to:

Florian Mutagwaba
PKF Advisory Limited,
1st Floor, Tower B, Girl Guides Building, Kibasila Street-Upanga
P.O. Box 7323 Dar es salaam

TWIGA
Minerals Corporation Limited
A partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of Tanzania

BARRICK
BULYANHULU

Advertisement
BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-22-11-01	TAILING STORAGE FACILITY (TSF) CELL 1&2 REHABILITATION AND CLOSURE	i. Contractor specialized in earthworks, i.e. Civil contractor with CRB Certificate, minimum Class 3; with the majority of earthworks machined owned by the company. ii. Experience working with similar works in the last 3 years. iii. Competence in tailing storage facilities rehabilitation and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry iv. Team with multi-discipline members (Mainly – Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualify as per the **pre-qualification criteria** together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Time frame to complete the project. (including site mobilization stage)
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the 24th December 2022.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote reference number and description in the subject line of your email.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED



JOB VACANCIES

PASADA is a social service and health care faith based organization operating under the Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es salaam. PASADA strives to reach the poorest of the poor living with HIV/AIDS and provide them with compassionate care, treatment and support services. Although operating under the auspice of the Catholic Church, the services offered by PASADA are available to all individuals without discrimination of any sort.

In order to maintain high quality level services and to meet our clients' expectations we wish to invite applications from suitably qualified candidates to work on fixed job assignment for eight months, February 2023 to September 2023 to fill the following positions:

1. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR (1)

Job Title : Technical Director

Reports to : PASADA Executive Director

Line Manage : 4 -Deputy Technical Director (Clinical Services) Deputy Technical Director (Programs/Projects) Deputy Technical Director, (Data and MEL) and Deputy Technical Director (HTS Services)

Purpose and Scope of Job:

The Technical Director will be responsible for overseeing management and technical operations of the Organization to ensure achievement of results as per program goals, objectives and plans. Under the supervision, guidance and support of the Executive Director of PASADA, Program team and other stakeholders. The Technical Director will coordinate the provision of technical services and harmonize efforts and integration between key program areas and technical units. S/He shall oversee program planning, monitoring and evaluation to ensure that measurable outcomes are attained; and facilitate regular internal technical meetings with program staff to discuss progress of the programs, challenges and formulate implementable solutions, s/he will set a positive tone for the entire program and inspire staff to apply results-based approaches for timely delivery of services to the clients PASADA serves.

Major Roles and Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership for the implementation of the program's overall technical strategy and approach
- Plan, coordinate, and organize technical assistance assignments: identify and negotiate with Site Administrators for technical assistance assignments, conduct briefings, develop and review scopes of work, and liaise with Satellite sites and other diocesan health facilities.
- Develop and facilitate delivery of innovative activities and evidence-based approaches for program partners aimed at improving desirable HIV-related outcomes in project areas, including the identification of appropriate trainers and curricula development and use of relevant methodologies, standard operating procedures, mentorship guides and tools; supportive supervision, on-going mentoring and overseeing the successful implementation of corrective action: cross-organizational learning between PASADA including innovative use of information communication technology (ICT).
- Provide technical inputs into program activities, including activity design, work planning, and implementation in coordination with the Deputy Director (Clinical Services) and other technical staff.
- Ensure that program activities reflect best practices, including Tanzania AIDS service provision guidelines, SOPs, PEPFAR, UNAIDS, and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.
- Ensure all activity reports reaches the Executive Director's office before the stipulated deadline.
- Ensure there is harmonious efforts that reinforce collaboration with other departments.
- Ensure department staff respect and follow all work ethics. This is not limited to: punctuality, filling of timesheets and absence from workplace as stated in in the employee work contract.
- Work with in collaboration with heads of TB, PMTCT, Laboratory, Data, Reception, Pharmacy, X-ray HTS, M&E and Outreach Sections toward achieving departmental and organization goals.
- Ensure departmental action and Leave Plan is followed accordingly.
- Ensure financial requisitions related to the department are followed.
- Advise the Executive Director of PASADA on new ideas and technology changes that may have impact in daily clinical work.
- Ensure quality of care is offered according to PASADA standard operating procedure. This is not limited to proper diagnoses, Laboratory investigations, medication, follow up and education to clients.
- Transcribe the PASADA-Clinical standard operating procedures and ensure the documents are periodically updated.
- Coordinate and monitor professional development through CME and other formal trainings.
- Address and respond technical queries from donors, government and stakeholders.
- Prepare reports on the program for Management, donors, and stakeholders including weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual and annual progress reports.
- Coordinate clinical mentorship activities for staff in ART, PMTCT and TB Programs
- Provide technical quality assurance through training, mentorship, technical support, and capacity building.
- Develop and maintain strong relationships with central government, local government authorities, and private sector stakeholders.
- Ensure that PASADA provides high quality technical assistance and capacity development to other local partners and program stakeholders; conduct regular monitoring and mentoring visits to Satellite sites and other diocesan health facilities.
- Ensure the incorporation of evidence-based best practices, and local and global technical guidance into the program's capacity building strategy and operational plan.
- Lead staff in the development and implementation of technical capacity assessments and technical capacity building processes to ensure high quality, sustainable combination HIV prevention, and linkage, care, and treatment services for clients accessing services at PASADA sites.
- Work with Data and M&E staff to design and finalize a program performance monitoring plan; evaluate and document key program outcomes and best practices and adapt program work plans in line with program evidence and ensure incorporation of lessons learned into ongoing activity.
- Support the development and monitoring of annual work plans;
- Share responsibility with the Executive Director in backstopping and leading technical teams
- Represent PASADA in meetings with government officials and other stakeholders as directed by the Executive Director;
- Prepare reports and papers summarizing program results; and
- Supervise and mentor technical staff
- Participate in resource mobilization/business development activities such as proposal development, literature reviews, surveys, research lobbying and fundraising for the organization.
- Perform any other related activity as directed from time to time by the Executive Director.

Preferred Qualifications and Experience:

- Advanced degree (Master of Public Health and Bachelor degree related to health, sociology or social sciences).
- A minimum of seven years of demonstrated experience working in HIV/AIDS prevention, care or treatment programs: four of those years shall be experience in the provision of technical assistance, training management or a closely associated position.
- Comprehensive knowledge and experience concerning HIV prevention, care and treatment programs.
- Thorough understanding of relevant Government of Tanzania policies and regulations, how government operates, and a keen understanding of local development activities.
- Demonstrated experience in project work planning, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Fluency in Swahili and English.
- Ability to read, analyze, and interpret the most complex documents. Ability to respond effectively to the most sensitive inquiries or complaints.
- Mathematical Skills

Basic Skills : Ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide in all units of measure, using whole numbers, common fractions, and decimals. Ability to compute rate, ratio, and percent to draw and interpret bar graphs.

2. DEPUTY TECHNICAL DIRECTOR- (CLINICAL SERVICES) (1)

Job Title : Deputy Technical Director (Clinical Services)

Reports to : Technical Director

Line Manage : 4 –Head of Pharmacy Unit, Head of Laboratory and Imaging Unit, Head of Nursing Services Unit, Head of care and treatment services Unit.

Core Responsibilities:

In close collaboration with the Technical Director, the Deputy Technical Director (Clinical Services) will perform the following functions:

- To provide support in the capacity building and mentoring of health care workers (medical practitioners, nurses and community health care workers) on HIV/AIDS treatment including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and sexually transmitted infections (STI).
- To establish and guide a group of experts to conduct regular review of treatment and care guidelines adapted to PASADA context such as PMTCT and HIV prevention in health care settings and to provide support in the implementation of the guidelines including the supervision of service health care workers;
- To provide support in the establishment and strengthening of public and private partnerships in the management and control of HIV/AIDS/STI;
- To strengthen the involvement of civil relevant organizations such as people living with HIV/AIDS, nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations and the private sector in HIV prevention, treatment, care and support including gender equity promotion and community based poverty alleviation;
- To provide technical support in the review of guidelines and other prevention and treatment approaches to sexually transmitted infections and other relevant programmes;
- To promote integration/mainstreaming of gender-related services into HIV and STI services and to collaborate with partner agencies/organizations in addressing gender inequalities both in health and non-health settings;
- To provide technical support to other partner agencies in the prevention and handling of cases on violence against women and sexual assault;

Leadership and Management

- He/she oversees PASADA medical operations and supports the Technical Director to efficiently and effectively deliver quality clinical services in the organization.
- Provides technical support to the Prevention and Treatment program and ensures linkage of outreach activities to treatment and care program through well-established processes of patient linkages and service integration
- Attends key technical partners meetings and provides feedback to management
- Ensures that CMEs are conducted in all sites and takes the lead in the facilitation of CME sessions.
- Leads the development of work plans for the sites.
- He/she participates in staff needs assessment, interviewing, and induction of new hired staff.
- He/she participates in setting performance targets and staff appraisal, disciplining and addressing complaints of employees under his/her supervision.

Clinical Responsibilities:

- Ensures standard quality of clinical services is delivered at all PASADA supported sites. He/She will lead quality assurance initiatives in the Organization.
- Provides regular and routine comprehensive support supervision to all facilities supported by PASADA and reports back on the same to Technical Director and management
- Promotes the implementation of standard operating procedures for all activities relating to good clinical practice and ensures functional QI teams are in existence at site levels

- Supervises and implements quality management activities and quality benchmarks monitoring, facilitation of quality assurance and quality improvement sessions.
- Strengthens and ensures TB/HIV, PMTCT, ART services are delivered in an integrated service delivery model.
- Ensures optimal operations of the laboratory services, including functioning of sample referral networks.
- Provides on-site technical support and mentoring to the field staff and coordinate M&E of the program
- Ensures effective patient flow in all sites, especially those with high volume of patients and coordinates time motion surveys to monitor performance
- Oversees the timely collection, compilation and reporting of routine and specific data to guide decision making at site, district and regional program level.
- Identifies early warning resistance indicators and intervention strategies
- Remains updated on current trends and standards in clinical management of HIV/AIDS and related illnesses
- Participates in the elaboration/monitoring of annual targets and ensure that they are achieved in all sites.

Supervisory Responsibilities

- Provides direct supervision and mentorship to doctors (clinicians), nurses, laboratory scientists, pharmacy technician working in the different facilities to ensure continuous growth and learning
- Ensures timely compilation and submission of monthly drug inventory reports in coordination with the Pharmacist
- Works with the pharmacist to ensure that pharmacy operations are in accordance with good pharmacy practices
- Identifies and promotes operational research at site level and builds capacity among the staff in case presentations and elaboration of scientific papers

Participation in PASADA Meetings/Committees:

- Management Meetings
- Technical Partnership and stakeholders meetings
- General Staff Meeting
- Medical Staff Meeting
- Meetings with lower health units meeting
- CME activities
- Other meetings as assigned.

Preferred Qualifications and Experience:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.

- Must be a Medical Doctor from a certified institution. Additional qualification in Health systems management, public health, infectious disease or Internal medicine is required.
- Minimum of Five years medical/health service experience preferred with a sound knowledge of basic medical disciplines to allow for accurate diagnosis and appropriate management of clinical problems.
- Five years or more of recent experience with HIV/AIDS treatment; two years minimum of administration and program management experience with knowledge of clinical protocols and procedures in the management of HIV related diseases.
- Experience in planning and budgeting required
- Experience in quality management and assurance practices desired
- Computer Skills
- Proficiency in MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint
- Language Skills
- Ability to read, analyze, and interpret the most complex documents. Ability to respond effectively to the most sensitive inquiries or complaints.
- Mathematical Skills

Basic Skills: Ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide in all units of measure, using whole numbers, common fractions, and decimals. Ability to compute rate, ratio, and percent to draw and interpret bar graphs.

- Reasoning Ability
- Excellent interpersonal and written communication skills
- Sensitivity to issues surrounding HIV and AIDS.
- Demonstrates flexibility and willingness to provide coverage at other PASADA sites upon request.
- Certificates, Licenses and Registrations
- Current registration with the medical and dental practitioner's council of Tanganyika.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY (1)

Job Summary:

The Administrative Secretary for PASADA will provide high-level clerical support to an executive Director, or to Senior Management Team members, performing a variety of administrative and secretarial duties in office environments, drafting documents and entering data, and scheduling appointments, processing documents, maintaining databases, and liaising with the public, also manage office supplies.

Supervisory Responsibilities:

- May train, supervise, and provide feedback on tasks performed by lower-level clerical staff.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Provides high-level administrative support to an assigned Executive Director- and high level employee.
- Collects requested data and information from various sources including email and other correspondence, meeting minutes and records, and other documents; prepares summaries of findings and/or other related written correspondence as requested.
- May conduct research (within skills and expertise) to assist with projects/program or inquiries.
- Coordinates and schedules travel, meetings, and appointments for all PASADA staff traveling on official duties.
- Prepares agendas and schedules for meetings, conferences, and other assigned events; takes, prepare and distributes minutes or other notes as requested.
- Responds to and resolves administrative inquiries and questions.
- Welcomes and directs visitors and clients.
- Answers and transfers phone calls, screening when necessary.
- Maintains documents, files and records for the purpose of providing up-to-date information and audit trail for compliance.
- Processes documents and materials for the purpose of disseminating information to appropriate parties.
- Attends meetings as assigned for the purpose of conveying and/or gathering information required to perform functions.
- Composes documents (e.g., standardized correspondence, bulletins, etc.) for the purpose of documenting events, providing and/or requesting information.
- Coordinates a variety of programs and/or activities (e.g., task assignments, meetings, site in-service day activities, workshops, travel and accommodations, etc.) for the purpose of ensuring availability of facilities and/or equipment and delivering services in conformance of established guidelines.
- Maintains inventory of supplies and materials for the purpose of ensuring items availability.
- Monitors and coordinates assigned department activities (e.g., attendance accounting and record keeping) and ensures compliance with established financial, legal and/or administrative requirements.
- Prepares written materials (e.g., reports, memos, letters, and presentations).
- Processes documents and materials for the purpose of disseminating information to appropriate parties. Developing and implementing office procedures to maintain systems and records
- Receiving/screening telephone calls, visitors and emails and determining the approach or action to take and interpret and explain guidelines, procedures, policies and practices
- Have knowledge regarding policies and procedures
- Interacts with staff, volunteers, visitors, or outside agencies to relay information on policies, or procedures.
- Provides support with activities and outreach for the conduct program to ensure optimum efficiency and compliance with appropriate policies, procedures and specifications
- Receiving/screening telephone calls, visitors and emails and determining the approach or action to take in interpreting and explaining guidelines, procedures, policies and practices
- Performs other general clerical and secretarial duties as requested, which may include recordkeeping, managing petty cash, maintaining office supplies and coordinating equipment maintenance, and handling packages and correspondence.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Required Skills/Abilities:

- Detail-oriented and professional.
- Exceptional communication skills.
- Extremely proficient with Microsoft Office.
- Basic understanding of office equipment.
- Basic understanding of clerical procedures and systems such as recordkeeping and filing.
- Ability to work independently and reliably.
- Flexible and adaptable in various situations and when interacting with many different personalities.
- Ability to organize and prioritize tasks including delegation of tasks when appropriate.
- Knowledge of, or ability to quickly acquire, familiarity with the roles and function of the assigned department, and any specifically applicable laws or guidelines.
- Excellent communication skills and demonstrable experience in a secretarial role.

Preferred Qualifications and Experience:

- Associates degree required, Bachelor degree or Higher Diploma in Secretarial or computer related courses.
- Three to five years of experience in a related role required with some supervisory experience preferred.

Compensation:

In addition to a competitive compensation and benefit package, the positions offer a very attractive work schedule.

How to apply:

All applications letters should indicate the position on the envelope, attached with detailed curriculum vitae, photocopies of certificates, testimonials, transcripts and names of two referees and day time telephone number for confidential contact should be sent NOT LATER than 31st December 2022. Interested candidates are encouraged to physically bring their applications at Temeke Chang'ombe opposite Police Chang'ombe within Catholic Church Compound. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

The contact address is;

The PASADA Executive Director
PASADA P. O. Box 70225
DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania.
NON DISCRIMINATION NOTE:

PASADA advocates and upholds the principle of equal opportunity for all and does not discriminate in its short listing, selection or employment practices that are based on racial, creed, sexual orientation, religious basis, sex, nationality, political affiliation, gender bases, marital status, inability or disability, or any other form which does not constitute merits.

Please also visit our Website for more about the organization:

<https://www.pasada.or.tz>

Deputy minister for Works advises career successful women to inspire young ladies

By Francis Kajubi

DEPUTY Minister for Works and Transport Atupele Mwakibete has called upon career successful women who have earned public influence and recognition through leadership to document their life stories so that young ladies can learn from them on how to become strong leaders.

Mwakibete expressed his plea to a number of women leaders from both the public and private sectors at the launch of the book by Violet Mordichai titled 'Leadership through my lenses-Journey to conquest' held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening.

Violet is a leader and one of leadership inspiration speakers in Tanzania with an experience of 30 years. She is the director and partner at Classic Capital. She is the management consultant who sits in various institution boards of directors. Violet is also a core-founder and executive director of Mony Industries Ltd.

According to him, women leaders need to put their life journey in text books for the young generation to be inspired in becoming responsible, honest and committed leaders.

"After reading this book I came to realize that Violet had gone through many heartbreaking experiences but she never gave up. I have learnt that inner passion is the most influential in leadership especially when one is capable of inspiring others," said Mwakibete.

He asserted that many women in today's leadership corridors have survived oppression bound to custom and traditional norms and through telling their stories can motivate young women who are passing through rough roads in perceiving their dreams.

Neema Munisi, Head of business development services at Mass Impact Limited who also edited the book said that Violet has in the book taught readers to strive for their dreamed destinies.

"Being a tea girl did not stop Violet from perceiving her dreams. The road to becoming a successful leader in the eyes of the public is not a bed of roses. You must first believe in yourself and be ready to walk the journey from humble beginnings," said Munisi.

She further said that the book offers solutions to a number of challenges that young women in leadership are facing.

Zuhura Muro, managing director of Lindam Group Ltd expressed Violet as a true leader aspired by the fear of God.

"In this book, Violet teaches us that authenticity should be demonstrated through leadership. She teaches us that leaders should lead with integrity and with observance of ethical guidelines. Her story shows the strength of her character," said Muro.

In her remarks, Mordichai said that young women should first discover their life purpose, that's how they can tell a story in them.

"Choose to be a leader not just to have a lot of money or earn popularity, authority or superiority, but be a leader to give direction and help people to see what they can't see in order to reach where they wish to be," said Mordichai.

Wanted: Action to ensure safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all

By Guardian Reporter

URGENT action is needed globally and locally to achieve safe and sustainably managed water, sanitation and hygiene for all in order to prevent devastating impacts on the health of millions of people.

Findings from WHO and UN-Water's Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) report indicate that acceleration is needed in many countries to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 - water and sanitation for all by 2030.

While 45 percent of countries are on track to achieve their nationally-defined drinking-water coverage targets, only 25 percent of countries are on track to achieve their national sanitation targets.

Less than a third of countries reported to have sufficient human resources required to carry out key drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) functions.

WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus said: "We are facing an urgent crisis: poor access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene claim millions of lives each year, while the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related extreme weather events continue to hamper the delivery of safe WASH services."

He added: "We call upon governments and development partners to strengthen WASH systems and dramatically increase investment to extend access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services to all by 2030, beginning with the most vulnerable."

Gilbert Hougbo, Chair of UN-Water and Director General of the International Labour Organisation said: "The world is seriously off-track to achieve SDG 6 on water and sanitation for all, by 2030.

This leaves billions of people dangerously exposed to infectious diseases, especially in the aftermath of disasters, including climate related events. The new data from GLAAS will inform the voluntary commitments the international community will make at the UN 2023 Water Conference in March, helping us target the most vulnerable communities and solve the global water and sanitation crisis."

Zambia abolishes death penalty

LUSAKA

THE Zambian Parliament on Tuesday passed legislation to abolish the death penalty.

The Penal Code Amendment Bill of 2022 was debated for the past two months and only requires presidential assent to take effect.

"We have no objection to this process but we feel it should have started first with the supreme law of the land, the Constitution; especially part three: the Bill of Rights," said Stephen Kampyongo, member of parliament from the opposition Patriotic Front party.

The death penalty will now be replaced with a life imprisonment sentence.

The Southern African nation placed a moratorium on death penalty 25 years ago.

Also on Tuesday, the parliament repealed a law criminalizing defamation of the president.

The move has been seen as a step toward promoting media freedom and freedom of expression.



Director general of Tanzania Education Authority (TEA), Bahati Geuzye (first right) reads a message about the funding programme for skills development training for young people from poor households and living in difficult circumstances in front of the official guest of honour Lela Muhamed Mussa (second right) who is also the Minister for Education and Practical Training in Zanzibar moments after official launch of the programme. Photo by Correspondent

Govt, partners challenged to improve key infrastructure in public, private institutions

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE government and private partners have been challenged to improve key infrastructures in public and private institutions so as to be accessible for all people including persons with disabilities.

Managing director of Songambe Initiative Fausta Urassa made the call yesterday here saying that infrastructures need to be built considering the needs of all people.

In an interview with this paper, she claimed that most of the infrastructures in most public and private institutions are not friendly to people with different

physical disabilities.

Urassa is among 16 champions who were awarded by the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) after making huge contributions in the society towards the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through various activities.

The GBV champions were awarded recently in Dar-es-Salaam as part of commemorating 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence which commenced on November 25 to December 10. The theme for this year's commemoration is 'Every Life Matters: End Femicide and Violence against Women and Children'.

She explained that her disability was due to an accident and she has lived experiencing discrimination from the community.

"I decided to stand up and establish my organisation which focuses on helping people with different disabilities," she noted.

She said through her organisation, various people with disabilities receive training and are encouraged to work hard regardless of their disabilities so as to succeed in their lives.

Urassa further explained that, her organisation creates awareness to the public on Spinal Cord Injury as well as raising funds for donating wheelchairs,

walkers and other assistive devices for the needy people in Kilimanjaro region.

"My organisation always creates awareness on spinal cord injury as well as collecting funds to support the needy people who cannot afford to buy assistive devices such as wheelchairs and walkers, among many other projects," she explained.

She added that most marathons are for leisure and prestige but this one intend to raise funds for donating wheelchairs, walkers and other assistive devices for the needy people in Kilimanjaro region.

Urassa further explained, there is a

big challenge of including people with disabilities (PwDs) on the lack of assistive devices due to the bad infrastructure as well as awareness on menstrual hygiene and reproductive health as most of the community members thought that, they (PwDs) don't have feelings like normal people.

"In most cases this special group is forgotten and equipment like sanitary towels that are provided to them don't suit them accordingly," Urassa explained.

She added that challenges that women and girls with disabilities face are in most cases doubled due to factors such as inability to afford sanitary towels

that are expensive considering their little income and even worse to those that are unemployed, pressure sores due to sitting for long periods of time.

"However, through platforms, education has been spreading and therefore measures are being taken to combat the problems for the betterment of everyone in the society," she pointed out.

She added that, Songambe Initiative organisation has initiated such a special run, a move that aims at fund-raising funds themselves instead of depending on donors' funds as the world economy has been affected by the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.



CCM women wing national chairperson Mary Chatanda (L) hands over a certificate to Culture, Arts and Sports permanent secretary Dr Hassan Abbas in recognition of the ministry's contribution to organise a conference in honour of Titi Mohamed at Ikwiriri Rufiji in Coast region recently. Others are the ministry's minister Mohamed Mchengerwa (2nd R), Coast region CCM wing chairperson Zainabu Vulu (R) and other officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

UN urges S. Sudan to intensify war against human trafficking

KHARTOUM

UN Special Rapporteur in Trafficking in Persons, Siobhán Mullally, urged South Sudan to take urgent measures to prevent human trafficking and ensure protection and support for victims.

Mullally who spoke at end of her 10-day visit to the country said immediate action was needed to combat trafficking in persons, for purposes of sexual exploitation, child marriage and recruitment, and forced labour.

The rights expert lamented that the continuing violence in parts of the country contributes to increased abductions and sales of children.

"Conflict-related sexual violence, including trafficking, remains a serious concern. There is a need for continued attention to the risks faced by children associated with armed groups and armed forces, including conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking," she said.

Mullally emphasised the need to enhance protection for the government to prevent and prosecute serious crimes such as sexual violence against women and children while strengthening protection efforts.

"At this junction of peace building and state building in South Sudan,

urgent action to prevent trafficking in persons, and to protect survivors, especially women and children, is crucial.

"Conflict-related sexual violence, including trafficking, remains a serious concern. There is a need for continued attention to the risks faced by children associated with armed groups and armed forces, including of conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking," she said.

During the days of her visit, the rights expert held high-level meetings with government ministers and heads of law enforcement bodies. She praised the National Taskforce on Countering Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling for its achievements.

Among some of the efforts being undertaken by the national task force, the expert lists proposals for legislative and policy reform on trafficking in persons, and for ratification of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Palermo Protocol), as well as plans for the adoption of a comprehensive migration policy.

Mullally's visit also took her to Bentiu and Nimule, where she met over a thousand internally displaced persons who had fled their homes and places of origin as a result of violence and climate-related displacement and flooding.

KORAIL launches 33.5m/- worth e-library at primary school in Moro

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

KOREA Railroad Corporation (KORAIL) has launched an e-library worth \$14,460,088 (33.5m/-) at Leena Pre and Primary school in Morogoro Region.

Implemented through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy in overseas countries, the project aims to support the government's efforts to improve the education sector.

Speaking during the launching event this week here, KORAIL's country director, Seungyong Lee said the e-library is part of the Non-Governmental Organisation Tanzania (SAWA) 's projects.

The event attracted KORAIL's team, regional educational officials, parents, pupils, pastoralist societies as well as SAWA staff.

Lee said Korea has a quality education system which promotes investment and use of ICT which keeps everlasting mem-

ory to pupils as it can retrieve materials through video and audio clips.

Regional academic official, Tullo Fundi on behalf Morogoro Regional Commissioner (RC) Fatuma Mwasa, called upon regional teachers to visit Leena's e-library as a party of sharing experience since the library is built with modern ICT equipment.

"Regional authority through the educational department has launched e-libraries in some primary and secondary schools, we thank our

supporters for building a modern e-library here at Leena School," he disclosed. Izack Evans, one of pupils said the e-library will simplify the learning process as it will help them access materials of various subjects such as mathematics and science. Emmanuel Selemani, Leena's school head teacher said the modern e-library has devices like a monitoring camera, a printer, 10 sets of computers, and 10 tablets.

"These devices are enough because 10 computers will be used for higher classes while

tablets will be for pre-primary pupils who will access the same materials in their classes. Another advantage of printers is to enable a pupil to print materials after studying," he explained.

School's director, Hellen Nkalang'ango thanked childfund for linking KORAIL with Leena School and said there's been a vital partnership since 2018, through their support the school has been receiving various support in running its programmes.

EABC partners with ACCI to strengthen trade and cooperation between East and West of Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) to strengthen trade cooperation between East and West of Africa.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, John Bosco Kalisa Chief Executive Officer of EABC said: "Intra-African trade is currently low at 14.4 percent of total African exports."

He said the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is set to boost intra-African trade by about 33 percent.

He said in 2021, EAC bloc goods export to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) reached \$91 million while imports \$256million

EABC and ACCI partnership will champion AfCFTA implementation by collaborating and linking businesses to access export/import and investment opportunities.

Alh Al-Mujtaba Abubakar President CEO, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) said "The partnership will boost commercial information exchange, customer due diligence information and offers a platform for alternative dispute resolution on trade matters."

The ECOWAS has a combined GDP of \$734.8

billion and population of 300 million citizens.

Following disruption of global supply chains due to COVID-19, EAC imported more from EACOWAS region. EAC imports from ECOWAS hit USD 488.4million in 2020 a 132 percent from \$209 million 2019.

Top EAC product imports from ECOWAS are precious stones, animal or vegetable fats, mineral fuels, glass, machinery, essential oils and cocoa while top EAC exports to ECOWAS include textile fibres, coffee, tea, maté and spices, pharmaceutical, raw hides and skins, electrical machinery, furniture; miscellaneous chemical products and tobacco.

As outlined in the MoU, EABC and ACCI also commit to jointly organise outward trade mission, study tours, exhibition and conferences.



Following disruption of global supply chains due to COVID-19, EAC imported more from EACOWAS region. EAC imports from ECOWAS hit USD 488.4million in 2020 a 132 percent from \$209 million



Works deputy minister Eng. Godfrey Kasekenya (L) listens to Kagera Sugar Ltd logistics officer, Vicent Mtaki when the deputy minister inspected Kitengule Bridge linking Misenyi district and Karagwe in Kagera region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Why non-communicable diseases are ticking time bomb in Africa

KIGALI

HEALTH experts from Africa have raised concerns over the rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the continent.

In a plenary session at the ongoing Second International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022) in Kigali, Rwanda, the experts from across different fields in the medical space expressed worry that even as the continent continues to grapple with infectious diseases that have already overstretched health systems, the emergence of NCDs could spell even more danger.

Currently, the highest burdens of NCDs in the continent include cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, as well as injuries and trauma.

"Hypertension is the most common cardiovascular disease with the biggest risk factor being alcohol intake. The most worrying fact is that two in three people living with the condition either do not know that they have it or they have not been diagnosed," said Dr Prebo Barango the Medical Officer of the Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases Cluster at the WHO AFRO.

According to Dr Barango, cancer

comes in second, with childhood cancers accounting for between 20-30 percent of the disease in the continent.

"Cervical cancer is also a problem with 19 out of 20 high burdened cervical cancer countries being in the continent," he said.

Also, according to the reports, Africa has the highest diabetes burden globally, with the continent being home to 24 million people living with the disease.

"Half of these are diagnosed while the remaining half are not diagnosed," revealed Dr Barango.

Ironically, despite being the least motorized continent in the world,

Africa accounts for the most accidents globally, with road carnage contributing the highest in injuries and trauma cases.

Factors that have worsened this burden include a lack of finance and medical personnel, which is mainly a result of brain drain.

"For instance, low-income countries account for 70 percent of the global burden of mental health, yet only invest 10 percent towards this area, as compared to the developed world which invests up to 90 percent in mental health funding. On the other hand, the distribution of psychiatrists to the population in the continent is less than

1:100,000 population," he added.

The already dire situation was exacerbated by the pandemic which exposed the underinvestment in NCDs in the continent.

According to Dr Ahmed Ogwell Ouma, Acting Director, Africa CDC, one of the response mechanisms is working on prevention.

"50-60 percent of NCDs can be prevented. Providing capacity and infrastructure for treatment, ensure people with NCDs can access universal health coverage and we need to include NCDs in the UHC package," he said.

Dr Ogwell said that a time has come for Africa to apply local cost-

effective solutions to local problems.

"Many times, we focus on strategies developed at the global and regional level, instead of presenting the community level success stories that could give momentum and focus," he added.

Already countries like Rwanda are showing the way for the rest of the continent.

For instance, they have come up with measures to try and reverse the situation by increasing screening for NCDs and introducing tax-free packages for cars using green energy.



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafo (R) speaks with journalists and the ministry's senior officers about compliance and implementation of the carbon business guidelines in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Completion of 18-km road connecting with Kitengule bridge to reduce distance, cycle of transporting sugar raw materials

By Guardian Reporter

COMPLETION of the 18 kilometre road that connects with the 140-meter Kitengule Bridge in Kagera Region will reduce distance and cycle of transporting sugar raw materials from 140 kilometres to 14 kilometres.

This was stated recently in the Kagera Region by Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Eng Godfrey Kasekenya when inspecting construction of the road that passes through the Kagera Sugar Factory in the region.

"Most of the people here were complaining of poor road infrastructures, a situation which affected transportation of raw materials from farm to the factory. Once these infrastructures are completed; the price of sugar will also drop as production costs will also decrease," said Eng Kasekenya.

He called upon the people of Karagwe District to take advantage of the opportunity to grow sugarcane because they will sell them at a good price, thus increase their income.

Eng Kasekenya noted that the contractor has already started construction of the Bugene - Kasulo/Benako road (60

km), at tarmac level that will benefit Kagera Region with neighboring countries of Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda.

The Project's Consultant Engineer, Lucas Nyaki, informed the Deputy Minister that the project was completed in September, 2022 and they are now doing final touches which includes painting of bridges, installation of road signs and tree planting.

Eng Nyaki explained that the project will be under the supervision of the contractor for a period of three years.

Eng Nyaki said the project cost approximately 31bn/- of which 26.548bn/- have been provided by the central government while Kagera Sugar Factory has contributed 5bn/-.

Representative of Kagera Sugar Factory, Vicent Mtaki, thanked the government for completing the infrastructure saying it will reduce transportation costs. He said the road will attract more people to work at the factory because they will be guaranteed of safe transport.

"This road and bridge are our saviour because some 1,600,000 sugar canes can be easily and quickly transported," said Mtaki.

Bioeconomy strategy key to boosting food security and sustainable agriculture - EAC secretary general

By Guardian Reporter

SECRETARY General of the East African Community (EAC) Dr Peter Mathuki has said that the recently approved regional bioeconomy strategy by the EAC Council of Ministers is a key factor to promoting food security and sustainable agriculture in the region.

Dr Mathuki said the bioeconomy strategy - the first of its kind in Africa and the second in the world after that of the European Union will increase opportunities for the EAC partner states to deepen their cooperation in developing a sustainable and resilient bioeconomy.

"Through the strategy, EAC partner states will scale-up their bio-innovations, share scientific knowledge, and harmonise policies, standards and regulations

for bio-manufacturing and regional trade," said Dr Mathuki.

The SG said the East Africa region has a comparative advantage in bio-manufacturing and bio-based products given its rich diversity in biological resources and a large proportion of arable land.

"At the moment, agriculture contributes more than 30 percent of the region's GDP, making it the backbone of the economy for the Partner States," said Dr Mathuki.

"The strategy is aligned with expressed commitments to environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and changing of unsustainable practices by countries in the region," added the Secretary General.

Dr Mathuki said the strategy provides a compelling framework for putting in place agreed goals and interventions

which countries in East Africa can use to achieve the continental aspiration of integrating under Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into inter-sectoral national development plans, and the regional aspiration contained in EAC Vision 2050 through which Partner States aspire to become middle-income countries by the year 2050.

He said that neighbouring countries that are EAC members can benefit from the strategy given their similar aspirations and bio-resource base.

"It is a desire of the EAC that other regional economic communities can use this strategy as an example or benchmark to develop their own regional bioeconomy strategies," he said.

The strategy builds on existing na-

tional and regional science, technology, and innovation (STI) policies and related instruments that aim to create an enabling environment for increased STI investments to support sustainable development and socio-economic transformation.

Dr Sylvance Okoth, Executive Secretary of the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) said: "The strategy makes it possible for universities, research institutions, and other innovation centres in the region to use their scientific knowledge to add social and economic value to biological resources and adopt modern technologies and know-how for local bioinnovations."

Julius Ecuru, Manager, BioInnovate Africa, said: "With the strategy in place,

great cooperation and partnerships within the region and internationally are expected to be strengthened for its better implementation."

The development of the East African Regional Bioeconomy Strategy began in 2019 through a national and regional consultative process spearheaded by EASTECO and the national councils and commissions of science and technology, and the support of BioInnovate Africa, a regional science and innovation-driven initiative for Eastern Africa based at International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Opportunities for cooperation exist in bioeconomy capacity building, product and business development, standards, regulation and market creation, among other things.

USAID announces \$75 million partnership to protect African landscapes and support sustainable tourism

By Guardian Reporter

THE U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced a new Prosper Africa partnership with ThirdWay partners and the Nature Conservancy to protect African landscapes and bolster the tourism sector.

With \$2.5 million in catalytic funding from USAID, ThirdWay, and the Nature Conservancy will unlock a \$75 million Africa Conservation and Communities Tourism Fund.

This is the first continent-wide investment agreement under USAID's new Africa trade and investment program, USAID's flagship effort to promote Prosper Africa.

The fund will invest \$75 million to assist safari tour operators across Africa. This will benefit 44,000 community members and generate \$40 million in annual revenue for conservation landscape owners, managers, and communities.

With a protected area larger than

the U.S. state of California, the fund will cover parts of Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.

This partnership advances the U.S. government's goals to tackle the climate crisis and harness the opportunity to generate jobs, grow clean energy economies, and build resilient communities.

Through Prosper Africa, USAID is leveraging private sector partnerships to address pressing global challenges and build a more sustainable future.

Prosper Africa is the U.S. government initiative to substantially increase two-way trade and investment between African nations and the United States.

The initiative mobilizes all of the U.S. government's trade and investment support services, across 17 participating departments and agencies, to help U.S. and Africa businesses and investors identify partners, advance opportunities, and close deals.



Traffic police stop a commuter bus after it prevented anti-corruption campaign for Women in Progress (WAJIKI) at Mabibo in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TAZARA highlights need to up investment in sub-sector

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) Managing Director Eng Bruno Ching'andu has emphasized the need to create efficiencies in the railways by investing more in the sub-sector, to move cargo away from the roads and to reduce the cost of products.

Speaking in an interview with a Spanish Film-Maker, Godacima Sl Film Production, in Dar es Salaam, Eng Ching'andu observed

that it would seem as though road transportation is currently more competitive, when in fact that the railways have become inefficient owing to limited investments.

Eng Ching'andu observed that roads were choked, responsible for many fatalities and were not so friendly to the environment, compared to the railways, and the situation had resulted in the governments of Tanzania and Zambia spending a lot of money on the perennial repair of roads.

He said that the bigger picture was to reduce the overall cost of transportation by revitalizing the railways and hastened to add, however, that it was gratifying to note that the two Heads of State for Tanzania and Zambia, Samia Suluhu Hassan and Hakainde Hichilema, respectively, were committed to the revitalization of TAZARA.

"The future lies in revitalization because with that, the authority will acquire more equipment, move more cargo, keep growing

and reach break-even within three years. Given adequate investments and made more competitive, the railways would automatically move cargo away from roads and the situation would be totally different," he added.

Since liberalisation of the Tanzanian and Zambian economies and the completion of the liberation of South Africa in the 1990s, the performance of TAZARA begun going down as more ports and new routes for cargo opened, coupled

with technological improvements in the trucking industry, factors which compounded into more competition for the railways whose investments remained stagnant.

The drop in performance continued until 2015 when the shareholding states decided to change management, which brought in fresh impetus and improved performance with a record average annual freight volume growth of about 19 percent henceforth, from 88,000 metric tonnes in 2014/2015

financial year to the current 210,161 tonnes in the financial year ending June 2022. The optimum performance given the current level of equipment and infrastructure, as well as the reduced traffic due to the damage to the Chambeshi Railway Bridge suffered from May 2021 to September 2022.

However, despite this improved performance, the level of traffic moved remains far below the estimated break-even output of 600,000 tonnes per annum.



Mirerani resident mining officer, Menard Msengi (L) listens to Tanzanite stakeholders in Simanjiro district, Manyara region on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

WFP extends operational presence in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has announced the expansion of its programme to Zanzibar, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean, as part of its new five-year country strategic plan (2022-2027).

The plan, which runs from 2022 to 2027 aim at contributing to sustaining inclusive economic growth through market-based interventions, strengthening human capital, increase affordability of healthy diets, as well as promoting climate crisis adaptation and environmental restoration in Zanzibar and mainland.

"We are grateful that WFP is now in Zanzibar. WFP's physical presence in Zanzibar is an indication of the commitment to supporting Zanzibar's long-term development plans," said Hamza Hassan Juma, Minister of State in the Second Vice President's Office in Zanzibar.

The event was attended by officials from various organisations including, officials from the government, UN agencies, Civil Society Organisations, and the general public.

The launch also served to strengthen WFP's strategic partnership with the government, which has been in place for almost six decades.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson, WFP's Country Director and Representative in Tanzania said: "I am delighted that we are expanding our programme to Zanzibar's Islands of Unguja and Pemba. We are committed to supporting the government and the people of Zanzibar in achieving the Zanzibar Development Vision 2050 and the Sustainable Development Goals."

She said: "I also wish to thank UNICEF for hosting WFP's Office within its premises."

At the same occasion, WFP handed over Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), commonly known as drones to the Disaster Management Commission in the Second Vice President's Office for the surveillance of hazards in areas prone to disasters, particularly floods and cyclones.

WFP will also provide training to the Commission to impart knowledge and skills to become certified drone pilots.

In receiving the drones, Minister Juma noted that he is looking forward to WFP's support in streamlining Disaster Risk Reduction in district development plans and budgets, to ensure sustainability of the activities through government financing.

WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Women and the government of Zanzibar recently launched the joint Rural Women Economic Empowerment Programme, which will provide livelihoods, and strengthen the resilience of women in rural and coastal areas involved in agriculture. WFP has been present in Tanzania since 1963.

Ensure children are well-informed about violence, teachers reminded

By Guardian Correspondent

TEACHERS have been urged to take deliberate action and be at the forefront in ensuring that children in schools receive education about violence so that they can protect themselves at school and at home.

The call was made on Thursday in Dar es Salaam by Minister of State President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) Angellah Kairuki,

at a conference which brought together primary and secondary school teachers from different regions of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

Speaking at the official opening of the conference, Kairuki said that teachers have a responsibility to ensure students are aware of the types of violence, methods that can be used to protect themselves against violence and steps to take to report such incidents when they occur.

"Apart from educating students about violence, I urge teachers to continue to cooperate with parents and other stakeholders on various initiatives developed to combat violence," said Kairuki.

The organiser of the conference who is also the Founder and Director of Rightway Schools, Mercy Mchechu called upon teachers to protect the children placed in their care so as to protect future generations.

"There has emerged another teacher

called social media, and this teacher seems to be stronger than us. We can tackle the challenge of violence against children which is contributed by gaps in child upbringing, but we need plans and strategies. I call upon teachers to cooperate and work with parents and stakeholders to protect children," he said.

Jessica Kusikula, a teacher from Kantui primary school located in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region said: "I am delighted to partici-

pate in this conference and look forward to leaving here equipped with skills that will help me educate others in the community about violence against children in schools and homes." The one-day conference was held at Oasis Village in Mbezi Beach in Dar es Salaam and brought together nearly five hundred teachers from different regions of Tanzania including Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Morogoro, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Zanzibar among others.

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

World can gear up for the fight against cancer

Joining experts from around the globe at the World Cancer Congress in Melbourne five years ago, the question running through my mind is: how much more evidence is needed before the world steps up action on cancer prevention?

Over the course of the year in 2014 the momentum has been building around cancer - and what we can do to prevent it - in the wake of a significant increase in the number of cases of the disease worldwide, and mounting evidence of the strong links between lifestyle, obesity and a whole host of cancers. In February 2014, for example, UN Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer reported that "cancer is now the world's biggest killer, with the number of cases set to explode" to 24 million a year by 2035. In May, The Lancet published the Global Burden of Disease study revealing that nearly one-third of the world's population is either obese or overweight. And just in November 2014, the McKinsey Global Institute calculated that the global economic impact of obesity amounts to roughly \$2 trillion annually - 2.8 per cent of global GDP - nearly equivalent to the global impact of smoking or of armed violence, war, and terrorism.

Put simply, we are experiencing what the World Health Organization describes as a cancer epidemic, and the scale of the problem means that humanity will not be able to treat its way out of it.

We urgently need to focus on prevention. World Cancer Research Fund International's systematic, and rigorous analysis of global research shows that there is a strong link between being over-

weight, obese and an increased risk of nine cancers - ovarian, advanced prostate, bowel, kidney, gallbladder, womb, oesophageal, pancreatic and postmenopausal breast cancer - and that about a third of the most common cancers can be prevented through diet, weight and physical activity. In other words, globally, about 2.8 million cases of cancer a year are preventable.

And it looks as though world leaders are beginning to take cancer prevention seriously. Recent examples include the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Action Plan on NCDs 2013-2020, the WHO Regional Committee for Europe's new five-year Food and Nutrition Action Plan (adopted this September); the new European Code Against Cancer (launched in October) which provides 12 ways for people to adopt healthier lifestyles and boost cancer prevention; and world governments attending the Second International Conference on Nutrition adopting the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action in November 2014, addressed malnutrition - including overweight and obesity - in all its forms. But much more needs to be done - by everyone; because so far, the world has been dancing a slow waltz, when it's actually a much faster, quickstep that's required.

This means that governments, cancer charities and health professionals across the world need to work collaboratively - and across sectors - to create comprehensive, and urgent behaviour change across populations, food systems and food environments. Words and commitments are no longer enough, it's concrete and immediate action that's needed.

Expanding agricultural extension services for Africa is very crucial

HUNGER and malnutrition remain major obstacles to socio-economic development and growth for many African countries. Even though Africa has about 60 per cent of the world's available arable land suitable for agriculture, food production has remained limited, barely feeding the African population adequately.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are socio-economic developmental frameworks aspiring to address the hunger and malnutrition challenges through sustainable agriculture.

This can ensure that all African people, particularly children, have adequate and nutritious food throughout the year and even export some of the food.

African countries have noted that sustainable agriculture can be accomplished by strengthening small-scale farmers to produce crops and vegetables for the African continent maximally. This can be realised by providing and enabling equal access to arable land, technology, capacity strengthening through extension services, and access to the markets.

Thus, African countries are progressively eradicating food insecurity as supported by the African Union Summit Decision on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation Framework.

Food insecurity in most African countries is caused by limited-to-weak agricultural systems and delivery services,

the unpredictability of optimal farming schedules due to climate change, limited capacity for irrigation systems and over-reliance on rains, growing wars, and conflicts.

Currently, African countries are only producing 10 per cent of the world's food output and this causes most African countries to rely on food importation so as to boost their food security.

Fundamentally, agricultural activities in Africa have been collapsing since the attainment of independence of most countries, as characterised by the limited growth in agricultural production per capita observed from the early 1960s to the 1970s.

This declining agricultural trend contrasts with the food production growth observed in other developing regions and impedes the aspirations of most African countries' efforts toward ensuring food security.

Agricultural extension is the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. The field of 'extension' now encompasses a wider range of communication and learning activities organised for rural people by educators from different disciplines, including agriculture, agricultural marketing, health, and business studies.

Agricultural extension agencies in developing countries receive large amounts of support from international development organisations such as the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

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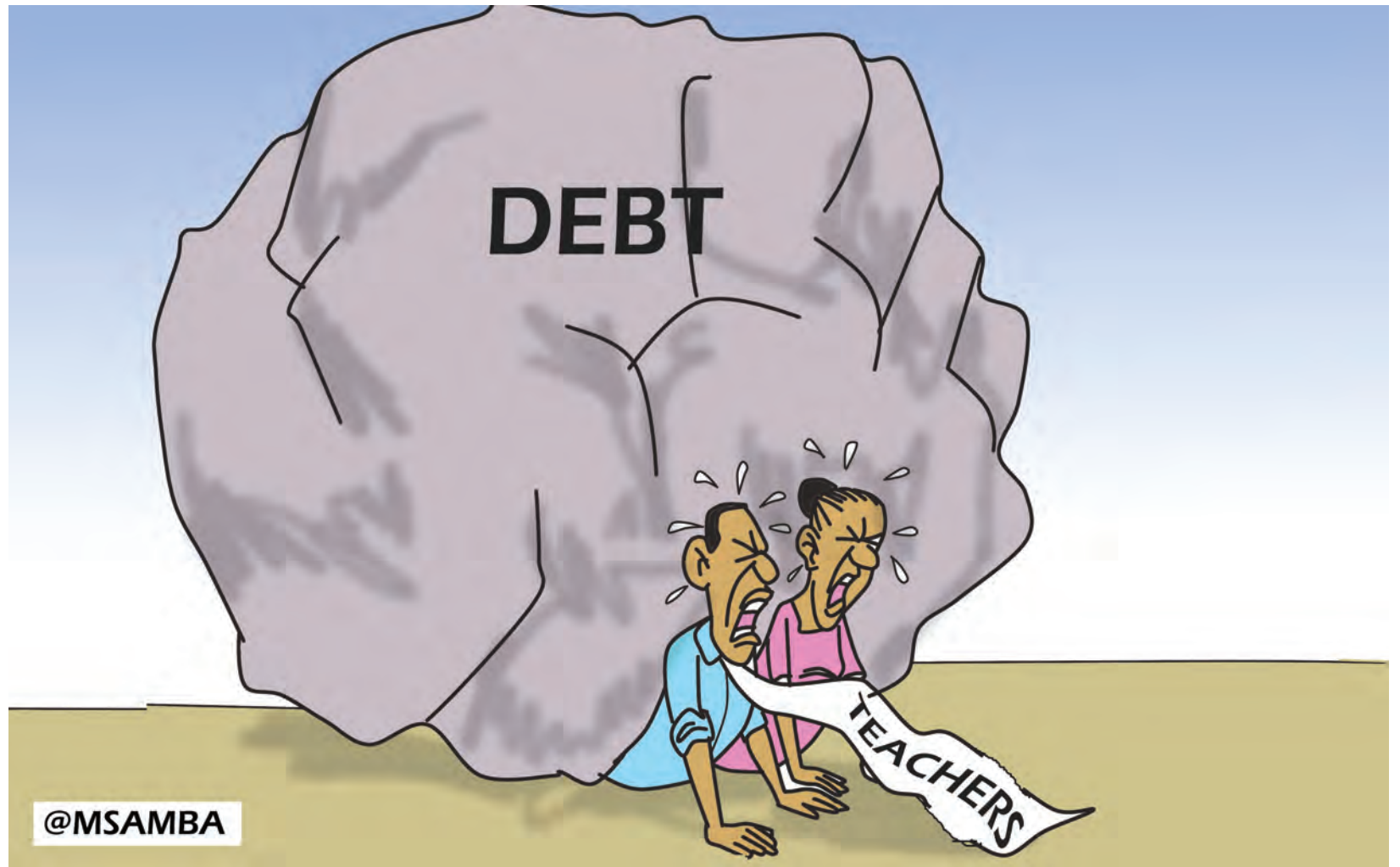
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COP15 : We are losing nature, biodiversity at the fastest rate in human history

By Amy Fraenkel and Marco Lambertini

WHILE climate change dominates the environmental headlines, quieter, startling changes are taking place in nature across the planet - whether in forests, oceans, deserts, rural landscapes, cities and other places where nature is found.

We are losing nature - biodiversity - at the fastest rate in human history. Around a million species of plants and animals are heading towards extinction. As human activities destroy and degrade more natural places, nature is becoming more and more fragmented.

Nature provides freshwater, supports food systems and underpins major industries such as forestry, agriculture, and fisheries. Yet our efforts to protect our precious biodiversity have been flawed and woefully inadequate.

Conservation of nature over the past decades has largely involved the creation of numerous dots of protected areas, which have undoubtedly helped to slow the loss of biodiversity.

But there are also limits to this approach. Many protected areas are not effectively or equitably managed, some types of ecosystems are underrepresented, and - perhaps most importantly - protected areas are carved out like islands in the middle of otherwise modified, industrial, agricultural and urbanized landscapes.

In many countries, the majority of wild species of animals live outside of protected areas. Just 9% of the world's migratory bird species are adequately covered by protected areas across all stages of their annual cycle. Nature simply cannot survive let alone thrive in this deeply compromised and compartmentalized way.

This December, thousands of representatives of government, scientists, and other stakeholders will descend on Montreal, Canada (December 7-19) for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), where they will try to agree on commitments to address this growing crisis.

By all accounts, the negotiations have yet to live up to what is desperately needed to correct our current path. If we are to successfully address the biodiversity crisis, we must adopt an approach that can meet conservation goals and also provide food, water, security and livelihoods for a global population of 10 billion people by 2050.

A key to achieving this lies in what



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) in Montreal, Canada on December 6, 2022.

is known as ecological connectivity - which simply put, is about ensuring that our landscapes, seascapes, and river basins allow the movement of species and the flow of natural processes.

Ecological connectivity is essential to ensure the health and productivity of ecosystems, the survival of wild animals and plant species, and genetic diversity.

It contributes to climate resilience and adaptation, productive lands and effective restoration. And it is indispensable for the thousands of migratory species of wild animals which need to seasonally move from one habitat to another.

One of the most talked about ideas in the Montreal negotiations that is gaining significant political traction is the so-called "30 by 30" target, which calls for a minimum of thirty percent of the earth's lands, freshwater and oceans to be protected or conserved in some form by the year 2030.

But this numerical target will be far from ambitious unless connectivity is placed at the center of its implementation, and the role and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are recognized.

Currently, connectivity is cap-

tured in the draft target in two small words: "well-connected". These same words were part of previous global biodiversity targets which by all accounts have failed us.

To succeed, connectivity must be a litmus test for all area-based conservation measures at the national level. The choice of which areas to protect and conserve needs to be guided by whether they contribute to connectivity - along with appropriate environmental and social safeguards.

Likewise, urban growth, infrastructure development and other human activities must be planned in ways that achieve social and economic needs while preserving connectivity. And governments need to measure and report their progress in implementing this commitment on connectivity.

There is one other essential element for achieving ecological connectivity: governments need to cooperate across national borders to protect and conserve shared natural areas and species.

In 2021, the UN General Assembly adopted a remarkable resolution urging all member states to increase international cooperation to improve connectivity of trans-

boundary habitats, avoid their fragmentation and protect species that rely on connected ecosystems.

Yet alarmingly, the draft to be negotiated in Montreal does not, as yet, include any such commitment for governments to work together to implement the transboundary aspects of the framework.

The good news is we have the knowledge and ability to turn the current trends around, and to achieve a sustainable relationship with nature. There is enormous momentum on achieving connectivity by governments, companies, the financial sector, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities.

For instance, the government of Canada is launching a CAD \$60 million program for ecological corridors, a company in Sabah Borneo is completing a 14 kilometer reforested wildlife corridor within its plantation.

Local community citizen scientists in Nepal have found that a corridor they restored is now abuzz with wildlife. It is time to work together to connect nature at a scale that will deliver what we all need - a healthy planet.

By Telesphor Magobe

No matter the mistake made, beating up your partner is criminal offence

The Law and You



LAST week, we briefly looked at Human Rights Day, which is marked each year on December 10 as the culmination of 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls (November 25 to December 10). This year's theme was "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All" and the call to action was "stand up for human rights."

We can just ask ourselves how often we stand up for human rights. This famous saying "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem," by Leroy Elbridge Cleaver, an American writer and political activist (1935-1998), can enlighten us on how we are either defenders or violators of human rights.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at 'punishing a partner'. But before that, let me share an incident I witnessed recently.

The other day I was somewhere and an argument arose concerning the wife of a young man who had gone to a wedding party, leaving behind her one-year-old daughter with her father. The young man was boasting that his daughter would feel happier to be with him than with her mother.

Apparently, the young man and his wife had agreed that she goes to a wedding party because it was nearby where they were renting a house. But then as time passed by, the young man started getting angry with his wife because she stayed long while she knew she was breastfeeding her daughter. So, he said if she came back, she would pay for it, meaning she would be beaten up.

There was also another young man, who is a builder. He said the young man and his wife had agreed well on her going to the wedding party and that the wife had even brought them food from the party and they shared it three of them - meaning the young man, his wife and the builder because she had brought three plates after which she left and the young man knew it.

He was surprised why the man was giving the impression that his wife went to the wedding party without both of them agreeing on that while they had agreed on that in his presence. The builder suspected that the young man was jealousy of his wife.

"After sometime, the wife came back and she greeted us - her husband, the builder and myself. It was at

about 15:00. Then, the husband took her by hand, pretending he was friendly to her, but as they walked a few metres away he stopped her and started asking her why she had stayed long while she knew she was breastfeeding the child," the builder narrated.

Suddenly, he started slapping her. The wife had some wigs on her head and the young man pulled them off. Some children, young men and women gathered around them and were cheering up to

see the man beating up his wife in front of onlookers and passers-by.

"I tried to stop them because I thought the man could hurt her wife for nothing, but he pushed me and we both fell on the ground. Because I didn't want to be hurt, I decided to leave the place but later on I heard that the man continued pounding his wife. It seems it is not the first time he did it that way," he said.

This is the situation many married women are in. If they are not frequently

beaten up, they are occasionally beaten up and men seem to think they are right in doing so.

According to the 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS), 36 per cent of women aged 15-49 years experienced emotional violence committed by their husbands or partners, 39 per cent of women aged 15-49 years experienced physical violence committed by their husbands or partners, 20 per cent of women aged 15-49 years experienced sexual violence.

Out of them 17 per cent experienced sexual violence by their husband or partner, 10 per cent of women aged 15-49 years had their first sexual intercourse forced against their will and 44 per cent of women aged 15-49 years had either experienced physical or sexual violence.

On attitudes of spousal abuse, about 3 in 5 females and 1 in 2 males aged between 13 and 24 years believed it was appropriate for a husband to beat his wife under certain circumstances if she goes out without telling him, neglects children, argues with him and refuses to have sex with him or burns the food.

A media survey conducted by Legal and Human Right Centre (LHRC) in 2019 recorded at least 14 incidents of violence against women and children of which 12 of them were killings of women by their intimate partners and 8 were due to jealousy.

But what does the law say? Section 66 of the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 (R.E 2022) states that: "For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared

that, notwithstanding any custom to the contrary, no person has any right to inflict corporal punishment on his or her spouse." This section prohibits the husband from assaulting his wife or the wife from assaulting her husband.

Section 87 of the Penal Code (R.E 2022) prohibits fighting in public. It states that "Any person who takes part in a fight in a public place is guilty of an offence and is liable to imprisonment for six months or to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand shillings." Section 135 prohibits sexual assault on persons and indecent assault on women. A person who commits an offence of sexual assault risks on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine not exceeding 300,000/- or both.

Section 241 of the Penal Code states that: "Any person who commits an assault occasioning actual bodily harm is guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for five years." Although the law does not talk directly about wife-beating, there are legal provisions that prohibit assault, which of course, includes slapping or hitting any person.

So, husbands who have a tendency of slapping or hitting their wives or wives who have a tendency of slapping or hitting their husbands may get into big trouble if there is evidence that what they did to their partner amounted to an assault which is prohibited by law.

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

China pushes for solid implementation of its 10 new measures of COVID-19 response

By Zhong Yin

LOCAL authorities across China are working to ensure forceful and effective COVID-19 response after the country issued its latest 10 prevention and control measures to further optimize pandemic control.

They are enhancing the popularization of healthcare knowledge among residents, guiding them to understand the novel coronavirus in a science-based manner, and encouraging them to be responsible for their own health.

For instance, some local governments have issued pandemic prevention brochures for individuals, and some made short videos to instruct people to perform rapid antigen test. Besides, some published digital guidebooks that tell people when and where they should see a doctor.

Experts said that thanks to China's previous efforts to contain the pandemic, the country has seen a prominent decrease in the pathogenicity of the virus and developed effective vaccines and medicines, thus embracing an opportunity to further optimize its control measures.

The 10 new measures were introduced based on the latest epidemic situation and mutation of the virus to contain the epidemic in a more targeted manner.

One of the goals of optimizing pandemic response is to lower the impacts from the virus on people's life and work, ensure the treatment for the critically ill and groups at higher risk through effective resource allocation, better coordinate COVID-19 prevention and control with regular medical services, and better meet the demand for healthcare of the Chinese people.

Science-based and targeted implementation of these measures is important. From optimizing quarantine methods to ramping up the vaccination drive among the elderly, and from collecting health information about key groups to ensuring the functioning of the society and basic medical services, China is making unremitting efforts in various prevention and control work.

At present, China is working to ensure that responsibilities are fulfilled by local governments, departments, organizations and individuals, strengthen the construction and coordination of medical resources, improve the hierarchical medical system, and reinforce pandemic prevention capacity at the primary level, in



A senior resident is vaccinated at a clinic in Yuquan district, Hohhot, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, Dec. 12, 2022. (People's Daily Online/Ding Genhou)

hope of implementing the new measures in more targeted and effective manner.

To tackle the difficulties facing the people, local authorities across the country have requested grade-two hospitals and qualified primary-level medical institutions to establish and open fever clinics to the best of their capacity. Besides, they also requested relevant organizations to offer door-to-door vaccination services

for disabled seniors and those with mobility issues. Smooth logistics will be ensured and the protection of groups at higher risk enhanced, too.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has always put the people and their lives in the first place, effectively responded to more than 100 regional outbreaks at home and five global resurgences.

Over the past three years, China has always been committed to the people-centered approach, and optimized prevention and control measures in view of the evolving COVID-19 dynamics.

China's practice fully indicates that its COVID-19 response has to a very large extent protected the lives and safety of the Chinese people and facilitated people's life, production and

investment. The optimized measures will make more efficient use of prevention and control resources, and better coordinate epidemic prevention and control with economic and social development

What does Harry & Meghan's Netflix show bring to the royals?



Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, arrive at the 2022 Robert F Kennedy Human Rights Ripple of Hope Award Gala at the Hilton Midtown in New York on Dec 6, 2022. AFP

LONDON

BYOND the drama of feuding brothers and Machiavellian royal aides working with a hostile press, the key issue which arises from Prince Harry and his wife Meghan's Netflix documentary is whether it does lasting damage to King Charles and the British monarchy.

Over six hours of television, Harry and Meghan delivered a swathe of accusations against what they portrayed as a tone-deaf institution which was unconcerned about their emotional well-being and prepared for them to suffer if it meant better media coverage for other more senior royals.

"It's like living through a soap opera where everybody else views you as entertainment," Harry said in one of the final episodes released on Thursday.

When the couple married in a glittering ceremony in 2018, their union was hailed as a breath of fresh air, the epitome of a modern monarchy: the then-hugely popular prince and the glamorous, biracial, American princess.

But as they recounted in graphic detail in their documentary series, that fairytale soon turned sour amid a slew of negative press coverage, some of which Harry blamed on those working for Prince William, his elder brother and now heir to the throne.

"It looked cold, but it also felt cold," Harry said of his family's feelings towards him at their last official engagement. In 2020, the couple decided to step back from their royal roles, moving to California and becoming financially independent.

The exit of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex was bad news for the institution, said Catherine Mayer, author of recent biography "Charles: Heart of a King".

"The departure of Meghan and Harry from royal ranks has been far more damaging to the monarchy than the coverage that vilifies them understands or accepts," she told Reuters.

"Her arrival was this source of enormous hope for people of color, and also just younger people. Her departure is seen as a failure and a betrayal, and that's immensely damaging to the monarchy because the monarchy needs consensus to survive.

It needs support to survive, and it's losing it."

But opinion polls suggest that may not be the case. According to a YouGov poll last week, Harry, who once topped such ratings, and Meghan are now the most unpopular royals in Britain apart from his uncle Prince Andrew, who settled a US sex abuse lawsuit in February. William and his wife Kate were the most popular, although surveys show younger people are much more ambivalent than older Britons about the monarchy in general.

The royals have been in a similar position before. In the early 1990s, the disintegration of Charles's marriage to his first wife, Harry's mother the late Princess Diana, was played out in the full glare of the media.

Following Diana's public accusations against the royal household and her death in 1997, the future of the 1,000-year-old institution seemed at times uncertain. But it bounced back to become more popular than ever, with Harry and his brother William to the fore.

According to Harry, the subsequent popularity of Meghan was seen as a problem, stealing the limelight from those "born to do this", a less than subtle dig at his brother and father.

If Harry's assessment that negative stories were being planted against him and Meghan is true - an accusation rejected by newspapers and aides who have spoken publicly - then the campaign could perhaps be seen as successful.

A Savanta survey found 59 percent of respondents in Britain said it was a bad idea for Harry and Meghan to air their documentary, with a half saying they did not trust that the show would be an accurate account of the couple's experience.

"Personally, I don't think that it will do lasting damage to the monarchy," royal biographer Claudia Joseph said of the Netflix documentary.

"I think that people that are royalists will still be royalists and will see this as Meghan and Harry again throwing their toys out of the pram, and the people that are republicans will remain republicans and blame the royal family for the way they've treated Harry and Meghan."

Or, as 45-year-old London local Tarek Hilal said on Thursday: "In the long run, it just won't make a difference. Storm in a teacup."

By Khalid Taimur Akram

Toward golden age of China-Arab relations

THE recent three-day visit of President Xi Jinping to Saudi Arabia has revealed many astonishing factors while building greater cooperation in many fields. While President Xi attended summits and met with leaders of the Gulf countries, the Chinese side signed multiple memorandums of understanding to further deepen trade and investment with the region's countries. The China-Gulf summit was also held during Xi's three-day visit to the region.

In total, 34 investment agreements in sectors such as energy (green hydrogen and solar), information technology, cloud technology, transportation, logistics, pharmaceuticals, and housing and construction were signed, signaling the emergence of a new era of collaboration between China and Arab states. In fact, joint collaboration between China and the Arab states in fields such as the economy and oil/gas trade has been a milestone development.

Multilateral engagement will benefit the whole region, not least because China is known for its robust policies and smooth implementation of projects. In this aspect, the Gulf countries' decision to further open their borders to China could be a game-changer.

That Xi was bestowed an honorary doctorate by King Saud University shows the Arab world trusts the Chinese leadership, and believes its engagement with China will facilitate shared prosperity for all parties involved.

The new initiatives are reflective of two major development initiatives. One is Saudi Vision 2030, which is a strategic framework aimed at reducing Saudi Arabia's reliance on oil, diversifying its economy, and expanding public service areas such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, recreation and tourism.

One of the Saudi Vision 2030's main objectives is to promote a softer and more secular image of the country while bolstering economic and investment activity. In this aspect, greater connectivity with China can help Saudi Arabia achieve its goals by 2030, including building Neom city (a smart city in Tabuk province in the northwestern part of the country), the Red

Sea project and the Middle East Green Initiative.

The second initiative is to deepen Saudi Arabia's involvement in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative. Countries involved in the China-proposed initiative have faith in the Chinese leadership and believe the multilateral project to improve connectivity among economies will hasten their socioeconomic development and bring shared prosperity, and Saudi Vision 2030 complements the Belt and Road Initiative in this regard.

The strategic objective of the Belt and Road Initiative is to enhance logistical and infrastructure connectivity while promoting trade and investment. On the other hand, Saudi Vision 2030's goal is to create a diverse economy not only dependent on oil trade. Thus, expanding collaboration between Saudi Arabian and Chinese businesses can help diversify investment and trade linkages, encompassing not just major infrastructure construction but also fields such as digital innovation and new energy development.



Xi Jinping and Mohammed bin Salman at the Chinese president's welcoming ceremony in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Dec. 8, 2022. AFP

Chinese businesses have progressively increased their presence in the Saudi Arabian petrochemicals industry. But their increasing engagement in Saudi Arabia also has to keep pace with the provisions of new MOU signed between the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) and China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec).

As per the agreement, the two companies will jointly assess refining and petrochemicals integration opportunities, including services and technologies. Other fields of engagement under the Belt and Road framework include (but are not limited to) facilitating the transition to clean

energy, investing in renewable energy and integrating hydrogen supply chains.

All new development initiatives under Xi's leadership will strengthen Sino-Saudi Arabian ties, because his dynamic policy of openness is known to promote inclusive socioeconomic progress. The fact that President Xi's aircraft was escorted by four Royal Saudi Air Force fighter jets after it entered Saudi Arabian airspace and by six Saudi Hawk jets after it entered Riyadh's airspace reflects the importance Saudi Arabia attaches to its relationship with China.

Sino-Saudi Arabian cooperation is expected to reach new heights through the implementation of the agreements, and help the Gulf region to overcome existing and emerging challenges on the road to building a regional community with a shared future.

And since Pakistan has brotherly relations with both the Arab world and China, it hopes the two sides realize their goals and build a better future for humankind.

Agencies

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

SAT awards groups for job well done in agroecological practices, livestock keeping

By Getrude Mbago

THE Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) has issued a total of 10.9m/- to 13 farmers, pastoralist groups and one cooperative union for performing well in agroecological practices and smart livestock keeping.

The groups are from Mvomero, Kilosa and Morogoro district council in Morogoro Region and others from Dodoma Region.

They received their dummy checks during the 9th Agro-ecological Forum, Seed Fair, and organic Food Festival in Morogoro mid, this week.

Speaking on the sidelines of the forum, SAT executive director, Janet Maro said the awards are meant to motivate the farmers and livestock keepers to continue performing well in the sector as well as encourage others to do well in organic farming for the country's development.

"This year we have issued a total of 4.8m for 13 groups and two individual farmers as well as 6.13m/- to Chauwvim Amcos Ltd in Morogoro district for outstanding performance in organic farming and livestock keeping," she said.

According to her, the Amcos was awarded with the funds after performing well in their daily farm activities and recently they sold a total of 38 tonnes of cloves to SAT's Holistic Group.

She said that SAT has invested heavily in agro ecological technologies by promoting organic farming and smart livestock keeping which are cost-effective and protect nature.

"We have been working to instill organic farming knowledge and skills among the groups in various areas in the country, promoting natural and conservation farming which eventually helped to improve in-

come," she asserted.

Organized by SAT, the forum brought together participants from various parts with some of them exhibiting traditional seed varieties namely, pumpkin, soybean, sunflower, pawpaw, okra, cowpea, chickpea, and sesame.

Kenneth Shemdoo, Regional Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies commended SAT for investing heavily in promotion of organic farming and agroecological practices.

He said SAT was doing a remarkable job for helping farmers recognize the potential in the agriculture sector.

He said that the agriculture sector is currently facing various challenges due to climate change, something that needs more innovative and sustainable practices to overcome them.

Shemdoo urged Tanzanians to grab opportunities available in organic farming as recent surveys have confirmed that natural grown food products have high demand inside and international markets.

"Our Head of State, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been insisting on hard work in all sectors, so farmers have to wake up and start investing in organic farming practices," he said.

Mercy Meena, one of the winners, thanked SAT for its continued support in organic farming, something which has transformed her economy and other people's livelihoods.

She urged fellow farmers to plant plenty of trees around farms and homes so as to protect nature.

She acknowledged that now the country has put much emphasis on organic farming due to its productivity.

"Traditional seeds are strong and drought



resistant, so it is better to promote the use of the seeds for sustainable and profitable farming," she added.

Eva Joshua Mgema, one of the participants, said that climate change has affected daily activities in pastoral communities where many areas are currently facing acute shortage of water and pastures for animals.

Julia Samson, one of the pastoralists said: "Climate change hasn't only affected farming and livestock but also people's health and development,

so coordinated efforts are needed to rescue the situation which include promotion of massive tree planting, availability of seeds, water and other innovations to support farming and livestock farming."

Morogoro regional agriculture officer, Evance Gambishi said they were planning to invest heavily in educating and supporting farmers to plant commercial crops and trees which are friendly to the environment.

He also commended SAT for organ-

izing the forum which has brought together farmers, livestock keepers and stakeholders from various parts to further strengthen collaboration in the fight against climate change by promoting agroecological practices.

He said authorities in the region were working hard to promote and support sustainable farming that prioritizes environmental conservation.

He noted that organic farming protects soil and land, cost effective and promotes a healthy society.

MMV and CDC sign MoU to support African manufacturers

KIGALI, Rwanda

MEDICINES for Malaria Venture (MMV) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), focused on strengthening African manufacturing of malaria medicines on the margins of the 2nd International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022), taking place in Kigali, Rwanda.

The objective of the MoU is to jointly enhance supply security and facilitate equitable access to quality approved antimalarial and thereby maximize the use and health im-

pact of existing products on the continent. Through the MoU, MMV and the Africa CDC have affirmed their commitment to join efforts to achieve a common objective: to strengthen Africa's manufacturing capability to tackle diseases like malaria that continue to plague the African continent.

"MMV and Africa CDC share a common goal of delivering quality-assured essential medicines produced in Africa," said Pierre Hugo, MMV's Senior Director of Market Dynamics and Global Partnerships. "We believe that targeted investments and collaboration with select manufacturers will create opportunities to expand access

to quality antimalarial throughout both the public and private sectors."

The MoU further outlines how MMV and Africa CDC will work with partners to ensure funding and procurement of locally manufactured quality-assured medicines. This includes advocacy to AU Member States to implement free trade agreements to ensure regional distribution of locally manufactured, quality-assured medicines. "Africa is capable of manufacturing its own medicines," said Dr Nicaise Ndembu, Africa CDC's Senior Science Advisor. "The partnership between Africa CDC and MMV will increase local medicine manufactur-

ing and focus on establishing several regional hubs to manufacture Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) and Finished Pharmaceutical Products (FPP)."

The collaboration will support African Union Member States and is aimed at accelerating and scaling-up African manufacturing, building on existing capacities and developing new ones to support the manufacture of quality-assured malaria APIs and FPPs. The potential benefits of such a collaboration were highlighted with the recent WHO prequalification of a sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine, a medicine which protects pregnant women from malaria, by

Kenya-based Universal Corporation Limited (UCL), supported by MMV. According to the latest WHO World Malaria Report released on December 8, 2022, there were an estimated 619 000 malaria deaths globally in 2021 compared to 625 000 in the first year of the pandemic. In 2019, before the pandemic struck, the number of deaths stood at 568 000.

Malaria cases continued to rise between 2020 and 2021, but at a slower rate than in the period 2019 to 2020. The global tally of malaria cases reached 247 million in 2021, compared to 245 million in 2020 and 232 million in 2019. Despite successes, includ-

ing an expansion of Seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) and an increase of delivered Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), eradication efforts face many challenges, particularly in the African Region, which shouldered about 95% of cases and 96% of deaths globally in 2021. Children under the age of 5 accounted for nearly 80% of all malaria deaths in the region.

In 2021, four countries in the African Region - Nigeria (26.6%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12.3%), Uganda (5.1%) and Mozambique (4.1%) - accounted for nearly half of all malaria cases globally. Currently, pharma-

ceutical products are manufactured in countries such as Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Morocco and Egypt. Africa currently imports between 70-90% of its pharmaceutical and medical consumables. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated Africa's vulnerabilities linked to over-reliance on imported drugs from Asia when imports of pharmaceutical products slowed to a halt. A stronger African manufacturing supply security will help the continent be better prepared to respond to future health crises and therefore also has implications for global health security

UNECA chief urges Africa to transform emerging challenges into opportunities

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) acting executive secretary Antonio Pedro has called on African countries to transform emerging economic and environmental challenges into opportunities by forging strong partnerships and innovative strategies.

Pedro made the remarks at the ongoing three-day UNECA Expo, which runs until Thursday at the UNECA Conference Center in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, as he emphasized the urgent need for technological advancement and digitalization of the economy in Africa to withstand emerging socioeconomic shocks.

"It was clear during the COVID-19 pandemic that the crisis was a low-hanging fruit for regional integration and for harnessing the demographic dividend on the continent," a UNECA statement issued late Tuesday quoted Pedro as saying.

"We must embrace innovative and disruptive thinking to provide practical solutions to real life challenges affecting our member

states now and in the future," Pedro said.

The UNECA Expo, the first of its kind, is showcasing the work of the UNECA with a view to forging new partnerships and strengthening existing ones to enable the Commission to effectively serve its member countries in a rapidly changing and complex environment.

Noting that the African continent and the rest of the world are facing new and complex challenges and opportunities as reflected in the impacts of climate change and geopolitical tensions with ramifications in food and energy crises, the UNECA chief said innovation is needed to manage the challenges.

Pedro said the recently held COP27 presented new investment opportunities on the continent to create carbon credit markets, deploy renewable energy and find solutions to the energy transition for the rest of the world.

He said the COVID-19 pandemic, despite its multifaceted impacts, demonstrated opportunities for Africa to participate in the development of the pharmaceutical value



An interior view of a warehouse at logistics platform in Kigali, Rwanda

chain.

Pedro said the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement will ensure the seamless operation of new vehicles to make trade and invest-

ments within the continent and across the global market.

Pedro stressed that the role of the UNECA needs to evolve as challenges multiply. He said the UNECA can offer solu-

tions to help African countries achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union (AU)'s 50-year continental development blueprint, Agenda 2063.

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

Vietnam, Tanzania boost friendship traditional ties

A Vietnamese party delegation recently attended the 10th congress of Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), led by Nguyen Manh Hung, member of the Party Central Committee and deputy head of its Commission for Information and Education, and Minister of Information and Communications.

Speaking at the congress, Hung congratulated Tanzania on its achievements recorded under the leadership of the CCM party in recent years.

He briefed participants on Viet-

nam's achievements after 35 years of Doi Moi (Renewal), affirming that the country attaches great importance to the traditional and friendly relations between the two parties and countries, and hopes to strengthen them.

At the meeting with the CCM party chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan, he conveyed the congratulatory message of the party central committee and the letter of President Nguyen Xuan Phuc to President Sa-

mia.

President Samia said she will send Vice Chairman of the party Abdulrahman Kinana to lead the CCM's delegation to visit Vietnam to share experiences on party development and

national development, at the invitation of the Vietnamese party leader.

On the occasion, the delegation had a working session with Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in East Africa Stergomena Lawrence Tax, and Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology Nape Moses Nnauye.

Will US replace African Growth and Opportunity Act with Continental Free Trade Agreement?

By Peter Fabricius

DOES the US intend to replace Agoa – the African Growth and Opportunity Act – which has benefitted so many SA exporters, with a free trade agreement with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) when Agoa expires in 2025?

This possibility arose this week at US President Joe Biden's major summit in Washington with African leaders which gathered 49 African governments to meet with Biden and his Cabinet as well as US business representatives, civil society, and diaspora and youth leaders.

After a US-Africa business forum at the summit, Biden said the US had signed a new agreement with AfCFTA secretary-general, the South African Wamkele Mene, which would give US companies access to 1.3 billion people and a market valued at \$3.4-trillion.

"When Africa succeeds, the United States succeeds. Quite frankly, the whole world succeeds as well," Biden said.

This raised the question of whether Washington wants to phase out Agoa, which comes up for renewal in 2025. Launched in 2000, Agoa gives duty-free and quota-free access to the lucrative US market for exports from qualified African countries.

The African countries do not have to offer such concessions to US imports in return.

Agoa has greatly benefited South African exporters, in particular, especially the makers of autos and processed fruit, helping to balance South African trade with the US. Nigeria and Angola have also benefitted from their oil exports to the US. But few other countries have.

And so South Africa especially, but also other African countries, would like the US Congress to renew Agoa in 2025 – as it last did in 2015. But US business is believed to be opposed to a renewal, demanding reciprocal access to African markets, and especially to the relatively sophisticated SA market.

The US companies complain that they are being disadvantaged in the markets of South



Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat (L), US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (2L) and Senegalese President Macky Sall (2R) look on as US President Joe Biden (C) participates in the U.S.-Africa Summit Leaders Session on partnering on the African Union's Agenda 2063 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, USA, 15 December 2022. The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit brings together heads of state, government officials, business leaders, and civil society to strengthen ties between the U.S. and Africa. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Oliver Contreras / Pool)

Africa and some of its neighbours relative to European exporters, especially after six southern African countries signed the reciprocal EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement in 2016.

Support from Congress

The US companies may well get support from an increasingly protectionist Congress, especially after Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in last month's midterm elections.

US Deputy Commerce Secretary Don Graves did not answer directly when Daily Maverick asked him in an online media briefing on Thursday whether the US regards the agreement it signed with the AfCFTA as a substitute for renewing Agoa.

He made clear that the US intended to modernise and improve Agoa so African countries get more out of it. What he did not say was whether he meant the US would do this only up to the scheduled expiry of Agoa in 2025.

"We are very focused first on making sure

we take advantage of everything that Agoa offers, making sure that we create as many opportunities for trade and investment as possible under Agoa," Graves answered.

He noted that US Trade Representative Katherine Tai had hosted several African trade ministers at an Agoa ministerial meeting on Monday. Tai said the ministers told her Agoa was not enough and what was needed was more US investment in Africa to produce the kinds of goods which could then be competitively exported into the US under Agoa.

She agreed and told the summit that Agoa needed to be modernised and improved to make it more relevant to a world much changed since it was introduced in 2020. She suggested that one way of adapting Agoa would be to move it some way – but not all the way – towards a traditional reciprocal free trade deal.

Graves said: "We all agree there is a need to strengthen implementation and to modernise Agoa so that we can move from talking about this agreement to concrete benefits for the people."

On the question of renewing Agoa, he echoed Tai in saying Agoa was an act of Congress and so the Biden administration would engage with Congress closer to the Agoa expiration date of 2025.

"We at the Commerce Department are working and will be working very closely with the US trade representative, will be working closely with congressional committees and our African counterparts to deal with this issue. At the end of the day, we all need to come together to figure out the best way to increase our connectivity, our trade relationships with the [African] continent as well as bilaterally with countries on the continent."

Graves said the AfCFTA was "an unbelievable opportunity that countries of the continent have been able to come together to found the largest free trade area in the world."

"It's going to create great opportunities to grow, to develop into major global trading companies that we all believe are in Africa's future. We know that we need to do more to lift up our relationship."

Once negotiated and implemented, the AfCFTA would eliminate most tariffs and non-tariff barriers across Africa and streamline access to service between African countries.

"That's important. Because it makes the continent a much more attractive market for the US because it creates a much more level playing field, provides harmonisation of rules and allows American businesses to operate more consistently across the continent."

And so he expected that as a result of the AfCFTA – and, he implied, the US's proposed free trade agreement with it – the African market would become an increasingly attractive market, competitive with all other global markets.

"We're very excited about it. That's why I and so many other leaders across the administration have been having these conversations with the secretary-general [Mene] to find ways we can use this to support a growing trade between the US and counties all across Africa."

The deal between the US and the AfCFTA is also seen as a means for the US to close the large gap between its trade with Africa and that of China and the European Union. China and the EU each trade about four times the amount the US does now.

According to a Eurasia Group analysis – quoted by Reuters – in 2021 China-Africa trade totalled \$254-billion and EU-Africa trade reached €288-billion versus US-Africa trade of just \$64.3-billion.

DM

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 400 00--

U H U R U F R E E

- 3 letters: GOD, AOR, ACT, SAD, ARE,
 4 letters: FREE, ROOM, EVEN, AMEN, HIDE RARE, ORES, STUD,
 5 letters: UHURU, EVOKE, ASHET, GRAPE PLATE, ATTAR, TAMED, REACH
 6 letters: UNESCO, ELEVEN, ENDEAR, SEVERE SCREAM,
 7 letters: CURIOUS,
 8 letters: UN EARNED

- CLUES: Across
 1 the first black president of S.Africa
 5 flightless bird in New Zealand
 6 Islamic canonical law
 9 the star
 10 make a bleating sound
 11 citrus fruit
 12 a small restaurant
 14 a minister in charge of a Christian church
 15 an instrument for writing
 16 an American
 17 a narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff
 18 citrus fruits
 21 celebrity
 22 an official order or proclamation
- Down:
 1 Russia's capital
 2 Former name of Malawi
 3 an open area of grassy
 4 a woman's loose sleeveless cloak
 5 Valletta is her Capital
 7 flee
 8 gather in or together
 12 the deep-freezing of the bodies of people who have died of an incurable disease, in the hope of a future cure
 13 a barrier enclosing an area
 14 an act of urinating
 15 a rich fabric of silk, cotton
 18 blood that has been shed
 20 a habitual drunkard

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

1 UHURU
 2 MALAWI
 3 GRASSY
 4 SLEEVES
 5 PENGUIN
 6 SHARIAH
 7 FLEECE
 8 GATHER
 9 STAR
 10 BLEAT
 11 CITRUS
 12 RESTAURANT
 13 BARRIERS
 14 URINATING
 15 SILK
 16 AMERICAN
 17 CLIFF
 18 CITRUS
 19 CELEBRITY
 20 DRUNKARD

We're very excited about it. That's why I and so many other leaders across the administration have been having these conversations with the secretary-general [Mene] to find ways we can use this to support a growing trade between the US and counties all across Africa

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKRA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 07:00 AM MATANGAZO 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 12:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

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BUSINESS

Visa to invest \$1bln in Africa to accelerate digital transformation

By Special Correspondent

VISA has pledged to invest \$1bn in Africa over the next five years to advance resilient, innovative, and inclusive economies across the continent.

Visa's expanded investments demonstrate the company's long-term commitment to Africa's growth potential and will help enable greater access to digital payments as an entry point for expanding formal financial services for individuals and merchants. Visa Chairperson and CEO Alfred F. Kelly, Jr. outlined the pledge during the US-Africa Business Forum, alongside the US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC. The pledge will further scale Visa's operations in Africa, and deepen collaboration with strategic partners including governments, financial institutions, mobile network operators, fintechs and merchants.

The investments will also focus on strengthening the payment ecosystem through new innovations and technologies, supporting the digitization of economies, and investing in upskilling, talent development and capacity building.

"Visa has been investing in Africa for several decades to grow a truly local business, and today our commitment to the continent remains as firm and unwavering as ever," said Al Kelly, Chairperson and CEO, of Visa, Inc. "Every day, Visa supports digital commerce and money movement in every country across the continent, and Africa remains central to Visa's long-term growth plans. We look forward to continuing to work closely with our partners to advance the financial ecosystem, accelerate digitization and build resilient, innovative, and inclusive economies that will create shared opportunity and further spur

Africa's digital economy."

In line with Visa's corporate purpose to be the best way to pay and be paid, these investments will facilitate additional opportunities to expand financial inclusion. Visa is dedicated to empowering small- and women-led entrepreneurship in Africa through its operations and community programs. Today, an estimated 500 million people in Africa are without access to formal financial services, less than 50% of the adult population made or received digital payments in Africa, and more than 40 million merchants do not accept digital payments.

"Africa is experiencing an unprecedented digital acceleration, with a growing number of consumers, merchants and businesses realizing the benefits of secure and convenient digital payments to fuel commerce and money movement," said Aida Diarra, Senior Vice President, of Visa Sub-Saharan Africa. "Over the past year, Visa has continued growing our investment in Africa, through new offices, new innovations and solutions, and programs that are directly supporting financial inclusion. The investment pledge outlines our long-term commitment to Africa and the work we will do to help advance the financial ecosystem."

"Expanding financial inclusion is critical to long-term economic prosperity, and we are proud to have worked with financial and public sector partners to launch new initiatives such as She's Next," said Leila Serhan, Senior Vice President, of Visa North Africa Levant and Pakistan. "We look forward to continuing to support programs that advance inclusion and prosperity while introducing new innovations designed for consumers and businesses across Africa."

NMB Bank funds education in Kabaha, to spend over 2bn/- on social investments this year

By Guardian Reporter

NMB bank yesterday handed over items and materials worth over 37m/- to support education progress in Kibaha District as part of its contribution to social development in the country.

The amount is part of the one per cent of the bank's net income which it allocates every year to help communities deal with social challenges and invest in development projects.

Speaking on behalf of the NMB Dar es Salaam Zone manager before the handover, NMB Kibaha branch manager Festo Isango said the lender's corporate social responsibility (CSR) budget for this year was more than 2bn/-.

"For some years now, NMB has been supporting various development projects in the realms of education and health as well as providing aid relief whenever natural disasters hit our country," Isango pointed out.

"And for over seven consecutive years, we have been setting aside one per cent of our net profit for funding CSR activities across the country," he added.

The function to hand over the NMB support was held in the premises of the office of District Commissioner, Sara Msafiri who commended the bank for its committed participation in national development efforts.

DC Msafiri said apart from offering the region qualitative financial services, NMB Bank was also a strategic development partner through social investments and economic



Kibaha District Commissioner, Sara Msafiri, looking at the book storage cabinets given to the School for Sofu Primary School during the handover ceremony of various aids from NMB to six schools worth more than 37m/- held in the grounds of the Office of Head of Kibaha District. Left is Acting NMB NMB Dar es Salaam Zone manager, who is also the bank's Kibaha branch manager Festo Isango. Photo: Courtesy of NMB

empowerment initiatives.

"We commend NMB and its leaders for supporting efforts of the Sixth Phase Government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan to deliver quality social services and better lives of Tanzanians," she pointed

Isango said the size of NMB's CSR investments make it leader of advancing social welfare in Tanzania among financial institutions operating in the country.

"The items and materials which we have handed over today is one way of contributing to social wel-

fare development and as market leader, we are obliged to ensure communities where we do business benefit from the profits we make," he pointed out.

The NMB leader also noted that the bank has been participating in many development initiatives in Kibaha District Council like it does in other parts of the country.

The beneficiaries of yesterday's NMB Bank support of classroom and teachers' furniture, beds, and iron sheets were Sofu and Mwanabwito primary schools as well as secondary schools' Mwa-

nalugali, Pangani, Kibaha Girls and Mbawa Miswe. Isango told the gathering that supporting the education sector and helping it to address its many challenges was a top priority of the bank.

"Together with the many things being done by the authorities, we as stakeholders in national development have the responsibility to support these progressive efforts to help communities which play a key role in making NMB what it is today and the undisputed provider of financial services in the country."

Boat donation strengthens US-Tanzania maritime boats security cooperation

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States has donated two high-speed patrol boats to the Tanzanian Navy with a quick response capability to interdict illicit activities within the country's sovereign waters.

The handover ceremony was held on Friday at Navy Pier, Mikadi Beach in Dar es Salaam.

The boats, valued at \$1.35 million, were provided by the U.S. Africa Command. The donation included boat repair and maintenance kits, towing vehicles, and a two-week training session on the use and maintenance of the crafts.

The 10.5-meter Interceptor boat will provide the Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) Navy with a quick response capability to interdict illicit activities within the sovereign waters of Tanzania. The 11.5-meter command boat will provide the TPDF Navy with a command-and-control platform to coordinate efforts with other law enforcement agencies within the Tanzanian waters.

"Today's donation is a continuation of our long-standing partnership with TPDF in the security arena, which includes ongoing support to help develop both Tanzania's military and drug enforcement forces," said US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Raines during the ceremony.

"The United States con-



US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Raines (2nd R) and Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) Naval Commander, Rear Admiral Ramson Godwin Mwaisaka (2nd L), cut a ribbon during the donation of two high-speed patrol boats at Navy Pier, Mikadi Beach in Dar es Salaam on Friday. The donated boats, valued at \$1.35 million, were provided by the U.S. Africa Command. The donation included boat repair and maintenance kits, towing vehicles, and a two-week training session on the use and maintenance of the crafts. Photo: Courtesy of US Embassy.

tinues to stand with Tanzania in its efforts to combat maritime threats, and I am certain these new boats will strengthen Tanzania's ability to secure its maritime territory," he said.

Security cooperation has been a pillar of the US-Tanzania partnership for the past six decades. In recent years security cooperation has continued to increase. Tanzanian and

US special forces soldiers conducted three joint training exercises in Tanzania since July 2021 and in August 2022 Tanzania received a visit from the US Hershel "Woody" Walker navy ship. Cooperation between US Law Enforcement Agencies and the Tanzanian police has also accelerated.

In April 2021 the Tanzanian Drug

Control Enforcement Authority (DCEA), in cooperation with U.S. law enforcement agents, seized 494 kilograms of heroin and 355 kilograms of methamphetamine from a drug laden dhow off the coast of Tanzania. This was reported to be the largest illicit narcotics seizure in Tanzanian history.



African businesses organisations join hands to boost trade

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) of Nigeria to strengthen trade cooperation between east and west of Africa.

EABC and ACCI partnership will champion the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) implementation by collaborating and linking businesses to access export and import, and investment opportunities.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Al-Mujtaba Abubakar, the ACCI president and chief executive officer, said that "the partnership will boost commercial information exchange, customer due diligence information and offers a platform for alternative dispute resolution

on trade matters."

John Bosco Kalisa, the EABC chief executive officer, said intra-African trade is currently low at 14.4 percent of total African exports.

He said the AfCFTA is set to boost intra-African trade by about 33 percent.

Kalisa said in 2021, the East African Community bloc goods export to the Economic Community of West African States reached \$91 million while imports were \$256 million.

EABC is the apex body of private sector associations and corporates in the East African Community (EAC) region. The Council was formed in 1997 to advocate for a conducive business environment for trade and investment in EAC, by tracking progress on agreed commitments within the EAC integration process and providing a public-private dialogue platform at the EAC regional level.

Absa inks deal to train 600 women entrepreneurs

By Moses Omusolo

ABSA Bank Kenya is targeting at least 600 women entrepreneurs with free investment readiness training in partnership with Melanin Kapital and the African Guarantee Fund (AGF).

The programme, dubbed Tuungane 2x na Absa, comes amid numerous challenges faced by women entrepreneurs including limited funding, balancing responsibilities, inadequate support systems, and limited business knowledge, among others.

Painting a picture of the local scene, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) recently noted that despite women in Kenya having the potential to become equal contributors to the country's GDP (gross domestic product) and economic growth in general, they only form 33 per cent of the total SMEs.

Absa Kenya Director for Business Banking Elizabeth Wasunna said the long-term capacity building programme has come at a time when women SMEs also contend with unique financial constraints such as inflation, rising dollar rates and various global shocks that



are affecting their operations and services.

"As a partner for their growth, we have maintained focus on addressing the systemic barriers that stunt their growth through different channels, including strategic pacts that bring their possibilities to life," she said.

Risk-sharing mechanisms

AGF Director for Structured Finance Nishdeep Sethi said the fund will provide financial institutions such as Absa with risk-sharing mechanisms that enable the same to increase their lending to women-owned SMEs across the continent.

"With a presence in 40 African countries, AGF has unlocked more than Sh300 billion (\$3 billion) in financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Cumulatively, about 30,000 SMEs have gained access to income-enhancing loans which are estimated to have generated nearly Sh600 billion (\$5 billion)

in incremental income," she added.

Melanin Kapital Chief Executive Melanie Keita noted that the firm seeks to leverage its growing women empowerment platform to make a difference in the lives of the small businesses seeking to come on board.

US backs fund for sustainable safaris in Africa

WASHINGTON

THE United States is committing support to promote sustainable safaris in Africa, hoping to prevent environmental destruction as the tourism sector recovers, officials have said.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) made the announcement at a three-day summit that brought nearly 50 African leaders in Washington.

The nascent Africa Conservation and Communities Tourism Fund, led by investors and conservationists, aims to raise \$75 million to fund safari operators across the continent.

USAID said it was committing \$2.5 million to reduce risks and jumpstart the fund, which it estimated would benefit 44,000 people.

The fund will work with safari operators in Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.

A notice on the project earlier this year by advisors Impact Align said that ecotourism operators had been devastated by Covid-19, which shut down international travel.

"The fate of millions of acres of wildlands and wildlife hangs in the balance," it said.

"If operators fail to financially recover, once protected wildlands will be at high risk of destruction which would worsen planetary health, exacerbate climate change and deprive local communities of employment and management opportunities."

The United States during the summit has laid out some \$55 billion in funding over the next several years including to improve health infrastructure, promote green energy and stave off hunger.

Fez forum promotes representation of African women in media

RABAT

THE Sixth Conference of African Women in Media took place in the Moroccan city of Fez on December 8 and 9, bringing together academics, experts, policy-makers, media practitioners, and NGOs with the aim of promoting the representation of African women in media.

The event was also an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the works and achievements of African women in media, as well as call for gender-inclusive practices in the field of journalism.

During the closing ceremony of the conference, the Communication Officer of the African Union Commission Wynne Musabayana presented the event's awards to three African women writers for their media achievements and contributions.

Nigeria's Marie-Therese Nanlong won the category of the AU Theme of the Year 2022 - The Year of Nutrition, while Kenya's Elizabeth Angira was selected as the winner of the category: "Promoting efforts towards the Economic and Financial Inclusion of African Women."

In addition, the award for the category of "the Rights of Children in Africa" went to Zimbabwe's Melody Chikono.

Moroccan scholar and linguist Moha Ennaji said that the presentation of the three awards sought to "support and encourage the serious, distinguished and effective production carried out by African women journalists to support the development of the continent in order to achieve the African Union's Agenda 2063."

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the event, Ennaji highlighted the congress's "most important recommendations," including "the fight against all forms of violence against African women in the media."



Using an approach to strengthen women's position in the media includes "training and professional integration of African women in this field," as well as "encouraging African women in the field of the media to occupy

positions of editorial decision-making, management, and administration," the Moroccan scholar noted.

The recommendations also include "strengthening the dialogue between

women journalists on the African continent and consolidating cooperation between governmental and private media industry," Ennaji said.

Ennaji explained that finding "effective

ways" to alter and better the image of African women in the industry is also part of the recommendations.

Ennaji, who is also the president and co-founder of the International Institute of Languages and Cultures of Fez and one of the organizing partners of the forum, noted that the two-day conference was marked by the presentation of "disturbing" findings.

A field study carried out in various African nations demonstrated that African women are overwhelmingly underrepresented in media. The representation of African women in media does not exceed 22%, he said.

In addition, the Moroccan scholar quoted CEO and founder of the African Women's Media Network Yemisi Akinbobola as saying that she was satisfied with "the lively discussions and exchanges during these two days." There was a notable international presence during the event that helped "to share the best practices and experiences in the area of gender equality in the media."

Akinbobola stressed that the conference gave rise to "an explicit call for African media to cover global issues without bias or discrimination." These issues include "gender equality, culture, and gender, as well as environmental issues and world peace."

Savannah Energy announces \$1.25 billion purchase of oil fields in South Sudan

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA-focused British independent energy company, Savannah Energy, has announced the acquisition of producing oil fields in South Sudan from Malaysian state oil and gas company, Petronas, a move highly supported by the African Energy Chamber (AEC). The announcement came on Dec. 12, with the acquisition having been made to the tune of \$1.25 billion.

"With Savannah Energy, South Sudan will benefit with more jobs,

local content, sustainable energy development, opportunities for women, and an aggressive turnaround of declining fields," states NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC.

Ayuk added, "the opportunities for independent energy companies to participate in the continent's energy future and allow Africa to bring energy to its people by making full use of its natural resources, which was highlighted during African Energy Week this year, where discussions were made supporting the

presence of independents that can sustainably operate assets acquired from international supermajors."

Having entered a Share Purchase Agreement with Petronas to procure the company's entire oil and gas asset portfolio in South Sudan - through the acquisition of its subsidiary, Petronas Carigali Nile Limited - the completed transaction will result in Savannah Energy's attainment of interests in three Joint Operating Companies (JOCs).

The other partners include international energy company, the China

National Petroleum Corporation; India's flagship energy major, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation; and South Sudan's national oil and gas company, Nilepet.

The JOCs currently operate in Blocks 3/7, 1/2/4, and 5A in South Sudan and, with a gross output of 153,000 bopd, the Petronas assets comprise interests in 64 producing fields in the East African country.

"The Transaction Consideration is expected to be financed through a combination of the enlarged Group's available cash resources

and debt," Savannah indicated in a statement.

Subject to the approval of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan as well as Savannah Energy's shareholders, the announcement follows the procurement by Savannah Energy of oil and gas supermajor, ExxonMobil's, entire upstream and downstream asset portfolio in Chad and Cameroon for \$407 million.

Fully committed to bringing reliable and profitable projects to Africa, Savannah Energy has been

unrivaled in its commitment to African energy, with the company's vast portfolio of renewable energy projects - as well as its impressive upstream and midstream portfolio - contributing towards its Projects that Matter Initiative, which is active in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

The most recent South Sudan acquisition is set to usher in new opportunities for energy security and affordability in Africa on the back of new exploration and production drives by independents.

US releases trove of records related to JFK assassination

WASHINGTON

The US National Archives on Thursday released thousands of documents related to the 1963 assassination of then-President John F Kennedy, acting shortly after President Joe Biden issued an executive order authorizing the release that also kept hundreds of other sensitive records secret for up to another year.

The release of 13,173 documents was not expected to include any new bombshells or change the conclusion reached by the commission led by Chief Justice Earl Warren that Lee Harvey Oswald, a former Marine who had lived in the Soviet Union, acted alone. However, the latest cache will be useful for historians focusing on the events around the assassination.

Kennedy was shot and killed while riding in his motorcade through Dallas on Nov 22, 1963, at the age of 46.

Thousands of books, articles, TV shows and films have explored the idea that Kennedy's assassination was the result of an elaborate conspiracy. None have produced conclusive proof that

Oswald - who was fatally shot by nightclub owner Jack Ruby two days after killing Kennedy - worked with anyone else, although they retain a powerful cultural currency.

Many of the documents released on Thursday belonged to the Central Intelligence Agency, including several that focused on Oswald's movements and his contacts. Other documents focus on requests from the Warren Commission investigating the assassination.

The documents show that the US government opened a so-called 201 file on Oswald in December 1960, nearly three years before Kennedy's murder and after Oswald's failed defection to the Soviet Union in 1959.

A December 1963 document described how CIA officials in Mexico City "intercepted a telephone call" Oswald made in October from that city to the Soviet Embassy there "using his own name" and speaking "broken Russian". Oswald was hoping to travel through Cuba on his way to Russia and was seeking a visa, documents show.

There were initial concerns that Ruby, Oswald's killer, might have had



In this Nov 22, 1963 file photo, President John F Kennedy waves from his car in a motorcade in Dallas. Riding with him are First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy (right), Nellie Connally (second from left), and her husband, Texas Governor John Connally (far left). AP

some connection to Oswald. But a newly released September 1964 memo to the presidential commission investigating the assassination said "the Central Intelligence Agency has no indication that Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald ever knew each other, were associated, or might have been connected in any manner."

Congress in 1992 had ordered that all remaining sealed files pertaining to the investigation into Kennedy's death should be fully opened to the public through the National Archives in 25 years, by Oct 26, 2017, except for those the president authorized for further withholding.

In 2017, then-President Donald Trump released a cache of records, but decided to release the remaining documents on a rolling basis.

All of the remaining JFK files were originally supposed to have been released in October 2021. Biden postponed that planned release, citing delays caused by the COVID-19 pan-

demie, and announced they would be instead disclosed in two batches: one on Dec 15, 2021, and another by Dec 15, 2022, after undergoing an intensive one-year review.

With Thursday's release, 95 percent of the documents in the CIA's JFK assassination records collection will have been released in their entirety, a CIA spokesperson said in a statement, and no documents will remain redacted or withheld in full after an "intensive one-year review" of all previously unreleased information.

In a memorandum Thursday, Biden said that until May 1, 2023, the National Archives and relevant agencies "shall jointly review the remaining redactions in the records that had not been publicly disclosed." After that review, "any information withheld from public disclosure that agencies do not recommend for continued postponement" will be released by June 30, 2023.

Xinhua

Xi: China will keep advancing ecological progress

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday addressed via videolink the opening ceremony of the high-level segment of the second part of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), held in Canada's Montreal.

Noting that humanity lives in a community with a shared future, Xi said solidarity and cooperation is the only effective way to address global challenges.

"A sound ecosystem is essential for the prosperity of civilization. We must work together to promote harmonious co-existence between man and Nature, build a community of all life on the Earth, and create a clean and beautiful world for us all," Xi said.

"We need to build global con-

sensus on biodiversity protection, jointly work for the conclusion of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and identify targets and pathways for global biodiversity protection," said the president.

"We need to push forward the global process of biodiversity protection, turn ambitions into action, support developing countries in capacity-building, and coordinate efforts to address climate change, biodiversity loss and other global challenges," he added.

"We need to promote green development through biodiversity protection, speed up the green transition of development modes and lifestyle, and leverage the Global Development Initiative (GDI) to deliver greater benefits to people of all countries," he said.

"We need to uphold a fair and equitable global order on biodiversity protection, firmly



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses via videolink the opening ceremony of the high-level segment of the second part of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), held in Canada's Montreal, on Thursday. XINHUA

defend true multilateralism, firmly support the UN-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law, and form strong synergy for protecting the Earth, our common homeland," he added.

China has made active efforts to promote ecological progress and biodiversity protection, Xi said, adding that the diversity, stability and sustainability of the ecosystem have kept improving.

"We have found a path of biodiversity protection with Chi-

nese characteristics," Xi said.

Going forward, China will continue to advance ecological progress, and plan its development in the context of promoting harmonious co-existence between man and Nature, Xi noted.

"We will respond to the Action Plan for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and launch a large number of key projects on biodiversity protection and restoration. We will deepen international exchanges and cooperation," Xi said.

"We will do our best to provide support and assistance to fellow developing countries through the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, so as to elevate global biodiversity governance to a new height," he added.

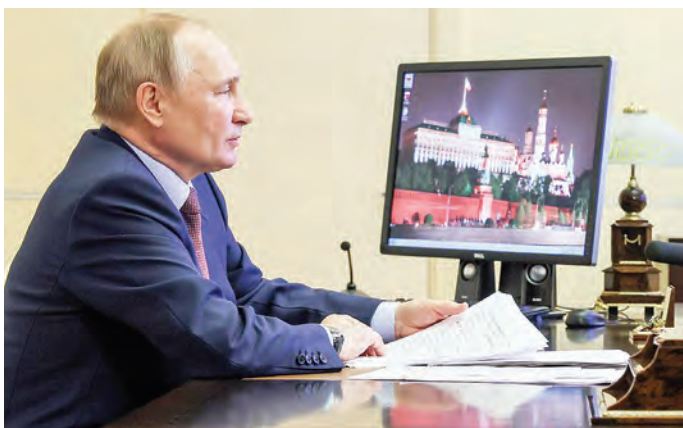
Xinhua

Poll reveals level of Russian public's confidence in Putin

MOSCOW

THE level of Russian citizens' confidence in President Vladimir Putin has increased by 0.4 percentage points in one week, reaching 78.3%, according to a survey by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center published yesterday.

"When asked about [their] confidence in Vladimir Putin, 78.3% of those polled answered positively (+0.4 percentage points over one week). The level of approval of the Russian president's work was 74.3% (unchanged)," the report noted.



The Russian government's work was approved by 47.9% of the respondents (-1.2 percentage points), while Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's

endeavors were approved by 51.4% of those polled (-1.3 percentage points over one week). The report specified that the prime minister is

trusted by 60.9% of the respondents (-0.6 percentage points over the week).

Those surveyed also expressed their opinions about the leadership of Russia's parliamentary factions. Thus, 32.8% trust CPRF leader Gennady Zyuganov (+0.3 percentage points per week), Sergey Mironov, the leader of A Just Russia - For Truth, gained 29.5% (-1.9 percentage points over one week), the leader of The New People party Alexey Nechaev received 8.7% (+0.7 percentage points over the week), while LDPR leader Leonid Slutsky got 15.6% (-0.3 percentage points per week).

The level of support for the United Russia party stood at 37.9% (+0.2 percentage points over one week), with the CPRF supported by 10.3% (-0.4 percentage points over the week). The New People party's figures came to 4.6% (-0.3 percentage points per week), while the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) got 8.3% (-0.2 percentage points over one week), and A Just Russia - For Truth was supported by 5.9% (-0.3 percentage points over the week).

The survey was conducted from December 5 to 11 among 1,600 respondents aged over 18.

Agencies

Intelligent markets make shopping more convenient

FARMERS' markets across China are becoming smart and digital thanks to the development of 5G, big data, Internet of Things and other technologies.

Digital displays, intelligent electronic scales, and QR codes that can track agricultural products' origins are easily seen in today's Chinese farmers' markets. What's more, farmers are even selling vegetables on livestream platforms.

The application of tech devices makes the operation and management of farmers' markets more intelligent, and also brings more convenience to the customers.

At the entrance of a market in Jiangbei district, Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang province, there is a screen that displays vegetable prices, real-time transaction data, foot traffic and

testing results of vegetables.

"These new technologies make information opener and more transparent, so the shopping experience is better," said a woman surnamed Hou who lives near the market.

In a farmers' market in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, customers are given a payment receipt after each purchase, which is printed with a QR code. Once they find the products they have bought are of poor quality or have other safety issues, they can scan the code and trace the origins of the products on the market's information system or other platforms.

Liu Dacheng, deputy director of the Institute of Internet Industry, Tsinghua University,

told People's Daily that the environment and experience of grocery shopping are being constantly improved from the streetside stalls and traditional farmers' markets to the emerging intelligent markets.

Digital technologies ensure better food security, Liu said, adding that the intelligent upgrading of markets not only lifts customer satisfaction, but also facilitates the daily operation of merchants.

Guided by big data, greengrocer Xu hangbin and his wife in Wuchang district, Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, placed kiwifruits, a hot seller, in the most conspicuous place of their fruit shop.

According to the couple, greengrocers can

upload their sales data to a management platform of the market, and the system then ranks the best-selling items in a real-time manner.

Xu said he uses the platform every day, as it helps him know which fruits are selling well, so that he can promptly replenish his stock. Merchants across China are actively employing various digital methods to contribute to the intelligent upgrading and transformation of farmers' markets.

For instance, a market on Luban Road in Huangpu district, Shanghai, has set up a membership mechanism and developed a WeChat mini-program that integrates local providers of consumer services, to create a 15-minute community life circle. The mini-program in-

cludes breakfast stalls served in the market, as well as cloth repairing services and community canteens around the market.

Technical service provider Sinxin Information Technology has contributed to the digital and intelligent upgrading of thousands of farmers' markets in China. An employee of the company told People's Daily that intelligent markets, employing Internet of Things, cloud computing, big data, artificial intelligence and other technologies, boast smart and targeted management and operation. They have brought much convenience and benefits to consumers, merchants and market operators, the employee said.

People's Daily

Twitter suspends accounts of several journalists

NEW DELHI

Twitter on Thursday suspended the accounts of several prominent journalists who recently wrote about its new owner Elon Musk, with the billionaire tweeting that rules banning the publishing of personal information applied to all, including journalists.

Responding to a Tweet on the account suspensions, Musk tweeted: "Same doxxing rules apply to 'journalists' as to everyone else," a reference to Twitter rules banning the sharing of personal information, called doxxing.

On Wednesday, Twitter suspended @elonjet, an account tracking Musk's private jet in real time using data available in the public domain. Musk had threatened legal action against the account's operator, saying his son had been mistakenly followed by a "crazy stalker".

Musk added on Thursday: "Criticizing me all day long is totally fine, but doxxing my real-time location and endangering my family is not."

Twitter did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The suspensions come after Musk has repeatedly vowed to uphold absolute free speech on the platform he bought for \$44 billion in October. He reinstated the account of former president Donald Trump, who had been suspended from Twitter over his actions surrounding the Jan 6, 2021, siege of the US Capitol.

"I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means," Musk had tweeted in April.

After firing thousands of employees after Musk's \$44 billion takeover in October, Twitter is operating with much-diminished staff. It is now leaning heavily on automation to moderate content, doing away with certain manual reviews and favoring restrictions on distribution rather than removing certain speech outright, its new head of trust and safety Ella Irwin told Reuters this month.

Twitter on Thursday showed "account suspended" notices for a clutch of journalists' accounts. It also suspended the official account of social media company Mastodon (@joimastodon), which has emerged as an alternative to Twitter since Musk bought it.

Mastodon could not immediately be reached for comment.

The accounts of Times reporter Ryan Mac (@rmac18), Post reporter Drew Harwell (@drewharwell), CNN reporter Donie O'Sullivan (@donie), and Mashable reporter Matt Binder @MattBinder were suspended. The account of independent journalist Aaron Rupa (@arupar), who covers US policy and politics, was also suspended.

A spokesperson for The New York Times said: "Tonight's suspension of the Twitter accounts of a number of prominent journalists, including The New York Times's Ryan Mac, is questionable and unfortunate. Neither The Times nor Ryan have received any explanation about why this occurred. We hope that all of the journalists' accounts are reinstated and that Twitter provides a satisfying explanation for this action."

CNN said "the impulsive and unjustified" suspensions were concerning but not surprising. The network said it had asked Twitter for an explanation and would reevaluate its relationship with the platform based on that response.

The other reporters could not immediately be reached for comment.

Somalia appeals for sustained funding to avert famine

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA has appealed to the international community to sustain funding for the drought response as 8.3 million people are expected to face a food crisis by mid-2023.

Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame, the presidential envoy for Somalia's drought response, said more than 7 million people are still in need of food assistance and urged swift response from the donor community even as the country narrowly averted a full-blown famine for now.

"The situation is still critical. The failure of four consecutive rainy seasons has resulted in the worst drought in 40 years," Abdishakur said in a statement issued in the Somali capital of Mogadishu on Wednesday evening. He, however, called for prioritizing recovery and resilience building to mitigate vulnerable communities from unpredictable weather patterns.

"The total humanitarian assistance provided to Somalia since the 2011 famine amounts to 5 billion U.S. dollars, yet the droughts recur, and we still face the risks of famine," said Abdishakur, denoting that saving lives is the priority, but long-term investments are also vital.

The statement came after the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Monday that famine had been avoided because host communities and relief teams had helped those in most need.

The latest report by the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which classifies levels of severity from one to five, with five representing a state of "catastrophe/famine," said food insecurity in Somalia remains "catastrophic."

Britain takes fight to restore investor faith into 2023

LONDON

MAJOR investors are rethinking their support for Britain's economy following months of political turmoil and persistent Brexit uncertainties, as experts predict its recovery from a global recession will be slow and painful.

While governments worldwide are grappling with high inflation and low growth, UK policymakers are still rebuilding fiscal and political credibility following the brief, chaotic premiership of Liz Truss.

Top financial industry figures say that even with Truss gone, a tight labour market, low business investment and weak exports mean the economy will lag peers next year. Worries about growth are leading some investors to limit their holdings of the pound and British debt.

"For the time being, we think the risks are too high compared to the rewards," said Vincent Mortier, chief investment officer at Amundi, Europe's largest fund manager, which manages 1.9 trillion euros (\$1.98 trillion) in assets.

Foreign investors have traditionally been attracted by Britain's strong rule of law, stable governance and thriving financial and professional services sector. But an open economy means any change in perception can have a large impact.

The fact that Truss - elected by her party, not the country - could pile pressure on the Bank of England and sow mayhem in markets, has heaped scrutiny on Britain's politics and finances.

Her replacement by ex-finance minister Rishi Sunak calmed UK assets, but investors are still brooding over the near-collapse of pension funds and how close Britain came to a financial disaster entirely of its own making.

UK equity funds saw their second-biggest monthly outflows on record in November, data from funds network Calastone shows, a sign investors remain wary since the September crash.

Sterling remains down 9% against a strong U.S. dollar and 3.5% lower versus the euro in what is set to be its worst year since the Brexit vote roiled markets in 2016.

Like other governments, Britain - which plans to raise just over 300 billion pounds, mostly by selling bonds in financial year 2023/24 - has seen borrowing costs rise sharply in 2022.

The benchmark 10-year gilt yield is now above 3%, up more than 200 basis points - in line with U.S. and German yields, but making 2022 the worst year for UK government debt since 1994.

The Bank of England's sales of bonds from its balance sheet will put further pressure on gilts prices by increasing supply.

Long recession

Britain is expected to endure a protracted recession, with official forecasts pointing to a 1.4% contraction next year. In March, before the full impact of the Ukrainian war was felt, the projection was for 1.8% growth.

Ratings agency Moody's sees UK government debt remaining above 100% of gross domestic product for years.



A customer shops for cheese and dairy products at a Sainsbury's supermarket in Walthamstow, east London on Feb 13, 2022. AFP

Saker Nusseibeh, CEO, International at Federated Hermes, which managed \$669 billion in assets at Dec. 31, said Truss's botched plan for Britain to borrow its way out of its slow growth rut had inflicted heavy reputational damage overseas.

But he told Reuters that Truss deserved credit for acknowledging something radical needed to happen to halt years of stagnant growth.

"While the government attends to fixing past problems, the focus on the big picture long-term is missing from the rhetoric right now," said Nusseibeh, calling for stronger trade ties with the United States and European Union, which Britain left in 2020.

TS Lombard economist Dario Perkins, credited with coining the term "moron premium" to describe the repricing of UK assets under Truss, told Reuters nobody knew how to "fix the UK today".

"I think most investors realise that Brexit has been a sort of disaster and that the Bank of England can't really solve the problems we face," he said.

Kindness of strangers

When former BoE Governor Mark Carney warned in 2016 that Britain was reliant on the "kindness of strangers", foreign direct investment (FDI) represented nearly half the net inflows of funds from abroad.

In the latest data, up to the second quar-

ter of this year, FDI represented more than half the net outflow - a result of strong UK investment abroad but weak inward investment too. The data may also be subject to pandemic-related disruption.

"The UK does look and feel like it's a different bet for international investors than it did 10 years ago," Vivek Paul, UK chief investment strategist at the BlackRock Investment Institute, part of the \$10 trillion money manager, told Reuters.

Britain has increasingly financed its enormous current account deficit by selling financial services and bonds to the world, rather than attracting FDI into UK companies.

There are also concerns about how much companies in Britain are prepared to invest in equipment, buildings and staff training to spur growth from the bottom up.

Its business investment performance now sits 6% below its level in mid-2016 as of the second quarter of 2022 - compared to increases of 23% for France, 19% for the United States and 4% for Germany, according to a Reuters analysis of OECD data.

That underperformance on investment means productivity is lagging, with the Confederation of Business Industry expecting output per worker to be 2% below pre-pandemic levels by end-2024. It has warned of "a lost decade of growth".

Two years before a general election must

be held, Sunak says the government is listening.

As well as hiking taxes and restraining spending to address the public finances, he has mobilised finance minister Jeremy Hunt to protect London's position as Europe's hub for trading and banking.

A makeover of the financial rulebook is aimed at better using the trillions of pounds moving through the City of London to drive growth and keep tax receipts flowing in.

New freedoms enabling insurers to invest in private sector projects such as infrastructure, and reforms to listings rules should meanwhile help foster budding technology, health and green energy firms.

Stephen Welton, executive chairman of major growth capital investor BGF, said attracting foreign investment was like a global competitive sport - one that Britain had previously excelled at.

"You need all the advantages and you need to play your hand well," he told Reuters. "So we've handicapped ourselves in recent years with continuing uncertainty and we have to recognise that."

Aid access to Ethiopia's Tigray continues to open up - UN

UNITED NATIONS

AID access to the northernmost Tigray region of Ethiopia has been gradually opening up since fighting ended early last month, UN humanitarians said on Thursday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said food and other supplies are being transported into Tigray through four corridors in the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions.

"Between Nov. 15 and Dec. 8, the government of Ethiopia and our partners have mobilized more than 1,600 trucks to deliver more than 63,800 metric tons of food and more than 4,000 metric tons of health, shelter, education, protection supplies, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene supplies," said the office.

Nutrition and health supply airlifts and passenger flights for much-needed personnel are scaling up the relief response. On Dec. 9, the first road convoy for humanitarian staff from Mekelle to Shire, within Tigray, occurred and continues, it said.

"Given the scale of the needs and the previous interruptions to aid, we need to ensure these deliveries are sustained at scale." Work on restoring electric power and telecommunications is underway. Electricity, telephone and internet service was restored in Axum and Shire towns and elsewhere.

This has a positive impact on humanitarian operations and communities. But further progress is needed on the resumption of basic services for the population, OCHA said.

The office said that aid and rehabilitation work is scaling up in the conflict-affected areas of Afar and Amhara, adding that more is needed, especially in areas with improved security where displaced people are returning to their homes.

Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation, has seen a devastating conflict between government-allied troops and forces loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) since November 2020, which left thousands dead and millions in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Pakistan calls for continued engagement with Afghan Taliban

UNITED NATIONS

PAKISTANI Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday called for continued engagement of the international community with the Afghan Taliban for any progress on the ground in the war-torn country.

"As far as engagement is concerned, I believe not only Pakistan, but the international community must engage," Zardari told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York.

The modes and ways of engagement with the Taliban can be reconstructed as far as strategy is concerned. But the international community cannot give up on engaging, he said. "I don't believe if I just turn my back and stop talking and the rest of the world stops talking, Afghanistan's issues will sort out of themselves."

Asked how the Taliban can be pressured to change their behavior on women's rights, Zardari said there is a chicken-and-egg situation on this issue.

The economic situation in Afghanistan is dire. The humanitarian situation is incredibly alarming. The United Nations has said that 97 percent of Afghans will fall below the poverty line, said the foreign minister.

"I hear and I know of horrific stories. You hear of child marriages. They're not marrying off their young girls out of choice or because they want to, (but) because they physically can't afford to feed their children and they think it's better to have a child marriage so that someone can take care of their little girls. I've heard horrible stories about how parents are drugging their children to sleep because they have to go to sleep hungry."

He said he wanted a practical way to improve women's rights in Af-



In this file photo dated Sept 27, 2022, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari speaks during an interview with the media at the Pakistan Embassy, in Washington. AP

ghanistan.

"I want women's rights more than anyone. I believe that within the Islamic world, it is our religion that before many other religions granted rights to women. It is my country that produced the first Muslim female prime minister. We will not compromise on women's rights. But I want to also be practical about how we can achieve that. I do not believe we can starve the Afghans to force them to follow women's empowerment," said Zardari.

He said there is a need not only for humanitarian assistance, but also for the conducive economic environment to allow those who do want to deliver on their promises vis-a-vis women's rights the political space to do

so.

"I think history has demonstrated that whenever in the past, autocratic and theocratic regimes, when the economic times are tough, then rights (were) usurped, contracted rather than expanded. I don't believe that with the Afghan money frozen, with their banking channels shut, we will see progress on this and other issues."

He said he believed engagement will work.

"In conversations ... that happen with the interim government of Afghanistan or their representatives, we do emphasize the need for them to deliver ... on their promise to the international community, which includes inclusiveness, rights to women and girls, particularly

in the education context, ensuring that their soil is not used to perpetuate terrorism. I believe that we can achieve those goals through engagement."

Zardari asked for patience.

It has been one year since the Taliban have taken over Afghanistan. This one year is an incredibly long time for the women and girls of Afghanistan. But it is still one year only, he said. "I'm hopeful that with further engagement, with not only ourselves, but working with the international community, the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and other organizations, that we hopefully will be able to convince them to implement their own promises."

Zardari was in New York to chair a ministerial conference of the Group of 77 and China.

Russia expects Lachin Corridor to be re-opened soon - diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is concerned about the Lachin Corridor being blocked and expects that this transport link will be re-opened soon, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing on Thursday.

"We are concerned about the blocking of the Lachin Corridor, caused by disagreements between the parties over the development of ore deposits."

The Russian Defense Ministry and the Russian peacekeeping contingent have been vigorously working in recent days to de-escalate the situation. We hope for the full restoration of the transport link soon," the diplomat said.

Zakharova stressed that the Lachin Corridor ensures a connection between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia and is under the control of a Russian peacekeeping contingent. "In signing the statement of the Russian, Azerbaijani and Armenian leaders of November 9, the parties undertook the respective commitments that they must fully comply with," she went on to say.

"It is inadmissible to create problems for the livelihood of the civilian population," Zakharova stressed.

She also emphasized that accusations and acts of provocation against the Russian peacekeepers are inadmissible and counterproductive "no matter where they come from."

"The Russian peacekeeping contingent is efficiently carrying out its tasks, acting as a guarantor of stability in the region," Zakharova added.

On December 12, a group of activists from Azerbaijani non-governmental environmental organizations started protesting on the Lachin-Shusha road in Nagorno-Karabakh against the illegal mining of natural resources in the areas controlled by the Russian peacekeeping force.

The activists set up tents and said they wouldn't leave until they were provided access to the Gyzybulag and Damirli deposits, where they said "illegal mining" was gaining steam.

Yerevan qualified it as a provocation from the official Baku aimed to create a humanitarian disaster in the unrecognized republic.





Unmatched basketball player Stephan Mworia (R) in action with his teammates during a training session at Gymkhana grounds in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. The team was preparing for the JMK Bonanza which was expected to be held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT IMANI NATHANIEL

World Cup finals show diversity of real loyalties for African fans

By Correspondent John Kimbutu

AS triumphant African contenders Morocco readied to take on France in the second semi-final encounter of the Qatar World Cup finals, it was clear there was no unanimity of support for Morocco among local fans and practically everywhere else.

It was clear that for many of us the Moroccan victory was basically North African and Middle East as an extended zone, and that those who know themselves as Africans are really those from this side of the continent.

The difference was clear and frankly nobody was being deceived, but many remains fiercely loyal.

The difference in attitudes could be gleaned from another perspective, just as it was for the rest of the world that the key section of the global community that was overjoyed by the Moroccan exploits was the Arab zone, but it was not limited to it.

There were intense celebrations farther north in Istanbul, the Turkish commercial capital, and far into Asia, all of whom are not Arab but 'coreligionaries' with the Moroccans, and that too was visible on this side, but not intensely. Here there was another parameter, as to the personal liking of those playing there, their clubs, etc.

In that case many local fans were pro-Argentina in the first semi-final as they are ardent fans of veteran Argentinian superstar Lionel Messi, way before any note is taken of his nationality.

It is plausible to say there was a scatter of fans for his Real Madrid rival Luka Modric, a superstar who is similarly on his last World Cup tournament, and despite his much lower profile, has similar accolades as Messi.

He has at least once won the golden ball, picked as the best player in the 2018 FIFA World Cup finals where Croatia reached the semifinals. They just did that again.

The Moroccans benefitted from official backing by African sports organisations on the basis of the make-shift idea that Morocco is in Africa and thus it is an African country.

No one shall rub out of the records the fact that Morocco was the first African country to reach the semifinal spot in the World Cup finals, for the reason that alternative categorization that it was the first Arab country to reach the semifinal spot is inapplicable.

Yet in reality that is the situation, the first is at best make-believe, as the grounded in geography rather than in identity, of actually identifying oneself as African, as different from being Arabic, not just from Africa.

Identifying with Morocco during the semifinal with Senegal was particularly unlikely in many Franco-

phone countries with whom France is more or less a second home.

When Senegal took France out of the 2002 World Cup finals in Korea-Japan, the French reaction in broadcasting that game was nuanced by a reflection that Senegal is largely the same as France.

A television broadcaster was exclaiming, 'le Senegal, c'est quand meme la France,' (Senegal, it's just France...) which no one in France can say of Morocco, save Moroccan immigrants there, etc.

Even by looking at the two sides on the pitch, France counted several players with black African origins, some of whom in the past played for an African country usually of his father, and then faced bottlenecks.

It is the case of Yusuf Poulsen who at one time approached authorities here to play for Taifa Stars and was told we don't have dual citizenship, so the matter ended.

Of the French players, Kylian Mbappe has Cameroun loyalties as is Jules Kounde, while Paul Pogba comes from Guinea, making charity visits there despite playing for France. The list continues.

Young people in Africa see these players as heroes and role models, so they are singularly unlikely to be fans of Morocco without a singular visible black player while Western European sides have several.

This year the preponderance of black players in sides like Belgium and France diminished somewhat, but they were more visible in the Portugal team, Switzerland or Netherlands.

Croatia to the east and Argentina in South America had none, unlike Brazil, Costa Rica, or others not appearing in these finals like Colombia, meanwhile as they are not seen as African.

Significantly, Morocco was the team playing the roughest game in the last matches of the tournament, with a series of fouls on French players that went mostly unnoticed.

Referees at times punished visibly irritating moves with free kicks but scarcely issued yellow cards, but true to form, a Moroccan player in a previous encounter (against Portugal) earned a red card on delivery of a second yellow card.

The Moroccan side, in words and deeds, displayed everything that we in Black Africa take exception, like legends of Mehalla El Kubra in city rivals' memories.

But pointedly the Moroccan media and the brushy rank and file in Qatar pulled no punches in their identifying their victory (over Croatia) with their Arab identity and generously, to Muslims as a whole. It had little to endear most of sub-Saharan Africa, despite that a second fiddle Muslim identity remained active.

It was feeble, and by the time there were few mourners here.

Mwinyi Zahera and the difficult task of fixing Polisi Tanzania

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

EXACTLY halfway through the season, Polisi Tanzania are rock bottom of the NBC Premier League and last week they confirmed the appointment of Mwinyi Zahera as their new head coach.

If Polisi Tanzania's lukewarm display against Simba and Azam is anything to go by, Zahera has inherited a team that has lost its way. The Congolese's arrival will not solve all Polisi Tanzania's problems instantly, although he will likely improve things on the pitch at Ushirika Stadium.

Those expecting Zahera to come in and wave a magic wand and transform Polisi Tanzania are in for a rude awakening.

The group of players that Zahera has inherited will take time to adjust to his style. There will also be inevitable exits in this mini-transfer window as the club try to reshape a squad that is not the greatest in the world.

In the meantime, there are issues that need addressing to keep the pressure off coach Zahera and his players ahead of the games with Young Africans and KMC where they start the rounds in the relegation zone.

These are the main areas of concern. Fixing the defence. Polisi Tanzania now have the second worst defence in the league after Mtbwa Sugar. They have conceded 23 goals in 15 games. Only away games to Coastal Union and Namungo have seen Polisi Tanzania keep a clean sheet this season.

In the last three games – against Azam, Simba and Mtbwa Sugar – they conceded six goals, an average of two goals per game. Zahera has to have the defence tightened up and



Mwinyi Zahera

make it a more organised unit capable of at least nullifying lower-ranked opponents.

Without reinforcement, he will be fighting fires; asking players to cut out individual mistakes, improve defensively and strive for above-average standards that they have struggled to hit in the first period of the season. With plenty of units, the midfield, the fullbacks, the centre-backs all needing to be reconstructed, and that's going to take time.

The main worry, however, for a club that has not been shy in sharing their ambitions of becoming a top-four side, is how they have been unable either to create or finish off chances at

the other end. To watch a Polisi Tanzania game is dull and boring, with only one source of inspiration – Mayanga.

Only Ruvu Shooting have scored fewer than Polisi Tanzania's 11 goals in the NBC Premier League this season. Before the opening game, there were concerns behind the scenes about where goals were going to come from.

Daruwesh Saliboko left for KMC, Adam Omary joined Mtbwa Sugar while Tariq Kiakala departed to Mbeya City leaving the club with only Vitalis Mayanga as the recognized senior striker.

Kassim Haruna and Datus Peter, who joined Namungo and

Kagera Sugar, also left a big creative void that has contributed to their struggles in creating and finishing chances.

Zahera needs to fix the blunt attacking force if they are to avoid the dreaded drop to the Championship. As he awaits transfer boosts, he has to quickly find a formula to get his players fully firing.

The law enforcers finished eighth in the NBC Premier League last season. Given how bad their situation is at the moment, if Zahera manage to avoid relegation this season, that will be a successful campaign.

Like all clubs who are struggling, Polisi Tanzania are monitoring potential future replacements in the way that a club of their stature should be. They are linked with Young Africans out of favour striker Heritier Makambo.

While financially it makes no sense for Makambo to join Polisi Tanzania, a chance to reunite with Zahera could tempt him to ditch the comfort offered at Jangwani.

Zahera got the best out of Makambo when the two were at Yanga in the 2017/18 season.

Mtbwa Sugar's Congolese forward, MatorePipi, who has struggled for game time at Manungu, is also linked with a loan move to Polisi Tanzania.

All in all, despite that reality of being in a rebuild, Polisi Tanzania still has far more talent than the results show. If Zahera can maximise the meagre resources at his disposal, or at least show some semblance of improvement they could easily find the way out of the danger zone.



Parimatch Tanzania Director Erick Gerald (2nd L) speaks during the handing over ceremony of two motorcycles to winners of the 'Chomoka na Ndinga' promotion in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The winners are Ahmad Pongalani (L) and Neema Tairo (R). Second right is an official from Hero company, Norah Mapunda. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Four win motorcycles in 'Chomoka na Ndinga' promotion

By Guardian Correspondent

FOUR motorcycle winners of the Parimatch Tanzania's weekly promotion, taking place during the 2022 World Cup and known as 'Chomoka na Ndinga', were announced in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Speaking during the handing-over ceremony of the cycles to two winners, the company's Information Officer, Ismael Mohamed, said that was the third draw of the promotion.

He said up to now the company has already handed over 36 Samsung Galaxy A03 Core smartphones and eight Hero Hunter 125cc motorcycles to the promotion's winners from different parts of the country.

According to Mohamed, the winners of the second week's draw were Neema Tairo from Sinza and Passian Kika from

Mabibo while the winners of the third week's draw were Ahmad Omary from Dar es Salaam together with Kelvin Mansoor from Musoma.

Erick Gerald, the company's director, was very happy to see Neema emerging as the first woman to win a motorcycle in the promotion.

"For Neema, to win a motorcycle in this promotion gives a clear message that betting is now acceptable in society. There is no gender issue as far as betting is concerned. This is another morale to women and daughters who have been thinking betting is for men only. I congratulate you," said Gerald.

"Parimatch Tanzania has been giving this opportunity to all Tanzanians as far as you not under 18 years. It's up to you to try your luck today. Visit www.parimatch.co.tz and bet, you can

be a winner! We have only a few weeks but there are still many prizes to win, including a brand new Urban Cruiser car from Toyota," said the director.

According to Mohamed, for three weeks, Parimatch through 'Chomoka na Ndinga' promotion has been giving away two smartphones daily and two motorcycles weekly.

The official stated that the car prize will be handed over at the end of the promotion on December 27 when the big draw to find the winner will be held.

"I should continue to emphasize to betting stakeholders not to miss this opportunity to participate in our 'Chomoka na Ndinga' promotion because every day we are giving away two smartphones and at the end of the week, we are giving away two motorcycles," he disclosed.

"At the end of this promotion

there will be a big prize of a brand new Urban Cruiser from Toyota," Mohamed added.

Mohamed clarified that part of TVBET games, Live Casino, Casino New, and Virtual games are not allowed to participate in the promotion.

Parimatch Tanzania company has been offering a great bonus of 100 percent up to 1,000,000/- to new customers who join the firm.

The company has been present in the country since 2019, offering services that include fast payments, great odds, and exciting promotions on football, Casino and virtual games.

Apart from backing football, the company also offers hundreds of events every day in tennis, UFC, basketball, cricket, baseball and many other Live pre-match sports.

Brazil's 'shameless' fans supporting Messi's Argentina

SAO PAULO, Brazil

JOSE Arnaldo dos Santos Junior traveled to Qatar to cheer on his beloved Brazilian national team led by Neymar in their ultimately failed attempt to claim a sixth World Cup crown.

But since they were knocked out by Croatia in the quarter-finals, he switched allegiance to Brazil's arch rivals, Lionel Messi's Argentina.

"As a football fanatic I think Argentina deserve this title," said the 38-year-old odontologist upon his return to Sao Paulo.

He cheered on Argentina during their 3-0 semifinal victory over Croatia on Tuesday that saw the South Americans qualify for Sunday's final.

Dos Santos Junior even wears his light blue and white Argentina jersey "without shame" on the streets of Brazil's biggest city.

He will put aside eternal debates such as who was better between Brazil's Pele and Diego Maradona of Argentina to support the Albiceleste against France.

"Argentines are passionate about their teams and their national team, which has the bit between its teeth," he said. "Any football lover supports such a noble cause."

Earlier in the World Cup, Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said that if his side could not win the tournament "I prefer that a South American team" does, even Brazil.

But while 33 percent of Brazilians identify Argentina as their "second" team, more than 60 percent say they wouldn't want their neighbor to win the World Cup, according to a poll by the Brazilian data analysis institute.

- "Brazil covered" -

The relationship between Argentines and Brazilians is a complicated one when it comes to football.

After Argentina lost their opening World Cup match against outsiders Saudi Arabia, Brazilian social media was awash with jokes and memes, some playing on the famous "Don't Cry for me Argentina" song composed by British duo Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice and popularized in the musical Evita.

Yet it was Brazil crying first after they were knocked out.

Argentines also had the last laugh during the 2021 Copa America as Messi and his teammates beat their historic rivals 1-0 in the final in Brazil's Maracana fortress.

Videos circulating on social media even showed Argentina's players singing "Brazilian, what happened? The five-time champions covered," in the changing rooms after Scaloni's team beat Croatia.

And yet some prominent Brazilian figures are right behind Argentina.

AFP

Santos quits as Portugal coach with Mourinho tipped as possible successor

LISBON

FERNANDO Santos quit as coach of Portugal on Thursday following the team's shock World Cup quarter-final loss to Morocco with colourful and controversial Jose Mourinho named as a leading candidate to take over.

The Portuguese football federation (FPF) said in a statement that an agreement was reached with the 68-year-old Santos "to end the journey of great success that began in September 2014".

The FPF added that it "will now launch the process to choose the next national coach".

Daily sports newspaper Record claims that Mourinho is the federation's number one target to take over ahead of qualifying for Euro 2024.

They would even reportedly entertain a deal which would see Mourinho take charge of the national team on an interim basis to allow him to see out the season with club side Roma in Italy.

Asked about the national team job by journalists late Thursday afternoon when he arrived in southern Portugal for a training camp with Roma, Mourinho made no comment.

Qualifying for Euro 2024 gets underway in March.

Portuguese coaches Rui Jorge (under-21s), Abel Ferreira (Palmeiras), Paulo Fonseca (Lille), Rui Vitoria (Egypt) and Jorge Jesus (Fenerbahce) are also among the potential candidates cited by local media.

Mourinho, 59, has yet to coach at international level but has an impressive record at some of Europe's heavyweight clubs.

He has managed Porto, Chelsea twice, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Manchester United.

Mourinho won three Premier League titles with Chelsea, two Serie A crowns at Inter and a Liga triumph at Real.

He also coached Porto to 2004 Champions League victory and repeated the feat with Inter Milan in 2010.

In May this year, he led Roma to the Europa Conference League title, the club's first ever major European trophy.

That was his fifth European title and made him the first coach to win all current UEFA competitions.

Mourinho's contract at Roma runs until 2024. The team are currently seventh in Serie A, 14 points behind leaders Napoli.

Santos had been adamant that he would not be forced out of the Portuguese job he has held for eight years despite Saturday's 1-0 defeat to the history-making Moroccans in Qatar.

AFP

Lionel Messi carries the weight of Argentina into World Cup final

DOHA, Qatar

AS Lionel Messi approaches his second and likely last World Cup final, the stakes could hardly be higher.

The same goes for Argentina after more than 30 years of disappointment since it last won soccer's ultimate prize.

For Messi, victory against France at Lusail Stadium on Sunday is a chance to finally get his hands on the one major trophy that has eluded him in his storied career.

In doing so, he would push ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo, who has also never won a World Cup, in the long-running rivalry between the two greatest players of their generation.

While 37-year-old Ronaldo exited the tournament at the quarterfinals stage, benched by Portugal and in tears in the likely recognition that his last chance had passed, Messi is summoning some of his finest moments in an Argentina shirt to inspire his country's run to the final.

"Each time we see him play, he makes us and the players feel something special," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. "There's something

about him that people like, not only Argentines.

"We feel lucky and privileged to have him wear our shirt."

Messi's place alongside Diego Maradona as one of Argentina's two most iconic soccer stars has been secure for some time now. But he is yet to emulate Maradona's greatest achievement by leading his national team to a World Cup title.

Maradona did that in Mexico in 1986 and Messi has lived with the expectation of repeating the feat since he emerged as a prodigy at Barcelona nearly 20 years ago.

There have been numerous false hopes during that time.

There was the potential "dream team" of Maradona as coach and Messi as star player in South Africa in 2010. But Argentina went out in the quarterfinals after being beaten 4-0 by Germany.

In 2014, with Messi approaching his peak years, Argentina reached the final in Brazil.

Again it faced Germany. Again Messi was on the losing side, beaten 1-0 through extra time.

At the age of 35, he knew this was probably his last shot at the World Cup and he has risen to the occasion as the



Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates at the end of the World Cup semifinal soccer match between Argentina and Croatia at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022. (AP Photo)

tournament's co-leading scorer with France forward Kylian Mbappe with five goals.

Perhaps more notable have been his assists, such as the disguised pass for Nahuel Molina's goal against the Netherlands in the quarterfinals.

Then there was his mesmerizing run, turning Croatia defender Josko Gvardiol inside out, before setting up Julian Alvarez for Argentina's

third in the semis.

"It's at least something I can talk (about) with my kids one day that I guarded this great, great player," Gvardiol said Thursday.

Those assists have been indicative of the fact that Messi can no longer do it on his own. The emergence of Alvarez, with four goals, has been vital to Argentina's progress.

Messi doesn't dominate for an entire 90

minutes anymore. Instead, he decides matches with key moments.

He isn't as dynamic as he was in his younger years, but he has been more influential than at any of his previous four World Cups.

While Messi is aiming to complete his personal collection of trophies, having won four Champions League titles and seven Ballon d'Or awards for the best player in the world, Argentina is look-

ing to end its long wait for a third World Cup.

It won the tournament for the first time when hosting in 1978 and then again eight years later thanks to Maradona.

Messi was supposed to emulate that feat long before now.

If he retires without ever winning the World Cup, then how much longer will Argentina have to wait?

No wonder each moment of Messi magic and every win is greeted with such an outpouring of emotion.

The sense of anticipation is growing among Argentina fans, who have lit up the tournament in a sea of blue and white, marching through the streets of Qatar.

Messi is feeding the belief that this could be their time again.

If this is his farewell tour, he has given his supporters a wild ride along the way.

And with or without a World Cup, Scaloni has no doubt about Messi's status as the greatest of all time.

"It seems like we say that just because we're Argentinians and we fall into the trap of being selfish because it is very Argentinian to say that," he said. "But I think there are no doubts."

AP

World Cup history beckons for France, Mbappé, Deschamps

DOHA, Qatar

WORLD Cup history is beckoning for France, star player Kylian Mbappe and coach Didier Deschamps.

When France walks on the field Sunday for the tournament final against Argentina and Lionel Messi, soccer lore is waiting to be written for the team.

Les Bleus could be the first winner of back-to-back titles for 60 years since Brazil did it 1958 and 1962.

The 23-year-old Mbappe would become the youngest player with two World Cup wins since Pele accomplished that feat at age 21.

Deschamps would be the first man to coach two world champion teams since Vittorio Pozzo did it with Italy in 1934 and 1938.

"As for me, I'm not the most important person. It's the French team," said Deschamps, who is worthy of his own chapter in World Cup history.

He lifted the trophy in Paris as the team's captain when France first won the World Cup in 1998. He won it as coach in 2018, and now he is on the brink of getting a third.

"Obviously, I'm proud. I know, everyone knows, we have the chance to win another title," Deschamps said Thursday after beating Morocco in the semifinals.

France is playing in a fourth final in a span of seven tournaments - including the 2006 final lost to Italy in a penalty shootout after Zinedine Zidane was sent off. It's a dynastic era not seen

since Brazil's two decades at the top through 1970.

That team typified by Pele's brilliance won all three finals it reached starting in 1958, and also played in the decisive last match of the 1950 tournament, which was lost against Uruguay in Rio de Janeiro.

Morocco's coach was quick to anoint France and Mbappe after they ended his team's historic run as the first African team in a semifinal.

"Over the past 20 years you can say France is the top footballing country in the world," said Walid Regragui, who is French-born and played most of his career there.

"If he won the World Cup again," Regragui said admiringly of Mbappe, "he would be emulating Pele."

Both players made stunning World Cup debuts as teenagers, truly coming to life in the knockout rounds.

All six goals for a 17-year-old Pele in 1958 in Sweden were scored after the group stage, including a semifinals hat-trick to help eliminate France as he wore the No. 10 jersey that he has made iconic.

Mbappe announced his World Cup arrival at age 19 scoring twice against Argentina and Messi in a 4-3 epic in the round of 16. Anything like a repeat of that game in Russia would be a dream final Sunday.

Mbappe has five goals so far in Qatar, tied as the leading scorer at the tournament with Messi. The Frenchman scored four times in 2018.

It took Pele until his



France's head coach Didier Deschamps, left, celebrates a goal by France's Kylian Mbappe, right, during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between France and Poland, at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022. (AP Photo)

fourth World Cup in 1970 to score his ninth career goal, though in fewer games than Mbappe.

The French No. 10 has a stage set Sunday to be a key player for a second straight final, which takes place two days before he turns 24.

What makes France and Deschamps even more impressive this time is adapting to a litany of injuries with new talent that never

even played in a World Cup qualifying game last year.

Midfielders Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante, starters in the 2018 final against Croatia, were lost to injuries before the tournament, and left-back Lucas Hernandez lasted just nine minutes in Qatar before suffering a season-ending knee injury.

After the 26-man squad was picked in No-

vember, starting center-back Presnel Kimpembe and forwards Karim Benzema and Christopher Nkunku were lost to injury.

To replace them, Deschamps promoted a wave of players in their early 20s who have excelled and smoothed the transition to a next generation.

Center-back Ibrahima Konate was immense against Morocco and for-

ward Randal Kolo Muani scored with his first touch as a substitute to seal the 2-0 win.

"Sure, they don't have much international experience," Deschamps said of his unlikely midfield pairing, Aurelien Tchouameni and Youssef Fofana. "But potentially they have everything."

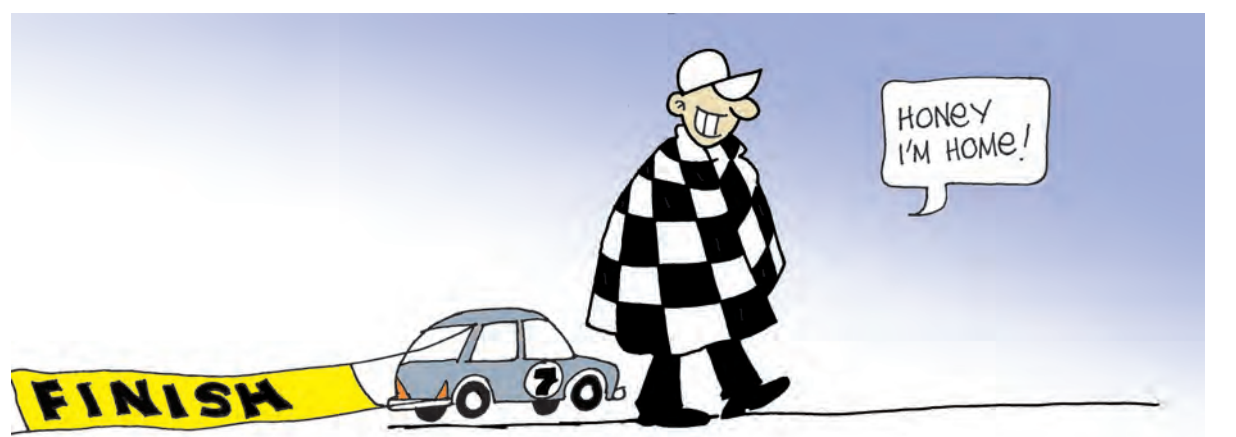
The youngsters players have veteran teammates to help guide them, including Antoine Griezmann, the goal-scoring winger reinvented as all-around midfielder. The 31-year-old Griezmann should be a team for selection to any team of the tournament.

"They need to be surrounded by players with a bit more experience. It's just a matter of playing with freedom," the coach said, making his France project sound so simple.

Deschamps' decade in charge of France looks sure to continue with another contract extension pending, and another trophy waiting Sunday.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga, Polisi set for bottom-v-top clash

SPORT

Messi has chance to match Maradona as Argentina reach World Cup final

PAGE 19

day in a battle of the NBC Premier League's top and bottom sides.

This encounter will see Young Africans' head coach Nasreddine Nabi return to the touchline after serving a three-match ban for confronting officials.

The last time Young Africans clashed against a rock bottom side they suffered their first defeat of the season and missed out on the chance to take charge of the title race when they were beaten 2-1 away to Ifhefu on November 29.

Nabi's men, however, are in prime position to secure their 13th league victory from 16 games as this time they are playing in a ground where they have not lost this season in all competitions.

The last league outing for

the defending champions saw goals on either side of the halves by Yannick Bangala and Tuisila Kisinda secure a crucial 2-0 win over Namungo.

Several key players had a timely rest in the weekend's Federation Cup huge win against Kurugenzi, but now focus returns to the top-flight as the season starts to turn into its final stretch, and a win against Polisi Tanzania would move Young Africans seven points clear of third-placed Simba.

Young Africans' injury list heading into the fixture makes for good reading as Heritier Makambo remains the only figure to be sidelined with an ongoing injury.

It leaves the boss with a multitude of options at his disposal; the back five are

set to remain as a unit while the midfield trio of Khalid Aucho, Bangala and Feisal Salum is likely.

Mayele is leading the scoring charts for Young Africans with ten goals, a tally supplemented by the five strikes provided by Feitoto. Djigui Diarra will return back between the posts in search of another clean sheet.

Polisi Tanzania, who currently reside at the bottom of the table, have picked up just nine points this season.

The poor start to the campaign has cost Burundian coach Joslin Shariff his job, with Polisi Tanzania bringing former Young Africans coach Mwinyi Zahera to turn things around.

They asked questions of Young Africans in the opening game of the season and

while the final 2-1 scoreline did little to flatter Polisi Tanzania, they will certainly be out to interrogate the Jangwani Street outfit further the second time around.

However, they will have to improve their away form in the league which shows Polisi Tanzania have lost four of their last five matches.

The law enforcers have no fresh injury worries ahead of the daunting assignment with Vitalis Mayanga the visiting side's most likely source of goals.

In head-to-head stats, Young Africans and Polisi Tanzania have met in 11 league matches since the 2011/12 season. The Citizens have claimed seven wins, while the remaining four games have been drawn.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans and Tanzania Prisons go head-to-head at Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium to-

5 EATV TUESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
11:55 MPYA
12:00 Mperampera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 5SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mperampera
16:00 Zote kuntu
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

FIFA chief announces plans for 32-team Club World Cup

DOHA, Qatar

FIFA chief Gianni Infantino announced plans yesterday for a 32-team Club World Cup from 2025, despite reported opposition from Europe's biggest clubs.

An expansion of the competition has long been a pet project of Infantino's. A 24-team event, featuring eight sides from Europe, was planned for 2021 in China but was put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Infantino said the new-look tournament would be even bigger than first planned.

"We had agreed a few years ago to have a new 24-team men's Club World Cup," the FIFA president said at the World Cup in Doha on Friday.

"It should have taken place in 2021 but was postponed because of Covid. The new competition will take place in 2025 and will feature 32 teams, making it really like a World Cup."

Reports in the British media this week said European clubs had rejected FIFA's proposal to launch the new-look competition.

The plans are for an expanded tournament to be held every four years instead of annually, as is the case for the current seven-team event.

"The first edition will take place in 2025 in the summer and during that slot where in past years it was the Confederations Cup," Infantino said.

"It will be slightly longer because there will be 32 teams but they will be the best teams in the world who will be invited to participate."

Infantino said next year's Club World Cup, in its current format, would take place in Morocco from February 1 to 11, 2023.

Morocco hosted the tournament in 2013 and again in 2014, while the most recent edition was held in the United Arab Emirates in February, with Chelsea lifting the trophy.

The 2023 tournament is set to continue in its existing format -- up until now it has featured the six continental champions plus the top side from the host nation.

Real Madrid will represent Europe after winning last season's UEFA Champions League.

Flamengo of Brazil, Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia, Wydad Casablanca of Morocco, Seattle Sounders from the United States and New Zealand's Auckland City are the other current continental champions.

AFP



Vijana basketball players during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Nabi, Mgunda call for league schedule change ahead of CAF interclub competitions

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Juma Mgunda, who is expected to lead his team in the CAF Champions League, and Yanga tactician Nasreddine Nabi, who are playing in the Confederations Cup, have joined forces to call for schedule changes in the local league ahead of continental games.

Simba and Yanga will start away from home in their CAF competitions, with the Msimbazi Street side starting on February 10 against Horoya AC of Guinea while the Jangwani Street side will play on February 12 against US Monastir of Tunisia.

Speaking at different times, the coaches of the teams told The Guardian that their concern is the close dates of matches in the league which have been increasing their fatigue along with injuries.

"The time to decide our best in these six matches is now. You see how close the schedule of these league matches is, but the thing that bothers me the most is the injuries that have been increasing at the moment.



Juma Mgunda

Nasreddine Nabi

"We need to evaluate all these now and decide on our present and future fate in these competitions. If we achieve this, I don't see any difficulty for Yanga to perform well and achieve our goals. It is not an easy group, it is a group that requires us to have proper plans," said Nabi.

He said, however, that Yanga has nothing to fear and that if they or-

ganize themselves well before their match of February 12, 2023, they will be in a good position to win

"Each team has its own quality, I don't think it is easy to say we are in an easy group, I think even they will have to respect us because we are at the same level," he said.

On his part, Mgunda said that he must be careful with players who play

consecutive matches, because it will be easy for them to get injured. He asked for changes in the schedule so players could avoid injuries, though the league could also give them the opportunity to prepare.

Mgunda, who has admitted that the league this season is difficult due to the failure to achieve its goals in the first round, said that Simba and Yanga will have a difficult time in the second round.

"It is true, the league schedule will give us a chance to prepare for the tournament, but it will also contribute significantly to endangering players who need more energy to perform well in the international tournament.

"These matches are sticky according to their arrangements, the width of the squad cannot be a factor because there are types of players who have been used frequently," he said.

Simba in the Champions League are in Group C with Raja Casablanca, Horoya and Vipers, while Yanga in the Confederations Cup were drawn in Group D with TP Mazembe, US Monastir and Real Bamako.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

